

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**February 17, 2016**

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Pauluk, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore, Student Representatives Zacharie Mega (Conard), Rachel Schunder (Hall)

Absent: Ms. Exum and Dr. Greenberg

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</i></p>
<p>Ms. Ann Trambert, 89 Lyman Road, requested that February vacation be reinstated.</p> <p>Mr. Courtney Bourns, 24 Saddle Ridge, spoke about the Open Choice program.</p>	<p><i>Public Communication</i></p>
<p>Mr. Sarzen moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:</p> <p>THAT the Board of Education review as a First Reading the proposed calendar for the 2017-2018 school year.</p> <p>Superintendent Moore explained that there is only one calendar choice being offered this year as legislation has required that there be a CREC uniform calendar.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p><i>Proposed 2017-2018 School Year Calendar</i></p>
<p>Superintendent Tom Moore noted the news reports that Weiming Education Group, based in China, has expressed interest in the possibility of locating an international high school on the West Hartford UCONN campus. He explained that it is a Town Council decision but was an exciting possibility. There are 195 days until the opening of the new Charter Oak International Academy. Charter Oak's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Cultural Day celebration is this Saturday, and all are encouraged to attend. He congratulated Connie Rivers, a West Hartford Adult Education teacher, who won a grant and invitation to present at the Spring, 2016 Commission on Adult Education in Texas.</p>	<p><i>Superintendent's Report</i></p>
<p>Ms. Lucy Cartland, Ms. Elena Sada, Mr. Paul Vicinus, and Dr. Nancy DePalma gave a presentation on the options and upcoming structure of the Middle School World Language program with the announcement that students will have the added choice of studying Chinese next year,</p>	<p><i>Middle School World Language Program</i></p>

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in addition to French and Spanish. They reviewed the implementation schedule and discussed outreach efforts made towards incoming sixth graders and their parents. Board members followed up with questions about student commitment requirements, practical applications, and the possible study of multiple languages.

Mr. Paul Vicinus provided the Board with a State Assessment Update. He reviewed the district philosophy, tested grades, changes to policy, and sample SAT items. He noted that the biggest change is the adoption of the SAT as the high school assessment for literacy and mathematics. The junior year CAPT re-take requirement has been eliminated. The Modified Assessment System (MAS) had already been eliminated. “Recently arrived” English learners who have lived here for two years will now be required to take all state assessments, but they will be used as growth benchmarks instead of achievement. The SBAC test has been abbreviated. He then reviewed the timeline for the administration of the tests and the impact on the school schedule.

*State Assessment  
Update*

Ms. Roszema Haskins, Ms. Kerry Jones, and Mr. Chip Ward presented an update on the Open Choice Program noting that West Hartford was one of the inaugural participating districts when it began 50 years ago as Project Concern. It was noted that there are currently 166 Open Choice students enrolled in the West Hartford Public Schools. This includes 27 new students for the 2015-16 school year who were selected by the Open Choice lottery process from a pool of 1,155 applications. Historical enrollment data was reviewed as well as the financial impact on the district. Finally, the status of the current needs assessment was reviewed noting survey results among participants and plans for addressing those needs. Board members followed up with philosophical questions about the program and funding issues.

*Open Choice Program*

Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Sarzen seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of February 2, 2016.

*Approval of Minutes*

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pauluk reported on speaking at the MDC meeting, and Mr. Moore clarified that the vote on the 2017-2018 school calendar would take place on March 15.

*Information and  
Reports*

Student Representative Rachel Schunder reported that senior nights for winter sports have been taking place, spring sports registration has

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begun, and course selection is wrapping up. Hall's track coach placed 87 of 160 competitors at the US Olympic trials. She also reported on Valentine's Day activities. Student Representative Zach Mega noted that the Math team is currently in first place in their competition and two students have a perfect score. Black History Day will be observed on Feb. 26, the girls' basketball team is CCC champs, and the Hall/Conard student switch was very successful.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, March 1, 2016, regular Board Meeting, Presentation of the Superintendent's Budget, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
2. Wednesday, March 9, 2016, Budget Workshop #1, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
3. Tuesday, March 15, 2016, regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
4. Wednesday, March 23, 2016, Public Hearing followed by Budget Workshop #2, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

Ms. Renita Ezell, 118 Kensington Avenue, New Britain, spoke about the Open Choice program.

*Comments from  
Visitors*

Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

That the Board adjourn at 9:33 p.m.

*Adjournment*

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson    Carol A. Blanks, Secretary  
*Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. K. Hickey, Acting Clerk of the Board*

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