

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
June 7, 2016

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Ms. Exum, Dr. Greenberg, Mr. Pauluk, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore, Student Representatives Zacharie Mega (Conard), Rachel Schunder (Hall)
Absent: Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez
Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance*

Due to the absence of Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Ms. Exum served as Acting Chair.

The Equity and Excellence Update was moved to the first order of business after Public Comments to accommodate the visiting families.

Agenda Revision

John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, spoke regarding the Safe School Climate Survey.

*Public
Communications*

Dr. Nancy DePalma and Ms. Roszena Haskins were joined by a variety of presenters who shared with the Board how schools have become part of the larger community. Ms. Dorothy Melchor and Mr. Jeff Bette from Webster Hill explained the “Cultural Ambassador Project” which brought “culturally and linguistically diverse” parents in to Webster Hill to read bilingual stories in class. Ms. Martina Cravedi and Ms. Migdalia Fletcher explained how a grant from the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools was used to provide children’s books to families in their native language through the “Preschool Parent Storytellers Program.” The program seeks to get information to parents on the importance of language and literacy development in their native language along with creating a lending library in a variety of languages. Parents also visited the classrooms to read bilingual books and the group set up a reading room at the “Hello West Hartford” celebration. Conard Assistant Principal Jamahl Hines, along with several Conard students, described the growth of the “Future Educators of Diversity” program which partners with UCONN and Central, as a start, to foster the students’ desire to become teachers in the hopes of educating them and encouraging them to come back to work in West Hartford. Conard teacher Abby Esposito described the Human Rights Initiative and the partnership with Dr. Glenn Mitoma from the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center and NEAG School of Education at UCONN to take Human Rights Day to a new level in discussing difficult issues. Mrs. Haskins then reviewed the priorities for the future of the Equity and Diversity Council next year. Board members commended the

*Equity and
Excellence Update*

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presentation, along with the work being done and asked questions about how the progress is evaluated.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education discuss and vote on a new employment agreement with Mr. Tom Moore to serve as Superintendent of Schools for a new term of three years, July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019 and that Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson execute the new agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

*Superintendent's
Contract*

Board members commended Mr. Moore's performance and expressed their confidence in his future leadership

The motion passed unanimously

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Mr. Sarzen seconded:

That the Board of Education accept and approve as a Second and Final Reading the proposed revision to the 2016-2017 school calendar which was originally adopted by the Board of Education on March 17, 2015

*2016-2017
School Calendar*

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Dr. Greenberg seconded:

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

4140---Staff Development
4210---Substitute Teachers
4220---Student Teachers

*Approval of
Revised Policies*

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pauluk moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

THAT the Board of Education accept the educational specifications dated June, 2016 for science laboratory classrooms at Hall High School and THAT the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to complete the necessary architectural drawings and submit an application to the State

*Hall High Science
Laboratory Classrooms*

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Department of Education for a school construction grant. Dr. Andy Morrow, Mr. Bob Palmer and Mr. Chip Ward noted that this is the first step needed in order to begin the state grant process for this project's funding. Upon approval, the design process will begin. Once completed, the designs and budget will be submitted to the Board for approval.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between the Town of West Hartford Police Employee Association and the Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019

*Ratification of the
Crossing Guards
Contract*

Mr. Rick Ledwith noted that the group consists of approximately 40 part-time employees and the contract calls for a modest wage increase over the next three years. There were no other issues.

The motion passed unanimously.

THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between the West Hartford Public School Nurses Association and the Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020

*Ratification of the
Nurses Contract*

Mr. Rick Ledwith outlined the changes in the nursing contract which included wage increases, a move to the High Deductible Health Care plan and stipend increases for the Nursing Supervisor and chaperoned trips.

