

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**November 15, 2016**

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Ms. Exum, Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Pauluk, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore

Absent: Student Representatives Taylor Steer (Conard), and Sarah Berman (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m.

Mrs. Blanks motioned and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the order of the agenda be changed to put the following agenda item before Unfinished Business:

- Election of Officers/Board Organization

The motion passed unanimously

No Student Participation

Catherine George of 101 Brice Boulevard, spoke on being thankful for all programs offered to students and asked board to consider partnership with parents.

Dr. Mark Overmyer-Velazquez commented on the National Election and noted that though we may be more divided than ever, we need to be finding ways to be united and focus on compassion and love, not hate, and continue to work together. He is proud to work with West Hartford a model of collaborative practice.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez motioned and Mr. Sarzen seconded:

THAT Tom Moore, Superintendent, act as temporary Chairperson of this meeting for the purpose of electing a Chairperson for the Board of Education.

The motion passed unanimously.

*Roll Call/ Pledge of Allegiance*

*Revision to Agenda Order*

*Student Participation*

*Public Communication*

*Election of Officers/ Board Organization*

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1. Tom Moore, Superintendent, will serve as temporary Chairperson and will call for nominations and action for the position of Chairperson.
  2. The newly elected Chairperson will conduct the meeting.
  3. The newly elected Chairperson will call for nominations and action for the election of the following officers: Vice Chairperson, Secretary and (2) Financial Examiners (one from each political party).

Mr. Moore called for nominations for the office of Chairperson.

Ms. Exum, nominated Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez for the office of Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Sarzen

Mr. Moore called for any additional nominations for the office of Chairperson. None were made. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for nominations for the office of Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Zydanowicz nominated Dr. Greenberg for the office of Vice Chairperson.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for any additional nominations for the office of Vice-Chairperson. None were made. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for nominations for the office of Secretary.

Dr. Greenberg nominated Mrs. Blanks for the office of Secretary

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for any additional nominations for the office of Secretary. None were made. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for nominations for the office of Financial Examiner.

Mr. Pauluk nominated Mr. Sarzen for the office of Financial Examiner for the Republican Party

Mr. Sarzen nominated Mr. Pauluk for the office of Financial Examiner for the Democratic Party

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez called for any additional nominations for the office of Financial Examiner. None were made. The nominations were closed and a vote was taken.

The motion passed unanimously

No Unfinished Business to report

No New Business to report

Superintendent Tom Moore reported that the concert at Hall last week kicked off Spirit Week. Conference week is this week and is a great opportunity for teachers and parents to meet and build a partnership. Parents are asked to share concerns and ask questions. Superintendent Moore reported on Veterans Day saying he was inspired by the number of veterans who said thank you for being recognized at the school level. He also thanked all the schools. He mentioned The Morley Red Wagon Brigade who brought wagons filled with food for the food pantry. Also of mention was the Continuing Education Graduation Night. Superintendent Moore was inspired by the stories of perseverance of students to come back and finish their education. Mr. Moore thanked Ms. Roszena Haskins for all her hard work and thanked the Board. Finally Mr. Moore mentioned the Conard/Hall football game on Saturday.

Mr. Chip Ward, Director of Finance and Planning, presented to the Board the multi-year enrollment projections for the district. Mr. Ward stated that he projected a long term decline in the overall enrollment in West Hartford Public Schools. Enrollment is expected to decline gradually to 8,160 students in 10 years. This decline is due to the decrease in the number of births in West Hartford since 2001, the

*Unfinished Business*

*New Business*

*Staff Communications  
and Reports*

*Multi-Year Enrollment  
Projections*

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declining trend statewide in K-12 enrollment and the impact of the smaller number of Kindergarten student over the last three years. An average decline of 128 students per year over the next 10 years is projected. Mr. Ward showed the number of births in West Hartford and the number of births in the State of Connecticut over the last 33 years. He noted that the number of births in the state of CT peaked in 1990 and have declined slowly and steadily over the last 23 years, while West Hartford's birth rate grew from 1990 through 2004 and only recently has started to decline. Mr. Ward highlighted enrollments of West Hartford resident students in both private school and public Interdistrict magnet schools run by CREC and other local school districts. Mr. Ward provided a forecast for long term elementary, middle and high school enrollments. He presented a space needs analysis, showing for each school, the 6 year enrollment projection and forecast of space needed. He noted that there was ample building capacity at all schools. The Board asked questions with regard to the magnet lottery process, and who oversees it as well as the Bristow Middle School draft and how that lottery works. The Board also asked questions about how the enrollment projections play in with the budget, as well as outside tuition and what is done with classrooms that may be empty.

Mr. Chip Ward gave a presentation on the 2017-2018 Budget noting this is an early outlook of what is to come. More detailed calculations will be available at the end of January. Early February will be a key time as that is when the Governor presents his budget and the impacts of state budget reductions on West Hartford will become clearer. Discussion was held on budget trends, impacts of state mandates and the challenges for 2017-2018 roll forward budget expenditures. The Board asked questions with regard to state funding, the MRSA spending cap as well as what the number of the previous year's retirements were and the pension contribution. Board asked how they can help with the process and how we can work together to come to solutions.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Ms. Exum seconded :

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of November 1, 2016.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez thanked Ms. Tammy Exum for being vice

*Fall Budget update*

*Approval  
Of Minutes*

*Information and*

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chair as well as Mr. Pauluk and Dr. Greenberg for their service.  
Ms. Tammy Exum reported on the Adult Education graduation saying it was an honor to participate and see the 20 students walk across the stage to receive a diploma. Mr. Pauluk reported on Duffy Elementary Veterans Day noting the students honored Mr. Pauluk with a flag and demonstration of the 22 push up challenge. He also participated in the Adult Education graduation and said it was very inspiring to witness a father receive a diploma and have his children excited to see.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, December 6, 2016, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.
2. Tuesday, December 20, 2016, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Rom 314, 7:00 p.m. Legislative Chamber.

No comments from visitors at this time.

Ms. Exum moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

That the Board adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson    Carol A. Blanks, Secretary  
Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. C. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

*Reports*

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

*Comments from  
Visitors*

*Adjournment*

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