

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**May 16, 2017**

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Ms. Exum, Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Pauluk,  
Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore, Student Representatives Hugo Barrillon (Conard),  
Sarah Berman (Hall)

Absent: Mr. Sarzen

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Middle School WEB Program (Where Everyone Belongs) presented to the Board. This program at King Philip, Sedgwick, and Bristow Middle School is designed to help incoming sixth grade students transition to middle school. Students and teachers shared the experiences they had with the program and spoke on the importance of helping students transition to middle school in order to help them succeed. One hundred and twenty five eighth grade students were trained as leaders to not only help incoming sixth graders during orientation, but to help them throughout the year. Sixth grade students shared the experiences of this program and how the transition helped them to feel comfortable as well as gain new friendships throughout the year. This year there was an overwhelming number of eighth grade applicants to become a WEB Leader. The Board thanked the staff and students for such an exciting program.

Sarah Raskin, 193 North Quaker Lane, spoke on the topic of school start times.

Emma Waddell, 193 North Quaker Lane, spoke on the topic of school start times.

Judy Wyman Kelly, 52 Thompson Road, spoke on the topic of school start times.

MaryBeth Callan Serdechny, 115 Grennan Road, spoke on the topic of school start times.

Maria Larusso, 5 Bishop Road, spoke on the topic of school start times.

Abia Reuel, 53 Pocahontas Road, spoke on the topic of school start times.

Beth Russell, 62 Linnard Road, spoke on the topic of school start times.

*Roll Call/Pledge of  
Allegiance*

*Student  
Participation*

*Public  
Communication*

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Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

*Unfinished Business*

THAT the Board of Education accept as a Second and Final reading the following new policy which was proposed by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

2240 --- Educational Research in District Schools

Motion passed unanimously

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

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

6270 --- Parent Instruction of Children at Home

6500 --- Adult/Continuing Education

Motion passed unanimously

Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

*New Business*

THAT the Board of Education approves West Hartford Public Schools take action to re-certify that

- All West Hartford Schools will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards pursuant to Section 10-215e of the Connecticut General Statutes for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018
- Exemptions will be allowed for the sale of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, 2) the sale is at the location of the event, and 3) the food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Motion passed unanimously

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Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education adopts a revised 2017-18 budget of \$159,857,754 by reducing \$300,000 from the following accounts in the previously adopted 2017-18 Board of Education budget

5113 --- Library Media Services	\$60,032
5345 --- Pupil Transportation	\$75,084
5381 --- Heating	\$42,313
5382 --- Electricity	\$122,571

Motion passed unanimously

Superintendent Tom Moore reported on current events being held throughout the district. June 1 and June 2, Conard will host Unified Theater. The mentor breakfast was held this morning, May 16<sup>th</sup>, as a thank you to those who come to work with students. Kindergarten registration is underway at all the elementary schools. Superintendent Moore also noted that the Teacher of the Year will be named at Thursday night's WHEA banquet.

Dr. Andrew Morrow, Assistant Superintendent, and Mr. Robert Palmer, Director of Plant Services, gave a detailed report on the construction of the Hall High School \$12.8M science classroom additions slated to start in the fall of 2017. This addition of eight new biology and chemistry laboratories and renovations of existing science classrooms will be ongoing throughout the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Palmer reported on the schematics and the shifting of traffic for student drop off as well as a new bus drop off design and parking space adjustments. Mr. Palmer also gave a detailed report on the addition, with the first floor being designed for four biology classrooms with hoods and prep rooms as well as storage area. The second floor addition would be for chemistry classrooms. Renovations to the old rooms would include new earth science and physics rooms with student collaboration work areas. The Board asked questions with regard to enough space for the bus shift and mini bus drop off as well as the buses parked during sporting events. Also the Board asked whether there were Connecticut mandates to the amount of parking spaces allowed and if the construction noise levels would have any impact on student learning.

Dr. Roszema Haskins, Director of Continuing Education and Diversity Advancement, along with Ms. Kerry Jones, Director of Elementary Education, and Ms. Jessica Lloyd, parent of Open Choice students, reported on *Welcoming Families through the Lens of Equity*. Dr. Haskins first

*Staff Communications  
and Reports  
Superintendent's Report*

*Hall High School  
Science Lab Update*

*Welcoming Families  
Through the Lens of  
Equality*

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thanked Amy Yarborough, the district's Open Choice Family Engagement Consultant, and all the current school principals, for their efforts to make our schools welcoming. Dr. Haskins defined family engagement as everything families do to support their children's learning from guiding them through the school system, to advocating for them when problems arise, and collaborating with teachers and community groups to achieve equitable and effective learning opportunities. Dr. Haskins explained the five principles that guide the Equity and Diversity Council's (EDC) family engagement work, which were developed by the Open Choice Enhancement and Family Engagement subcommittees. Ms. Kerry Jones spoke on the current family engagement efforts, as well as areas of need and growth across those five principles: 1. Welcoming school environment and reduction of identified barriers; 2. Positive communication regarding student behavior and achievement to families; 3. Active two-way communication through a variety of mediums; 4. Communication that allows for the identification of experiences that increase dialogue opportunities; 5. Opportunities for families to be involved and influence planning/policy utilizing their expertise. Ms. Jessica Lloyd, parent of three WHPS Open Choice students, spoke about her experiences with the Open Choice program. She noted that over the last thirteen years she has seen a lot of growth within the program. She was pleased with how well WHPS staff was open to ways to help the needs of students. She expressed gratitude for being able to be a part of a great community. With the help of Amy Yarbrough, Ms. Lloyd is looking for opportunities to discuss ways to engage more families in the schools. She spoke on the challenges of the career and college readiness programs and the need for improvement with the transportation of high school students from Hartford to West Hartford. The Board thanked Dr. Roszena Haskins and Ms. Kerry Jones and Ms. Jessica Lloyd on a wonderful presentation, noting the positive idea of family engagement and involvement.

Mr. Rick Ledwith, Executive Director of Human Resources, reported on Personnel Actions, including end of year retirements, leaves of absences, resignations, and interim teachers. Mr. Ledwith reported on the outcome of recruitment fairs he recently attended with the anticipation of hiring personnel from these events. He also spoke on the Wolcott Elementary School principal hiring process. With a strong applicant pool and upcoming round of interviews, he is confident he will be announcing the hiring of a new principal at the June 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Mr. Pauluk moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of May 2, 2107

*Personnel Report*

*Approval  
Of Minutes*

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The motion passed with one abstention.

Student Representative Sarah Berman reported on the Junior Prom that was held on May 13. She reported on today's Fictional Character Day at Hall, where the senior acting class dressed and stayed in fictional characters throughout the day. The junior acting class will be doing a painting day where they act out different painting scenes. Awards night will be tomorrow, May 17, in the auditorium; Saturday, May 20, will be the Solisti Spring Showcase; on Tuesday, May 23, the Instrumental Spring Concert will be held; and the Senior Outing will be at Six Flags on May 31.

Student Representative Hugo Barrillon reported on the nomination of softball coach, Tom Verrengia for the 2017 CHSCA Coach of the Year. The boys lacrosse team won against the Somers team, and the girls lacrosse won against South Windsor. Conard received 46 honorable mentions and 36 medal winners on the National French Exam, doubling the numbers from last year.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, June 6, 2017, regular Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314.

No comments from visitors at this time.

Mr. Pauluk moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board adjourn at 9:32 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Mark Overmyer-Velazquez,  
Chairperson

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Carol A. Blanks  
Secretary

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

*Information and  
Reports*

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

*Comments from  
Visitors*

*Adjournment*

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