

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
February 29, 2012

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*Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 3/20/2012*

Present: Ms. Brassil, Ms. Katz, Mrs. Ma, Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Schmitt, Superintendent List, Jennifer Ros (Hall)

Absent: Mrs. Brassil Spinella, Student Representative Ellis Boettger (Conard)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board to express concerns about the review of the Superintendent and other practices, transparency to the public and public communications time limits.

*Public Communications*

Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

*Proposed Calendar for  
the 2013-2014 School  
Year – First Reading*

THAT the Board of Education review as a First Reading the proposed calendar for the 2013-2014 School year

A single calendar option was presented. There was discussion on start date guidelines, alignment with other districts and how that date is decided.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

*Motion by Lib Brassil  
Spinella, Bruce  
Putterman, and Terry  
Schmitt to Accept  
Revised Policy 6280 –  
First Reading*

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

6280: Special Education

Mr. Schmitt provided background on the three policies being presented and explained the revised copies contained minor word and punctuation changes.

Board discussion acknowledged State mandates and the commitment of the district to educate all students was emphasized. The significance of the change in attitude reflected in the revisions was highlighted. Board members recognized the attention given to policy revisions by the Policy Subcommittee.

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The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

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

6290: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Mr. Schmitt reiterated that statements made for the previous policy apply to this policy. Mr. Glenn McGrath provided an explanation of the background and development of the Section 504 law.

Board discussion clarified Section 504 was not Special Education and could apply to students requiring accommodations for impairments ranging from a food allergy to a physical disability. Emphasis was placed that the criteria for qualifying for 504 services required that access to the educational process must be substantially impacted or limited. Dr. Howley, Mr. Moore and Mr. McGrath were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

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

6430: Pupil Services

Mr. Schmitt provided an overview of the policy revisions and an explanation of the types of services included to assist all students to succeed. Mr. Moore emphasized the commitment of school counselors, social workers and psychologists in helping students successfully navigate through difficult times. The significant impact of this work in the lives of many students was stressed.

Board discussion noted the integration and on-going availability of these services and the rights and involvement of parents. The importance of collaboration between parents and school to benefit and assist the educational aspect for the students was emphasized. The essential role and valuable input of the speech and language pathologists and physical and occupational therapists was also stated.

*Motion by Lib Brassil  
Spinella, Bruce  
Putterman, and Terry  
Schmitt to Accept  
Revised Policy 6290 –  
First Reading*

*Motion by Lib Brassil  
Spinella, Bruce  
Putterman, and Terry  
Schmitt to Accept  
Revised Policy 6430 –  
First Reading*

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Concerns about some of the wording defining whether a service was mandated or optional were expressed. Increasing awareness of the roles of different staff, the types of services available to students and cultural awareness were raised.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Karen List announced the winner and runner-up of the Middle School Spelling Bee and acknowledged notable achievements and recognition of some department supervisors. Dr. List provided a reminder for the date of The Foundation for West Hartford Public School's annual fundraiser, *West Hartford's Cookin'* and announced that the CMT/CAPT testing was starting next week. Dr. List also announced a new program at Smith School that focused on fathers and their role in the lives of children. Her report was concluded with the introduction to the PBIS presentation.

*Superintendent's Report*

Dr. Eileen Howley provided an introduction to the presentation and the correlation to the Board's goal. Mr. Glenn McGrath provided an overview of PBIS and its application to all students. He emphasized the benefits of addressing the social and emotional behavioral development of students to enhance academic performance and success. The implementation at targeted schools was described and district-wide plans were reviewed.

*Positive Behavioral  
Intervention and Support  
(PBIS)*

Dr. Andy Morrow and Dr. Plato Karafelis described the PBIS program and its effectiveness in demonstrating expectations for behavior. The correlation to the Model of Continuous Improvement and alignment with Board and district goals was emphasized. All were available to answer the questions of the Board.

Board members discussed the integration of PBIS with the existing bullying policy and considered inclusion of family and the broader community. The efforts by the teachers who started the program at Wolcott were commended. The Board inquired about district wide implementation and the challenges and differences in the application at each school were discussed.

Dr. Howley provided background for the presentation of the data as required by the State Department of Education. Dr. Howley and Mr. Ward were available to answer the questions of the Board.

*Strategic School Profiles*

Board discussion reviewed the timeline and parameters of reporting responsibilities.

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<p>Mr. Rick Ledwith presented the Personnel Report and provided an update on the Sedgwick principal search, interview process and timeline. He reminded the Board of the annual Teacher Career Fair and emphasized it was an opportunity to attract quality candidates and showcase West Hartford Public Schools.</p>	<p><i>Personnel Report</i></p>
<p>Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Brassil:</p> <p>THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of February 7, 2012</p> <p>The motion passed 6-0-1. Mrs. Ma abstained due to absence.</p>	<p><i>Approval of Minutes</i></p>
<p>Jennifer Ros reported on a student trip to South Africa, the State playoffs, the upcoming Pops ‘n Jazz performances and the start of CAPT testing.</p>	<p><i>Report from Student Representative</i></p>
<p>Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Next Regular Board meeting, Tuesday, March 6, 2012, 8:00 p.m., Town Hall, Legislative Chamber, room 314</li><li>2. Budget Workshop #1, Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314</li><li>3. Budget Workshop #2, Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314</li><li>4. Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314</li><li>5. Public Hearing, Wednesday, March 28, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314 followed by Budget Workshop #3</li></ol>	<p><i>Announcement of Meeting Dates</i></p>
<p>Mr. Putterman noted the start time of the March 6, 2012 meeting would be delayed because of Governor Malloy’s scheduled visit to speak at Charter Oak.</p>	
<p>John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board regarding public speaking time limits.</p>	<p><i>Comments from Visitors</i></p>

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

*Adjournment*

That the Board adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Bruce Putterman, Chairperson

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Naogan Ma, Secretary

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



