

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
November 1, 2011

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***Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 11/22/2011***

Present: Ms. Brassil, Mrs. Brassil Spinella, Ms. Kindall, Mrs. Ma, Mr. Putterman (via phone), Mr. Schmitt, Superintendent List

Absent: Ms. Katz, Student Representatives Ellis Boettger (Conard), Jennifer Ros (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall-Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of  
Allegiance*

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

*Motion to Suspend the  
Rules*

THAT the Board of Education suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda to include a statement from the Mayor

The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Scott Slifka provided an update on the aftermath of the storm and the power restoration and cleanup efforts. He relayed the challenges of providing residents with information. He commended the usefulness of the district wide phone and email emergency communication system set in place for the West Hartford Public Schools. He confirmed that all schools would be closed through the end of the week and the reopening of school would be dependent on the efforts of CL&P and cleanup by the town. He provided information about Conard High School being utilized as a full service shelter and the locations of warming and charging centers and hot showers.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

*Motion to Revise the  
Agenda*

THAT the Board of Education revise the agenda order to hear the Superintendent's Report before Old Business

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Karen List explained that schools would be closed through the week and until power was restored and the safe transportation of students could be ensured. She acknowledged and commended the dedicated efforts of the custodial staff and the Conard community of student athletes, staff and the PTO for their teamwork in supporting the operation of the Conard shelter. Dr. List requested that if schools could safely open by Election Day, that the scheduled teacher in-service day be cancelled so that students could attend a full day of

*Superintendent's Report*

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school.

Board members discussed the focus of the Public Works Department on surveying the number of closed roads and preparing school grounds to safely reopen when power is restored. The importance of providing safety education to the students was stressed and the possibility of providing school-based activities, the associated risks and logistical concerns and the reopening of school were discussed.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

THAT the Board of Education suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda to consider the resolution presented by the Superintendent

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

THAT the Board of Education eliminate the scheduled teacher in-service day and if conditions permit, have students attend school on Election Day, November 8, 2011

Board members discussed the State requirement of 180 school days and calculated that due to the storm and power outages, June 22, 2012 would be the last day of school. This would be subject to change with any additional closings. All possible dates that could be utilized as full instruction days needed to be considered. The suggestion was made to also consider shortening February vacation. There was discussion about polling locations and security at the schools if school was in session on Election Day.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Ma moved, seconded by Ms. Brassil:

THAT the Board of Education table the remaining agenda items #III through #VII to a subsequent meeting

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Brassil Spinella:

THAT the Board adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

*Motion to Suspend the Rules*

*Motion to Vote on Superintendent's Resolution*

*Motion to Table Agenda Items III-VII*

*Adjournment*

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ATTEST:

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Clare Kindall, Chairperson

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Naogan Ma, Secretary

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



