

WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 6, 2011

Unofficial Minutes-To Be Approved 9/20/11

Present: Mrs. Brassil Spinella, Ms. Katz, Ms. Kindall, Mrs. Ma, Ms. Mudge, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Schmitt, Superintendent List, Student Representatives Ellis Boettger (Conard) and Jennifer Ros (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall-Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance/Revision to Agenda Order

John Hardy, 133 Pioneer Dr., addressed the Board to share his perspective on departing member Diane Mudge.

Public Comments

Mrs. Brassil Spinella moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

Motion to Accept Resignation

THAT the Board of Education accept the resignation of Board member Ms. Mudge

Board members expressed their appreciation to Ms. Mudge for her dedication and service to the Board and reflected on her strengths and passion. The Board presented Ms. Mudge with a commemorative chair.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mudge departed and the Board took a five minute break.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. List expressed her appreciation for a new school year that began on time despite numerous challenges. She noted building on the successes of the previous year which included the highest CMT and CAPT scores ever, lower per pupil spending and the successful passing of the budget. Dr. List expressed gratitude for the growing support from the community and the financial sacrifices taken by teachers and other employees. New administrative assignments were announced and new leaders were introduced. Dr. List provided a presentation and the alignment of the Mission Framework with District Goals and the guidance of it on the work in the classroom was illustrated. The goal of increased student performance was emphasized. Dr. List recapped her visits to each school and credited the administrative leaders and the many employees with the successful opening of the 2011-2012 school year.

The Executive Team addressed the Board with updates on the

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opening of school and all were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

- Dr. Eileen Howley, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Curriculum, reported on the progress and importance of the District Development and Performance Plan and District Goals. The curriculum planning, review and professional development related to changes in State Common Core Standards and necessary assessment revisions were reviewed. The theme of teamwork and the shift in the teaching profession to routinely share practices was emphasized.
- Mr. Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent for Administration provided an overview of the Plant and Facilities projects that were completed over the summer. He reviewed the summer school and adult education programs and offered an explanation for the decreased enrollment in some courses. He updated the Board on the Information Technology Department changes and projects completed. The improvements in student transportation were addressed.
- Mr. Ledwith, Executive Director of Human Resources provided a review of the late Spring and Summer recruitment process and discussed the turnover percentage rate and provided the various reasons for resignations. The qualifications of candidates and newly hired staff were highlighted. The continued efforts and commitment to increase the diversity among the West Hartford Public School staff were outlined. The successful events of the new staff orientation program and Convocation were described. The Personnel Report was presented.
- Mr. McGrath, Director of Pupil Services noted the school year opened with all positions, including support positions, completely staffed. He provided a review of the paraprofessional training workshop and summer programs and services. An overview of the department priorities and initiatives, including the school counseling department and Secondary School Reform, was provided. Updates were given on the reports submitted to the State Departments.
- Mr. Ward, Director of Finance and Planning reported that the actual enrollment numbers were close to the projected enrollment and reviewed and compared the enrollment numbers across the elementary, middle and high school levels.

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Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of June 7, 2011

The motion passed 5-0-1

Mrs. Brassil Spinella abstained due to absence.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

THAT the Board approve the minutes of the regular Board Meeting of June 7, 2011

The motion passed 5-0-1

Mrs. Brassil Spinella abstained due to absence.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz :

THAT the Board approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting of July 12, 2011

The clerk noted to change the minutes to reflect Ms. Mudge was absent.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Kindall stated that Convocation was successful and appreciated each of the public speakers and noted the positive tone that was set.

*Board Members:
Communication and
Reports*

The new student representatives were introduced and welcomed.

*Reports from Student
Board
Representatives*

Jennifer Ros (Hall) reported that sports and clubs were organizing at Hall. She explained a new program intended to ease the transition of freshmen and noted plans to honor the victims of September 11th.

Ellis Boettger (Conard) reported that the start of school had gone well and also described efforts in place to assist freshmen. He stated that classes, clubs and sports were off to a strong start.

Ms. Kindall announced the following meeting date:

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

1. Next Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street,

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Legislative Chamber, Room 314.

Mrs. Brassil Spinella requested that the Superintendent provide periodic updates relevant to the status of Smith and Charter Oak as received from the new State Commissioner.

Future Agenda Items

There were no Public Comments.

Public Comments

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

Adjournment

THAT the Board adjourn at 9:15 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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