

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**October 21, 2014**

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Tim Decker, Science teacher at Conard, introduced the student members of an organization/fan club called the Tribe. The students addressed a recent incident that attracted negative media publicity and expressed remorse and regret around their conduct. The purpose and goal of the organization was reviewed and the need for guidelines for a code of conduct was raised. A student representative from Hall High School spoke to the Board about the appropriateness of the name and steps previously taken by the Hall community to change a name and associated logo that were determined offensive to some groups.

Jill Pollack Lewis, 36 Lost Brook Rd., addressed the Board regarding class sizes specifically first grade classrooms at Norfeldt.

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board regarding AP statistics.

Yifrah Kaminer, 47 Lyman Rd., addressed the Board regarding concerns about anti-Semitism expressions in the schools.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education approve the following bylaws which were reviewed by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

- 8354 Agenda Construction and Posting of Agenda
- 8356 Quorum
- 8358 Minutes/Taping/Broadcasting

Mr. Schmitt reviewed the minor changes in the bylaws. Dr. Andrew Morrow and Ms. Kimberly Boneham were available to answer the questions and concerns of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

*Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/Revision to Agenda  
Student Participation*

*Public Communications*

*Motion by Bruce Putterman and Terry Schmitt to Approve Reviewed Bylaws 8354, 8356, and 8358*

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Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education accept as a First Reading the following bylaws which were revised by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

8144 Financial Examiners  
8330 Regulations  
8350 Meetings

Mr. Schmitt provided some clarification on the recommendations including the removal of 'if deemed necessary' regarding emergency meetings and the legal criteria addition of #5 Collective Bargaining Strategy and #6 Confidential Documents.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between West Hartford Federation of Educational Secretaries and the Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2018

Mr. Rick Ledwith, Dr. Andrew Morrow and Mr. Chip Ward were present at the table and summarized the key terms and changes to the contract including those around issues of longevity salaries and healthcare and pension reform. The collaborative negotiation process was commended. All were available to address questions and concerns of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tom Moore addressed the incident and issue surrounding the student participation and emphasized the role of the Superintendent and the Executive Team and the commitment to education and transparency around discussions. Plans about meetings to determine next steps, communication with the larger community and using the incident as a learning experience were shared. Mr. Moore also reported on the many activities and projects in which the elementary students from several of the schools were engaged.

Dr. Nancy DePalma, Mr. Paul Vicinus and Ms. Kerry Jones presented an overview of the meaningful professional development for teachers

*Motion by Bruce  
Putterman and Terry  
Schmitt to Accept  
Revised Bylaws 8144,  
8330, and 8350 – First  
Reading*

*Ratification of the West  
Hartford Federation of  
Educational Secretaries  
Contract*

*Superintendent's Report*

*Professional Learning  
Update*

utilized as a means to attract and retain highly skilled and qualified staff. The year-long process with an emphasis on the designation of Wednesdays and other in-service days as targeted professional learning workshops was outlined.

Board members acknowledged this focus as a key component in the strength of the district and a mainstay that attracts inquiries from other districts regarding success, steps and the process involved. The work and effort required and committed to was commended.

Mr. Chip Ward reviewed and compared the projected and actual enrollment numbers through K-12. He discussed the decline and potential reasons behind fewer kindergarten enrollment. The class sizes for elementary, middle and high school and Board guidelines were reviewed. Mr. Ward was available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

*Enrollment and Class  
Size Analysis as of  
October 1, 2014*

Board members discussed the formula used to forecast enrollment and speculated on the decline in the birth rate at state and federal levels as well. Future projections and speculation of any potential budget impact and revisiting class size guidelines were raised.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

*Approval of Minutes*

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of October 7, 2014

The motion passed unanimously.

Henley Solomon (Conard) reported on the follow-up on previously raised concerns about transportation for Open Choice students. He provided reminders regarding the upcoming opening of the theater production, concerts and College Fair, providing a safe Halloween and maintaining a healthy rivalry with Hall.

*Report from Student  
Board Representatives*

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Wednesday, November 5, 2014, (due to Election Day) regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, November 18, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

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Adam Eikleberry, 27 Van Buren Ave., addressed the Board to express appreciation for the school system.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

That the Board adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

*Comments from Visitors*

*Adjournment*

ATTEST:

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Bruce Putterman, Chairperson

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Tammy Exum, Secretary

*Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board*

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