

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
February 2, 2016

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 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance</i></p>
<p>Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez opened the meeting with a statement regarding the recent events involving the reappearance of mascot/Native American imagery at both high schools. Superintendent Moore provided an update and thanked the principals and student leaders for their efforts in this matter. It was noted that sometimes something has to happen to have everyone move past an issue and all agreed they believe this was the case.</p>	<p><i>Special Statement</i></p>
<p>Mr. John Joyce, 170 South Main street, commented about the website See Saw Learning, Inc.</p>	<p><i>Public Communication</i></p>
<p>Mr. Sarzen moved and Ms. Exum seconded:</p> <p>THAT the Board of Education adopt the Capital Improvement Plan for 2016-2017.</p>	<p><i>2016-2017 Capital Improvement Plan</i></p>
<p>The CIP Plan was presented at the previous meeting. Board members asked a few follow up questions prior to voting which were answered by Dr. Morrow, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Ward.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>Superintendent Tom Moore presented the State of the Schools Report noting that as the district celebrated student successes at the Board Awards, there are other honors that we can be proud of as well. Mr. Moore reviewed some of the honors received by the town, teachers, staff, and students. Focusing on the timeline of the 2001-2002 school year to present, which covers the educational span of a student in the school system, Mr. Moore reviewed changes in student demographics in the areas of Race, Free/Reduced Lunch, Dominant Home Language, and Educational Need, as well as AP participation and staffing. He went on to review the challenges he sees as facing the district including closing the achievement gap, improving math performance and</p>	<p><i>State of the Schools Report</i></p>

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increasing diversity of school staff. He also pointed out that the opening of the new Charter Oak School is both an opportunity and challenge. He concluded that the state of the schools is exceptional. Board members thanked Mr. Moore for his presentation and followed up with questions regarding the state of the teachers and parents, how the district addresses the “rank and file students,” how to help struggling math students, recruiting teachers, mental health efforts, class size and achievement gap.

Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Sarzen seconded:

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

Mr. Sarzen noted that the General Fund balance has increased by \$232,000, partially generated by salaries, lower substitute teacher costs, transportation and tuition. He noted that there was no change in any of the State and Federal grant funded accounts and minor changes in the special funds account. Finally, there was no information on the Nutrition Services account because the person who prepares the report has been doing on-site audits. He noted that the picture is still not good and there were questions about whether money should be allocated to the account over time.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting of January 19, 2016.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pauluk reported on the transition to Kindergarten meeting, Dr. Greenberg spoke about the CREC meeting, Mrs. Blanks noted the presentation by Wheeler Clinic at the West Hartford Health Council meeting and how to promote services offered.

Student Representative Zacharie Mega reported that Conard students, along with Principal Julio Duarte, participated in the Penguin Plunge raising \$1000 for Special Olympics. The Mr. Conard Competition, Winter Jazz, and Choir Pyramid Concerts are coming up. Course selection has begun. Zach and a student from Hall will be switching places for a day for each to gain perspective from the other school.

*Financial Report*

*Approval  
Of Minutes*

*Information and  
Reports*

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Student Representative Rachel Schunder reported that the Cultural Fusion show, Love Concert at King Philip, Mr. Hall Competition and Pep Rally are all coming up.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Wednesday, February 17, 2016, regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall. 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
2. Tuesday, March 1, 2016, regular Board Meeting, Presentation of the Superintendent's Budget, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
3. Wednesday, March 9, 2016, Budget Workshop #1, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall. 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
4. Tuesday, March 15, 2016, regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall. 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber
5. Wednesday, March 23, 2016, Public Hearing followed by Budget Workshop #2, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber

Mr. John Joyce, 170 South Main Street, presented an FOI request and commented about statistics and State of the Schools.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

That the Board adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

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*

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

*Comments from  
Visitors*

*Adjournment*

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