

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 21, 2018

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Dr. Greenberg, Mr. Levine, Mr. Pauluk, Ms. Polun,
Dr. Thomas-Farquharson, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Tom Moore, Student
Representatives Grace Andrews (Conard) and Madeline Pliskin (Hall)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

*Roll Call/Pledge of
Allegiance*

Before the start of tonight's meeting Dr. Cheryl Greenberg took a moment to reflect on the Florida shooting and asked for a moment of silence.

No Student Participation at this time.

Student Participation

Sarah Raskin – 193 Quaker Lane, West Hartford, spoke on school start times.

*Public
Communication*

Jason Buckman - 33 West Ridge Drive, West Hartford, spoke on school start times.

Ana Stasink - 11 Edgebrook Drive, West Hartford, spoke on school start times.

Mary Fleischli – 28 Brunswick Avenue, West Hartford, spoke on school start times.

Ana Shusterman – 25 Owings Road, West Hartford, spoke on school start times.

Jillian Gilcrest – 329 Fern Street, West Hartford, spoke on school start times.

Oliver Goldstein – 8 Castlewood Road, West Hartford, spoke on renaming Columbus Day.

Angie Coronado – 10 Washington Circle, West Hartford, spoke on renaming Columbus Day.

Heather Ferguson – 24 Fairlee Road, West Hartford, spoke on renaming Columbus Day.

Sarah Raskin – 193 Quaker Lane, West Hartford, spoke on renaming Columbus Day.

Jane Lehman – 70 Fern Cliff, West Hartford, spoke on renaming Columbus Day.

Ms. Polun moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

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

4040 --- Nepotism; Employment of Relatives

Discussion on the motion resulted in an amendment made by Dr. Greenberg, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz, to remove the last phrase of paragraph two: “*unless requested to do so by a majority of the members of the Board of Education and only after full disclosure of the relationship has been made.*”

Motion passed as amended.

Mrs. Blanks moved and Ms. Polun seconded:

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

4160 --- Publication or Creation of Materials, Copyrights and Patents

Motion passed.

Ms. Polun moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

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

5720 --- Search and Seizure

Motion passed.

Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education appoint Mr. Mishone Donelson and Mr. Robert Herr, Jr. as the Board Representatives to the Risk Management Advisory Board for the period of January 1, 2018 through

Unfinished Business

Revised Policies

New Business
Risk Management
Advisory Board
Committee
Appointments

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December 31, 2020

Motion passed.

Mr. Pauluk moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education accept the following school project as being complete and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to request payment of the School Construction Grant from the State Department of Administrative Services:

Morley School Asbestos Removal, State Project No. 155-0236 CV

Motion passed.

Mr. Pauluk moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve Phase 2 – Fixtures, Furnishings, Equipment and Data Technology Plans and specifications dated February 21, 2018 for the Hall High School Science Laboratory Classrooms

Motion passed.

Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education review as a first Reading the proposed calendar for the 2019-2020 school year.

Discussion on the motion included the request for two calendars proposed for the second reading one to include the changing of Columbus day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

Motion passed.

Superintendent Tom Moore reported to the Board on the College Boards AP Research Course. He explained that West Hartford was the first to pilot this course and this year, across the nation, there are 176 perfect scores. Superintendent Moore announced and congratulated

*Acceptance of School
Construction Project as
Complete*

*Approval of Plans and
Specifications for Hall
High School Science
Laboratory Classrooms*

*Proposed Calendar for
the 2019-2020 School
Year*

*Staff Communications
and Reports
Superintendent's Report*

West Hartford on having 5 out of the 176 perfect scores. He also congratulated our four National Merit Scholar winners. Superintendent Moore spoke on the Florida school shooting and the need to protect our children. A letter was sent to all parents that talked about West Hartford Public Schools security.

Ms. Anne McKernan, Director of Secondary Education, introduced and presented the Rethinking School Start Times Committee update. Also present to represent the committee were Mr. Paul Vicinus, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Jason Siegal, Athletic Director, and Mr. Julio Duarte, Principal of Conard High School. The update concentrated on four important areas: (i) lessons learned from Connecticut school districts who have implemented new school start times; (ii) potential implications on athletic programs and student athletes; (iii) potential academic impacts; and (iv) the committee's plans for surveying stakeholders and the planned family information night. The committee members have been studying and in contact with Newtown Public Schools, Greenwich Public Schools, and Wilton Public Schools, all of which have implemented new school start times within the last several years. Student feedback has been consistently positive and students at these schools report getting more sleep. Challenges included transportation adjustments and loss of learning time. Mr. Siegal spoke on the athletic challenges created by later start times. West Hartford has 1600 high school athletes with 290 who participate in three or more sports, 550 who participate in two or more, and 800 one sport athletes. We expect increased use in lighting of town and high school fields when moving afternoon games to the evening. Lessons learned from other districts showed that collaboration to support adjusting to later scheduling, while positive at first, eroded over time. In fairness to other districts, while they seek to be supportive, they have obligations to support their own students' and families' schedules. Other potential challenges include academic learning loss from releasing students early from classes as well as learning loss from releasing teacher coaches. The committee reported that research on academic impact is mixed and given our current levels of performance, we should not expect any gains nor losses as the result of any potential change. The Stakeholder Impact Subcommittee in partnership with the Hanover Research Group created surveys tailored to our needs and interests. Stakeholder surveys and a family information night are planned for May. The Board asked questions on the impact of rotating schedules, redesigning the current schedule, and other potential impacts

*Rethinking School Start
Times Committee
Update*

on transportation, late buses, and traffic patterns. The next Board update planned for May will include a report from the Transportation Subcommittee.

Ms. Polun moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes from the Regular Board of Education meeting of February 6, 2018

Motion passed.

Conard High School Student Representative Grace Andrews congratulated the Boys' Swim Team on their CCC Championship win. She also reported on the upcoming Do Something Week and progress reports. Hall High School Student Representative Maddy Pliskin congratulated both the Girls' Basketball Class Championship and the Boys' Track Team Class L State Meet win. She also reported on Do Something Week and announced The Pops and Jazz Pet Wash fundraiser to be held at Pet Value.

Dr. Cheryl Greenberg announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, March 6, 2018, regular Board of Education Meeting, Presentation of the Superintendent's Budget, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
2. Wednesday, March 14, Budget Workshop #1, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
3. Tuesday March 20, 2018, regular Board of Education Meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
4. Wednesday, March 28, 2018, BOE Public Hearing, followed by Budget Workshop #2 Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.

Request by Mr. Pauluk to have the Student Representatives give their report after Superintendent Tom Moore's report in order for them to leave early.

Jason Buckman – 23 West Ridge Drive, West Hartford, spoke on student start time survey.

*Routine Matters
Approval
Of Minutes*

*Information and
Reports*

*Future Business:
Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

*Request for Future
Agenda Items*

*Comments from
Visitors*

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MaryBeth Callan Strilecky - spoke on student start times and Columbus Day.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

THAT the Board of Education adjourn at 10:20 p.m.

Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Dr. Cheryl Greenberg, Chairperson Dave Pauluk, Secretary

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

Adjournment

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