

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**September 4, 2012**

Present: Ms. Brassil, Mrs. Brassil Spinella, Ms. Katz, Mrs. Ma, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Schmitt (via phone), Superintendent List, Student Representatives Tyree Seymour (Conard), Kendall Teare (Hall)

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

*Roll Call/Pledge of  
Allegiance/Revision to  
Agenda Order*

The Board welcomed the new student representatives from Hall and Conard.

Anna Shusterman, 25 Owings Rd., addressed the Board regarding the issues at Duffy and the handling of parents' concerns about the principal by the Board and Administration.

*Public Communications*

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board regarding issues facing WHPS, including traffic safety and requested that minutes detailing the content of Executive Session meetings be available to the public.

Dr. List presented a video on the student's first day of school and noted the contrast from opening day last year when the district was dealing with the challenges of tropical storm Irene. Dr. List stressed that CMT scores were the highest ever and noted the special recognition given to West Hartford Public Schools in recent issues of **U.S. News and World Report** and **Money Magazine 2012**. New and returning leaders recently appointed to administrative positions were announced. Dr. List emphasized the continued commitment to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards in 2015, the development of the Educator Evaluation Program to be in effect by 2013 and reported on the ongoing implementation of the Technology Blueprint, district wide technological enhancements and the successful launching of the Smith STEM School. Dr. List acknowledged and extended gratitude to all for the efforts given to insure a successful opening of a new school year.

*Superintendent's Report*

The Executive Team presented updates on the opening of school and all were available to address the questions and concerns of the Board.

- Dr. Eileen Howley, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, reported on the emphasis placed

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on preparing teachers to deliver the new curriculum with changes made to meet the requirements of the Common Core State Standards. The scope of the changes in the curriculum and the urgency and rigor of professional development opportunities provided for teachers was reviewed. The ongoing opportunities for extended professional development during the summer months were described and the added curriculum component required by the Smith STEM School was discussed.

- Mr. Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, acknowledged the efforts of Bob Palmer and Rob Rowson to prepare the buildings and grounds for the return of students and summarized the projects completed. The Summer Programs offered and the percentage of students enrolled in the various course selections was reviewed. An update was provided on the Information Technology wireless project and stated full implementation was expected by mid January. The bus schedules and related delays and errors were summarized along with plans in place for any improvements. Mr. Moore provided information on the number of new students enrolled and offered assurances that the district was committed to creating a welcoming environment and meeting the needs of new families.
- Mr. Rick Ledwith, Executive Director of Human Resources, provided an overview of the Spring and Summer recruitment efforts and compared the 4.4% turnover rate with past years. He shared the results of exit interviews and the reasons teachers had terminated their employment. The commitment to continue to improve the diversity of the teaching staff was emphasized. Mr. Ledwith provided an update on the plans to redesign and rewrite the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Program. The Personnel Report was included as part of his report.
- Mr. Glenn McGrath, Director of Pupil Services, provided an update of the staffing for the Pupil Services Department and noted that the school year opened with all paraprofessional and teaching assistant positions filled. The new legislative changes addressing special education requirements were summarized and guidance from the State Department of Education regarding the changes was forthcoming. Mr. McGrath provided an overview of the priorities and initiatives of the Pupil Services and School Counseling Departments.

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- Mr. Chip Ward, Director of Finance and Planning, reported on the actual enrollment for the opening of the school year and stated the numbers were close to the projections. Enrollment numbers across elementary, middle and high school levels were reviewed and compared to last year.

Ms. Katz moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 5, 2012

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Ma moved, seconded by Mr. Schmitt:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of June 28, 2012

The motion passed 6-0-1.

Abstained: Mrs. Brassil Spinella due to absence

Tyree Seymour reported that Fall sports at Conard were off to a good start and announced upcoming events and activities.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, September 18, 2012, Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

John Joyce, 170 South Main St., addressed the Board regarding the summary of reports, record keeping and requested discussions and forums on the many issues and challenges faced by students.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Brassil:

That the Board adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Bruce Putterman, Chairperson

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Naogan Ma, Secretary

*Approval of Minutes*

*Report from Student  
Board Representative*

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

*Comments from Visitors*

*Adjournment*

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

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