

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
October 4, 2011

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall-Legislative Chamber

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Mr. Putterman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance*

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Naogan:

*Motion to Suspend the
Rules*

THAT the Board suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda

The motion passed unanimously.

There were no Public Communications.

Public Communications

Mr. Putterman moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

*Motion by Lib Brassil
Spinella, Bruce
Putterman, and Terry
Schmitt to Accept and
Approve Revised Policy
6235 on Controversial
Issues – Second Reading*

THAT the Board of Education accept and approve as a Second
and Final Reading the following policy which was revised by the
Board Policy Subcommittee:

6235 Controversial Issues

Mr. Putterman summarized the intent of the policy.

Board discussion included clarification on the parental opting-out
option and the emphasis of the controversial issues discussed being
relevant to and in alignment with the curriculum.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Putterman:

*New Business:
Resolution to Approve
the Addition of an
Impartial Hearing
Officer*

THAT the Board of Education approve the appointment of
Tom Fiorentino as an Impartial Hearing Officer

Mr. Moore provided background on the purpose of an impartial
hearing officer to preside over expulsion hearings.

Board discussion sought clarification on the number and types of
hearings the impartial officer is expected to participate in. The Board
acknowledged and praised the positive characteristics and strong

qualifications of Mr. Fiorentino.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List introduced 'Safe School Climate Awareness Day' developed in response to recent legislation regarding bullying. Students from Whiting Lane Elementary School provided a presentation depicting unacceptable behavior and modeling the acceptable 'Code of Behavior'. Dr. List also reported on Charter Oak's 'Day of Peace', the invitation received from the College Board to be an 'Innovation School District', and commended the dedication of teachers and the admirable recognition that some have received.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Chip Ward and Dr. Eileen Howley provided an overview of the report and summarized the results and percentages of each school. Dr. Howley emphasized that changes in the "No Child Left Behind" legislation were anticipated. Both were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Results

Board discussion considered the attendance rate of students and the deliberate effort to insure full student participation in test taking through the use of make up tests. The obstacles of reaching a threshold of 100% were reviewed.

Mr. Ward and Dr. Howley provided a presentation and reviewed the differences in measurements, emphasis, practice and scoring between the two tests. A historical perspective of participation rates and scores of both the AP and SAT was reviewed. Both were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board. Scores were summarized and comparisons between Conard and Hall were charted.

High School Test Score Results: AP and SAT

Board discussion sought clarification on the AP college level scholar rankings and how scores reflect the extraordinary efforts by teachers and students. Changes in college requirements and test taking options presented to students and the distinction between the number students taking AP courses and the number of AP courses taken at Conard and Hall was discussed. The opportunity that AP courses and tests provide to encourage students to realize their potential and build confidence was acknowledged.

Mr. Rick Ledwith presented the Personnel Report and provided an update on the Sedgwick Assistant Principal search. He commented on the high number, quality and diversity of applicants and shared the anticipated timeline for screening and interviewing selected candidates.

Personnel Report

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

Approval of Minutes

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THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of September 20, 2011

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Brassil reported that she attended the presentation on the Common Core of State Standards and commended the delivery of information by Paul Vicinus.

Ellis Boettger reported on the 'Safe School Climate Awareness Day' and shared that the athletic teams and theater productions were all going well.

Ms. Kindall announced the following meeting dates:

1. Next Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, Legislative Chamber, Room 314

There were no public comments from visitors.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

That the Board adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Clare Kindall, Chairperson Naogan Ma, Secretary
Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board

*Reports from Other
Boards and
Organizations*

*Report from Student
Representatives*

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

Comments from Visitors

Adjournment

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