

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 – 7:00 PM
AT DANBURY HIGH SCHOOL – MEDIA CENTER

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Ralph Pietrafesa, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Gladys Cooper, Michael Ferguson, Richard Hawley, Richard Jannelli, Patrick Johnston, Frederick Karrat, David Metrena, Kathleen Molinaro, Ralph Pietrafesa and Farley Santos

Absent: Eileen Alberts

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

RECOGNITIONS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - R. Hawley moved, seconded by P. Johnston that the Board of Education approves the items on the Consent Calendar, Exhibits 17-102 through 17-104, as recommended:

MINUTES

9-13-17 Special Board Meeting
9-13-17 Regular Board Meeting

PERSONNEL

Leave of Absence: Christine Murphy Melissa Toscano

Resignations: Pamela Aikman (Tutoring only) Lori Forshaw
Donna Gulli Jonathan Milo
Melissa Teel (Basketball only) Mark Webb
Laura Zambernardi

Retirements: Maria Cefaloni Kitchen Aid, DHS, 11 years
JoAnn Francisco Cook, DHS 38 years
Melanie Lucas Transportation Coordinator, 29 years

New Hires: See Exhibit 17-104

Motion passed at 7:04 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE (SPOTLIGHT YOUR SCHOOL)

Broadview Middle School-slide show

Ms. Edie Thomas, Principal of Broadview Middle School, told the Board that they are going to see a slide presentation by Broadview students: Brianna Creegan and Ben SanSeverino who are 7th graders and Taylor Bryant who and Paz Morin are 8th graders. The students spoke about life at Broadview, starting with the Mission Statement that they recite each morning after the Pledge of Allegiance:

*Broadview pride
is having respect for people,
property, the ideas of others,
and always doing the best we can.*

They spoke about Student Recognition Assemblies being held each month for each grade level. At those Assemblies they celebrate academic success, most improved student of the month, random acts of kindness and anything happening in their lives that they would like to share. They have Growth Mindset chart with the heading of “change your words – change your mindset.” They spoke about Broadview staff and showed several pictures of teachers. The students told the Board that the administrators, Mrs. Prendergast, Mrs. Rhodes and Principal Mrs. Thomas are fair and help to ensure that everyone in the school is safe and learning. Some of the awards the school has received are: Writing, Michael’s Cup, Say Something and Character Awards, to mention a few. One of the slides listed the school’s goals for 2017-2018.

Mrs. Thomas introduced the new PTO President, Ms. J. Creegan. Ms.Creegan said a few words about the PTO and the officers. She stated that they are working close together with the staff at the school and are happy to serve Broadview. Mrs. Thomas thanked her for her efforts on behalf of the parents and children. She thanked the students for doing a great job presenting their school this evening. A special invitation was extended to the Board members to visit Broadview and experience the many wonderful things happening there.

Mr. Pietrafesa and Dr. Pascarella thanked Mrs. Thomas and told the students that they did a great job representing their school.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES (once a month – 1st meeting)

PRESENTATION - None

ACTION ITEMS

June 2017 – End of Year Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION: R. Hawley moved, second by P. Johnston that the Board of Education accept the 2017 End of Year Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Mr. Martino told the Board that the District expended \$18,887,502 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$120,145,263 which represents 95.36% of the General Fund total budget.

Motion passed at 7:15 pm.

June 2017 – End of Year Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION: R. Hawley moved, seconded by D. Metrena that the Board of Education accept the 2017 End of Year Operating Results Analysis (Grant/Projects)

Mr. Martino told the Board that the District expended \$4,618,022 resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$27,011,766, which represents 88.6% of the Grants budget.

Several Board members had questions about Title I.

Motion passed at 7:16 pm.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

State Budget Update

The Superintendent said there was nothing to report. Mr. Pietrafesa asked Mr. Ferguson if he had any information on the budget. Mr. Ferguson told the Board that the budget did pass the legislature but hasn’t reached the Governor’s desk yet. The Governor made it clear that his intention is to veto the budget. Mr. Ferguson also said that October 1st is the deadline – that’s when the State starts to make payments. The Superintendent told the Board that he will keep them informed.

Draft 2017-2018 Goals & Objectives

Dr. Pascarella said that he is giving you a draft copy of his 2017-2018 Goals. The Superintendent stated that his goals are moving in the right direction. He also added that the teachers will be aligning their goals as well.

Outreach Program

The Superintendent mentioned to the Board that Anne Mead is doing a great job with the Outreach Program which involves the community supporting our schools.

Reception – New Hope Baptist Church

Dr. Pascarella said there will be a reception at New Hope Baptist Church on October 15 at 1:30-3:00 pm. honoring Danbury Public School’s new staff In cooperation with the NAACP we are going to talk about our Danbury staff. Ms. Cooper asked that the Board Chair, Mr. Pietrafesa, and Superintendent Pascarella say a few words at the reception.

DISCUSSION - None

INFORMATION – None

VH1 Save the Music Presentation at Park Avenue School, October 23 - 9:30-10:15 am

Mr. Martino said that Danbury schools received \$105,000 for music learning from ‘Save the Music’ grant. This grant covered musical instruction and instruments. More than 30 students from Park Avenue, Morris Street and South Street schools will perform with their instruments as VH1 ‘Save the Music.’ The Program partnering with SpreadMusicNow is a nonprofit organization in Redding.

Mr. Pietrafesa asked the Superintendent if he could invite Robin Provey to a Board meeting for recognition concerning this grant.

Westside Middle School trip to London, Paris, Berlin, July 5-16, 2018

Mr. Martino said, Education First, is a very reputable travel company.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Pietrafesa reminded the Board that on October 2nd at 7:00 PM will be "Meet the Candidates Night" at Broadview Middle School Auditorium. He stated that a flyer was sent out. He urged the Board to come to support their candidates.

The Chairperson reminded the Board that they are to contact Mr. Martino or Ms. Warner if they plan to attend the CABA Convention in November.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

Ms. Cooper asked the members of the Superintendent Evaluation Committee if they could meet on Wednesday, October 4th at 6:00 pm at Beaver Brook. The Committee agreed to the date.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

G. Cooper moved, second by P. Johnston that the Board of Education adjourn its September 27, 2017 meeting and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary

(Meeting was videotaped)