

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018 – 7:00 PM

Administrative Center, 63 Beaver Brook Road

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairperson, Patrick Johnston, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, Emanuela Palmares, Farley Santos, Amy Spallino, Richard Hawley, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro

Absent: Richard Jannelli

Also Present: Dr. Pascarella, Dr. Glass, Joe Martino, Kelly Truchsess, Kim Thompson

RECOGNITIONS

CT Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Awards:

Each year CABE offers Student Leadership Awards to two students from each middle school and high school. Principals are requested to ask their staff for the names of students who exhibit leadership skills based on willingness to take on challenges, capability to make difficult decisions, concern for others, ability to work with others, willingness to commit to a project, diplomacy, ability to understand issues clearly and ability to honor a commitment.

The 2018 CABE Student Leadership Award winners are:

Lasya Vadlamami, Broadview Middle School
Dung (Tina) Ngo, Broadview Middle School
Fabrizio Quilambaqui, Rogers Park Middle School
Gabiella Amatulli, Rogers Park Middle School
Kunal Shringarpure, Westside Middle School
Faith Lange, Westside Middle School
Andrew DaSilva, Alternative Center for Excellence
Tatianna Espinal, Alternative Center for Excellence
Nelson Neira, Danbury High School
Holly Rivers, Danbury High School

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - D. Metrena moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 18-58, as recommended.

A. MINUTES

4/25/18 Board Meeting

Motion passed at 7:18 pm

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE (SPOTLIGHT YOUR SCHOOL)

Rogers Park Middle School

- Dr. Kristy Zaleta presented.
- Mr. Duff spoke on Media Center.
- Mr. Duff said Media is making progress again.
- Implemented STEM activities. A lot of building. Educational games. Students learning to enjoy educational games.

- Created 6th grade film group.
- Promoting independent reading. Tournament every year. More and more students are checking out books.
- Virtual reality is continuing. Becoming more routine. Teachers are implementing it into units and lessons.
- Mr. Duff pushed for a Flight Simulator. He applied for grant, unfortunately it did not work out. He hopes to pursue it again next year.
- Culture of kindness. Started in fall with Say Something Week. Won second place in Student Spirit Creative and Sustainability.
- Huge intake of kids saying something when they see something. Dr. Zaleta is very proud of students and teachers who have embraced the movement.
- 286 activities of kindness implemented this year.
- On May 24, 2018 at 1 pm the first ever Rogers Park Middle School Unified Road Race 5K will be held. The Board was invited to attend.
- Musical Theatre presented Annie Jr.
- There are many after school opportunities to get involved in at RPMS.
- Every Friday students help teachers to get a boost of caffeine with a mobile coffee cart.
- NJHS - student based leadership group. Have done charity events by helping the local community such as DAWS and Make a Wish.
- Career and college readiness. 8th graders visited Henry Abbott Tech. Students will be visiting Nonnewaug and Central State University to tour newly remodeled TV studio. Students will be attending College Knowledge. 40 students will be attending Upward Bound Program through WCSU. Staff and students are encouraged to wear college gear every Wednesday to expose students to different universities. Annual Career Fair in March with over 50 presenters.
- Hispanic Heritage Carnival.
- Talent Show.
- President's Award in Mathematics and Science Nominee - Mrs. Kim Moran
- Patty Tracey- Awarded a Fellowship to go to Hawaii to look at dormant and active volcanoes to create engaging STEM learning.
- Dana Ketter - Awarded a Fellowship to examine in California and Hawaii the impact of World War II on the home front.
- Retirees leaving this year, Principal Mrs. Pat Joaquim, Mrs. Ernst, Mrs. Dell, Mrs. Khalil.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS: Luana Barcelos

- Graduation Date is set for June 22nd at 5 pm with a rain date of June 23rd at 2 pm and a second rain date of June 25th at 5 pm.
- On the last week of school and graduation day, students will be on an 11:30 am early dismissal schedule.
- On June 29th, students will be on a 10:30 am early dismissal schedule because of the middle school ceremonies that begin at 12pm.
- The last day for Seniors will be June 15th.
- Junior Prom will be May 11th and Senior Prom will be May 25th.
- The Freshman Academy is in the process of adding it's finishing touches and going through final inspections. The Danbury High Staff was invited on a tour of the new building.
- The Board of Education was shown a virtual tour of the new building.
- The Black Box Theater is also coming along very nicely. It is scheduled to be finished in July of 2018.
- Moving forward with the block scheduling initiative for students next year. Students should be receiving their new schedules by the end of this school year.

- Hatters Spring sports are entering championship season. Almost all of their spring sports have qualified for the state tournaments and they are looking forward to a great season.
- DHS will also be sending out a family survey to parents starting to plan for next year's parent goals. As they are reaching the home stretch of this school year, they hope to end it off on a positive note and make it a great one.

