

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
May 3, 2016

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

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The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance/Revision to
Agenda Order*

Superintendent Moore spoke about Teacher Appreciation Week and welcomed the three finalists for West Hartford’s Teacher of the Year. They are:

- Jackie Corricelli – Conard High School Mathematics Teacher
- Eric Fisher – King Philip Middle School Mathematics Teacher
- Steve O’Brien – Aiken Elementary School fifth grade teacher

The winner will be announced at the WHEA Banquet on May 26, 2016.

Mr. Pauluk moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education adopt a revised 2016-17 budget of \$153,283,022 by reducing \$350,000 from account 5201 in the previously adopted 2016-17 Board of Education budget

New Business

Chip Ward pointed out that this is a challenging budget year. The Town Council adopted the 2016-17 budget reducing the contribution to the healthcare reserve account by \$350,000. This is not a direct expenditure - it’s a contribution to the Risk Management Fund. There is no impact on the operations of the schools. This reduction lowers the money that will be put into the account for the 2016-17 school year.

Budget Revisions

Board members followed up with questions regarding the healthcare account and thanked the administration for this solution.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Exum moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

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THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between UNITE HERE Local 217, Cafeteria Workers and the Board of Education, for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2018.

*Ratification of the
UNITE HERE Local
217*

Mr. Ledwith discussed the ratified agreement between the Board of Education and the Cafeteria Workers. This contract is retroactive to July 1, 2014. This was a financially challenging contract. The Nutrition Services fund is a self-sustaining fund. All sales revenue goes into this fund and all expenses come out of this fund including salaries and benefits. During negotiations there was an understanding between both the administration and the cafeteria workers that serious wage concessions would have to be agreed on. After extensive negotiations cafeteria workers agreed to:

- Wage freeze for the 2014-15 school year
- Wage freeze for the 2015-16 school year
- In exchange for the 2nd wage freeze employees hired prior to August 26, 2015 received a one-time \$500 stipend, for employees hired after that date they received a one-time \$250 stipend.
- In the 3rd year of the contract employees on step would receive a step increase and employees on the top step would receive a 1.95% wage increase
- In the 4th year of the contract it would be the same as the third year.

Chip Ward added that this contract will help but does not solve the long term issue with this fund.

The Board of Education followed up with questions regarding this particular contract and healthcare options.

The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Moore spoke about Weiming and the Public Hearing that took place on Monday, May 2, 2016. The information session was held to clarify any misconceptions of the program. This exchange program will be discussed further at the May 17th BOE meeting. A decision needs to be made by mid-May so that Wieming can move forward. If the Weiming program is not approved for this fall, then it may be postponed for one year.

Superintendent's Report

The buying of the UCONN campus is completely separate from the Weiming program. The Town Council will make that decision.

Board members thanked Superintendent Moore for the thorough presentation at the Public Hearing. Interesting points were raised at the meeting regarding benefits of this program including learning, financial stability, and cultural points of view. It was suggested that Weiming schedule a presentation to further explain their program. Superintendent Moore explained that the Board of Education is in control of the decision if these students would be part of the West Hartford Public Schools.

Superintendent Moore announced the appointment of the new Director of Pupil Services due to the upcoming retirement of Glenn McGrath. It was announced that Dr. Gretchen Nelson will be our new Director of Pupil Services. Gretchen will officially assume her position as of July 1, 2016.

West Hartford is working with the American Legion to honor West Hartford students that will be entering the military after graduation. A ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m., to honor these students and present them with a red, white and blue tassel that will be worn by the students at their high school graduation.

Lastly, Superintendent Moore thanked all teachers for what they do in our schools day in and day out as this is Teacher Appreciation Week. Students and teachers are shining as we look at the last 5 weeks of school and prepare for upcoming transitions.

Dr. Nancy DePalma, Mr. Paul Vicinus and Ms. Kerry Jones presented the Scientific Research-Based Intervention (SRBI) Update. The purpose of SRBI is to provide high quality instruction alongside early and ongoing intervention matched to individual student needs. Dr. DePalma introduced the presentation by sharing how the district's process of early intervention has made a meaningful difference by helping to support all students' success. The presentation featured an overview of the tiered intervention model and student results for both literacy and mathematics (K-12). A flowchart depicted the six week intervention cycle; Dr. DePalma explained the role and actions of the Student Success Team (SST) within this cycle.

