

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 5, 2013

Present: Ms. Katz, Mrs. Ma, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent List, Student Representative Kendall Teare (Hall)
Absent: Tyree Seymour (Conard)

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/Revision to
Agenda Order*

Mr. Putterman requested a motion to revise the agenda order.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

Agenda Revision

THAT the agenda order be revised to allow the presentation of item VI.B.1 Charter Oak Planning Architect Report to follow item III Public Communications

The motion passed unanimously.

Braeburn Principal Natalie Simpson introduced a group of fifth grade students and provided background on the PBIS framework initiative in place at the school. The students presented their perspectives and offered feedback to the Board on the how the program is working. They answered questions from the Board.

Student Participation

There were no Public Communications.

Public Communications

Mr. Jim Barrett, Mr. Tom Moore and Mr. Chip Ward provided a presentation of the plans that reviewed the architectural details and vision for the building construction of Charter Oak International Academy. The three options presented included two renovation/addition versions (options A & B) and one new construction version (option C). Mr. Barrett explained project phasing for new construction and the alternatives available for consideration, including the use of modulars, were described. The project scheduling, anticipated timetables, and a comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of each option were reviewed. The anticipated costs with local share and reimbursable percentages were discussed.

*Charter Oak Planning
Architect Report*

Board members discussed the potential to consider additional new building models, the definition of a new structure, required building codes and replacement of major systems. Concern was expressed

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about a lack of alternative versions depicting new structures. Reference was made to the community discussions and input that guided the architectural models. Assurances were provided that all schools currently met required codes. Board members sought clarification on the differences in square footage and inquired about any impact on the existing play areas and the use of the adjacent Sterling Field.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education receive the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2013-2014 and begin the process of reviewing for final approval and adoption at the February 27, 2013 Board of Education meeting

*Presentation of the
Capital Improvement
Plan for 2013-2014*

Mr. Tom Moore, Mr. Chip Ward and Mr. Bob Palmer presented the CIP and provided an overview of last year's CIP and the progress made to date. The steps involved were reviewed and included providing a list of recommended projects for the next three years and funding recommendations for the next 12 years, submitting the CIP for the Town Manager's approval and seeking approval from the Town Council. The three primary areas of building maintenance, improved security and a new or renovated Charter Oak structure were outlined. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members expressed their perspectives and observations regarding the Charter Oak process and emphasized the importance of including all concerned constituents and encouraging the larger community involvement. The dedication and learning process of and by Board members was commended. The Board was reminded to consider the positive impact and benefits the completed CIP projects have on the daily lives of students. Concerns were expressed about fulfilling the required student enrollment for Charter Oak Academy and the importance of determining need and interest throughout the district was discussed. The Board expressed determination to avoid redistricting measures and maintain a voluntary enrollment process and increase exposure and the appeal of the Charter Oak IB program to all families. Board members stressed consideration of the constraints of the budget and burden to taxpayers. Reservations were raised about covering the remaining balance after the state funding percentage and possible expiration of those funds. Opportunity, vision and investment into the structure versus teachers, curriculum, etc. was explored.

Other areas of the CIP were addressed and included a discussion about

the funding, use and benefits of stadium lights, and funding enhanced security systems throughout the district to insure safety.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education approve the following bylaw which was reviewed by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

8310: Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies and Bylaws

The Board clarified the proposal to treat the review and approval of bylaws with the same process that is used for policies. Mr. Putterman noted the motion to be amended as a First Reading as follows:

THAT the Board of Education approve as a First Reading the following bylaw which was reviewed by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

8310: Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies and Bylaws

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List extended congratulations to recent outstanding accomplishments and awards received by faculty and staff. Dr. List presented the State of the Schools Report and reviewed historical national trends and highlighted the expenditures of pension plans and retiree health care as major competition for funds and stated the efforts taken over time to reduce the Town's long-term liability. Dr. List reviewed the Mission Framework and highlighted and compared the graduation rate, CMT scores and AP participation and the reduction in the opportunity gap. The focus of the District Development and Performance Plans and specific District Strategic Action Plans as well as the Model of Continuous Improvement planning, the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, the timing of implementing a new teacher evaluation plan, PreK programs and increased professional staff development and diversity of new hires were reviewed. The resources needed to maintain the per pupil spending rank Statewide were summarized.

Mr. Tom Moore and Mr. Jared Morin provided a report on updating technology throughout the district. The anticipated implementation of wireless access district-wide, appropriate filters and back-up security as well as newly created technical positions, planned tutorials for teachers

Motion by Bruce Putterman and Terry Schmitt to Approve the Reviewed Bylaw 8310

Superintendent's Report

West Hartford Public Schools Technology Status Update

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and staff and pilot programs were described.

Board discussion emphasized available technical support, training and customer service initiatives. Board members inquired about wireless accessibility between the town offices and schools and the network monitoring in place. The importance of establishing a balance between the potential of technology and its limits and security were considered. Board members requested examples of improvements and acknowledged the rapid advancement within the past four years.

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Statement for the period ending December 31, 2012

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the regular Board meeting of January 15, 2013

The motion passed 6-0-1.

Mrs. Ma abstained due to absence.

Kendall Teare (Hall) reported on the Farm to Table dinner and other upcoming events and student trips.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Wednesday, February 27, 2013, Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, March 5, 2013, Regular Board Meeting, Presentation of Superintendent's 2013-2014 Budget, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chambers, room 314

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

That the Board adjourn at 10:30 p.m.

Financial Statement

Approval of Minutes

Report from Student Board Representative

Announcement of Meeting Dates

Adjournment

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The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Bruce Putterman, Chairperson Naogan Ma, Secretary
Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board

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