

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

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

Absent: Mr. Zydanowicz

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/Revision to Agenda Order</i></p>
<p>Bill Condon, 55 Rumford St., addressed the Board regarding the use of Chieftains/Warriors names and logos.</p>	<p><i>Public Communications</i></p>
<p>Chip Simplicio, 17 Walton Dr., addressed the Board regarding the mascot and name controversy.</p>	
<p>John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding the scheduled reading presentation and his perspective.</p>	
<p>Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez made a statement regarding the use of Native American names and symbols at both High Schools and the opportunity to debate the issue with civil and respectful conversation. He implored appropriate conduct be embraced by all students, staff, parents and community members and announced an upcoming public forum to be held in February.</p>	
<p>Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Putterman:</p>	
<p>THAT the Board of Education reappoint Mr. Albert Brenner and Ms. Maureen Boyle-Henninger as the Board representatives to the Risk Management Advisory Board for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017</p>	<p><i>Risk Management Advisory Board Appointments</i></p>
<p>Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez shared a statement providing an overview of the purpose of the Advisory Board. Mr. Schmitt expressed his support of the nomination and the work of the current representatives.</p>	
<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>Mr. Tom Moore offered congratulations to Julio Duarte on the birth of his son. He shared the accomplishments of students at Hall for receiving an award for their robotics project and commended the initiative for program and workshops conducted by teachers to assist</p>	<p><i>Superintendent's Report</i></p>

parent with their child's struggles. The December concert season was announced and he encouraged attendance to the various K-12 events.

Dr. Nancy DePalma and Ms. Kerry Jones presented and explained the new forms of data aligned with state guidelines for SRBI. An update was provided on the interventions and assessments implemented at the elementary, middle and high school levels and the numbers and percentage of students receiving services. Both were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Reading Update

Board members expressed appreciation for the candor offered in sharing the areas of weakness and not only championing successes. Clarification was sought on outcomes of specific groups and the potential for students to be overlooked and left behind. Refocused effort, transparency, parental input and improvement during transition years were discussed. Discussion emphasized awareness of needs and resources and implications during budget planning.

Dr. Nancy DePalma, Mr. Paul Vicinus and Mr. Tor Fiske provided a summary of the redesign of the SAT by the College Board with the intention towards creating equity. The history of the SAT as a well-established test and the context for change was reviewed. The critical skills targeted and the major features and components of the current and redesign were compared and described. A timetable and redesign pilot program were outlined. All were available to answer the questions of the Board.

SAT Redesign

Board discussion included the utility and emphasis of the redesigned components and questioned any impact of the pilot test results on students. The scoring system and interpretation, the collaboration between Khan Academy and College Board and the global shift and cultural relevance was discussed.

Mr. Rick Ledwith presented the Personnel Report and highlighted recent retirements. An update was provided on the searches for the Safety and Security Director and the Hall High School Assistant Principal positions. He was available to answer questions of the Board.

Personnel Report

Mrs. Exum moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending October 31, 2014

Financial Report

Mrs. Exum provided an oral report of the financial statement. Mr.

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Chip Ward was available to answer the questions of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of November 18, 2014

The motion passed unanimously.

Henley Solomon (Conard) reported on the winter sports excitement, the basketball tournament fundraiser and the recent survey regarding delayed opening announcement.

Paul Zeuschner (Hall) reported on the Madrigals performances, winter concerts, upcoming Human Rights Day and provided a sports update.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

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

Chip Simplicio, 17 Walton Dr., addressed the Board regarding the dialogue on mascots.

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board regarding issues with reading and math and the presentation and meeting student needs.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

That the Board adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson Terry Schmitt, Secretary
Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board

Approval of the Minutes

*Report from Student
Board Representatives*

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

Comments from Visitors

Adjournment

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