

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
**June 6, 2017**

Present: Mrs. Blanks, Ms. Exum, Dr. Greenberg, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Pauluk,  
Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent Moore, Student Representatives Hugo Barrillon (Conard),  
Sarah Berman (Hall)  
Absent: Mr. Sarzen

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

*Roll Call/Pledge of  
Allegiance*

No student participation at this time

*Student  
Participation*

Chloe Amaya, 80 Whiting Lane, West Hartford, spoke on school start time.

*Public  
Communication*

John Bonee, 19 Scarsdale Road, West Hartford, spoke on school start time.

Mary Fleischli, 28 Brunswick Avenue, West Hartford, spoke on school start time.

Elaine Walker, 95 Richard Street, West Hartford, spoke on school start time.

Chris Corcoran, 26 Ellsworth Road, West Hartford, spoke on school start time.

Susan Gilmore, 19 Auburn Road, West Hartford, spoke on behalf of Liz Freedman of 134 Clinton Avenue, West Hartford, on the topic of school start time.

Sierra Lyles, 181 Simsbury Road, West Hartford, spoke on behalf of Morgan Lloyd of 76 Whiting Lane, West Hartford on the topic of school start time.

Helen Bretos, 154 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, spoke on the class size at Wolcott Elementary School.

Ann Reynolds, 94 Brookmoor Road, West Hartford, spoke on the class size at Wolcott Elementary School.

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Krista Eddy, 69 Jackson Avenue, West Hartford, spoke on the class size at Wolcott Elementary School.

Elena Sada, 12 School House Drive, West Hartford, spoke on class size at Wolcott Elementary School.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

THAT the Board of Education discuss and vote on a new employment agreement with Mr. Tom Moore to serve as Superintendent of Schools for a new term of three years, July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020, and that Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson, execute the new agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

Motion passed unanimously

Dr. Greenberg moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the West Hartford Board of Education approve the following policies which were reviewed by the Board Policy Subcommittee:

- 4050---Personnel---Certified/Non-Certified, Assignment
- 4120---Personnel---Certified/Non-Certified, Personnel Records
- 4240---Personnel---Certified---Temporary/Part-time, Continuing Education Teachers
- 6240---Instruction---Extracurricular Activities

Motion passed unanimously

Superintendent Tom Moore introduced Mr. Scott Dunn, the new principal at Wolcott. He also thanked Lynn Katz and Maureen Lantner for standing in as interim principals at Wolcott during this past year. Superintendent Moore reported that class lists will be mailed on August 10<sup>th</sup> noting that class size is adhered more closely to the guidelines. Superintendent Moore reported that from June 26 through August 17, from 1:00 – 1:30 lunches will be served at Faxon Library. This is a federally-funded program.

Anne McKernan, Director of Secondary Education, spoke on the topic of late start times for high school students. She will be overseeing a research committee and will be reaching out in September to form sub-committees that look into all aspects related to late start times for high schools. She will also be looking at what other districts are currently doing.

*Unfinished Business*

*New Business*

*Staff Communications  
and Reports  
Superintendent's Report*

Dr. Roszena Haskins, along with students and faculty from elementary, middle and high schools, presented an update on Equity and Excellence. In each of the presentations, students showed a commitment to the vision for equity and cultural competence. Unified Recess at Norfeldt, in which over 90 second and third grade students participate, seeks to eliminate the barriers between all children on the playground at recess. Students spoke to the Board and expressed excitement about the activities they do during this time. Unified Recess exemplifies compassion through play where “everyone belongs here.” A parent of a student with multiple disabilities spoke on her student’s success with unified recess, stating this was the first time she saw her student socially interacting with children. Bristow students and staff spoke on the Be You-nique Club. The club’s mission is to bring the uniqueness of students and staff together where adolescents and adults can educate one another on their differences and have fun doing it. Club members implemented many activities including Autism Awareness Day, where students created puzzle piece pins for all to wear, World Down Syndrome Day, where club members encouraged others to wear electric socks on Lots-Of-Socks Day, to Black History month, where students held a Rosa Parks presentation and discussion. The middle school WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) program at Bristow, King Philip, and Sedgwick is designed to enhance elementary to middle school transition for students.

High school students presented a slide show on how science is used to partner with elementary students at Charter Oak. High school students created books at an elementary level to explain Newton’s Law. They also created a movie to share with the elementary students, relating Newton’s Law to activities pertaining to student’s interests. Specialized Performance Study (SPS), where high school students dress for a Fictional Character Day project, explained how they dressed and stayed in the role of fictional characters throughout the day. Elementary students asked questions and the high school students answered while staying in character. The Board thanked all the participants of the presentation, stating how impressed they were with these programs and that the students are living examples of the mission of the district.

Dr. Andrew Morrow along with middle school principals Steve Cook and Andrew Clapsaddle presented the Safe School Climate and Discipline Report. Mr. Steve Cook spoke on the value teachers place on creating a positive climate within the school. At Bristow, a non-negotiable mindset is, for staff, that family and health come first. Collaborative decisions are made and teachers play an important part in creating togetherness. At

*Equity and Excellence  
Update*

*Safe School and  
Discipline Report*

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Bristow everything is celebrated from team spirit days, to breakfasts and dress-down days. Cultural competence training plays an important role in getting to know each other and also helps to create a culture of unity. Focus has been placed on teacher's professional and personal well-being. Mr. Andrew Clapsaddle spoke on the family at the middle school level, noting that parent engagement at this level can be very challenging. Goals to offer and have speakers at PTO meetings help to encourage parent involvement, as well as family fun nights to create a whole family experience, have met with some success. Mr. Steve Cook also spoke on student involvement in creating a positive school climate. Positive outcomes would result from feedback from students as well as an increase in student leadership. Promoting ways to increase the building of student character would include advisory, special education advisory, unified theater and sports, student of the month luncheons, the WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) Club and student success assemblies. The goal is to diminish mean-spirited behavior and bullying. The Board thanked Mr. Steve Cook and Mr. Andrew Clapsaddle for their report noting that insight from the principals are very valuable. The Board asked questions regarding how we get in front of mistakes, what the importance of middle school teams are, and the definition of 'verified' bullying stated in the report. They also asked about what is being done or can be done at the elementary level.

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Mr. Pauluk seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the Period ending April 30, 2017

Motion passed unanimously

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Ms. Exum seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of May 16, 2017

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pauluk moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meeting of May 30, 2017

*Financial  
Report*

*Approval  
Of Minutes*

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The motion passed unanimously.

Student Representatives Sarah Berman (Hall) and Hugo Barrillon (Conard) gave their last reports to the Board. Sarah Berman mentioned the track team's third place win at the State Open as well as the boys baseball team's win of the Mayors Cup. Hugo Barrillon spoke on Unified Theater, Conard High School art show, Six Flags senior outing, and the CCC Championship. Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez thanked and presented a gift as a token of appreciation to each of the student representatives.

Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Tuesday, September 5, 2017, Regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314.
2. Tuesday, September 19, 2017, Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

No comments from visitors at this time.

Ms. Exum moved and Mr. Zydanowicz seconded:

THAT the Board adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Mark Overmyer-Velazquez  
Chairperson

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Carol A. Blanks  
Secretary

*Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. C. Rogers, Clerk of the Board*

*Information and  
Reports*

*Announcement of  
Meeting Dates*

*Comments from  
Visitors*

*Adjournment*

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