

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**November 1, 2016**

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Ms. Exum, Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Pauluk, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore

Absent: Student Representatives Taylor Steer (Conard) Sarah Berman (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance</i></p>
<p>Dr. Mary Thompson presented and introduced the students and staff from the Middle School Quest Program to the Board. The students from the Quest Program shared their experiences. Nina Faynshtayn expressed the opportunity she had to grow both socially and creatively. Nina stated she was happy to have met with other students from different backgrounds and interests. Nina explained that without Quest she would not have gained confidence. Mercedes Cao and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, has been in the Quest Program since the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She has met people from other countries and through pins. She attributes various competitions that she has attended for giving her self-confidence. Sean from Bristow, gave his perspective on the Math Quest Program. Although he did not start Quest until the 6<sup>th</sup> grade when he received the highest SBAC math score in his grade. Through the Quest Program, he took the ACT's and got into CTY (Center for Talented Youth), a program run by Johns Hopkins. Nora an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Bristow, noted she has had a remarkable experience with Quest. She expressed that students have been allowed the opportunity to think outside the box, be 'ourselves' and be amazing. Dr. Mary Thompson thanked the Board for all they do to support the Quest Program. Dr. Mark Overmyer-Velazquez expressed to the students that they are amazing and thanked the parents and teachers.</p>	<p><i>Student Participation</i></p>
<p>No public communications to report</p>	<p><i>Public Communication</i></p>
<p>No Unfinished Business to report</p>	<p><i>Unfinished Business</i></p>
<p>Motion was made by Cheryl Greenberg and seconded by Mark Zydanowicz:</p>	<p><i>New Business</i></p>
<p>THAT the Board of Education approve the following policies which were reviewed by the Board Policy Subcommittee:</p>	

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3000---Concepts and Roles in Business and Non-Instructional Operations  
3100---Business--Budget Planning  
3120---Business--Preparation of Budget Document  
3130---Business--Adoption of Budget  
3150---Business--Non-Instructional Operations--Capital Improvement

Mark Zydanowicz moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded a revised motion to carry over the above policies for a Second Reading.

Discussion on the reason for the motion-- Cheryl Greenberg clarified the substance of the policies hasn't changed that much but the wording has, so much so, that the subcommittee wants to give everyone a chance to review. Mark Overmyer-Velazquez asked questions with regard to some of the verbiage within the different sections and policies.

Motion passed unanimously.

Tammy Exum moved and Cheryl Greenberg seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the First Reading of the following policy which was revised by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

3110-----Business—Setting Budget Priorities

Motion passed unanimously

Superintendent Tom Moore reported that last week at the College Board National Forum in Chicago, David Coleman, President of the College Board, opened up the meeting with a video of Jackie Corricelli, and students from Conard describing how their AP computer course meets the needs of a variety of students and gives opportunities to pull females into the field of computer programming. Superintendent Moore reported on upcoming events. November 8<sup>th</sup> is Election Day. November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day and all West Hartford Public Schools will have activities to celebrate the day. Superintendent Moore noted the importance the day holds now that we are open as opposed to schools being closed. Superintendent Moore introduced Curriculum Design and Review as the first of three curriculum reports. The three parts include tonight's design and review, the second part will speak to our professional learning model and support for equity and diversity and the third installment will highlight ongoing efforts to enhance instruction in mathematics.

*Superintendent's Report*

Mr. Paul Vicinus presented with Ms. Anne McKernan and Ms. Kerry Jones on Curriculum Design and Review. Mr. Vicinus provided a definition of curriculum as the academic content taught in schools and within specific courses or a specific grade level. Curriculum documents include the national or state standards students will work toward organized into units of study. They further identify critical learning targets, assessment targets and Assured Learning Experiences (ALEs). The ALEs are common experiences that students engage in to demonstrate their progress in attaining the learning standards identified in a course. Ms. McKernan spoke on the role of National and State standards and how they inform the development of our curriculum frameworks. Over the course of the last several years, many content areas (e.g., language arts, mathematics, visual arts, social studies, science, etc.) have had new or revised standards published and adopted at national and state levels. These curriculum frameworks serve as an important influence for curriculum development as they provide a vision and guidance on ways to implement the standards.

*Curriculum Design and Review*

Ms. Kerry Jones spoke on the writing and revision process. Ms. Jones explained that every curriculum writing team starts off with children at the center. Teachers do a lot of the translation of the design with students in mind. Ms. Jones noted once a vision for the learner is established we then need to look at designing curriculum that addresses the three core areas, the what, the how and the how do you know. West Hartford's drive is about the standards and not the assessment. The Board asked questions with regard to the 5 year curriculum review process and time line, and how we are able to outpace other districts as we continue to perform and excel. The Board also asked questions about the academic content and skills and the flexibility of our teachers. The Board also commented on the volume of, and the time allotted, for homework.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2016

*Approval of the Financial Report*

Mr. Sarzen, financial examiner, gave a short oral presentation and both he and Mr. Chip Ward answered questions.

The motion passed unanimously

Mr. Sarzen moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

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THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of October 18, 2016.

*Approval  
Of Minutes*

The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions.

Mr. Zydanowicz reported that On November 12<sup>th</sup> there will be fundraiser for Town Athletics in the form of a tailgate from 6:30- 10:30 p.m.

*Information and  
Reports*

Ms. Tammy Exum reported on The Haunted Forest at Wolcott stating it was a wonderful event. Mr. Pauluk noted, CT Loves to Read event will be held at Barnes and Noble on Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. Proceeds will help to benefit HANOC.

Dr. Mark Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

1. Tuesday, November 15, 2016, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Rom 314, 7:00 p.m. Legislative Chamber.
2. Tuesday, December 6, 2016, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
3. Tuesday, December 20, 2016, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.

No comments from visitors at this time.

*Comments from  
Visitors*

Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Zydanowicz Seconded:

*Adjournment*

THAT the Board adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson    Carol A. Blanks, Secretary  
*Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. C. Rogers, Clerk of the Board*

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