

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
December 17, 2013

Present: Mrs. Exum, Ms. Gilchrest, Mr. Putterman, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Sarzen,
Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz
Absent: Student Representatives Jordan Gelber (Hall), Randa Griffin (Conard)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance/ Agenda
Revision*

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:

*Risk Management
Advisory Board
Appointment*

THAT the Board of Education reappoint Mr. John Davison as the Board Representative to the Risk Management Advisory Board for the period of January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016

Mr. Putterman provided the background and qualifications of Mr. Davison in support of the appointment to the Risk Management Advisory Board. Mr. Zydanowitz requested that future appointees be present at the meetings and current resumes provided. It was clarified that this appointee had successfully served previous terms.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

*West Hartford Teacher
Evaluation and
Development Pilot
Program and the
Administrator
Evaluation and
Development Pilot
Program*

THAT the Board of Education in accordance with state law, adopt the CSDE approved version of the West Hartford Teacher Evaluation and Development Pilot Program and the Administrator Evaluation and Development Pilot Program with amendments

Mr. Schmitt provided a brief overview and introduced Maureen Lantner, Natalie Simpson, Rick Ledwith and Nancy DePalma, the presenting panel members. Dr. List provided background on the pilot programs and clarified that evaluation of teachers and administrators has always occurred. She reviewed the requirements and the district's application and subsequent denial by the State for the extension waiver. Dr. List emphasized the increased stress experienced by the teachers to adhere to the implementation of the mandates and appealed for understanding of this additional pressure from Board members.

Mrs. Simpson and Dr. Lantner summarized the teacher evaluation and administrator evaluation categories and amendments. The rapid change of pace and reasons behind the deadline extension waiver were explained and the TalentEd component, training and support, and on-going professional development were described. The next steps for both evaluation programs including revision review by the Board and submission to the State were reviewed. All were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Board members sought clarification on the numbers of teachers and administrators and the caseloads of evaluators. The process of rolling-out the message of the review process for parents, students and community participation was discussed and correlation between student performance and teacher evaluation was clarified. The past practices of evaluation and the existence of a strong evaluation system and accommodating the new challenges and stressors of competing priorities was recognized. The high expectations set by teachers to embrace and commit to, rather than simply comply with the new challenges and manage the pace of the implementation of the changes and understand its value for future use were acknowledged.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List commended the recognition received by the school nurses for their efforts in ensuring compliance with immunizations to protect the health of the students and community. Dr. List extended Holiday wishes for a safe and enjoyable break for families and staff and announced that due to the weather the scheduled presentation by Perkins Eastman Architects was postponed until January 7, 2014.

Mr. Putterman offered scheduling clarification for the January 7, 2014 Board Workshop and Charter Oak Presentation.

Dr. List provided a recap of the State Department of Education's (CSDE) No Child Left Behind accountability system and the waiver requirements and student performance. She suggested reflection on the framework of the Mission Statement and its emphasis on whole student development and achievement. Mr. Chip Ward announced an end of an era with the Adequate Yearly Progress indicator for the CMT and CAPT and provided an introduction to the new School Performance Index (SPI) accountability system. The new State goals and classifications were explained. Mr. Chip Ward, Dr. Nancy DePalma and Mr. Paul Vicinus were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

Superintendent's Report

*School Performance
Index and the New CT
State Accountability
Model*

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Board members express frustration and confusion with the State system and potential consequences and support were explored. The future changes of the tests themselves, the increased rigor and complexity and the value of reported numbers were recognized.

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

Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 3, 2013

The motion passed 6-0-1.

Mr. Putterman abstained due to absence.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

Announcement of Meeting Dates

1. Tuesday, January 7, 2014, Combination BOE workshop and Charter Oak Presentation, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, January 21, 2014, 6:00 p.m., Board Awards at King Philip Middle School, followed by BOE meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314, Presentation of the CIP

Mr. Zydanowicz repeated a previous request for discussion on coordination of efforts between the Town and schools on Election Day.

Request for Future Agenda Items

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:

Adjournment

That the Board adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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

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