ACE: Ricky Hernandez

- Students at ACE have welcomed their new Music class taught by teacher Kyle Trocolla. Due to "Little Kids Rock" initiative brought to us by Jill Russell Benner, ACE has been able to receive new musical instruments and students are learning to play guitar and keyboard. Kids are very engaged in the class and it is the first time in ACE history that they've ever had a Music class where students actually learn how to play an instrument.
- Students at ACE have been participating in what they call "gender guidance groups" where the boys meet with male teachers and the girls meet with female teachers. During this time, students are able to discuss gender related issues in a safe environment.
- Students at ACE participated in a "mini march" on March 16th to demonstrate that they are a caring community and that they are stronger together than apart. This also supported the marches that were held on the 14th urging lawmakers to support stronger gun legislation to protect children in schools.
- On March 29th, students at ACE participated in their annual Wellness Day. Guest speakers from our community provided workshops to students in Yoga, Guided Meditation, Using Your Positive Energy, Safe Tattoo Practices, Al-Anon Support and Health Careers. Feedback from students was very positive.
- Naugatuck Valley Community College and ACE will once again forge summer collaboration where ACE students will have an opportunity to participate in courses at the college. Courses offered will include Certified Nurse's Assistant Program, Microsoft Suite/Digital Literacy and Intro to Hospitality and SafeServ Certification. Students 17 years of age or older within good standing at ACE in the areas of academics and attendance can apply and will be considered for the program.
- ACE is proud of the seven students who earned honor roll in the 3rd quarter, with 5 of them earning high honors.
- ACE students participated in an overnight outdoor education trip this week and hiked the Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts. The trip was accompanied by good weather and was a success.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr, Kristy Zaleta, New Principal Chosen to lead RPMS.
- Budget Update
 - a. J. Martino said as of right now for alliance about a million dollar increase. We were originally looking at 1.2 million but in that, there are the holdbacks. The holdback hit the City ECS side, not the Board ECS side.
 - b. No special session which is very good news.
 - c. Some relief in insurance.
 - d. Relatively in the ballpark of where we expected to be financial wise.
 - e. Hurricane Relief Fund is coming our way as well for students who came to the district after the hurricane in Puerto Rico. Unclear on how much.
- The Danbury Enhancement Collaborative (TDEC)
 - a. Dr. Glass stated that on the first year the district was a district that was identified as a district that needed improvement.
 - b. Very labor intensive. The first year, it required more than 100 deliverables.
 - c. State statute requires that each board has a subcommittee on curriculum.
 - d. Curriculum review and approval.

- e. TDEC group in a sense almost sunsetted because there wasn't much work to be done but this year it is becoming more robust again.
- f. New vision for professional development that is coming forward.
- g. As you come forward in the curriculum, you have to help teachers on how to deliver it and deliver it well.
- Two Danbury Students Selected for National Invention Convention.
- Danbury Principal, Dr. Frank LaBanca, one of 50 advocates chosen for STEM grant
- Board representation needed for ACE Principal on Friday, May 18, 2018.
- Board representation needed for RPMS Assistant Principal. Date to be determined.
- Sal mentioned next meeting to be held at Danbury High School.

INFORMATION

- CABE Equity Toolkit
 - a. CABE piloted program. We will be working with them on that toolkit.
- Celebration of Danbury Arts (CoDA), May 19, 11:00-4:00 at Broadview
- Realtor Day, May 23, 9:00 am at DHS
 - a. Businesses will be there.
 - b. In auditorium.
 - c. Will do tour of building as well.
- Memorial Day Parade, May 28
 - a. Representatives and a car needed. Meet at Kennedy Park, near condos.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

- R. Hawley asked when the NJHS awards will be held. They will be held on June 4th from 7-8 pm in Auditorium at DHS.
- F. Santos asked when the graduation dates are for the middle schools. Dr. Sal stated it's a Moving Up Ceremony. They are staggered, all held on the same day on June 26th.
- J. Martino stated the city is working on closing out 7 to 8 projects. The Board will see motions coming from the city.
- Portables for Westside Middle School Academy. Runoff and drainage issue found after study was done. Bidding still planned for next week.
- F. Santos asked if there would be School Resource Officers added to Westside Middle School Academy. J. Martino stated it is being discussed. City has authorization to hire officers. One of them may be going to WSMSA in the fall after the Officer goes through mandated training.
- Coordinator of Safety and Security position is posted.
- G. Cooper requested a Superintendent Evaluation Committee Meeting for June 6, 2018 at 5:30 pm., requested all Board members to attend the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

R. Hawley moved, seconded by G. Cooper, that the Board of Education adjourns its Meeting of May 9, 2018 and the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Rachel Chaleski, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)