

West Hartford Public Schools  
Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
April 8, 2014

*Unofficial Minutes – Pending Approval on 5/6/14*

Present: Mrs. Exum, Ms. Gilchrest, Mr. Putterman, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Zydanowicz, Superintendent List, Student Representatives Jordan Gelber (Hall), Randa Griffin (Conard)

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*

Dr. List introduced Principal Jasdeep Singh and the Town Meeting presented by Wolcott Elementary School. Dr. Singh introduced faculty, student WolCats and student scholars and explained the bi-monthly process of the Town Meeting. Students performed with instruments and song, recited poetry and read writing samples and presented their ‘What’s Your View’ art pieces.

*Student Participation*

Susan Kelley, 220 Fern St., parent, addressed the Board regarding her support for Hall High School coach, Nick Colagiovanni.

*Public Communications*

Dave Houpert, 344 Fern St., parent, addressed the Board regarding support for Hall High coach, Nick Colagiovanni.

Rob Parra, 346 Fern St., student, addressed the Board regarding support for coach Nick Colagiovanni.

Paul McCalla (sp), Forest Hills Dr., addressed the Board regarding Nick Colagiovanni.

Paul Connery, 19 Woodpond Rd., addressed the Board regarding the budget and acknowledged the work and effort evident in its development and stressed challenging fiscal responsibility.

John Joyce, 170 S. Main St., addressed the Board regarding the budget and challenged addressing the needs of average and below average students.

Mr. Putterman acknowledged the advocacy demonstrated by students and clarified the Board’s position.

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Ms. Gilchrest:

THAT the Board of Education review the Superintendent’s

*Adoption of the 2014-  
2015 Board of  
Education Budget*

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proposed budget in the amount of \$146,841,623, make revisions as necessary, and adopt the 2014-2015 Board of Education budget

Mr. Schmitt expressed his support for the budget and acknowledged the work and effort involved internally and the contributions of external perspectives to produce a responsible budget. Ms. Gilchrest and Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez expressed their support for the budget, noting their appreciation for the complex process and the concrete contributions, questions and discussions. Mr. Sarzen sought and received clarification regarding the purpose or rationale for several specific line items. Mr. Zydanowicz raised additional questions and budget concerns and identified potential areas for savings. The administration provided a rationale for those items.

Mr. Putterman outlined the voting procedure to include a vote on an initial reduction of approximately \$1 million, a vote on the addition of the half time clinical department supervisor, and then votes on other reductions that Board members propose.

Mr. Zydanowicz raised the possibility of postponing the budget vote to allow for more time to digest the clarifications provided by the administration. Other board members indicated they did not want to postpone the vote, noting that ample time had been provided to review and discuss the budget.

Mr. Putterman reiterated the process for voting on the budget, and invited all Board members to identify specific line items that they would like to consider reducing. Mr. Putterman proposed voting on the \$1 million reduction through combined reductions in health care, worker's comp, and the principal on assignment. He also proposed voting on the addition of the half time clinical department supervisor. Mr. Sarzen proposed voting to consolidate the attendance coordinators and activity coordinators at the high schools, for a savings of \$56,000 and proposed voting to eliminate one elementary FTE position, for a savings of \$73,000. No other changes to the budget were proposed, resulting in four sub votes:

*Sub Votes on the Budget*

THAT the budget be reduced by \$1,029,866 as follows

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Health Care Costs	– 893,428
Worker’s Comp/ Gen’l Liability	– 2,238
Principal on Assignment	-134,200
Total Reduction	\$1,029,866

The vote passed unanimously.

THAT the budget be increased by \$77,000 due to the addition of a 0.5 Pupil Services Department Supervisor position

The vote passed unanimously.

THAT the budget be reduced by \$56,000 due to the consolidation of the attendance coordinators and activity coordinators at the high schools

The vote failed 2-5

In Favor: Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Zydanowicz

Opposed: Mrs. Exum, Ms. Gilchrest, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Schmitt

THAT the budget be reduced by \$73,000 to reflect the reduction on one elementary FTE

The voted failed 2-5

In Favor: Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Zydanowicz

Opposed: Mrs. Exum, Ms. Gilchrest, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Schmitt

Mrs. Exum expressed her support for the budget. Mr. Putterman invited other board members to comment on the budget. Hearing no additional comments, Mr. Putterman emphasized the Board’s role in passing a budget as a reflection of the community’s values and stressed the opportunity moving forward

*Vote on Original Motion*

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to review health care costs and future enrollments for potential reductions.

A vote on the original motion for budget in the amount of \$145,888,757, a 4.16% increase for 2014-2015 was called for.

THAT the Board of Education adopt the Superintendent's proposed budget as the Board of Education's 2014-2015 budget in the revised amount of \$145,888,757

The motion passed 5-2.

In Favor: Mrs. Exum, Ms. Gilchrest, Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez, Mr. Putterman, Mr. Schmitt

Opposed: Mr. Sarzen, Mr. Zydanowicz

Dr. List provided information on an event for parents sponsored by the *Community of Concern*, 'Keep Our Kids Safe On The Roads' with guest speaker Tim Hollister. Dr. List announced the retirement of Morley Elementary principal, Dr. Ellen Stokoe effective June 30, 2014.

*Superintendent's Report*

Jordan Gelber (Hall) reported on the completion of SBAC testing, the selection of a video submission to the DMV for a Teen Safe Driving contest, an upcoming underclassmen school dance and a grant application submitted for the Community Garden and fundraising events for Camp Any Town.

*Report from Student Board Representatives*

Randa Griffin (Conard) reported the start of spring sports and the completion of SBAC testing.

Mr. Putterman announced the following meeting dates:

*Announcement of Meeting Dates*

1. Tuesday, May 6, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314
2. Tuesday, May 20, 2014, regular Board of Education meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

Mr. Schmitt moved, seconded by Mr. Sarzen:

*Adjournment*

That the Board adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

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The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Bruce Putterman, Chairperson

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Tammy Exum, Secretary

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



