

Board of Education

April 8, 2014

Chairperson DeAngelo requested Board Members to turn off cell phones.

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. The tapes are available in the Town Manager's Office.

The Wethersfield Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway. The following Board members were present: Chairperson DeAngelo, Vice Chairperson Steinmiller-Paradise, Mr. Carey, Mr. Forrest, Mrs. Latina, Ms. McDougall, and Mr. Morris. Also present were: Superintendent of Schools, Michael Emmett; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Finance, Timothy Howes; Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Sally Dastoli; Director of Special Services, Emily Daigle; Director of Maintenance and Operations, Fred Bushey; Webb School Principal, Michael Verderame; and Wethersfield High School Student Representative, Sam Solberg.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Dastoli led the Board and public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Student/Staff Recognition/Presentations

There were no Student/Staff Recognition/Presentations made during this meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a. March 25, 2014 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Ms. McDougall MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of March 25, 2014, as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously, with Mr. Carey abstaining.

b. March 31, 2014 Special Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Carey MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting of March 31, 2014, as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously.

c. April 3, 2014 Special Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Carey MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting of April 3, 2014, as submitted. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously, with Mrs. Latina abstaining.

4. Public Comment

Kim Bobin, 83 Longvue Drive, the Program Coordinator of the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative (WECC), spoke of the upcoming Family Fun Night event scheduled Friday, April 11, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield Street, Wethersfield. The event will highlight resources available to families with children ages birth to eight (8) and offer registration opportunities for enrollment in summer camps, as well as stations (sponsored by local businesses, service agencies, child care providers, and preschools) with activities for children to enjoy (arts and crafts, games, etc.). Light refreshments will be provided.

Sue Tenorio, 28 Lincoln Road, a member of WECC's Developmentally Successful Learners Committee, indicated that in response to feedback from Wethersfield parents from a WECC survey last summer, WECC will conduct a Parent-Child Education Workshop "Learning to Read-Reading to Learn" on May 1, 2014, 5:30 p.m. at Charles Wright Elementary School Learning that will focus on early literacy and language development. There will be a total of five (5) activity centers each containing an element of early literacy and language development, and a light dinner will be provided prior to the commencement of the workshop. Please refer to the following link for more information: <http://www.wethersfield.k12.ct.us/searchresults.cfm?keywords=WECC>

5. Communications

Mr. Emmett mentioned there will be no abatement activities at WHS during next week's April vacation week. Demolition work in Gym A will occur with removal of the bleachers in order to create construction swing space. As of September 2014, Gym A will become classroom space. Mr. Emmett was pleased to announce that at the April 3 special session Board meeting, Mr. John

Bean was selected as the new Principal of Highcrest School. Fifty-five (55) applications had been selected and were vetted by a committee of parents, teachers, administrators, and Board representatives. Two (2) candidates were presented to Mr. Emmett, and those candidates were interviewed by him and the Central Office Team. Mr. Emmett mentioned that Mr. Bean is currently Assistant Principal of Tolland Intermediate School, is familiar with Common Core State Standards implementation, and has served as the school's Smarter Balanced Assessment coordinator. Mr. Bean's responsibilities in his current role also include supporting a positive school climate and promoting an inclusive environment for all students. Mr. Bean was South Windsor's Teacher of the Year in 2004 and spent his career in that District teaching in the areas of social studies and special education. Mr. Emmett reported that SBAC testing at SDMS and WHS was concluding in the past week. The technology for the testing was in place, and there were some user issues during the testing (and in some instances, there was a power failure of the system on the SBAC side) that were quickly resolved. He noted that technology utilized at SDMS and WHS for the testing will now be reallocated for the upcoming testing in May 2014 at District elementary schools and that upgrades to the District elementary schools Wi-Fi have been completed.

6. Action Items

a. Recommended Motion: Approval of E-Commerce and Web Site Design Curriculum

Mr. Carey MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the E-Commerce and Web Site Design Curriculum. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mr. Carey, Ms. McDougall, Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise, and Mrs. Latina commented. Mrs. Dastoli also commented.

b. Recommended Motion: Approval of Spanish II Curriculum

Mr. Carey MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the Spanish II Curriculum. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously.

Board Comments: Mr. Carey and Mrs. Latina commented.

c. Recommended Motion: Approval of Chemistry Level I Curriculum

Mr. Carey MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the Chemistry Level 1 Curriculum. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously.

Board Comments: Mr. Carey commented.

d. Recommended Motion: Approval of Textbook for World History

Mr. Carey MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education approve the Textbook for World History – *World History: Patterns of Interaction*, Beck, Black, Krieger, Naylor, Shabaka, 2012 (Houghton Mifflin) Level 1 and 2. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mr. Carey, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Forrest commented.

e. Approval of Cancellation of Regular Board of Education Meeting for June 24, 2014

Ms. McDougall MOVED that the Wethersfield Board of Education cancel the regular meeting scheduled for June 24, 2014. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Forrest and VOTED unanimously. Board Comments: Mrs. DeAngelo commented.

