West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
November 19, 2013
Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 12/3/2013

Present: Ms. Katz, Mrs. Ma, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz, Student Representatives Jordan Gelber (Hall), Randa Griffin (Conard)
Absent: Superintendent List
Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

INDEX

Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Revision to Agenda Order

Mrs. Ma moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

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

- Recognition of outgoing Board members
- Induction of newly-elected Board members
- Brief Recess
- New Board Members will take seats at the Board table
- Election of Officers/Board Organization

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Communications

Linda Dinapoli, 214 Mohegan Dr., addressed the Board regarding the support by senior residents for the school system and outstanding revenue due to uncollected tickets and taxes.

Robert Milne, 3 Osage Rd, addressed the Board regarding property taxes and assessment.

Beth Bye, 99 Outlook Rd., addressed the Board to thank outgoing Board members for their service and contributions.

Clare Kindall, 46 Bishop Rd, addressed the Board to offer congratulations to the new Board members and recognize outgoing members.

Mr. Putterman explained that Dr. List was absent to attend the recognition ceremony for Teacher of the Year John Mastroianni.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez and Mr. Schmitt led the Board in recognizing the compassion, inspiration, advocacy, dedication and leadership demonstrated by Naogan Ma and Elin Katz in their commitment and service to the Board of Education.

Board members Ms. Katz and Mrs. Ma thanked fellow Board members and summarized the collective accomplishments of the Board, District and Town. Each offered individual reflections on their service and expressed gratitude towards past, present and future Board members. Mr. Putterman provided closing thoughts and presented each with the traditional chairs.

Induction of Newly-Elected Board Members

Newly-elected Board members, Tammy Exum, Jillian Gilchrest, Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Jay Sarzen and Mark Zydanowicz were sworn in by Town Clerk, Essie Labrot.

Brief Recess

The Board took a brief recess at 6:40 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:47 p.m. and new Board members took their seats at the Board table.

Election of Officers/Board Organization

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

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

1. Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, 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).

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Schmitt nominated Mr. Putterman 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.

Mr. Putterman called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairperson.

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

Mr. Putterman 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.

Mr. Putterman called for nominations for the office of Secretary.

Ms. Gilchrest nominated Ms. Exum for the office of Secretary, seconded by Mr. Schmitt

Mr. Putterman 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.

Mr. Putterman called for nominations for the office of Financial Examiner.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez nominated Ms. Gilchrest for the office of Financial Examiner for the Democratic Party, seconded by Ms. Exum

Mr. Zydanowicz nominated Mr. Sarzen for the office of Financial Examiner for the Republican Party, seconded by Mr. Schmitt

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

The nomination of Ms. Gilchrest for the office of Financial Examiner for the Democratic Party and Mr. Sarzen for the office of Financial Examiner for the Republican Party passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Putterman announced that due to time constraints there was no Superintendent's Report.

Multi-Year Enrollment

Mr. Chip Ward provided a historical perspective and offered a 10 year

Projections

projection of the overall enrollment. The declining trend in the number of births for West Hartford and Connecticut was reviewed. The cohort of students from birth to kindergarten through middle and high school was reviewed and enrollments in private and other public school were compared. Detailed projections in each school were highlighted and the projected short term space shortage at Bugbee Elementary School was indicated. Mr. Ward was available to answer the questions of the Board.

Board discussion reviewed discrepancies in enrollment projections in specific schools and the potential percentage of students not attending West Hartford Public Schools. The impact of the loss in State funding trends and the loss of enrollment due to interest in private schools or transferring out of State was questioned. The issues around the middle school experience and students leaving during those years and returning for high was discussed. The administration discussed the space shortage at Bugbee and indicated the need to move the preschool from Bugbee to Braeburn to free up space at Bugbee. The Board requested an update on the move at a future meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 6, 2013

The motion passed 5-0-2
Abstained – Ms. Exum and Ms. Gilchrest

Report from Student Board Representatives

Jordan Gelber (Hall) reported on the conclusion of the first quarter, the Historical Character Day and the upcoming Hall/Conard game and the Madrigal performances.

Randa Griffin (Conard) reported on the upcoming annual Hall/Conard football game, visits from Veterans and the upcoming Ten-Minute Play Festival.

Announcement of Meeting Dates

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, December 3, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

Adjournment

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Zydanowicz:

That the Board adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Bruce Putterman, Chairperson Tammy Exum, Secretary

Respectfully submitted by: Ms. K. Lawrence, Clerk of the Board