

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 26, 2014

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/Agenda Revision</i></p>
<p>Ms. Gilchrest moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt: THAT the Board of Education adopt the Capital Improvement Plan for 2014-2015</p>	<p><i>Adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan for 2014-2015</i></p>
<p>Mr. Putterman summarized the previous presentation of the CIP and opened the discussion to the Board.</p>	
<p>Board discussion reviewed the condition of the school parking lots and the painting of the lines. The scheduled maintenance and the review and recommendations by the town engineers were discussed. The community was reminded of and encouraged to utilize the school buses available to transport students to and from school on a daily basis. Mr. Tom Moore, Mr. Chip Ward and Mr. Bob Palmer were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.</p>	
<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz: THAT the Board of Education review as a First Reading the proposed calendar options for the 2015-2016 school year</p>	<p><i>Proposed Calendar Options for the 2015-2016 School Year – First Reading</i></p>
<p>Mr. Putterman provided an introduction of the calendar options and offered a reminder to consider the planned construction timetable for the re-opening of Charter Oak Academy.</p>	
<p>Board members discussed the two calendar options with a shortened two-day vacation in February and earlier start dates in August. The discussions and decisions from previous Board members regarding the February break were reviewed. Dr. List provided clarification for the legislative guidelines regarding a regional calendar. A review of the</p>	

anticipated Charter Oak demolition and construction was requested. The earlier start time in August and distinction between state mandates and guidelines were discussed. The Board decided to delay a vote on a specific calendar option until the second reading, it was suggested that Tim Nee, chair of the CREC school calendar committee speak on this topic to the Board, and a volunteer was requested to attend the CREC school calendar committee meeting in March.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List shared the Mission Framework and provided history on attendance, graduation rates, college level course participation percentages and the alignment with the Model of Continuous Improvement. The unprecedented changes due to the NCLB waiver, the impact of the Sandy Hook Tragedy and a reminder of the economic factors that will influence the budget were discussed. Dr. List highlighted the reduction in the town's long-term liability and the progress of the schools' rankings, the award-winning schools and educators and the on-going guidance provided by the District Development and Performance Plan were summarized. Future considerations for the expansion of Pre-K, upgrading facilities and recommendations for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment were provided. The new Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plan, hiring developments, the healthy communities and schools initiatives and the resources needed were reviewed. Dr. List concluded her report and expressed her gratitude to the Board for their support over the years.

Board members expressed their appreciation to Dr. List for her foresight, leadership and vision.

Dr. Nancy DePalma, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment and Ms. Carol Wilkas, District Coordinator for Mentoring Program provided an overview of the mentoring program and its mission and services. Volunteer mentors, along with a program mentee shared their experiences.

Board members inquired about the structure for high school students to support meeting with younger students. The demand for the program, the waiting list for an assignment with a mentor and the need for male mentors was discussed. The identification and selection process along with appropriate training and monitoring was reviewed.

Dr. Nancy DePalma, Mr. Glenn McGrath, Director of Pupil Services, and school psychologists Teresa LeBel, Enam Khandakar and Josh

*Superintendent's Report
State of the Schools
Report*

Mentoring Program

*School Psychologists
Supporting Student
Learning*

Richards provided an overview of the role of school psychologist and the services provided at the Elementary, Middle and High School levels. The key areas of Prevention, Intervention, Consultation, Assessment and Identification and various components were reviewed and explained. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members discussed the interest in mental health and the supporting role of the Board. Data was requested on the percentages of students utilizing services and the duration. The process of outside referrals and the increase in other students, peers, as resources for identifying students potentially in need was discussed. The overarching areas of responsibilities and limits and the range of mental illness versus developmental assessment were reviewed. The goal of the department to promote mental wellness and the coping and life skills necessary to support learning were emphasized. The Board sought feedback on the issues facing the psychologists and the investment needed to impact resources, time and the effect on students. Increased communication and outreach was discussed.

Dr. Nancy DePalma, Mr. Paul Vicinus and Ms. Kerry Jones provided background on the changes and evolution of the CMT and CAPT. The current mandatory state assessments across grade levels were reviewed. Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortia (SBAC) system components and projected timeline were explained. The panel provided a sample of the student experience and highlighted key differences from the past. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members commended the clear presentation. The degree and design of the computer based adaptation and the efforts on the part of the district to assess the technological experiences and skills and insure uniform familiarity was discussed. Concerns about data collection were raised and assurances were provided regarding guarding student performance. The future benchmarking possibilities and the anticipated turn around time for post-testing data was reviewed.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 4, 2014

The motion passed unanimously.

State Assessment Update

Approval of Minutes

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Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the Board's participation in an upcoming Community Conversation to be held at the Faxon Branch Library and encouraged the public to attend to discuss areas of interest or concern.

Mr. Putterman expressed his appreciation for the follow-up presentation by the school psychologist.

Jordan Gelber (Hall) reported on the mascot logo submissions and the attendance requirements for an upcoming upper classmen school dance.

Randa Griffin (Conard) reported on the conclusion of winter sports and the recognition of student athletes and shared the success of a recent student dance and the upcoming *Shrek: The Musical* performance events.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 5:30 p.m., Board Workshop, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 400 followed by BOE meeting at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314, *Presentation of the Superintendent's Budget for 2014-2015*
2. Wednesday, March 12, 2014, BOE Budget Workshop #1, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
3. Thursday, March 13, 2014, BOE Budget Workshop #2, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
4. Tuesday, March 18, 2014, Regular BOE meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
5. Wednesday, March 26, 2014 BOE Public Hearing, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314 followed by BOE Budget Workshop #3

Mr. Zydanowicz requested that presentations with power point slides be provided before the scheduled meetings.

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board to request the posting of power point presentations on the website and read a segment of a lecture.

Other Information and Discussions

Report from Student Board Representatives

Announcement of Meeting Dates

Request for Future Agenda Items

Comments from Visitors

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Adjournment

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

That the Board adjourn at 10:04 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Bruce Putterman, Chairperson Tammy Exum, Secretary
Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board

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