

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
March 6, 2012

Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 3/20/2012

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

INDEX

The meeting was called to order at 8:29 p.m.

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

Mr. Putterman provided an explanation for the delayed start of the meeting.

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board regarding the presentation of the budget, per pupil spending and educational approaches.

Public Communications

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Katz:

THAT the Board of Education receive the Superintendent's recommended 2012-2013 Education Budget and begin the process of reviewing and modifying for final approval and adoption as the Board of Education Budget at the April 10, 2012 Board of Education meeting.

*Presentation of the
Superintendent's 2012-
2013 Budget
Recommendations*

Dr. Karen List reviewed the contents of the budget book for the Board members. Dr. List stressed three perspectives, what professionals need, what parents want and what the community can afford were incorporated in the development of the budget. A historical perspective on the advances made in education and the goals of the mission statement were described. Dr. List stressed that West Hartford Public Schools is a large organization and broke down the number of employees, students, meals served, facilities and buildings, bargaining units and transportation required. As a large, people organization, she stated that 85% of the budget was allocated to employees' salaries and benefits and she reviewed the demographics of the student population. Per pupil spending was summarized and comparisons were made to other districts. Dr. List highlighted increased student performance and progress made in closing the achievement gap.

Dr. List reviewed the roll-forward budget and identified the changes for 2012-2013. The recommended budget was summarized as

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
March 6, 2012

2

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\$138,894,729, or a 4.57% increase. The next steps and the budget process timeline were reviewed and involvement from the community was encouraged. The efforts and work of administrators, executive team and staff members were acknowledged with gratitude.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List provided a reminder about the opening night of *Art Beat* and that the exhibit could be viewed by the public at the West Hartford Art League. She noted that March was Board Member Appreciation Month and recognized the voluntary nature of the work, effort and dedication of the Board.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Putterman stated an invitation had been extended to all school PTO's to discuss and encourage feedback about the budget.

*Staff Communications
and Reports*

Ellis Boettger (Conard) reported that the CAPT testing was underway and announced the combined Hall/Conard Girls Hockey team won the State Championship. Jennifer Ros (Hall) reported on the staff versus student basketball tournament and *Art Beat*.

*Report from Student
Representatives*

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

1. Budget Workshop #1, Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Budget Workshop #2, Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
3. Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
4. 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

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board regarding per pupil spending and funding for sports at the secondary level.

Comments from Visitors

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ma:

Adjournment

That the Board adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

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Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
March 6, 2012

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ATTEST:

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

