

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
September 18, 2012

Present: Ms. Katz, Mrs. Ma, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Schmitt,
Superintendent List , Student Representative Tyree Seymour (Conard), Kendall Teare (Hall)
Absent: Ms. Brassil, Mrs. Brassil Spinella
Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board to share a personal letter.

Public Communications

Mr. Schmitt made a statement about the tragic loss endured by the families of Ms. Brassil and Mrs. Brassil Spinella.

Dr. List expressed her sympathy and shared the strength demonstrated by Ms. Brassil when speaking publicly at the memorial service.

Dr. List extended her congratulations to Dr. Slater on his new position and acknowledged his ten year leadership tenure at Hall High School. The appointment of Mr. Einhorn as Interim Principal was announced as well as the recognition of Ms. Luipold and Ms. Foley, teachers at the Smith STEM School on the publication of their joint book venture. Dr. List commended the solar panel installation at Wolcott Elementary School and the programs in place at both high schools to support the transition of middle school students into high school.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. List introduced the report on the CMT and CAPT results and applauded the support of the Board to the curriculum and programs for students.

*Connecticut Mastery Test
(CMT) and Connecticut
Academic Performance
Test (CAPT) Results*

Dr. Eileen Howley and Mr. Chip Ward presented the 2012 results of the test scores. The definition of mastery and proficiency was explained and a seven year history of scores was reviewed. Comparisons to other DRG B scores and averages, the distribution of student groups and the percentage of students not achieving mastery were summarized. How the students overall performance met the Board goal performance initiatives was reviewed. Dr. Howley and Mr. Ward noted the scores were the highest ever for the fourth consecutive year. The process of analyzing all parts of the scores, the challenges and successes and the ongoing planning with Models of Continuous Improvement in place to achieve those scores, including the use of data teams, SRBI, assessments and effective teaching strategies were

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described. Both Dr. Howley and Mr. Ward were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members discussed the dissemination of the test data for parents and the difference in presenting a report to the Board versus providing separate student reports to parents. Potential implications of future changes and developing individualized plans to support the neediest students and those who struggle the most and other relevant key performance indicators were questioned. Board members expressed appreciation of the complexity of analyzing and presenting the data and recognized the results reveal a moment in a student's life and should be considered in that context. The transition to Smarter Balance and school-based indicators and the Board's accountability for the performance of all district schools was discussed. The potential to identify long term trends was raised

Dr. Howley and Mr. Ward continued with a presentation of the CAPT scores and reviewed a seven year history and made comparisons with other DRG B scores. The largest gap in math and science was highlighted and the distribution of student groups and the percentages of students reaching mastery, proficient and advanced were reviewed. The CAPT results and how they reflected the Board performance goals were summarized. The developments, challenges and progress of Models of Continuous Improvement initiatives at the secondary level were described.

Board members discussed Secondary School Reform requirements and potential problems with limited opportunity to provide support and interventions. The notion of changing the start time for high school students to a later time was raised. There was discussion regarding the gap in students of color relative to other DRG B districts.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

Financial Statement

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Statement for the period ending June 30, 2012

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 4, 2012

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The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt provided a reminder of the fundraiser underway for HopeWorks. Ms. Katz commended the professionalism and organization of Hall High School's Curriculum Night and relayed the impressive focus throughout the district on the students.

*Reports from Other
Boards and
Organizations*

Kendall Teare reported on meeting with Dr. Slater and addressing the transition of his departure. She reported that a record nine Hall High students were recognized as National Merit Semi Finalists. The high percentage of students participating in Fall sports and the upcoming events of Senior Planning Night and Fall Fest were shared.

*Report from Student
Board Representative*

Tyree Seymour reported on visits by college representatives to Conard and the upcoming election for Student Council positions.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

1. Tuesday, October 2, 2012, Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, October 16, 2012, Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board to continue sharing a personal letter and referenced the inclusion of faith in schools.

Comments from Visitors

Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

Adjournment

That the Board adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

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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