

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
February 7, 2012

1

*Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 2/29/2012*

Present: Ms. Brassil, Mrs. Brassil Spinella, Ms. Katz, Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Schmitt, Superintendent List, Student Representative Ellis Boettger (Conard)

Absent: Mrs. Ma, Jennifer Ros (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

INDEX

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of  
Allegiance/Revision to  
Agenda Order*

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

*Motion to Revise Agenda  
Order*

THAT the Board of Education revise the agenda order to move the NextED presentation to follow Public Communications

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List provided background on the student presentation and introduced students from a *Global Problem-Solving* class offered at Hall High.

*Student Participation*

Students from Hall High School made a presentation to the Board about the installation of a water cooler station for the school. The cost of the project and the short and long term goals the students hoped to achieve were presented. The students stressed that they were requesting approval, not funding, from the Board.

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board to request transparency and access by the public to Executive Sessions and discussions regarding the Superintendent's evaluation.

*Public Communications*

Pete Brown, West Hartford resident, addressed the Board regarding the NextED written report and proposal about Connecticut schooling.

Dr. List introduced Dr. Joseph Cirusuolo, the Executive Director of CAPSS. Dr. Cirusuolo presented a proposal to transform schooling in Connecticut. He reviewed the needs and emphasized the mission for public education as one to ensure all children are career and college ready. The problems with the existing system, proposed solutions and recommendations for accomplishing desired goals were summarized

*NextED Transforming  
Connecticut's Education  
System Continuous  
Improvement Plan from  
The Connecticut  
Association of Public  
School Superintendents  
(CAPSS)*

Board members stated the report was more information about educational reform and questioned how parents and teachers can begin

*Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 2/29/2012*

---

to process additional recommendations. The structure of a typical school day and leadership roles of Boards of Education versus Superintendents were questioned. The existence of neighborhood schools, differences in the size of local and regional school districts and making a shift toward student centered education while still adhering to State testing requirements were discussed. Concerns were expressed about the proposed plan and consideration for community and group inclusion and the goal of retaining teachers that reflect the diversity of the student population. Board discussion also included concerns about addressing the achievement gap and being mindful of privacy issues and appropriate socialization as well as academic development of students. The need for further research and on-going revisions to the report and the purpose served of raising awareness and generating discussions were emphasized.

Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education adopt the Capital Improvement plan for 2012-2013

Mr. Chip Ward and Mr. Tom Moore introduced the second reading of the Capital Improvement Plan. Both were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

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:

6242: Activity Funds Management

Mr. Schmitt provided an overview of the proposed revisions for the policy. Dr. Eileen Howley and Mr. Tom Moore were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

*Adoption of the Capital  
Improvement Plan for  
2012-2013*

*Motion by Lib Brassil  
Spinella, Bruce  
Putterman, and Terry  
Schmitt to Accept and  
Approve Revised Policy  
6242 - Second Reading*

*Motion by Lib Brassil  
Spinella, Bruce  
Putterman, and Terry  
Schmitt to Accept and  
Approve Revised Policy*

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
February 7, 2012

*Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 2/29/2012*

6310: Graduation Requirements

*6310 – Second Reading*

Mr. Schmitt emphasized the change in the placement of the policy was more appropriate.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Karen List offered her congratulations and recognized the accomplishments of and awards given to outstanding departments, students and staff. She announced the week was National School Counselors Week and commended the efforts of the counselors throughout the district. Dr. List shared her recent experience with Conard choir students and the opportunity to visit with Dr. Francois Clemmons from Middlebury College.

*Superintendent's Report*

Dr. List reviewed the four questions for discussion and highlighted the district's accomplishments regarding student performance and high test scores and reducing the achievement gap. Data summarizing the results was shared with the Board. Dr. List emphasized the coherence of the Mission Framework, District Goals, Curriculum Review and the District Development and Performance Plan. Dr. List reviewed district strategic actions related to the NextED report. The commitment and support of the Board to Pre-Kindergarten programming was also recognized. Dr. List emphasized that learning goes beyond the 900 hours of instruction and summarized the various opportunities and programs in place. Examples of the Model of Continuous Improvement and the Strategic Actions in place and the correlation to student performance at all levels were reviewed. The resources needed and anticipated costs reflected in the upcoming budget were reviewed.

*State of the Schools  
Report*

Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and the passion demonstrated by the Superintendent. Clarification was sought on the number of languages currently spoken within the district. The information presented on early education programs and reducing the achievement gap to ensure alignment with State priorities were acknowledged. Follow up on the questions posed and the response to NextED recommendations was requested by the Board and the Superintendent clarified.

Ms. Brassil moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

*Financial Statement*

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Statement for the period ending December 31, 2011

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
February 7, 2012

*Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 2/29/2012*

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

The motion passed unanimously.

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

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of January 17, 2012

Clerk noted requested change to reflect Parent Leadership Training Institute.

The motion passed as amended 6-0-1.  
Ms. Katz abstained due to absence.

Ms. Katz reported on being a judge at the Smith School Chili Throw-Down.

Ellis Boettger (Conard) reported on mid-terms, winter sports and the progression to second semester. He commented on the importance and relevance of junior year planning initiatives in determining readiness for college or career.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting date:

1. Next Regular Board meeting, Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, Legislative Chamber room 314

Mr. Schmitt requested a workshop or meeting to further discuss the NextED recommendations.

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board to request including the public in the next discussions about NextED.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

That the Board adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

*Approval of Minutes*

*Reports from Other  
Boards and  
Organizations*

*Report from Student  
Representative*

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

*Future Agenda Items*

*Comments from Visitors*

*Adjournment*

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Putterman, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Naogan Ma, Secretary

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



