

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
April 17, 2018

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Dr. Greenberg, Mr. Levine, Mr. Pauluk, Ms. Polun,
Dr. Thomas-Farquharson, Mr. Zydanowicz, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Andrew Morrow,
Student Representatives Grace Andrews (Conard), Madeline Pliskin (Hall)
Absent: Superintendent Tom Moore

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance*

Ms. Meghan Zingle, World Language Department Supervisor,
introduced students from the World Language Chinese Program.
Students reported, speaking in both English and Chinese on their
experiences in the program including trips taken to China. Students
reported that they enjoyed learning about China and the language and
learned many things from the culture.

Student Participation

John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, West Hartford, spoke on the
previous budget meetings and proceedings.

*Public
Communication*

No Unfinished Business at this time.

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Blanks moved and Ms. Polun seconded:

New Business

THAT the Board of Education approve the following policies which
were reviewed by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

- 2000 – Responsibilities of Administration
- 2110 – Job Descriptions
- 2120 – Superintendent of Schools
- 2210 – Policy and Regulations Systems
- 2220 – Administrative Leeway in Absence of Board Policy
- 2230 – Staff Input in Decision Making
- 2240 – Educational Research in District Schools

Motion passed.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Andrew Morrow reported to the Board on the 2018 Induction Ceremony for students entering military service to be held on May 29th. This year there will be 15 students entering various services of the military. West Hartford was recognized as the best community for music, congratulations to King Philip Middle school student Luke Dunlop on his Scholastic National Arts Silver medal win. Dr. Morrow also reported on the SAT test date (April 24, 2018), the Student Start Time Survey, and the Rotary Writing Contest. Congratulations to King Philip's Library Media Specialist Denise deMello, on receiving the Rita Clarke award and to Bristow's Library Media Specialist Melissa Thom on receiving the Follett Creativity Award.

*Staff Communications
and Reports
Superintendent's Report*

Paul Vicinus, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Gretchen Nelson, Director of Pupil Services, and Dr. Christina Civitelli, Clinician Specialist, reported to the Board on the Behavioral Intervention Programming. Mr. Vicinus spoke on the purpose and progress of the second Board goal, "to nurture the intellectual, physical and emotional well-being of students and create a safe and respectful learning community where all students are held to high expectations" (WHPS 2017). The team provided an explanation of the tiered supports from tier 1, classroom teacher management through tier IV, highly individualized plans that involve specialists in the Pupil Services Department. Within tiered intervention, West Hartford has adopted the Ross Green's Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS) as a formal approach to behavioral interventions. The CPS philosophy provides a far-reaching and comprehensive approach to nurturing the social/emotional well-being of students. Dr. Green's work is based on the premise that all students will do well if they can. Student's behavioral responses are observed as responses to expectations that they either can or cannot meet. Dr. Greene's approach is to engage students collaboratively in problem solving thereby fostering partnerships and understanding. The goal is to shift the lens from consequence and compliance toward attaching the root cause of behavioral issues by addressing lagging skills. This philosophy, being relationships based, is more aligned with the district vision. The Board thanked Mr. Vicinus and his team for the presentation and asked questions regarding how families are brought in to the collaborative fold, what is done to address students who have a language barrier or are non-verbal and how are we incorporating bigger issues that students may be wrestling with.

*Behavioral Intervention
Programming*

Ms. Kerry Jones, Director of Elementary Education, Ms. Ashley Callan, Town-wide Social Studies Curriculum Specialist, and Mr. Chad Ellis, Social Studies Department Supervisor, presented a report on Civic Engagement. Ms. Jones gave a brief background on West Hartford's goal to develop students who are caring, informed, and responsible citizens of the local and global communities. Civics, one component in the Social Studies Curriculum, teaches social awareness, rules and systems of government, addresses issues and problem solving to improve communities and make positive, proactive contributions to society. The elementary curriculum defines a learning progression of knowledge and skills related to foundations of citizenship and civic virtue (within grades PK-3) through to government (grades 4-5). Focus areas include on problem solving, self-advocacy, and conflict resolution. Middle and high school level curricular connections promote civic engagement. The secondary curriculum exposes students to major themes and contemporary issues affecting the world and gives students the tools to address these problems. State graduation requirements mandate achievement of a minimum of a half-credit in Civics/American Government. West Hartford's American Government curriculum fulfills this state requirement. The Board thanked and asked questions on voter registration drives at school and mock elections which are an annual feature of assured learning experiences in our schools.

Civic Engagement

Mr. Jared Morin, Director of Technology gave an updated technology report. Presenting alongside him was Mr. Craig Diamond, Educational Technology Specialist. Mr. Morin gave a brief overview of the Technology Department noting that they are shared with the Town with a total of 20 FTE, (of which 15 FTE are dedicated to just the school system) and that West Hartford is unique in that we own our own fiber optic network with twelve strands of fiber per school and that we have our own data center. Mr. Morin also gave an overview of the Cyber Security measures taken including Cyber Liability Insurance, Autoshun Appliances, Firewalls, MS – ISAC - Multi State Information Sharing and Content Filtering. New this year is the Professional PEN Testing. The Board thanked Mr. Morin for his presentation and asked questions regarding URLs and creating links for the community. They also asked questions on the capacity for each school, guidelines on the amount of computers at each school, how are we keeping up with current and changing technology, and what is the return on investment.

Technology Update

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Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board accept the administrations' recommendation for the non-renewal of non-tenured teachers' contracts and to proceed with written notification to the individuals involved.

Motion passed.

Dr. Thomas- Farquharson moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes from the Public Hearing of March 28, 2018.

Motion passed.

Ms. Polun moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes from the Regular Board of Education meeting of April 3, 2018

Motion passed.

Mr. Dave Pauluk reported to the Board on the Parent/Teacher Counsel meeting and the Career Fair held at Conard High School.

Mrs. Blanks announced CREC's annual meeting will be held on May 16, 2018 at 385 Washington Street from 7:30-10:00

Conard High School Student Representative Grace Andrews reported to the Board on Spring Sports, the National Honor Society for Juniors, the hosting of the TSA Competition to be held on April 28, 2018 and that college admission representatives will be available on April 24, 2018. Hall High School Student Representative Maddy Pliskin reported on the performance of the Pops'n Jazz, the trip to China, and College Knowledge night. She also welcomed back Mr. Zittoun, Principal of Hall High School.

Dr. Cheryl Greenberg announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, May 1, 2018, Regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.

Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Personnel

Routine Matters

*Approval
Of Minutes*

*Information and
Reports*

*Future Business:
Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

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2. May 3, 2018, Rethinking School Start Time (RSST) Parent Night, Town Hall Auditorium, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
 3. Tuesday, May 15, 2018, Regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
 4. Tuesday, June, 5, 2018, Regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.

No requests for future agenda items.

John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, West Hartford, spoke regarding information and how it is relayed to the public.

Ms. Polun moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

THAT the Board of Education adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Dr. Cheryl Greenberg
Chairperson

Dave Pauluk
Secretary

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

*Request for Future
Agenda Items*

*Comments from
Visitors*

Adjournment

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