

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
January 17, 2011

Unofficial minutes – Pending Approval on 2/7/2012

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

Absent: Ms. Katz

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance*

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

*Motion to Accept and
Approve the Revision to
Bylaw 8357 – Second
Reading*

THAT the Board of Education accept and approve as a Second and Final Reading the following bylaw:

8357: Agenda, Minutes, and Reports – Order of Business

Mr. Schmitt reviewed the purpose of the revision to incorporate student participation as a regular agenda item.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Brassil moved, seconded by Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez:

*Presentation of Capital
Improvement Plan for
2012-2013*

THAT the Board of Education receive the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2012-2013 and begin the process of reviewing for final approval and adoption at the February 7, 2012 Board of Education meeting

Dr. List introduced the Capital Improvement Plan and recognized the focus of the plan on the core values of integrating technology effectively, inspiring creativity and innovation and addressing long-term building maintenance.

Mr. Moore, Mr. Ward, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Mercieri presented an overview of the plan and the major repairs. Boiler and roof replacements and the installation of a wireless infrastructure were highlighted. The recommendation to the Town Manager and the approval process of the CIP was discussed. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members discussed concerns about energy efficiency issues and the control systems, the potential sources and eligibility for energy related funding or reimbursement and the status of corrections to cited

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code violations. The use of solar panels for roof replacement and the timing and cost of Wi-Fi installation were discussed.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Ma moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education approve the final plans and specifications for the partial roof replacement at Conard High School

*Approval of Plans for the
Conard High School
Partial Roof Replacement*

Mr. Moore, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Mercieri presented an overview of the project and its specifications. Samples of the roofing materials were provided. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board discussion considered the lifespan and warranty of the new roof and whether any weather related damage impacted the timeframe.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez:

THAT the Board of Education accept the educational specifications dated January 2012 for asbestos abatement and floor tile installation at the following four schools; Braeburn, Bugbee, King Philip and Morley schools and THAT the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to complete the necessary architectural drawings and submit applications to the State Department of Education for four construction grants.

*Asbestos Abatement and
Floor Tile Replacement
at Four Schools;
Braeburn, Bugbee, King
Philip, and Morley*

Mr. Schmitt requested clarification on floor replacement and the source of the existence of asbestos.

Mr. Moore, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Mercieri explained the need to remove floor tiles and carpeting and install hard flooring to improve the indoor quality of the schools. Samples of flooring materials were distributed. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

THAT the Board of Education approve the following policy which was reviewed by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

*Motion by Lib Brassil
Spinella, Bruce
Putterman, and Terry
Schmitt to Approve the*

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6250: Class Size

Mr. Schmitt stated there were no changes to this policy and the policy as written was reviewed and acknowledged.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

THAT the Board of Education accept as a First Reading the following policy which was revised by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

6242: Activity Funds Management

Mr. Schmitt stated this policy highlighted the philosophy behind the policy review process. Emphasis was placed on the significant changes in the language of the policy and the intent to ensure the school based activity funds accounts are managed according to regulations.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

THAT the Board of Education accept as a First Reading the following policy which was revised by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

6310: Graduation Requirements

Mr. Schmitt provided an overview and explained the revisions consolidated and transferred the policy into a different category as it was more appropriately related to instruction. He stated that due to the recent changes made by the State regarding graduation requirements, this policy will be reviewed again in the near future.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Karen List provided an update on a variety of upcoming events including the Middle School Spelling Bee competition, Kids Lit Quiz and the Cyber Compass presentation and acknowledged teachers and coaches who received special recognition or awards. Dr. List introduced the Continuous Improvement Planning for Students with Disabilities report and commended the efforts and collaboration

Reviewed Policy 6250

*Motion by Lib Brassil
Spinella, Bruce
Putterman, and Terry
Schmitt to Accept
Revised Policy 6242 –
First Reading*

*Motion by Lib Brassil
Spinella, Bruce
Putterman, and Terry
Schmitt to Accept
Revised Policy 6310 –
First Reading*

Superintendent's Report

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demonstrated between regular education and special education teachers and administration. She highlighted the partnership formed between Dr. Howley and Mr. McGrath. The significant amount of work that has been accomplished was acknowledged.

Dr. Eileen Howley provided an introduction to the presentation and recognized and commended the work of the Pupil Services Department. Mr. Glenn McGrath presented an update on the implementation of the recommendations from the Educational Development Center (EDC). He reminded the Board of the anticipated timeline that was originally projected. The three main priority areas of culture, infrastructure and curriculum and instruction and the related efforts towards the implementation within each area were highlighted. Dr. Howley and Mr. McGrath reviewed the key components of the plan and described how the plan was being implemented. The fundamental belief to improve achievement for all students was stressed. A summary was provided of the plan, goals, expectations and implementation.

Board discussion included recognizing the change in the culture towards greater immersion of special education students and programs and the progress made resulting in meaningful inclusion. Board members were encouraged by the results of the survey and the increase in the number of parents providing feedback. The Board questioned the low return rate of responses and the reliability in determining an accurate understanding of parental experiences and opinions. The paraprofessional support training and the time commitment and logistics involved were discussed. The expectation and methods of additional outreach to all parents and the positive aspects and challenges of the shift towards students needing adjusted curriculum to attend their home school was considered. The outreach and collaboration between SEPTA parents and the PTO to increase involvement was discussed.

Mr. Rick Ledwith presented the Personnel Report and announced the retirement of Sedgwick principal, Ben Skaught. The recruitment process and anticipated timeline was reviewed.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

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

Mr. Schmitt presented an oral report of the financial statement. Mr. Chip Ward was available to answer the questions of the Board.

*Update on Continuous
Improvement Plan for
Students with
Disabilities*

Personnel Report

Financial Statement

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The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez reported on the parent training workshop program.

Ellis Boettger (Conard) commented on the impending mid-term exams and shared information about the Student Council Leadership, upcoming theater productions and announced the musical awards received by Conard. Jen Ros (Hall) reported on Hall's promotion of social activism, helping 8th grade students transition from middle to high school, upcoming theater productions, traffic issues and announced awards given to Hall art students.

Mr. Putterman reported on the Martin Luther King presentation and the Board Awards.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Next Regular Board meeting, Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, Legislative Chamber room 314

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

That the Board adjourn at 9:26 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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

Approval of Minutes

*Reports from Other
Boards and
Organizations*

*Report from Student
Representatives*

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

Adjournment

