

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
October 7, 2014

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/Revision to Agenda</i></p>
<p>There were no Public Communications.</p>	<p><i>Public Communications</i></p>
<p>Mr. Putterman made a statement condemning the messages intended to be delivered by a swastika left at Hall High School. He emphasized the action to be taken and the awareness that will be raised.</p>	
<p>Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen: THAT the Board of Education designate Mr. Tom Moore as authorized to sign the ED-099 and, in his absence, that Mr. Charles Ward be authorized to sign the ED-099</p>	<p><i>Revision of Authorized Signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition</i></p>
<p>Mr. Ward explained the agreement and the procedural requirements.</p>	
<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>Mr. Tom Moore reported on the distinguished awards and recognition received by some staff and highlighted the widespread recognition of the Smith STEM school and the effectiveness of the magnet school theme. Mr. Moore reported on the resignation of King Philip Assistant Principal, Pat Mulhall and the appointment of Justin Gusy to the position. Mr. Gusy's background, experience and qualifications for the position were reviewed.</p>	<p><i>Superintendent's Report</i></p>
<p>Mr. Moore provided an introduction to the test score results and commended the success of the students, the nationwide recognition received and the growing reputation of the district with other school districts and among college admission representatives. Dr. Nancy DePalma, Mr. Paul Vicinus and Mr. Chip Ward reported on the reasons for pursuing challenging content in college level courses, the number of participants and exams taken and the demographic data. The program options available to students for earning college credit and the lasting impressions created through the preparation for these</p>	<p><i>High School Advanced Placement (AP) Test Score Results</i></p>

courses were described. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members inquired about the average number of AP courses a student might take and the differences in acceptance of the scores regarding either placement waivers or applied credit by various colleges and universities. The work needed to be done regarding increasing the participation rate of minorities and expanding the variety of courses offered, the training of teachers required to teach the courses and programs to broaden the interest and success of students such as the AP Boot Camp were discussed.

Mr. Moore introduced the presenters, Dr. Nancy DePalma, Mr. Paul Vicinus, Mr. Julio Duarte and Mr. Dan Zittoun and emphasized the joint collaborative spirit that exists between the two high schools. The intensive reaccreditation process was summarized and an overview of the review and recommendations directed by the committee was shared. Both principals acknowledged the rigorous process and praised the efforts and assistance that was provided by staff and students. Some of the key commendations noted by the committee, including the leadership, community support, the positive reception and school climate were highlighted. A breakdown of the categories evaluated was provided.

Board discussion included a statement of pride by the student representative and his perspective on the experience. Board members emphasized the seriousness of the process and commended the absence of recommendations issued addressing dangerous or negative areas in need of improvement. The opportunity provided by the process to engage in self-reflection by the district was noted. Principals highlighted the cross-training and team building between teachers, 21st century skills building and the notable collaboration rather than competition between high schools. They praised the invaluable resource and beneficial tool experienced by each and expressed appreciation to the Administration for their support.

Mr. Rick Ledwith presented the Personnel Report and summarized the changes during the first five weeks of school. He provided an update on the recruitment for the Director of Security and Safety position and acknowledged the impressive quantity and quality of applicants. The process was reviewed and anticipated an announcement would be made in another four to six weeks. Mr. Ledwith reviewed the administrator mentoring program under the direction of the Assistant Director of Human Resources.

*NEASC (New
England Association of
Schools and Colleges)
Update*

Personnel Report

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Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of September 16, 2014

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Putterman reported on the CABE/CAPS Convention application and participation on a panel discussion about technology.

Henley Solomon (Conard) reported on the Student Council and discussion about use of cell phones and the appropriateness of head phones and ear buds. He shared about the planned Homecoming dance, PEACE Day and Peer Mentoring program.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, October 21, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Wednesday, November 5, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

Mr. Putterman stated the agenda items previously suggested were being worked on.

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding AP courses and allocated resources.

Angela Marsh Soderman, 105 Mayflower, addressed the Board regarding encouragement for struggling students to participate in AP courses.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

That the Board adjourn at 8:58 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Other Information and Discussion

Report from Student Board Representatives

Announcement of Meeting Dates

Request for Future Agenda Items

Comments from Visitors

Adjournment

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ATTEST:

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

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