

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
November 8, 2017

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Meghan Zingle, Town-wide World Language Department Supervisor presented along with teachers Julie Colbert, Mick Posner and students from the Conard and Hall High School's American Sign Language classes I and II. Mick Posner, a high school teacher who is also deaf, spoke along with sign language interpreter Julie Colbert, explaining the program and what the students learn. Students Noah Fox, Skylin Macy, Pax Gregory, and Jessie Connelly-Cohen each highlighted their individual experiences which included interpreting for a student at Charter Oak International School. Skylin Macy, also a deaf student, stated how exciting it is for her to see students taking the ASL classes. Within a one year time students learn not only how to sign, but also learn about the deaf community, the culture, the vocabulary, and encourage elementary and middle school students to learn to sign. Students agreed that they would like to see ASL classes brought to the elementary and middle schools. The Board thanked the students and teachers and asked questions regarding the number of students who take the ASL class and if there is a possibility in the future of an ASL 3 class.

No Public Communication at this time.

No Unfinished Business at this time

No New Business at this time

Superintendent Tom Moore shared with the Board exciting news. The CTEA Program Excellence Award for technology was awarded this year to Brian Cohen, Tech Education Department Supervisor. The Program Excellence Award is one of the highest honors given to technology and engineering education classroom teachers and is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to the profession and students. CTEA gives out two awards, one to a Connecticut high school and one to a Connecticut middle school. This year West Hartford

Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Student Participation

Public Communication

Unfinished Business

New Business

*Staff Communications and Reports
Superintendent's Report*

won both awards. Congratulations also to Lauren Drazen and Jingjing Wu who are this year's national outstanding recipients of the Chinese Language Association Award. On November 9, 2017, the Adult Education graduation ceremony will take place. All are encouraged to stop by any of the schools this Friday for Veterans Day celebrations.

Dr. Andrew Morrow, Assistant Superintendent, presented to the Board his report on Middle School Teaming. Dr. Morrow was joined by: Mr. Paul Vicinus, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, and Principals Mr. Andrew Clapsaddle, Mr. Steven Cook, and Ms. Joy Wright. Dr. Morrow described teaming, a component of each of our three middle schools, as a transition experience for middle school students. Teaming seeks to address both the academic and emotional transition for adolescents as they move from one classroom in fifth grade to the larger independency of high school. Ms. Wright spoke on the well-being of students and wrap around supports. Communication is a key factor, and within each grade level, teams have team leaders who communicate with team teachers. Communication is also important between teachers and families. At King Philip, a homework page is set for students and families with a 'key points section' for parents to ask questions of their students. Ms. Wright expressed that teams allow students to have a caring group of people who are concerned about their well-being as well as academic success and teams also allow for students to have common experiences and use common strategies to support students who are struggling in the classroom. Mr. Steve Cook added that teams allow positive support with a common goal of teachers to make sure that students are prepared for high school by ensuring that they end up in a classroom environment that will promote growth. Mr. Andrew Clapsaddle spoke on interventions that teaming allows in the middle school so that students don't fall through the cracks. These interventions include tier 1, 2 and 3 supports as well as time for student and teachers to meet. The Board asked questions on the impact and cost of teaming, the possibility of eliminating teaming in the eighth grade, cross teaming, and eighth grade students transitioning to ninth grade.

Middle School Teaming

Mr. Pauluk moved and Mr. Sarzen seconded:

Routine Matters

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2017

*Approval of the
Financial Report*

The motion passed.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of October 17, 2017

*Approval
Of Minutes*

The motion passed.

Mr. Pauluk gave a report on the Hall High School meeting regarding upcoming construction projects. Eight neighbors were in attendance. Hall High School's Student Representative Maddy Pliskin reported on the Hall Homecoming Dance, CTE, the Boys Cross Country team, spirit week pep rally, and the Veterans Day lunch. She also congratulated Lauren Drazen, Hall's Chinese Language teacher, on her award. Grace Andrews, Conard High School's student representative, reported on the start of spirit week with a pep rally to be held on Friday. Grace also commented on the tremendous support that was appreciated by the family of the student who was hit by a car.

*Information and
Reports*

Dr. Cheryl Greenberg announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, November 21, 2017, regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 6:00 p.m.
2. Tuesday, December 5, 2017, regular Board of Education meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
3. Tuesday, December 19, 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*

Mrs. Blanks moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Adjournment

The motion passed.

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ATTEST:

Dr. Cheryl Greenberg
Chairperson

Mrs. Tammy Exum
Secretary

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

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