

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
April 18, 2017

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance</i></p>
<p>Morley Elementary School students along with Principal Ryan Cleary presented to the Board work that Morley students are doing with their Haitian sister school. Students spoke on projects that they participated in with the sister school including the art exchange and partner portraits. Students also learned from the Haitian sister school about ‘tap tap’ buses. Fundraisers to help with relief efforts include houses for Haiti magnets to help raise money for school supplies. Mr. Cleary thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He also thanked the Foundation for all their support. Mr. Overmyer-Velazquez thanked the students for their presentation.</p>	<p><i>Student Participation</i></p>
<p>No Public Communication at this time</p>	<p><i>Public Communication</i></p>
<p>Mrs. Blanks moved and Dr. Greenberg seconded: That the Board of Education review as a Second and Final Reading the proposed calendar for the 2018-2019 school year Motion passed unanimously Dr. Greenberg moved and Ms. Exum seconded: THAT the Board of Education accept as a Second and Final reading the following new policy which was proposed by the Board Policy Subcommittee: 3530 – Property and Casualty Insurance Motion passed unanimously</p>	<p><i>Unfinished Business</i></p>

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Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education accept the administration's recommendation for the non-renewal of non-tenured teachers' contracts and to proceed with written notification to the individuals involved

Motion passed unanimously

Mr. Sarzen moved and Dr. Greenberg seconded:

THAT the Board of Education amend the 2016-2017 school calendar by subtracting one instructional day from the approved calendar, thus changing the adopted calendar to reflect 181 instructional days rather than 182. Discussion on the floor by Mr. Sarzen to explore if this option would in some way help with the expenses incurred by keeping the last day a Monday with a sense that because it was a Monday attendance could be low. Superintendent Tom Moore explained cost savings would not be an option as staff would still have to be at the schools and offices per contracts. After agreement by the Board, the motion was withdrawn.

Superintendent Tom Moore spoke briefly on the budget adoption. He thanked the Board for all their time and stated after speaking to several large groups over the last several weeks he found all groups appreciative of the Board's attentiveness and time spent on the budget process and that members of the community and staff have felt like they have been heard. Superintendent Tom Moore congratulated Abby Esposito, history teacher at Conard, and Bing Liu, Chinese teacher as UConn ECE Rookies of the Year. Kathleen Coghill of Hall High School was congratulated for being selected 1 of 7 secondary/post-secondary teachers in the United States to be selected as part of the 2017-2018 AP Research and Course Development Committee. Conard students Anna Baker, Hugo Barrillon, Noah Case and Lucas Teodoro were congratulated for participating in the UN Conference at Choate Rosemary Hall. Also congratulations to Bugbee 5th grade Math Quest, all female students, on their 1st place win in the stock market elementary game. Also congratulations went to both Hall and Conard High Schools who had 35 potential National Merit Scholars.

Ms. Roszena Haskins presented to the Board the National External Diploma Program (NEDP) as a high school diploma program for adults who have stopped out of school. She was joined by colleague and NEDP teacher Astrid Robitaille during this presentation. Ms. Haskins gave background information about NEDP citing the Bureau of Labor

*New Business
Non-Renewal of Non-
Tenured Personnel*

*Request to amend
2016-2017 School
Calendar*

*Staff Communications
and Reports
Superintendent's Report*

*National External
Diploma Program
(NEDP)*

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Statistics number of West Hartford adult residents 18 or older without a high school diploma is approximately 6 % (Jan. 2017) and the number of West Hartford residents 18 or older without employment in the past year was reportedly 3.8% (Jan. 2017). Ms. Haskins reported ‘We have seen a cultural shift in our community over the last 15 years.’ West Hartford Adult Education is committed to the district’s mission to inspire and prepare all students to realize their potential and enhance our global community, including our adult students who have had to put their high school education on hold. Ms. Robitaille explained in detail the NEDP, highlighting that students use self-directed materials and go at their own pace. Students are required to master 100% of the material taught but not necessarily on the first try. Usually they complete the program between 6 months and a year. Ms. Haskins spoke on the partnership with McAuley and introduced Executive Director Dave Stevens. The McAuley is a non-profit retirement living facility and health care provider of The Mercy Community. McAuley promotes the personal and professional growth of their staff and through our partnership, the West Hartford NEDP receives employee referrals for whom NEDP may be suited. Mr. Stevens spoke on the support of students from over 200 residents at McAuley. Mr. Stevens also provides colleagues who are students of NEDP transportation to and from the NEDP site. His goal is to have one colleague per year go through the program. The Board asked questions pertaining to the enrollment and if there is assistance with access to computer technology. The Board also asked about advertisement. Ms. Haskins explained that advertising includes not only flyers throughout the community but also the use of radio and newspaper. Mr. Stevens added that word of mouth is a very powerful tool as well.

Mr. Rick Ledwith spoke on the personnel report with updates on the Wolcott Elementary principal search. The search continues as the previous pool of applicants did not result in hiring. The position has been re-posted and the spring applicant pool looks promising. Interviewing will begin in May and he is confident of finding a new principal for Wolcott.

Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the revised minutes of the Public Hearing of March 29, 2017

The motion passed with one abstention.

Personnel Actions

*Approval
Of Minutes*

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Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes with revision of the Regular Board of Education meeting of April 4, 2017

Motion passed unanimously.

Student representative Sarah Berman reported on Hall events including April 26 - Do Something Day, April 27- Empty Bowls Club, April 29 - Tennis Tournament and April 28 - Broadway Review. Student Representative Hugo Barrillon reported on Conard events including the Lacrosse game against Cheshire, April 21st is Trivia Night sponsored by the National Honor Society, and finally the Jazz Band and Solo Choir held five performances while they were on their Europe trip.

Information and Reports

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, May 2, 2017, Regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314.
2. Tuesday, May 16, 2017, Regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
3. Tuesday June 6, 2017, Regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 pm, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314.

Announcement of Meeting Dates

No comments from visitors at this time.

Comments from Visitors

Mr. Sarzen moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board adjourn at 8:30 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

ATTEST:

Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson Carol A. Blanks, Secretary

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

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