

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
November 5, 2014

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the order of the agenda be changed to put the following
agenda item before Unfinished Business:

- Election of Officers/Board Organization

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Putterman moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT Tom Moore act as temporary Chairperson of this
meeting for the purpose of electing a Chairperson for the Board
of Education

The motion passed unanimously.

1. Tom Moore, Superintendent, will serve as temporary
Chairperson and will call for nominations and action for the
position of Chairperson.
2. The newly elected Chairperson will conduct the meeting.
3. The newly elected Chairperson will call for nominations and
action for the election of the following officers: Vice-
Chairperson, Secretary and (2) Financial Examiners (one
from each political party).

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Moore called for nominations for the office of Chairperson.

Mr. Putterman nominated Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez for the
office of Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Sarzen

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance*

*Revision to Agenda
Order*

Mr. Moore called for any additional nominations for the office of Chairperson. None were made. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairperson.

Mrs. Exum nominated Ms. Gilchrest for the office of Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for any additional nominations for the office of Vice-Chairperson. None were made. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for nominations for the office of Secretary.

Ms. Gilchrest nominated Mr. Schmitt for the office of Secretary, seconded by Mrs. Exum

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for any additional nominations for the office of Secretary. None were made. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for nominations for the office of Financial Examiner.

Mr. Zydanowicz nominated Mr. Sarzen for the office of Financial Examiner for the Republican Party, seconded by Mr. Putterman

Mr. Schmitt nominated Mrs. Exum for the office of Financial Examiner for the Democratic Party, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for any additional nominations for the office of Financial Examiner. None were made. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

The nomination of Mr. Sarzen for the office of Financial Examiner for the Republican Party and Mrs. Exum for the office of Financial Examiner for the Democratic Party passed unanimously.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez acknowledged the years of dedication and service of Mr. Putterman in the role Board Chairperson.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education approve and accept as a Second and Final Reading the following bylaws which were revised by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

8144 Financial Examiners
8330 Regulations
8350 Meetings

Mr. Schmitt provided a review of the changes and corrections and recommended passage. He explained the bylaws as a way to self-regulate the actions of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tom Moore offered condolences to Kerry Jones on the sudden death of her mother. He provided a reminder that school would be in session on Veterans Day with ceremonies and events planned and took the opportunity to express gratitude for the service of Mark Zydanowicz and Paul Vicinus. He announced that Whiting Lane had again received 'Best Float' in the local annual Park Road Parade. A competitive grant for school security was awarded and Mr. Moore thanked the efforts of all those involved and reviewed the purpose and anticipated use of the funds. Mr. Moore provided information on a survey of parents to determine preferred notification method of school delays and closings.

Dr. Nancy DePalma and Mr. Paul Vicinus presented a powerpoint highlighting the Mission Statement of WHPS, the Model of Continuous Improvement, the district vision, goals and critical actions involved. The District Strategic Initiatives and the goals of advanced achievement for all students, creating a safe and respectful learning community and attracting, retaining and developing a high quality staff were emphasized. Both were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

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

Superintendent's Report

District Development Plan

Board members inquired about rules or guidelines for the availability of child care for elementary school functions, the mentoring program in place for new teachers, privacy guidelines for bullying reporting. The correlation of a mastery model, or an IEP for the district and the Universal Design for Learning was discussed.

Dr. Nancy DePalma, Tor Fiske, and Ed D'Addio presented an overview of the School Counseling Department and college readiness programs provided to middle and high school students. The delivery of services, including a mini-capstone experience for eighth graders, workshop series, and addressing the demands of the application process were detailed. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members discussed admission trends and selection criteria of colleges, the use of individual private college counselors and Naviance as a resource and comparison tool. The burden of significant tuition debt for families and students, non-readiness and the increase in the popularity of a GAP year and other transitional choices and general societal expectations were discussed.

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:

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

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of October 21, 2014

The motion passed 5-0-2.

Mrs. Exum and Ms. Gilchrest abstained due to absence.

Mr. Sarzen extended accolades to the special efforts of the Kindergarten teachers at Duffy in support of a student and family of the community.

Henley Solomon (Conard) reported on Trick or Treat Street, upcoming conferences and provided soccer and field hockey updates

*College Admissions
Process*

Financial Report

Approval of Minutes

*Communications and
Reports*

*Report from Student
Board Representatives*

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and the basketball tournament fundraiser.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, November 18, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, December 2, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
3. Tuesday, December 16, 2014 regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board with a book recommendation and request to follow graduates.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

That the Board adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

Comments from Visitors

Adjournment

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