

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
September 1, 2015

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/Revision to Agenda Order

John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, shared a story with the Board in anticipation of the upcoming school year.

Public Communications

Dr.Overmyer-Velazquez welcomed everyone and offered a prelude to the new school year. He reviewed a very active list of activities which took place over the summer in anticipation of the upcoming school year.

Address by the Chairman

Dr. Greenberg motioned, Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT: The Board of Education approve West Hartford Public Schools take action to re-certify that:

- All West Hartford Schools will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards pursuant to Section 10-215e of the Connecticut General Statutes for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016
- Exemptions will be allowed for the sale of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, 2) the sale is at the location of the event, and 3) the food is not sold from a vending machine

New Business

Mrs. Trish Molly, Nutrition Services Food Service Director, gave an overview to the Board including a clarification that this is food sold to a student, not served to a student (i.e. a classroom party) and noted that exemptions have been spelled out this year. In addition, compliance is tied to a \$.10 per meal subsidy.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, Dr. Greenberg seconded:

THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between the West Hartford Federation of Educational Personnel (Paraprofessionals) and the Board of Education, for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2018

Human Resources Executive Director Rick Ledwith provided the Board with an overview of the contract details and expressed his appreciation for their hard work.

Board members asked questions about categories, training and evaluation as well praising their work.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Zydanowicz motioned, Mr. Sarzen seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve West Hartford Public Schools annual Educator Evaluation Plan (TEVAL)

Mr. Ledwith explained that yearly approval of the teacher and administrator evaluation plan will become a routine yearly agenda item. The plan is submitted to the state for approval and when confirmed, it will be submitted to the Board. Board members asked questions about changes in observation policy and procedures for helping teachers in need of support.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tom Moore noted that he went to all 17 schools the first day of school and thanked a wide variety of groups for their work from crossing guards, cafeteria workers, custodians and office staff. He thanked the Executive Team and noted that with the teachers who inspire him every day and the kids who are willing to challenge themselves, it's a great place to work.

Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Nancy DePalma updated the Board on the District Development Plan and the three goals which will guide the district. She reviewed what has taken place at the end of last year and during the summer with regards to professional development activities, curriculum writing, summer programs, changes to the curriculum review program and convocation.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Andrew Morrow reviewed summer projects completed by Plant and Facilities Services throughout the district. Heat related issues were also discussed.

Director of Summer and Continuing Education Roszena Haskins summarized information about summer school. It is the largest inter district summer program in CT.

Dr. Morrow discussed a pilot program at both high schools which is helping to address the digital divide. He reported that the district is at an almost 1:1 student to device ratio. Summer updates were also discussed. With regards to transportation he noted that the district is transporting in excess of 5500 students and Julies Jacques is doing a great job with that coordination as well as ensuring their safety. Finally Residency enrolled over 1100 new students including incoming Kindergarten students and there is a new Director of Security on board.

*Staff Communications
and Reports*

Mr. Ledwith gave a hiring update noting there are 55 new contracted teachers, 19 interim teachers and 9 new Administrators. There was a 6.1% turnover rate compared to 6.9% last year. The diversity of new staff is approximately 22% and he gave an update on the status of negotiations with the WHEA whose contract expires on June 30, 2016.

Mr. Glenn McGrath, Director of Pupil Services, reported on staffing levels, extended school year services, noted that the district received the highest determination level of "Meets Requirements on its Annual Performance Review, and outlined the department's priorities and initiatives. He then discussed the School Counseling program and outlined its objectives.

Mr. Chip Ward, Director of Finance and Planning, noted that the school year opened with enrollments close to projections. The official enrollment report will be discussed at a future Board meeting based on October 1 data.

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Finally, Mr. Moore, noted that there is a partnership with the Nepalese community for a community based education program. They will be having their completion ceremony on Saturday.

Mrs. Exum moved and Dr. Greenberg seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of June 2, 2015.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez proffered a challenge to the Board and to Central Office staff to participate in the West Hartford Relay on September 26, 2015. The organization has raised over \$18,000 for the PE Department.

New Student Representatives Rachel Schunder and Zacharie Mega reported on a smooth opening at both Hall and Conard noting that Freshman Orientation went well and there were minimal scheduling issues. Both are looking forward to the upcoming year on the Board.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, September 15, 2015, Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, October 6, 2015, Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
3. Tuesday, October 20, 2015, Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

Mr. John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, inquired about future agenda items, a study of Bristow, a policy of gathering complaints and post grad follow-up.

Approval of the Minutes

Information and Reports

Announcement of Meeting Dates

Comments from Visitors

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Mr. Schmitt moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

That the Board adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

ATTEST:

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

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