

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
November 20, 2012

Present: Mrs. Brassil Spinella, Ms. Katz, Mrs. Ma, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman,
Mr. Schmitt, Superintendent List, Kendall Teare (Hall) Tyree Seymour (Conard)
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*

Hall High drama students performed a scene from “As you Like It” by William Shakespeare. Hall High music students played music they composed for the show.

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., read a passage from “The Soul in Grief: Love, Death and Transformation” by Robert Romanyshyn.

Public Communications

Mrs. Brassil Spinella moved, seconded by Ms. Ma:

*Motion to Nominate,
Appoint and Swear in
New Board Member*

THAT the Board of Education appoint Mr. Mark Zydanowicz as a member of the West Hartford Board of Education to fill the position vacated by Ms. Ellen Brassil for the period of November 20, 2012 through November 19, 2013 and THAT Ms. Essie Labrot, Town Clerk (or designee) swear in Mr. Zydanowicz as a new Board member

Mrs. Brassil Spinella spoke about and introduced Mr. Zydanowicz.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zydanowicz was sworn in by Ms. Essie Labrot, Town Clerk.

Mr. Putterman moved, seconded by Ms. Ma:

*Motion to Appoint a
Temporary Chairperson*

THAT Karen List act as temporary Chairperson of this meeting for the purpose of electing a Chairperson for the Board of Education

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Ma:

*Motion to Elect a
Chairperson of the West
Hartford Board of
Education*

THAT Mr. Putterman is elected as the Chairperson of the West Hartford Board of Education

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez moved, seconded by Mr. Mark Zydanowicz:

THAT Ms. Elin Katz continue as Vice Chair, THAT Ms. Naogan Ma continue as Secretary, THAT Mr. Terry Schmitt continue as Democratic Financial Examiner and THAT Ms. Lib Brassil Spinella join him as the Republican Financial Examiner

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

THAT the Board of Education accept as a First 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 explained the policies revised by the Board Policy Subcommittee.

Board members asked for definitions of some of the terms in the policies and clarification of the policies.

Mr. Putterman and Mr. Moore defined the terms and clarified the policies.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List reported on Veterans Day activities and her visits with students and veterans at Charter Oak's Veterans Day ceremony and at Hall High School. West Hartford students learned about the significant roles that veterans play. She said that the concept of service is enhanced by students being present in school, meeting and talking to veterans, and hearing the stories of what veterans do. She thanked the Board for their decision to have schools open on Veterans Day. She announced that Mr. Mark Grudzien has been appointed as Assistant Principal at King Philip Middle School. Dr. List stated that she was just notified that Mr. Julio Duarte, a Conard Assistant Principal, has been selected as the Connecticut High School Assistant Principal of the

Motion to Elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and two Financial Examiners of the West Hartford Board of Education

Motion by Bruce Putterman and Terry Schmitt to Accept Revised Policies 6241 and 6600 – First Reading

Superintendent's Report

year. She announced the CAFE Communication Award winners. Dr. List also announced that the Mentor training that was canceled due to the weather will be held on Tuesday, November 27th at 6:30 at Conard High School. She said that the Charter Oak Community Advisory Committee met this week, and that they were looking for input from the community. She invited the community to come to the forums to give input regarding the Charter Oak building project and provided the dates and locations. She encouraged the public to attend and announced that childcare will be provided. Dr. List spoke about the week with Calvin Terrell and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Putterman shared that Dr. Howley's last Board of Education meeting was supposed to be the previous meeting that was cancelled. He asked Dr. List to pass on their gratitude and best wishes on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Putterman said that the Board Members were invited to a meeting with Calvin Terrell. Board members spoke about their experiences with Mr. Terrell.

Ms. Katz asked the student representatives about Calvin Terrell. The student representatives shared that they got to see videos, as it was the 9th and 10 graders that met with Mr. Terrell. They said that there was a lot of positive feedback.

Mr. Downes and Mr. Moore reported on the high school summer school, along with the summer preschool program. Mr. Downes highlighted some of the courses that were strong and growing. Transportation fees were charged for the first time to offset some of the costs. He spoke about the participation by students from Spain and China. He felt that it was a strong program overall. He entertained questions from the Board.

Board members commented that they were pleased to see that despite some of the fiscal cuts, that the program was able to capture some of the academic needs of the eighth graders who wanted a summer academic experience.

Mr. Ward presented the multi-year enrollment projection report. Overall, as of October 1, 2012, there were 9,817 K-12 students enrolled. Mr. Ward is expecting a decline in enrollment next year and a gradual decline over the next ten years, averaging around 66 students per year in decline. He explained the cohort survival methodology. He reviewed the birth rate in the State of Connecticut and in West Hartford. Mr. Ward also reviewed the cohort survival ratios. He

*2012 Summer School
Report*

*MultiYear Enrollment
Projections*

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explained what the numbers mean for the next budget cycle and the implications for space needs for the schools. He stated that he is projecting a shortfall at Bugbee and Webster Hill for next year. He said that they are meeting with principals and taking a look at what could be done to accommodate the shortfalls. There is plenty of room at the middle and high schools. Mr. Ward answered questions by the Board.

Board members raised concern over the Webster Hill projections and asked Mr. Ward for a follow up with regard to options at Webster Hill.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

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

Mr. Schmitt explained that this was the first financial report for this school year. He highlighted the total salaries line and explained that the balance is because they needed fewer teachers than what they thought they were going to need. He also pointed out that they needed to hire more TA positions than they had planned because of larger class sizes at the elementary schools and more special education needs. He explained that they budgeted for but did not need to pay transportation costs for preschool students attending schools outside of the district. Mr. Schmitt noted that they were watching the nutrition services account as fewer lunches have been sold this year.

Board members asked for clarification of the nutrition services account.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of October 16, 2012

The motion passed 5-0-2

Abstained: Mrs. Brassil Spinella, Mr. Zydanowicz

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez thanked Mr. Downes for inviting him to speak at the adult education night. He also spoke about getting to meet and walk around with some of West Hartford's fifth graders who were having a tour of the UCONN campus. Mr. Schmitt announced

Financial Statement

Approval of Minutes

*Reports from Other
Board and Organizations*

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that Dr. List and Mr. Vicinus gave an excellent presentation on the “Implementation of the Common Core Standards” at the CABA Convention. Ms. Katz reported on the Conard/Hall football game and the overwhelming sense of community at the game. Ms. Ma said that she was very proud of the district being able to host exchanges with students from other countries, and that she was hearing very positive feedback from the students via social networks.

Tyree Seymour and Kendall Teare gave reports from their respective schools.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, December 4, 2012, Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, December 18, 2012, Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, continued to read from “The Soul in Grief: Love, Death and Transformation” by Robert Romanyshyn, and wondered if the topic of grief is or could be offered in courses for West Hartford students.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Bruce Putterman, Chairperson

Naogan Ma, Secretary

Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. Susan Bassett

Reports from Student Representative

Announcement of Meeting Dates

Comments from Visitors

Adjournment

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