

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
September 16, 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 Zeuschner (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.</p> <p>Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:</p> <p>THAT the Board of Education meeting agenda be revised to allow item #VI.B.2. School Safety Report to be presented following Public Communications</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/Revision to Agenda</i></p> <p><i>Agenda Revision</i></p>
<p>John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding communication between schools and parents and across the district.</p>	<p><i>Public Communications</i></p>
<p>Mr. Tom Moore introduced Dr. Andrew Morrow and Chief Tracey Gove. Chief Gove summarized the previous goals and the progress in meeting or exceeding those identified. He reviewed areas of training including Critical Incident Response, Medical, Breaching and Entry and the updates in vehicle equipment including outfitting cruisers with school maps. The numerous policies and response plans were reviewed generally. Dr. Morrow reviewed the Safety Plans and the roles of the School Resources Officers and Community Relations Officers within the schools and discussed site monitoring and protocols with the school safety audits, card-access and direct alarm and panic systems.</p>	<p><i>School Safety Report</i></p>
<p>Board members expressed appreciation for the comprehensive summary and noted the assurances for parents for student safety. Discussion focused on proactive approaches, tampering, notifications and awareness. Emphasis was placed on striking a balance between sharing information and protecting strategies, understanding the cultural shift in the day to day climate and communication with parents.</p>	
<p>Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:</p>	<p><i>Ratification of the Security Union Contract</i></p>

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THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between Local 1303-340 of Council #4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Security Union and the Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2018

Mr. Schmitt introduced Mr. Rick Ledwith, Dr. Morrow and Mr. Ward. The role of school security officers was reviewed and acknowledged and an overview of the history, the negotiation process and the Board goals was provided. The process was described a collaborative and the key elements of the agreement were summarized.

Board discussion focused on the number of members, longevity and creating incentives for a healthier workforce.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tom Moore reported on the events occurring into the third week of school including Open Houses and addressed the virus concerns and monitoring. Mr. Moore commended the work of the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools and the numerous grants presented. The outstanding recognition and achievements of district teachers, along with the nominations of National Merit Scholar Semi-finalists and a Semi-finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program, were announced.

Mr. Moore introduced Dr. Nancy DePalma, Mr. Paul Vicinus and Mr. Chip Ward and noted the reduction in the emphasis from past years. Mr. Ward summarized the score trends and results and highlighted the strong, high CAPT scores.

Board discussion included comparisons to State and DRG B trends and the willingness to engage in frank discussions about curriculum and test accountability and the best interest of the students.

Dr. Morrow, Mr. Ward, Mr. Robert Palmer and Mr. Bryan D'Orlando, of Fusco Management, provided a breakdown of the sequence and progress of the project, including an update on the approval sought from the State, the anticipated time table for bids and groundbreaking. The Power Point presentation had difficulty so handouts were provided. Mr. D'Orlando reviewed the process and implications of the phases of construction, community outreach and involvement, the importance of and strategies to encourage openness and cooperation with the town and neighborhood. Mr. Ward presented on the expectations and plans to meet enrollment, including the emphasis

Superintendent's Report

Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Results

Charter Oak International Academy Update

placed on attracting students for the Pre-K experience and the positive reception of the IB curriculum. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members discussed the possibility of construction sound barriers and adherence to town ordinances. Concerns about enrollment numbers, the potential to draw students away from existing programs and the availability of before and after school care were raised. Board members expressed excitement about the project.

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2014

Ms. Gilchrest provided an oral report of the financial statement. Mr. Ward was available to answer the questions of the Board.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of September 2, 2014

Clerk noted a correction to the spelling of a last name.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zydanowicz shared a concern regarding text books in the schools.

Henley Solomon (Conard) reported on the charity kick-ball tournament against Hall, Open House schedule and the formation of a student liaison with the custodial staff.

Paul Zeuschner (Hall) reported on the Merit Scholarship semi-finalist, upcoming Fall Fest and the Fall sports kick-off.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

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

Financial Report

Approval of Minutes

Other Information and Discussion

Report from Student Board Representatives

Announcement of Meeting Dates

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Mr. Putterman stated the items carried over from last meeting and the issue of the upcoming November election site coordination was raised.

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding upcoming mental health presentations, lockdown drills and concerns about tracking graduated students and the Charter Oak project.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

That the Board adjourn at 9:27 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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

*Request for Future
Agenda Items*

Comments from Visitors

Adjournment

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