

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
November 22, 2011

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Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 12/6/2011

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall-Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance*

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

*Revision to Agenda
Order*

THAT the order of the agenda be changed to put the following agenda items before Old Business:

- Student Representative Presentation
- Induction of Newly Elected Board Members
- New board Members Will Take Seats at Board Table
- Election of Officers/Board Organization
- Recognition of Outgoing Board member
- Nomination, Appointment, and Swearing In of New Board member
- Brief Recess

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Kindall made a statement about the October snow storm and recognized the spirit of community that was demonstrated despite hardships. She extended her gratitude to Tom Moore and other members of Administration, staff, students, parents and community who volunteered and shared their time, caring and energy at the Conard shelter. Ms. Kindall addressed the State's requirement of 180 school days. She announced the Superintendent's recommendation to reduce the February vacation by three days. She noted that further discussion and a vote would occur at the next meeting but stated the Board was inclined to adopt this proposal.

John Hardy, 133 Pioneer Dr., expressed his gratitude for the service and dedication of Ms. Kindall to the West Hartford Public Schools.

Public Communications

Senator Beth Bye made a statement to recognize the commitment of Ms. Kindall to the Board of Education.

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Student representative, Jennifer Ros (Hall) presented the Board with gifts on behalf of Dr. Slater and the Hall community in recognition of Hall's victory over Conard in the classic football rivalry game.

*Presentation from
Student Representative*

Essie Labrot, Town Clerk, inducted newly elected Board members: Ellen Brassil, Bruce Putterman and Terry Schmitt. New Board members took their seats at the Board Table.

*Induction of Newly
Appointed Board
Members*

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

*Election of
Officers/ Board
Organization*

THAT Dr. Karen L. List act as temporary Chairperson of this meeting for the purpose of electing a Chairperson for the Board of Education

1. Karen L. List, Superintendent, will serve as temporary Chairperson and will call for nominations and action for the position of Chairperson.
2. The newly elected Chairperson will conduct the meeting.
3. The newly elected Chairperson will call for nominations and action for the election of the following officers: Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and (2) Financial Examiners (one from each political party).

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List called for nominations for the office of Chairperson.

Mrs. Ma nominated Mr. Putterman for the office of Chairperson, seconded by Ms. Katz

Dr. List called for any additional nominations for the office of Chairperson. None were made. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Putterman called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairperson.

Mr. Schmitt nominated Ms. Katz for the office of Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Mrs. Ma

Mr. Putterman called for any additional nominations for the office of Vice-Chairperson. None were made. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

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The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Putterman called for nominations for the office of Secretary.

Ms. Katz nominated Mrs. Ma for the office of Secretary,
seconded by Mr. Schmitt

Mr. Putterman called for any additional nominations for the office of Secretary. None were made. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Putterman called for nominations for the office of Financial Examiner.

Ms. Katz nominated Mr. Schmitt for the office of Financial Examiner for the Democratic Party, seconded by Mrs. Ma

Mrs. Brassil Spinella nominated Ms. Brassil for the office of Financial Examiner for the Republican Party, seconded by Mr. Schmitt

Mr. Putterman called for any additional nominations for the office of Financial Examiner. None were made. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

The nomination of Mr. Schmitt for the office of Financial Examiner for the Democratic Party and Ms. Brassil for the office of Financial Examiner for the Republican Party passed unanimously.

Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education accept the resignation of Clare Kindall

Board members and the Superintendent shared their memories and reflected on their years of serving together and commended Ms Kindall's continued commitment to and leadership with the town. Ms. Kindall summarized her five years of service on the Board and welcomed the new member. She acknowledged and praised her colleagues, the Superintendent and Administration and recognized the contributions of the student representatives.

*Recognition of Outgoing
Board Member*

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The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Kindall was presented with a commemorative plaque and chair.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

THAT the Board of Education accept the nomination to fill the Board's vacancy. The Nominee will fill the position on the Board vacated by Clare Kindall for the period of November 2011 through the remainder of Ms. Kindall's term in November 2013

*Nomination,
Appointment and
Swearing In of New
Board Member*

Mr. Schmitt introduced Mark Overmyer-Velazquez and provided background on his selection.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez was sworn in by Essie Labrot, Town Clerk.

The Board took a brief recess at 6:53 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 7:00 p.m.

Recess

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

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

- 6236 Instruction About Religion
- 6240 Extracurricular Activities
- 6260 Field Trips

*Motion by Lib Brassil
Spinella, Bruce
Putterman, and Terry
Schmitt to Accept and
Approve the Revision of
the Following Board
Policies – Second
Reading*

Mr. Schmitt provided background on the proposed changes in the policies.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

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

- 6236.1 Observance of Religious Holidays

*Motion by Lib Brassil
Spinella, Bruce
Putterman, and Terry
Schmitt to Accept and
Approve the New Policy
6236.1 – Second
Reading*

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Mr. Schmitt summarized the intention of this new policy.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List reminded the Board that school was in session on Veterans Day and reported on observances throughout the district. Dr. List provided a recap of the recent snow storm and acknowledged the hard-working and caring efforts demonstrated by so many in the community. She presented a brief video of some of the activity that occurred at the Conard Shelter.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Chip Ward summarized the enrollment projections and reviewed how projections are determined and explained birth patterns district wide. Comparisons to past and future years were provided. The trends and potential implications of enrollment at the elementary, middle and high school levels were presented. He was available to answer the questions from the Board.

Multi-Year Enrollment Projections

Board members sought clarification on the impact to enrollment by births versus the migration of students and whether the projections influence the direction and goals set by the Board. The issue of developing contingency plans for schools with potential space problems was raised.

Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

Financial Statement

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Statement for the period ending September 30, 2011

Ms. Brassil provided an oral report of the financial statement. Mr. Ward was available to answer the questions of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of October 18, 2011

The motion passed 6-0-1.

Abstained: Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez

Mrs. Ma moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

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THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of November 11, 2011

The motion passed 6-0-1.
Abstained: Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez

Ms. Brassil reported on a recent visit to Sedgwick Middle School during their ‘Community Day’ and shared her impressions.

*Reports from Other
Boards and
Organizations*

Jen Ros (Hall) expressed the frustration felt in the Hall community regarding the internet site blocks and the negative impact on efficiently completing some course work. She relayed a request for the Information Technology department to provide assistance, updates and resolution to the problems they are experiencing.

*Report from Student
Representative*

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

1. Next Regular Board meeting, Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, Legislative Chamber, Room 314

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board regarding bullying and gathering information on graduates and their preparedness.

Comments from Visitors

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

Adjournment

That the Board adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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