

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**January 7, 2014**

Present: Mrs. Exum, Ms. Gilchrest, Mr. Putterman, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Sarzen,  
Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz, Student Representative Jordan Gelber (Hall)  
Absent: Student Representatives Randa Griffin (Conard)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

INDEX

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of  
Allegiance/ Agenda  
Revision*

Dr. List stated because of the holiday break there was little to report. She introduced Mr. Tom Moore and Mr. Chip Ward for the presentation.

*Superintendent's Report*

Mr. Ward and Mr. Moore introduced the architectural firm of Perkins Eastman. Mr. Fritz Morris, Project Manager introduced his team and summarized the planning efforts to date including meetings with various town departments, Board of Education members and administration, community, staff, parents and students. Architects reviewed the process of understanding the needs and wants for the project and shared details on the favored circular design scheme. The vision of the design and use of traditional materials with a contemporary form and the features of courtyards, playscapes, drop-offs, entrances and outdoor classroom/amphitheater were presented and described. The Perkins Eastman design team, Mr. Ward, Mr. Moore, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Schweitzer were all available to answer the questions and concerns of the Board.

*Charter Oak  
International Academy  
Building Project Update  
Draft Schematic Design  
Presentation*

Board members expressed appreciation for the comprehensive creative development of the plan and thorough presentation. Discussion was divided into concerns addressing vision and design for the architects and those under the purview of the district. Questions were raised regarding the plausibility of outdoor basketball courts, increased indoor gymnasium space, accommodating pedestrian traffic and the functionality and accessibility of the circular design. Curiosity about the maintenance and sustainability of a 'green roof top' and the attraction of unobstructed visibility of the interior courtyard upon entry was raised. Issues regarding actual square footage, cost estimates and reimbursable expenses, building efficiency and bidding and labor union concerns were raised. There was general consensus by the Board on the overall agreement with design plans presented.

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

*Approval of Minutes*

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 17, 2013

The motion passed unanimously.

Jordan Gelber (Hall) reported on concerns about the recent early dismissal times and the loss of class time for later periods and potential impact on mid-term exams. The process to change the school slogan and mascot was shared.

*Report from Student Board Representatives*

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

*Announcement of Meeting Dates*

1. Tuesday, January 21, 2014, 6:00 p.m., Board Awards at King Philip Middle School, followed by BOE meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314, Presentation of the CIP

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

*Adjournment*

That the Board adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Bruce Putterman, Chairperson

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Tammy Exum, Secretary

*Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board*

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