

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
June 7, 2011

Present: Ms. Katz, Ms. Kindall, Mrs. Ma, Ms. Mudge, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Schmitt,
Superintendent List, Student Representatives Jennifer Byrnett (Conard), Conor Proft (Hall)
Absent: Mrs. Brassil Spinella

Regular Meeting – Town Hall-Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance*

Mr. Putterman moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

*Revision to Agenda
Order*

THAT the Board of Education revise the agenda order to allow
for the introduction of the new student representatives before
Public Communications

The motion passed unanimously.

Conor Proft introduced Jennifer Ros as the Board of Education
Student Representative for Hall High School for the 2011-2012 school
year. Jennifer Byrnett stated that elections at Conard were scheduled
the upcoming week and she would update the Board with the results.

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding the
Bullying Report.

Public Communications

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

*Ratification of UNITE
HERE! Local 217
AFL-CIO (Cafeteria
Workers)*

THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement
between UNITE HERE! Local 217 AFL-CIO (cafeteria
workers) and the Board of Education, for the period of July 1,
2010 through June 30, 2014

Mr. Rick Ledwith and Mr. Tom Moore summarized the terms and
significant changes of the contract. The efforts by the cafeteria workers
and managers bargaining units were recognized and appreciated.

Board members commended the negotiation efforts and contract
changes including sick time payout and pensions.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

*Ratification of Local 818
AFSCME, Council 4,*

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THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between Local 818, AFSCME, council 4, AFL-CIO (cafeteria managers) and the Board of Education, for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2014

AFL-CIO (Cafeteria Managers)

Mr. Rick Ledwith and Mr. Tom Moore summarized the terms of the agreement and reviewed changes including salary steps, health care contributions and sick day payouts at retirement.

Board members discussed the history and possible resolution to the salary gaps in this contract and confirmed the number of members in the union.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Karen List announced Joyce St. Germain was selected as the Teacher of the Year. She highlighted other significant awards and distinctions received by teachers, administrators and school clubs and offered her congratulations.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Rick Ledwith provided an introduction to the Board on the Leadership Academy and expressed his appreciation for the members' efforts and continued support. Dr. Maureen Lantner reviewed the goals of Leadership Academy and the selection and expectations of the participants. The questions for study, leadership projects and the components of the CT Common Core of Learning were presented. Ms. Kristi Luetjen shared her perspective as a Leadership Academy participant and summarized her project.

Personnel Report

Board members recalled questioning the purpose of the program during recent budget discussions and appreciated the detailed presentation. The availability of future opportunities afforded to those who successfully complete the program and an evaluation component was discussed. The potential to consider extending the Academy to non-certified staff was also raised.

Mr. Rick Ledwith presented the Personnel Report and reviewed the number of retirements submitted and the status of active hiring for open positions.

Board members discussed the factors involved when teachers resign to transfer to another district and the ability to recruit teachers at the mid-level salary range.

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Dr. Eileen Howley and Dr. Sally Alubicki provided an overview of results of SRBI. Appreciation was expressed to the Board for their support. The roles and importance of Literacy Tutors and Reading Specialists were reviewed and the data on participants and relevant trends were discussed. A video was shown that demonstrated teachers' perspectives of the successful implementation of the program.

*Update on SRBI and
Reading*

Board members expressed excitement about SRBI and addressing the achievement gap. Concerns were raised about the emphasis of SRBI primarily on elementary and not middle school grades. The focus on reading and the implementation of *StoryTown* was discussed. The Board commended Administration for identifying and addressing a problem.

Mr. Tom Moore presented the Annual Discipline Report and provided context for the meaning illustrated by the data.

*Annual Discipline
Report*

Board members discussed expulsions, the use of a Hearing Officer and the difficulty experienced during the hearings. An improvement in the handling of discipline issues was noted and appreciation for understanding Administration's philosophy was expressed. The number of reported incidents of bullying and its definition was discussed.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

*Motion to Amend
Agenda*

That the Board of Education approve the motion to open the meeting agenda to add a New Business item

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

*Motion to Amend the
Superintendent's
Contract*

That the Board of Education Chairperson enter into a contract of employment with the Superintendent, Dr. Karen List, that extends for an additional year, making the contract binding for three years without an increase in compensation for the 2011-2012 school year.

Board members expressed their satisfaction with the outstanding performance and accomplishments of the Superintendent. The willingness of Dr. List to voluntarily accept a wage freeze was commended. Her leadership style and capabilities and the development of a mission statement and the influence throughout the district were praised

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<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Ms. Mudge:</p> <p>THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Statement for the period ending April 30, 2011</p> <p>Ms. Katz provided an oral report of the Financial Statement. Mr. Chip Ward was available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.</p>	<p><i>Financial Statement</i></p>
<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:</p> <p>THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of May 17, 2011</p> <p>The presence of Board members at the meeting was incorrectly recorded. The minutes were amended to reflect Ms. Katz was present and Ms. Mudge and Mrs. Brassil Spinella were absent.</p>	<p><i>Approval of Minutes</i></p>
<p>The motion passed as amended 5-0-1 Ms. Mudge abstained due to absence.</p> <p>Ms. Katz provided an update on the Fiesta Wrap competition.</p>	<p><i>Reports from Other Boards and Organizations</i></p>
<p>Jennifer Byrnett (Conard) reported on graduation plans and other senior activities, the upcoming Student Council elections and the Spring musical performance.</p> <p>Conor Proft (Hall) provided an update on various Spring sports and clubs and the election results for the Student Association.</p>	<p><i>Reports from Student Representatives</i></p>
<p>Ms. Kindall announced the following meeting dates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Next regular Board meeting, Tuesday, September 6, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Room 314, Legislative Chambers	<p><i>Announcement of Meeting Dates</i></p>
<p>John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board to express appreciation to the members and offer suggestions for next year.</p>	<p><i>Comments from Visitors</i></p>

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Ms. Mudge moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

Adjournment

That the Board adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Clare Kindall, Chairperson

Naogan Ma, Secretary

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

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