

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
September 5, 2017

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Ms. Exum, Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Pauluk, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore, Student Representatives Grace Andrews (Conard) and Madeline Pliskin (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm	<i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance</i>
No Student Participation at this time	<i>Student Participation</i>
No Public Communication at this time	<i>Public Communication</i>
No Unfinished Business at this time	<i>Unfinished Business</i>
Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez motioned and Dr. Greenberg seconded: THAT the Board of Education accept the resignation of Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez as Chairperson. Motion passed unanimously Superintendent Tom Moore Acting Chairperson called for nominations for Chairperson. Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez moved and Ms. Exum seconded: THAT the Board of Education nominate Dr. Cheryl Greenberg as Chairperson Motion passed unanimously Superintendent Tom Moore passed the gavel to Dr. Greenberg, the new Chairperson, to serve until the upcoming elections. Dr. Greenberg and the Board of Education wished Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez well on his new position.	<i>New Business</i>

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Dr. Greenberg called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

Mr. Pauluk moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education nominate Mrs. Blanks as Vice Chair

Motion passed unanimously

Dr. Greenberg called for nominations for the position of Secretary.

Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education nominate Ms. Exum for the position of Secretary.

Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Tom Moore welcomed everyone back to the start of the 2017-18 school year noting that although it has been a summer of uncertainty the start of the school year has been a good one. Teachers are ready and are doing an excellent job meeting the needs of the students. Superintendent Tom Moore congratulated Ashley Callan, Townwide Social Studies Curriculum Specialist and author of "Where I Live in Connecticut." The book will be in all schools and also has a digital component with stories from all backgrounds.

Dr. Gretchen Nelson spoke on behalf of Mr. Paul Vicinus on the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments update on the District Development Plan, summer programs and professional learning, as well as other efforts undertaken in support of and preparation for the opening of the 2017-2018 school year. District Development Planning goals were reviewed along with district focus, efforts, and indicators of progress for each goal. Dr. Gretchen Nelson also updated the Board on summer programs - Summer Connections, the ESOL summer program, HANOC, Project SPARK, and AP Boot Camp - highlighting that 438 students collectively participated. The Board asked questions with regard to the measurement of goals in math and reading and the intervention programs, as well as the graduation rating. The Board also asked how many students participated in the HANOC program and how this program is promoted. The Board asked if the AP Boot Camp was offered at Hall.

*Staff Communications
and Reports
Superintendent's Report*

Dr. Andrew Morrow presented a report on the opening of school, thanking Mr. Bob Palmer, Director of Plant and Facilities, and his staff for all the hard work over the summer. Dr. Morrow noted that the summer months were busy across the school system. Highlights from his update included Braeburn's replacement of the floors and painting of classrooms and administrative areas. He noted receiving great feedback from parents. Repairs were made to Conard's metal exterior siding and the replacement of the stadium turf. Highlights also included Duffy and Hall, as well as Morley and Sedgwick. Dr. Andrew Morrow also reported on Information Technology, reporting on the replacement of the district's wireless system with over 900 new access points and controllers. He noted this new system will be more reliable, will support the latest wireless protocols for faster speeds and support more device connections. Dr. Morrow also gave a quick report on the Transportation Department, highlighting the expectation of transporting approximately 5,357 students with 93 busses and 228 runs. He noted this includes both Special Education and Regular Education students. Also of importance was the addition of safety harnesses to the buses for three year old preschool students. The Board asked questions relating to security doors at Sedgwick as well as training for the new teachers, and what is done with Chromebooks and iPads when they are worn out. The Board complimented Mr. Bob Palmer and his team on a great job this summer.

Mr. Rick Ledwith presented the Human Resources update including the 2017-18 school year recruitment results. Highlights included 46 new contracted teachers, 11 interim teachers, and the joining of 2 new administrators to the leadership team. Mr. Ledwith noted that the quality of teachers this year was strong with over 2,000 applicants. Six of the teachers hired came through West Hartford's school system as previous students. He thanked the leadership team, teachers, and parents who assisted in the interview process. Mr. Ledwith also spoke on the diversity of professional staff taking note that although there is a gap between the diversity of our teaching staff and students, we continue to make strides as a district in terms of the diversity of our teacher and leadership team. This year, funds have been allocated to attend a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) recruitment fair.

Dr. Gretchen Nelson gave an update on the Pupil Services Department. Highlights included the hiring of 18 new staff members and 2 administrators, State of Connecticut mandates affecting Pupil Services, and the priorities of the Pupil Services Department's Development and Performance Plan (DDP) for the 2017-18 school year, with a focus on increasing student achievement and the goal of student exits from special education. Dr. Nelson also reported on the positive feedback of staff and

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parents to the Extended School Year (ESY) summer programs shortened week. A special thank you to Mr. Mike Davis and Ms. Susi Holt, coordinators of this year's program.

Dr. Roszena Haskins presented to the Board an update on the Continuing Education Department summer programs. Dr. Haskins noted that it was a very productive summer with over 653 high school enrollments. Highlights included the *Summer Jazz Jam*, which supported 64 students in grade 7-9 and the *Maker It So* class was piloted this year. The summer pre-grade one inclusion program had 135 participants. The adult enrichment program had approximately 557 registrations, and 34 students were enrolled in the mandated adult education program. The Board asked questions about financial assistance for the *Maker It So* program, as well as tracking the outcomes of students who were taking non-credit courses.

Mr. Chip Ward gave a report on first day of school enrollments. Overall enrollment was similar to last year and about 150 students more than projected. The largest unexpected growth was at the kindergarten level where we had 65 students more than projected. Current elementary staffing is at 204 sections, one more than budgeted. Total elementary enrollment was 4,115 elementary students compared to last year at 4,184. At the middle school level enrollments were a little higher than expected with a total enrollment of 2,278 compared to 2,276 last year. At the high school level Conard is at 1,462 and Hall is at 1,497 which were both slightly higher than expected. Mr. Chip Ward noted that these are just preliminary numbers as enrollments change throughout September.

Mrs. Blanks moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting of May 30, 2017

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of June 6, 2017

The motion passed unanimously.

*Approval
Of Minutes*

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Mr. Dave Pauluk spoke about the West Hartford Cares cards that are being provided to both high schools. He noted that 5,000 were printed and the hope is to print more to be able to distribute throughout the town. Dr. Mark Overmyer-Velazquez thanked Board members for stepping in to their new positions. Ms. Tammy Exum commented on Convocation noting it was an amazing event with a wonderful message. Student representative Maddie Pliskin highlighted events held at Hall including freshman orientation led by Link Crew, fall sports, and senior planning night. Student Representative Grace Andrews reported on the SAT scores with Conard being 20% above the national average. She also noted fall sports will start this weekend.

Information and Reports

Dr. Cheryl Greenberg announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, September 19, 2017, regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber 7:00 p.m.
2. Tuesday, October 3, 2017, regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
3. Tuesday, October 17, 2017, regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.

Announcement of Meeting Dates

No comments from visitors at this time.

Comments from Visitors

Mr. Pauluk moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

Adjournment

THAT the Board adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Cheryl Greenberg, Chairperson

Tammy Exum, Secretary

Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. C. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

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