7. Reports/Discussion Items

a. FY 2013 – 2014 Budget Status Report: Period Ending February 28, 2014

Mr. Howes provided a report. There were no questions from Board Members.

b. First Reading: Policy #5131.911 Bullying Behavior in the Schools

Ms. Daigle spoke of the hereinabove mentioned Policy which pertains to, according to the State of Connecticut, confirmed acts of bullying. Board Comments: Ms. McDougall, Mrs. Latina, Mr. Forrest, Mr. Morris, and Student Representative, Mr. Solberg commented. Mr. Emmett also commented.

c. Announcements/Information

Chairperson DeAngelo reviewed the items in Board Members' packets and reminded Committee Chairpersons/Board members to review scheduled meeting dates and times with their calendars.

8. Board of Education

a. Meetings Held

Chairperson DeAngelo announced the following meetings:

Special Board of Education Meeting – Retreat: Mr. Emmett mentioned Nick Caruso from CABA facilitated the meeting which focused on Board member/Superintendent roles and responsibilities for Board efficiency. Student Programs and Services Committee: Mr. Carey indicated the SBAC update, including Mrs. Dastoli and Mrs. Miner's SBAC presentation provided to parents was given during the meeting. In addition the textbook and curriculum items brought before the

Board at tonight's meeting were discussed. Increased use of the I-Pad, and student need for keyboarding skills were also discussed. Policy and Planning Committee: Mrs. Steinmiller-Paradise indicated Ms. Daigle spoke of Policy #5131.911 Bullying Behavior in the Schools. The Committee reviewed and modified Policy Series 0000 (Goals and Missions) which will be marked/read for review with Mr. Emmett and sent to CABE thereafter. Special Board of Education Meeting: Mr. Emmett noted the appointment of Highcrest School Principal, Mr. John Bean, occurred during the meeting. Special School Project Building Committee: Mr. Emmett and Mr. Bushey attended the meeting. Mr. Emmett indicated the Town Council's rejection of the bid for an elevator (WHS Renovation project) was discussed. The elevator portion of the project will be re-bid. Finance and Information Management: Mr. Carey mentioned that Mr. Howes provided an update. It was noted the District is about where it was last year at this time [seventy (70%) percent] in terms of spending. Some areas highlighted were: 1) Student transportation amount overspent is \$291,000; 2) Pupil Tuition amount overspent to date is \$356,000 (ECS funds anticipated will result with a District deficit of \$50,000 to \$100,000 (which is much better than previous years)); 3) substitutes for certified salary employees amount overspent is approximately \$43,000 (which is better than in previous years). The RFP for cafeteria service was discussed with its bid process opening on April 25, 2014. The following four companies toured District school cafeterias for bid eligibility: Chartwells, Aramark, Whitsons, and Cafe Services. Mr. Emmett discussed Education Act 1360 (non-instructional portion of budget), wherein Town Council makes suggestions to where budget changes can occur in areas of the BOE budget. It was noted the Town is discussing a merger with BOE for technology services, as well as sharing the security and residency officer.

b. Meetings Scheduled

Chairperson DeAngelo announced the following meetings are scheduled: School Project Building Committee, CREC Council, and Joint Town Council/Board of Education Meeting – Budget Hearing. In order to ensure a quorum at Committee Meetings, Chairperson DeAngelo advised Board members to verify their attendance at Committee Meetings with the Committee's Chairpersons and Administrative Chairperson.

9. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

10. Public Comments

There were no comments made by the Public during this portion of the meeting.

11. Board Comments

Vice Chairperson Steinmiller-Paradise inquired and Mr. Carey clarified that anticipated ECS funds would result in an amount overspent for pupil tuition to be less than it has been in previous years.

Ms. McDougall commented favorably of the information received on the upcoming Friday, April 11, 2014, Professional Development Day schedule for District Staff. She noted the Common Core Standards Presentation (which is on line) clarifies some misconceptions the public may have about Common Core Standards.

Mr. Solberg mentioned there have been ongoing discussions with students, parents, and administration regarding celebratory activities for the WHS Class of 2014 Graduates, and he will bring that information forward once more details are received.

Chairperson DeAngelo commented favorably of the World Language Induction Ceremony for students in the French, Italian, and Spanish National Honor Societies that was attended by her and Mr. Morris last week.

Mr. Carey MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Morris and VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Steinmiller-Paradise, Vice-Chairperson – Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Ellen Goslicki, Recording Secretary