

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
December 4, 2012

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

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*

Mr. Putterman offered condolences to Assistant Superintendent Moore on his recent loss.

Mr. Putterman announced a revision to the agenda due the resignation of Mrs. Brassil Spinella after seven years of service to the Board. A motion was requested to move New Business agenda Item V.A. to follow Public Communications.

*Revision to Agenda
Order*

Mrs. Ma moved, seconded by Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez:

THAT the Board of Education agenda be revised to allow item V.A Nomination, Appointment and Swearing in of New Board Member to be presented after Item III. Public Communications

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List introduced and welcomed the Sedgwick Sounds choral performers from Sedgwick Middle School.

Student Participation

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board regarding the recent presentation by Calvin Terrell.

Public Communications

Mr. Zydanowicz moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education appoint Mr. Jay Sarzen as a member of the West Hartford Board of Education to fill the position vacated by Mrs. Brassil Spinella for the period of December 4, 2012 through November 19, 2013 and THAT Ms. Essie Labrot, Town Clerk (or designee) swear in Mr. Jay Sarzen as a new Board member

*Nomination,
Appointment and
Swearing in of New
Board Member*

Mr. Zydanowicz acknowledged and expressed gratitude for the service and dedication of Mrs. Brassil Spinella to the Board and provided background on the experience and qualities of Mr. Jay Sarzen.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sarzen was sworn in by Ms. Essie Labrot, Town Clerk and welcomed by the Board.

Mr. Putterman shared Mrs. Brassil Spinella's request that her resignation be accepted without any additional recognition. With respect to her request, the service, dedication and perspective she brought to the Board was acknowledged with gratitude.

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

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:

- 6421: Parental Access to Instructional Materials
- 6600: Evaluation of the Instructional Program

Mr. Schmitt provided an overview and clarification of the revisions on both policies. Emphasis was placed on a commitment to accessibility for parental involvement in their child's education and adherence to the model of continuous improvement.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

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

- 6291: Parental Involvement Policy for Title I Students

Mr. Schmitt requested approval due to requirements from the Federal government. Dr. List provided further explanation and the summary outlined within the policy was highlighted.

Board discussion clarified that insuring parental access and involvement with students in Title I schools was consistent with the goal for parents in all schools.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List welcomed new Board member Mr. Sarzen. She announced

*Motion by Bruce
Putterman and Terry
Schmitt to Accept and
Approve Revised Policies
6421 and 6600 – Second
Reading*

*Motion by Bruce
Putterman and Terry
Schmitt to Approve the
Reviewed Policy 6291*

Superintendent's Report

the selection of Mr. Peter Cummings as a district representative at the upcoming New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Convention to discuss the integration of the Common Core Standards into learning expectations. Dr. List provided information on the waiver granted to the State in regards to NCLB and the implications and responsibilities of creating a new system of accountability. Relative to the new system, she announced the achievement of Bugbee School in being identified as a School of Distinction and applauded the faculty, staff and administration.

Mr. David Downes provided a summary of the programs offered for Adult Education and Continuing Education. The enrollments, goals and sources of funding for the programs and courses were reviewed.

*Adult Education and
Continuing Education
Program Review*

Board members shared personal experiences with the various programs and highlighted the connection between Adult Education and K-12 students. Clarification was sought on the percentage of local Board and state funds as well as funding from federal grants and community outreach sources and tuition. The issue of space availability, location accessibility and the framework of being an unfunded mandate was raised. The distinction between programs and course offerings of Continuing Education and Leisure Services was discussed and support from public funds was questioned.

Mr. Rick Ledwith reviewed the purpose of the Personnel Report and clarified the differences between contracted, interim and long term substitute teachers for the benefit of the new Board members. The recruitment, interview and hiring process for selecting a new principal for Hall High School and Duffy Elementary School were summarized. The anticipated timeline was presented with a recommendation by the Superintendent for both positions expected by the second week in March. The commitment to selecting the best individual for these positions and the willingness to restart the process if one was not found was emphasized.

Personnel Report

Board discussion raised concerns about additional administrative searches as a result of recent resignations and interim appointments and the effective start date for those selected.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

Financial Statement

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

The Board noted this Financial report involved only one Financial

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Tyree Seymour (Conard) reported on student participation with fall/winter sports and college financial aid workshops offered to seniors and their parents and recognized the role of guidance counselors in the application process. The efforts of various clubs to provide community outreach during the holiday season were highlighted.

*Report from Student
Board Representatives*

Kendall Teare (Hall) reported on the Conservation Challenge efforts underway within the school community and announced the kick off of winter sports. Upcoming theater productions, a taste-testing with Nutrition Services and a proposal regarding student privileges were highlighted.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, December 18, 2012, Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, January 15, 2012, Board Awards at KPM 6:00 p.m., followed by a Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
3. Thursday, January 3, 2013 Board Workshop postponed to Tuesday, January 29, 2013

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

A reminder was provided for upcoming meetings regarding the future of Charter Oak. Community input was encouraged.

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board about transparency during Executive Sessions and raised concerns about the selection of a former Board member to serve on the Charter Oak Advisory Committee. Mr. Joyce was requested to monitor his statements while addressing his concerns.

Comments from Visitors

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

Adjournment

That the Board adjourn at 9:07 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

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ATTEST:

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

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