

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
September 2, 2014

Present: Mrs. Exum, Ms. Gilchrest, Mr. Putterman, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore, Student Representatives Henley Solomon (Conard), Paul Zeushner (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/Revision to Agenda

Dave Pauluk, 416 Oakwood Ave., addressed the Board regarding the Charter Oak project and expressed his hope that funding will be safeguarding and properly utilized.

Public Communications

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board of Education approve the final plans and specifications dated August 29, 2014 for the construction of the new Charter Oak International Academy

Approval of Plans for the New Charter Oak International Academy

Mr. Schmitt introduced the motion and emphasized the importance for the Board to understand the project plans. Dr. Andrew Morrow, Mr. Bob Palmer and Mr. Chip Ward provided summaries of the changes and progress regarding the plans and budget that have been achieved since the spring. The approval and reimbursement process of the State regarding the submission of construction documents was reviewed. All were available to answer questions of the Board.

Board discussion focused on the responsibility to remain on time and on or under budget.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest

THAT the Board of Education accept the following school projects as being complete and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to request payment of the School Construction Grant from the State Department of Education

Acceptance of School Construction Projects as Complete

- Norfeldt School Reroofing, State Project No. 155-0229
- Aiken School Reroofing, State Project No. 155-0232
- Bugbee School Modular Classrooms, State Project No. 155-0233

Mr. Schmitt introduced and reviewed the motion as a formality of the State reimbursement process. Dr. Andrew Morrow and Mr. Bob Palmer were available to address the questions of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tom Moore reported on the successful opening of the 2014-2015 school year and 17 school sites. He described observing the high school traditions of welcoming incoming freshman. He spoke of addressing the whole student and the physical, emotional and academic well-being and the importance of forging collaborative partnerships with parents and the community. Mr. Moore shared his experience of the day and imparted the Leadership motto of '*Clear Paths. Bright Futures. No Limits.*' Mr. Moore introduced members of the Executive Leadership Team who each presented detailed reports.

- Dr. Nancy DePalma, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, reported on the continuous improvement of the District Development Plan. The efforts and staff participation in professional development, CPDC recommendations and SRBI updates and implementations, support for new teachers and administrators and Convocation were summarized.
- Dr. Andrew Morrow, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, reported on the numerous building improvement projects and routine maintenance and encouraged Board members to view their progress. An overview of information technology throughout the district and transportation issues and the start of bus routes was provided.
- Mr. Rick Ledwith, Executive Director of Human Resources reported on the recruitment and hiring process that resulted in over 100 new employees and indicated the turnover rate increased slightly and exit interviews provided insight as to causes. The dedication and efforts to expand and improve the diversity of the professional staff were summarized and the undertaking of the new Teacher and Administrator Evaluation plan and the ongoing collaboration of the TRAC members was reported.
- Mr. Glenn McGrath, Director of Pupil Services, reported on the successful fulfillment of certified and support staff for the start of the school year. Summer program participation, the requirements determined by the State Department of Education, priorities and issues and the School Counseling

*Superintendent's Report
Opening of School
Briefing*

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Department priorities were summarized.

- Mr. Chip Ward, Director of Finance Planning reported on the enrollment and stated the numbers were close to projections across the elementary, middle and high school levels.

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of June 3, 2014

The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Zeushner (Hall) reported on Link Crew and efforts to insure a smooth transition for freshmen and the upcoming Fall Fest events.

Henley Solomon (Conard) reported on the excitement of a new school year and the orientation efforts for freshmen, the community project, *Feeding Children Everywhere*, and the start of fall sports and the anticipation of using the field lights for night games.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, September 16, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, October 7, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
3. Tuesday, October 21, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

Mr. Putterman summarized requests to engage in conversations regarding honors courses and Open Choice program. Mr. Sarzen requested information regarding the direction of QuEst. Mr. Zydanowicz expressed a continuance of the strategy mission tactic and student representative Henley Solomon requested notification and distribution of school supplies lists.

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding the importance to encourage and increase participation in Board meetings.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

That the Board adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Report from Student Board Representatives

Announcement of Meeting Dates

Request for Future Agenda Items

Comments from Visitors

Adjournment

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The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Bruce Putterman, Chairperson Tammy Exum, Secretary
Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board

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