Ms. Kerry Jones provided an overview of the processes and results of K-12 literacy intervention. Highlighted in the presentation was a

*Staff Reports and Board
Discussions*

SRBI

review of student performance on a variety of benchmark assessments over multiple years. Indicators of progress within literacy included a decreasing trend in the number of students requiring intervention over time and across grade levels. Service levels across grades fall within the state guidelines for intervention (<5% for Tier III; 5-15% for Tier II). Middle school intervention was highlighted based on recent changes to the program. One- year results demonstrated promising gains within the Gates McGinity Reading Test which measures vocabulary, comprehension and lexile level.

Mr. Paul Vicinus provided an overview of the K-12 mathematics intervention. Highlighted in the presentation was a review the number of students in intervention, the service delivery model, and a description of the benchmark assessments. Indicators of progress demonstrated strong cohort growth within computational fluency at the elementary level and benchmark assessments within the secondary intervention program. The challenges of scheduling and the impact on the structure for providing intervention at the secondary level was discussed as well as differences in service providers (between reading and mathematics).

The Board of Education followed up with questions regarding benefits of intervention and how we can improve upon that by exposing children to math and numeracy at a younger age.

Dr. Andy Morrow, Mr. Juan Melian and Mr. Bob Palmer presented a Charter Oak International Academy update. We are 119 days away from August 31st. This will be the last update before Charter Oak officially opens. Everything is on schedule and all is going well. There is substantial completion at this point. Students are excited, feeling a sense of ownership.

*Charter Oak
International Academy
Update*

Bob Palmer went through the three phases scheduled throughout the summer:

Phase I: New Building site work began March, 2015 – completion scheduled for July 11

Phase II: Abatement and Demolition of existing building – scheduled to begin on June 20/Demolition – August, 2016

Phase III: Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment – bids took place on April, 2016

The moving process will be a large project and will take place

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June 11-17, 2016. Meetings have been taking place with teachers and staff. The Charter Oak office will move to Sedgwick M.S. from June 13 through mid-July. New furniture is scheduled for delivery in early August. Support is being provided to staff and teachers for the packing and unpacking process. A slideshow was presented to show the progress of the construction and completion of areas in the building.

Mr. Melian thanked the Administration and the Board of Education publicly for their support throughout this process. He stated the staff is doing a tremendous job. This has been a true learning opportunity for students.

On Saturday, April 30, Charter Oak held a “Celebrate Charter Oak” event. Approximately 400 people attended. This was a great opportunity to look at memorabilia back to the 1930’s. A video was made to record memories. A documentary will be made with this video. Mr. Melian stated that they are saying goodbye to the existing building in a way that is respectful to the many memories that are there. A video was shown made by the students of Charter Oak to show what they have learned through the process of the new building construction.

The Board of Education followed up with questions regarding building safety for the opening of the new building, the demolition of the old building, the budget, site work, and the impact it will have on the neighborhood.

Dr. Greenberg moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the Period Ending March 31, 2016

Financial Report

Mr. Pauluk summarized the financial report. It’s been a quiet month with 70% of the school year done. All very minor changes. Benefits and Social Security remain level. Modest changes in Pupil transportation. Nutrition Services account continues to do better than expected.

The motion passed unanimously.

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Mrs. Blanks moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of April 19, 2016

The motion passed unanimously.

Rachel Schunder, Hall H.S. student representative, reported the drama department presented "Mid-Summer Night's Dream." The show was very successful and sold out. This is the last play of the year. Hall's Junior Prom will be Saturday, May 7. Thursday will be the National Art Honor Society and will be combined with Conard at the Noah Webster Library.

Zacharie Mega, Conard H.S. student representative, reported the black box presented "Romeo and Juliet." Unified Theater will hold an Ice Cream Social on Thursday. Student Council Elections will be taking place this week.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

Announcement of Meeting Dates

1. Tuesday, May 17, 2016, regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
2. Tuesday, May 31, 2016, Board Awards, 6:00 p.m., King Philip Middle School, 100 King Philip Drive.
3. Tuesday, June 7, 2016, regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

Executive Session

Executive Session

Ms. Exum moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education move to Executive Session to discuss Superintendent's Evaluation and plan the Board of Education Retreat. Board adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30

Adjournment

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ATTEST:

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

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Routine Matters

Financial Report

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