

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
March 4, 2014

Present: Mrs. Exum, Ms. Gilcrest, 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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The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance/ Agenda
Revision*

Dr. List introduced Hall High School senior, Ethan Swain who presented at the Teacher of the Year ceremony held at the Bushnell. Ethan Swain shared his speech.

Student Participation

There were no Public Communications.

Public Communications

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education receive the Superintendent's recommended 2014-2015 Education Budget and begin the process of reviewing and modifying for final approval and adoption as the Board of Education Budget at the April 8, 2014 Board of Education meeting

*Presentation of the
Superintendent's 2014-
2015 Budget
Recommendations*

Mr. Schmitt introduced Dr. Karen List and she first shared the announcement of the birth of Dan Zittoun's third child. She acknowledged March as Board Recognition Month and commended the role of Board members and expressed her pride and gratitude for their dedication and service.

Dr. List presented the Superintendent's 2014-2015 budget recommendations and reviewed the parts of the budget for the Board. She stated the document would be posted on the district website. The goal to incorporate three perspectives, the needs of professional staff, the wants of the parents and the affordability to the community was emphasized. The organization was described as a large people organization and a breakdown of students, employees and facilities was provided. Comparisons of the per pupil expenditures averages were made with the State, DRG B and other large districts. The increases in medical expenses were addressed and changes in enrollment needs, security measures, support staff compensation and administration staffing were reviewed. The increases and the changes were

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summarized in a \$146.8 million budget reflecting a 4.85% increase. The efficient, strategic and accountable nature of the budget was highlighted. Dr. List reviewed what the budget recommendations accomplished and emphasized it was a representation of the many opinions and perspectives expressed. The next steps and the budget process timeline were outlined. The efforts and work of administrators, executive team and all involved staff members were acknowledged with gratitude.

The motion passed unanimously.

A reminder of the budget workshops, meetings and public hearing was provided.

Jordan Gelber (Hall) reported on the successful student dance and that after review, it seemed unlikely that a change would be made to the school mascot.

Randa Griffin (Conard) reported on the recognition of student athletes, registration for AP exams and the viewing of the documentary, *Girl Rising*.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez shared the recent celebration of the Charter Oak Family Resource Center and provided a reminder of the Community Conversation at Faxon Library on March 5.

Mr. Putterman emphasized that an invitation was extended to all school PTOs to have a Board member present to discuss budget related questions and concerns. Participation was also encouraged for the upcoming 'West Hartford's Cookin' fundraiser.

Mr. Schmitt reported on Bugbee International Night and recommended community attendance at future events.

Mr. Putterman previously announced the following meeting dates:

1. Wednesday, March 12, 2014, BOE Budget Workshop #1, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Thursday, March 13, 2014, BOE Budget Workshop #2, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
3. Tuesday, March 18, 2014, Regular BOE meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

*Report from Student
Board Representatives*

*Other Information and
Discussions*

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

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4. 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. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

That the Board adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

ATTEST:

Bruce Putterman, Chairperson

Tammy Exum, Secretary

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

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