

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
September 20, 2016

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Pauluk, Mr. Sarzen,
Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore, Student Representatives Taylor Steer (Conard),
and Sarah Berman (Hall)

Absent: Ms. Exum

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.	<i>Roll Call/ Pledge of Allegiance</i>
No Student Participation	<i>Student Participation</i>
No Public Communications to report	<i>Public Communication</i>
No Unfinished Business to report	<i>Unfinished Business</i>
No New Business to report	<i>New Business</i>
Superintendent Moore reported that West Hartford earned the number 15 spot on <i>Money Magazine's</i> ranking of "Best Places to Live" in the United States. Juan Melian, Principal of the Charter Oak International Academy, will host an open house on October 6 th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Tours will be available. Superintendent Moore was pleased to announce that we had 33 volunteers come out for the stem cell donor drive. He also reported that we have 11 National Merit Semi-finalists, 46 Commended students, and 439 AP Scholars.	<i>Superintendent's Report</i>
Dr. Andrew Morrow discussed the start of the school year and that the safety of our students is at the forefront of our efforts. He discussed that the key to safety in schools is in the relationship with students and officers as well as staff and the community.	<i>Safety and Security Update</i>

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Chief of Police Tracey Gove and Director of School Security and Safety Mr. Eric Dency were introduced.

Chief Gove spoke on the continuing relationship with the schools and feels we have a good program in place. West Hartford police and Eric Dency attend the Safe School Climate Committee meetings where they talk about lock down procedures as well as day-to-day issues. Safety audits and school walk-throughs were discussed. It was mentioned that all of the SRO's (School Resource Officers) have been trained in crisis intervention and active shooter training. A major focus is on community outreach. To that end, the police have a Facebook page to get information out. Chief Gove talked about a new card that is in the preliminary stage but was worth mentioning. The card has the police logo, with a picture ID of the students at the parents' discretion. Information is gathered and put into a database to help identify a student and any disabilities or anything that a parent feels would be helpful to police officers in dealing with their child. He is currently working with Gretchen Nelson on this. The Board asked questions with regard to how this will be promoted. Questions were also asked in regard to time frame of drills being done on the same day, at the same time, as well as the balance between safety and privacy pertaining to locker searches and probable cause. The Board acknowledged the police as a part of the community and how fortunate we are to have a great police force here in West Hartford.

Eric Dency highlighted some of the things that the security department has been working on this year and some of the things that have been implemented, such as the online emergency response guide and manual, lockdown drills and internal door locking systems inside the classroom. The Board asked questions regarding locks becoming obsolete as the evolution of technology advances. He also remarked on the floor lighting at Charter Oak International Academy and how they will be able to expand lighted flooring to other schools. He spoke about security cameras and how they were obtained from a state grant. The cameras give a 360 degree view of the building and grounds in order to keep students safe and secure. Questions from the Board included the storage of the footage, length of time the footage is kept, and what the protocols are regarding the use of school buildings after hours.

Paul Vicinus presented the 2016 School-day SAT results. As background, he spoke of some the elements of recent redesign and described the major components of the assessment. The College Board has packaged its redesign as part of a larger effort to provide greater access and opportunity for college preparation to the widest possible range of students. Structural changes included a move from three sections (reading, writing, and mathematics) to two sections (evidence-based reading and writing <EBRW>, and mathematics), scoring changes (to include the elimination of wrong-answer penalty), and minor changes to the length of the assessment. As a consequence of scoring changes, the college and career ready benchmark shifts from a composite score of 1550 (on the old SAT) to subject specific scores of 480 for EBRW and 530 for math. The district average for EBRW was 559 with 77% of students meeting benchmark and 545 for math with 57% of students meeting benchmark. As a district this places our mathematics performance in the top third of the state and our literacy performance in the top half. The Board asked questions which confirmed that the school-day SAT, now a part of the state assessments for juniors, are equivalent to other SAT administrations and count equally toward college acceptance. School-day SAT provides a free administration of the test but does not include the optional essay writing portion which some colleges may require. Discussion also included questions regarding the analysis of scores across various student groups. Connecticut has defined a "high needs" group to include students with disabilities, English language learners, and economically disadvantaged. Given that some (smaller) districts have fewer numbers of students within these categories, performance among these individual groups is sometimes not reported by the state. Performance for West Hartford's students in the high needs category exceeded that of the state average by 6%, but remains an area of focus for the district and has informed ongoing professional learning and curriculum work.

*2016 School-Day SAT
Results*

Mr. Pauluk moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the Period Ending June 30, 2016

The motion passed unanimously

*Approval of the
Financial Report*

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Mrs. Blanks moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded :

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of September 6, 2016.

The motion passed unanimously.

Student Representative Taylor Steer reported that student athletics are up and running. *Diary of Anne Frank* will be at the Blackbox Theater and Link Crew is helping to make freshman feel welcome. Student Representative Sarah Berman reported on the new Hall High School main office and how practical it is now when visitors come to the school. She also noted that Link Crew is really beneficial and that this year leaders have the option to be placed in advisory.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, October 4, 2016, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Rom 314, 7:00 p.m. Legislative Chamber.
2. Tuesday, October 18, 2016, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m.

No comments from visitors at this time.

That the Board adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson Carol A. Blanks, Secretary
Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. C. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

*Approval
Of Minutes*

*Information and
Reports*

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

*Comments from
Visitors*

Adjournment

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