The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Moore noted that a lot of hiring is in its final stages including the positions of Athletic Director along with the Hall World Language and Math Department Supervisors. Irene Garneau has been appointed to the new position of Department Supervisor for Early Childhood Education. Eileen Eustace and Lindsay Tringali will be joining Conard as Assistant Principals and Emily Daigle will become a Department Supervisor in the Pupil Services Department. Mr. Moore continued with the announcement that Shannon Mlodzinski will become the permanent Principal at Aiken Elementary and Kelly Brouse has been selected as the Principal of Bugbee Elementary. Mr. Moore

*Superintendent's
Report*

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explained that each year he does exit interviews with a group of graduating seniors at each high school about their K-12 experience. They described a variety of grades, and thus teachers, as their favorites and also wanted to “be able to tell their own stories.” Mr. Moore would like to have further conversations next year with parents because students described a feeling of not wanting to let anyone down. He continues to be impressed by the students, thanked Rachel and Zach for representing their schools so well, and said he feels very optimistic as he looks to the future.

Dr. Andrew Morrow, Mr. Julio Duarte and Mr. Dan Zittoun discussed the results of the Safe School Climate Surveys and Discipline Report. Dr. Morrow reviewed the generally positive results of the student, parent, and staff surveys. Dr. Morrow noted that in terms of school security, he and Mr. Eric Dency, Director of School Security and Safety, meet with the Safe School Climate Committees, which include School Resource Officers and Community Relations Officers. They also regularly meet with the Police Department about policies and procedures as well as about what is taking place in the community. Members of the Police Department continue to familiarize themselves with the layout of each building and participate in drills. The building doors continue to be upgraded to a card system and cameras will be installed this summer in the high schools. Emergency procedures have been standardized throughout the district and will be available through an app on each principal’s smart phone. Mr. Duarte and Mr. Zittoun described the effect of the Link Crew program on school culture. Dr. Morrow noted it would be expanding to the middle school as well. As Board members asked questions about the discipline data, Mr. Zittoun and Mr. Duarte described their efforts in reaching out to students and in an effort to be proactive and the role of both in school and outside counselors in trying to address issues. Board members asked further questions about survey data.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report ending April 30, 2016.

Mr. Sarzen noted that the General Fund balance increased by \$17,000. There was modest movement in the Grants Account and the money from several of these accounts will carry over to next year if not used. There were also modest changes in the Special Funds account. Finally, the Nutrition Services account is doing better than expected. The numbers are prior to the settlement of negotiated contracts and there

*Safe School Climate and
Discipline Report*

*Approval of
Financial Report*

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were three additional operating days. While there will still be a year end loss, it should be less than expected.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of May 17, 2016.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting of May 26, 2016.

The motion passed 5-0-2 with Mrs. Blanks and Mr. Pauluk abstaining.

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting of May 31, 2016.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Representative Zach Mega reported that finals are underway at Conard. Conard teams have been doing well during playoff season. Many students participated in a variety of booths at "Celebrate West Hartford." Four students are organizing a blood drive on Tuesday, July 5, at Town Hall in honor of Seamus Turco who has been battling blood cancer and has returned to school. Zach announced the new 2016-2017 Student Council slate and noted that Safe Grad preparations are underway. Finally he expressed his thanks and noted that it has been an honor and privilege serving as the Board Representative from Conard. Student Representative Rachel Schunder reported that there was a spring concert on May 25, a breakfast and awards ceremony for Latin students on May 31, and the "Choraliers" last concert on June 3. Last week there was a free summer book swap in the library. Rachel announced the results of the Hall elections for their Executive Board. The King Philip graduation took place last night. Rachel expressed her

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gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the Board Representative from Hall.

Ms. Exum and all of the Board members thanked Zach Mega and Rachel Schunder for their service and presented them with a token of the Board's appreciation.

Ms. Exum announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, September 6, 2016, regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall. 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
2. Tuesday, September 20, 2016, regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall. 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber

Dr. Greenberg requested that class size limits be considered as a future agenda item.

John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, spoke regarding lockdown drills and survey reports.

Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

That the Board adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

*Request for
Future Agenda Items*

*Comments from
Visitors*

Adjournment

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