

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**December 15, 2015**

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Ms. Exum, Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Pauluk, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Zydanic, Superintendent Moore, Student Representatives Zacharie Mega (Conard), Rachel Schunder (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/ Pledge of Allegiance</i></p>
<p>Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Sarzen seconded:</p>	
<p>THAT Ms. Sheila McKay from CAFE, presenting under Non Staff Communications and Reports, be moved to follow Public Communications.</p>	<p><i>Revision to Order</i></p>
<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>The Conard High School Solo Choir performed several selections.</p>	<p><i>Student Participation</i></p>
<p>Mr. John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, commented about the importance of votes taken tonight.</p>	<p><i>Public Communication</i></p>
<p>Ms. Sheila McKay from CAFE gave a presentation reviewing the status of a variety of federal and state bills of interest to boards and municipalities expected to come up in the 2016 legislative session. She noted that CAFE has not yet adopted positions on the issues. Board members followed up with clarifying questions about several issues.</p>	<p><i>Non-Staff Communications and Report</i></p>
<p>Mr. Zydanic moved and Ms. Exum seconded:</p>	
<p>THAT the West Hartford Board of Education accept the district's participation in the Smart Start Grant Program whereby it will be eligible to receive \$5,000.00 per year for every child who enrolls in a Pre-K program in the 2016-2017 school year.</p>	<p><i>Smart Start Grant</i></p>
<p>A discussion ensued clarifying the tuition options outlined at the previous meeting, how students are selected, and the potential impact on private Pre-K programs.</p>	
<p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

Mr. Sarzen moved and Dr. Greenberg seconded:

THAT the Board of Education ratify the negotiated agreement between the West Hartford Educations Association (WHEA) and the Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019.

*Ratification of  
WHEA contract*

Mr. Rick Ledwith reviewed the negotiation process and several highlights of the contract agreed upon with the WHEA noting wage increases, changes in health insurance, tuition reimbursement and paternity leave. Board members expressed their gratitude to both the teachers and administrators for their hard work.

The motion passed 6-0-1 with Mr. Pauluk abstaining.

Mr. Tom Moore noted that winter concerts are currently being performed. President Obama signed the bi-partisan supported “Every Student Succeeds Act.” Human Rights Day took place on December 10 across the district with age appropriate activities. He made note of the recent school closings elsewhere in the country due to a hoax. Rumors sometimes occur here. He urged parents to reach out so that misconceptions can be cleared up. The district does not plan to cancel overseas travel. Finally, he announced that he was appointing Mr. Paul Vicinus to be the new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment when Dr. DePalma retires at the end of June.

*Superintendent's  
Report*

Ms. Roszena Haskins, Dr. Tim Kessler, Ms. Asia Boxtton and Mr. Mark Grudzien gave a presentation on the Summer School Session and Intercambio Exchange Program.

*2015 Summer High  
School Report*

The presenters reviewed the student and course demographics noting that 742 students participated in 1039 credit and non-credit course enrollments. These students represented 49 schools across 28 districts, the largest summer school program in the state. In addition there were 54 certified teachers representing 21 schools. Dr. Kessler gave an overview of the culture and climate of summer school, Ms. Boxtton discussed the day-to-day model in the classroom, and Mr. Grudzien reviewed the Intercambio Exchange Program noting that the group will be travelling to Cuba during April vacation.

Mr. Sarzen moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending October 31, 2015.

*Financial Report*

Mr. Sarzen noted that the General Fund Balance has increased by \$136,000 partially generated by fewer students in the inter-district magnets thereby decreasing tuition costs. There is an increase in the number of Teaching Assistants and it was noted that the Substitute Account is listed as zero but will be updated in February after examining the substitute process. In addition to a couple of minor variances, the Nutrition Services account continues to be an issue. Lunch still faces a downward trend and while they lost less money than last year, he noted that nutrition service workers have been working without a contract and therefore wages are artificially depressed.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Blanks moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of December 1, 2015.

*Approval  
Of Minutes*

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pauluk reported that he was joined by Mrs. Blanks and Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez in visiting Smith and is visiting other schools to get to know the different schools and cultures. He also represented the Board at the Substance Abuse Prevention Council learning about grants they have received and plans for the future.

*Information and  
Reports*

Mr. Zydanowicz indicated that he thought a budget process outline and timeline would be helpful, especially to new members.

Student Representative Rachel Schunder reported on Human Rights Day and Hour of Code activities. A variety of concerts have been, and continue to be, performed. The Improv group has another show coming up on Friday. Student Representative Zacharie Mega noted that one of the grants awarded by the Substance Abuse Prevention Council went to the Lead By Example club at Conard for a variety of activities. He reported on Human Rights Day activities and winter concerts. The CSI on Wednesday will be the first teacher training stemming from the Equity and Diversity Committee. The Action Club is involved.

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Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Wednesday, January 6, 2016, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 400, 6:00 p.m., Board Workshop
2. Tuesday, January 19, 2016, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

Mr. John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, commented about Smart Start grant money.

*Comments from  
Visitors*

Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Sarzen seconded:

That the Board adjourn at 9:58 p.m.

*Adjournment*

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson    Carol A. Blanks, Secretary  
*Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. K. Hickey, Acting Clerk of the Board*

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