

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
June 3, 2014

Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 9/2/14

Present: Mrs. Exum, Ms. Gilcrest, Mr. Putterman, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent List, Student Representatives Jordan Gelber (Hall)

Absent: Randa Griffin (Conard)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

INDEX

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

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

THAT the Board move item VI.B.1. Equity and Excellence Update after Public Communications

The motion passed unanimously.

Megan Davis, Social Studies teacher at Conard High, introduced the ‘Girl Rising’ program. The presentation explained the leadership and mentoring service and participants from the middle and high school levels expressed their perspectives about the powerful program and their inspiration.

Mr. Putterman took a moment to recognized Dr. Karen List and her leadership over the last five years. He recapped the desired qualities and characteristics desired with the initial search and summarized how she embodied them throughout her tenure. He expressed his gratitude and extended best wishes on behalf of the Board.

Dr. Nancy DePalma, Ms. Shelley Solomon, Mr. Jamahl Hines and students from Hall and Conard High Schools explained the purpose of the program and creating a culture of acceptance and celebration. All were available to address the questions and concerns from the Board.

Board members applauded the eloquent presentation and the leadership action taken by the students.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

THAT the Board of Education accept and approve as a Second and Final reading the following bylaws which were revised by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

8100 Purpose of the Board of Education

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

Student Participation

*Equity and Excellence
Update*

*Motion by Bruce
Putterman and Terry
Schmitt to Accept and
Approve Revised Bylaws
8100, 8120, 8146,
8160, 8210, and 8353
– Second Reading*

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
June 3, 2014

Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 9/2/14

- 8120 Limits of Authority
- 8146 Attorney
- 8160 Board of Representatives
- 8210 Orientation
- 8353 Smoking and Other Tobacco Use When Using or Visiting Board of Education Property

Mr. Schmitt presented the proposed revisions based on past conversations and highlighted some of the issues discussed. Revisions were presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

THAT the Board of approve West Hartford Public Schools take action to re-certify that all food items sold to students will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards

Ms. Trish Molloy, Food Services Director, provided an annual report on the State Standards and reviewed the guidelines and laws pertaining to food content, availability of foods sold and approved exemptions.

Board members discussed potential risk of not approving and loss of funding and reviewed specific food exemptions.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:

THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between the Town of West Hartford Police Employee Association and the Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016

Mr. Rick Ledwith summarized the agreement with members of the Association. He expressed appreciation for the dedicated service of this group of employees specifically enduring all weather conditions.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. List announced the appointment of Kristi Lavery as interim Principal at Duffy and Ryan Cleary as the new Morley Principal. She stated appointments for Bristow and Sedgwick Middle Schools would

*State of Connecticut
Healthy Food
Certification*

*Ratification of the West
Hartford Police
Employee (Crossing
Guards) Association
Contract*

Superintendent's Report

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
June 3, 2014

Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 9/2/14

be announced soon.

Mr. Tom Moore stated that the previous presentation on Equity and Equality summarized the message of this Discipline Report. The accountability and willingness to engage in straightforward discussions were emphasized and encouraged. Mr. Moore and Mr. Andy Morrow were available to address the questions of the Board.

*Safe School Climate and
Discipline Report*

Board members raised questions about the shifts in the percentages of reasons and the presence and creation of a safe climate for staff as well as for students. The reporting and tracking of multiple infractions, coding and legal definitions, repeat offenders and the access by parents to disciplinary records were discussed.

Mr. Sarzen moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:

Financial Report

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2014

Mr. Sarzen provided an oral presentation of the Financial Report. Mr. Chip Ward was available to answer the questions of the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of May 20, 2014

The motion passed 5-0-2

Abstained: Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez and Ms. Gilchrest

Jordan Gelber (Hall) expressed his appreciation for his opportunity to participate on the Board of Education and described the experience as life changing.

*Report from Student
Board Representatives*

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

1. Tuesday, September 2, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, September 16, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
June 3, 2014

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John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board to thank members for their service.

Comments from Visitors

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mrs. Exum:

Adjournment

That the Board adjourn at 9:35 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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