

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
October 18, 2016

Present: Dr. Greenberg (Acting Chairperson), Mrs. Blanks, Mr. Pauluk, Mr. Sarzen,
Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore, Student Representatives Taylor Steer (Conard)
Sarah Berman (Hall)
Absent: Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Ms. Exum,

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>“Spotlight on Sixth Grade Chinese Program” was presented by Bristow students Allison McDill, Maya Souza, and Amira Yusuf; King Philip students Joshua Azia, Ben Margolis, and Ethan Striff-Cave; and Sedgwick students, Claire Dombrofski, Cadence Durham, and Alejandro Heredia. Bristow students presented to the Board on their experiences with their Chinese language class, how much they enjoyed the class, and why they decided to take this class, and what they were learning. King Philip students presented a slide show presentation which including speaking Chinese and what they enjoyed about the class. Sedgwick students presented a short skit in Chinese about the different words and phrases they were learning. The entire middle school Chinese class showed how they wrote in Chinese and what different symbols in Chinese meant. The Board applauded students and staff for all their hard work.</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>No New Business to Report</p>	<p><i>New Business</i></p>
<p>Superintendent Tom Moore thanked the Board for inviting student participation, noting this is a multi-year program that has started with sixth grade students. Mr. Moore spoke on the Parent Teacher Council (PTC) meeting which focused on mathematics and how to help students with math and computer science. Feedback from parents was tremendous, parents were very excited, and it was a very successful night. The next</p>	<p><i>Superintendent’s Report</i></p>

meetings are posted on the website, all are welcome. Mr. Moore spoke on the teacher workday, with a focus being on cultural competency and problem solving and what we need to do to prepare students for their future. Feedback was tremendous. Mr. Moore spoke on the Unified Theater's Orange Ball, which will be held on October 29th. This is their 15th anniversary. Information can be found on the Unified Theater website. Mr. Moore congratulated Jim Crabb, Latin Teacher from Hall High School, on being selected for the *Outstanding Educator Award* by the University of Chicago. Ashley Callan, our Town-wide Elementary Curriculum Specialist for Language Arts and Social Studies, was a key presenter at the CT Council for the Social Studies Conference. She has co-authored a forthcoming e-book magazine and companion website for students, aligned with the CT Social Studies Standards.

Mr. Chip Ward reported to the Board the official October 1 enrollments (September 30 this year), a comparison of the actual enrollments to projected enrollments. He noted that this year we had 9,434 K-12 students educated in district. This is a decrease of 49 students compared to the enrollment on October 1, 2015. The overall accuracy of the projection made last fall was 98.8%. He noted there was an unusual variance at the elementary level, which saw an increase of 102 students at four different grade levels. Mr. Ward spoke on class sizes noting that the elementary class size is 20.0. Middle school class size shows Bristow is operating this year with six core teachers at each grade level, King Philip with nine teams total, and Sedgwick with a total of 8.5 teams. He also noted that middle school class sizes vary from subject to subject as students are pulled for support classes including special education instruction. The Board asked questions with regard to defining what the term "section" means. They also asked to explain the pull out support in relation to the class sizes, the "sections" of Morley compared with other schools, and the goals of Charter Oak with regard to class size as well as sibling policy. The Board also asked about the STRIVE/Reach increase and capacity.

Mr. Paul Vicinus with Ms. Anne McKernan presented on the Advanced Placement (AP) Program. Mr. Vicinus spoke on the philosophy and reason why taking the AP exam is important, with emphasis on 'chasing the experience not the score', and having many students participate in the experience of taking an AP class. Mr. Vicinus explained exam scoring, noting a 5 point scale, where 5 is the highest score and 1 is the lowest. Although individual colleges decide on which exam score they will accept, many accept a score of 3 or above and most accept a score of 4 or 5. Mr. Vicinus reported that 2016 was another record breaking year for the

*Enrollment and Class
Size Analysis as of
September 30, 2016*

*High School Advanced
Placement (AP) Test
Score Results*

AP Program, with 1,160 students taking 2,392 exams. This was an increase of 23 students (5% increase) and 107 exams (4.7% increase) from 2015. Exams were taken in 26 different subjects. Mr. Vicinus spoke on the participation of students enrolled in AP classes, noting Conard saw seven courses with 100% exam participation and Hall saw five. Mr. Vicinus also made note that AP Research and AP Seminar, new courses, had 100% student exam participation across both schools. Some Conard results included 624 students taking 1,297 exams with average scores of 3.39, the number of exam takers increased by 2.8% above last year. The most popular exam was English Language and Composition. Hall results included 536 students taking 1,095 exams, the average score being 3.45. The number of exam takers increased by 1% and the most popular exam was Psychology with 166 students taking the exam. Mr. Vicinus reported on the exam results, with a listing of all classes taken, exams taken and results for both high schools. Mr. Vicinus touched on the AP Scholars, which recognizes students for excellence in participation and scores on AP exams, noting we had a 31% increase in the category of AP Scholar with Distinction and 13 additional students this year on the National AP Scholar level. Mr. Vicinus explained what the performance on the Board indicator was and that we have met the Board performance indicator nine straight years at both high schools. The Board asked questions with regard to college preference with the number of tests an individual student takes being the deciding factor when comparing students. The Board also asked questions on how training is handled for teachers that are delivering the material in the class. Questions also were asked on fees for the test and financial aid to help families. Comments were made on the students who may be apprehensive about taking an AP class and applauded the school counselors for their help in offering extra support to students.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of October 4, 2016.

The motion passed unanimously.

Representative Sarah Berman reported on the Teen Driving Seminar, PSAT's, and the blood drive. She also mention the Black Box will be showing a performance of "Almost, Maine" on November 5th. Taylor Steer reported that *The Diary of Anne Frank* is opening this week, the PSAT is also this week. He noted volleyball and girls swimming has started.

*Approval
Of Minutes*

*Information and
Reports*

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Dr. Greenberg announced the following meeting dates:

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

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

No comments from visitors at this time.

*Comments from
Visitors*

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

THAT the Board adjourn at 9:36 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

ATTEST:

Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson
(Cheryl Greenberg, Acting Chairperson) Carol A. Blanks, Secretary

Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. C. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

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