

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021
7:00 pm -- VIA ZOOM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, G. Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm,

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Joseph Britton, Rachel Chaleski, Kate Conetta, Gladys Cooper, Loren Daly, Joseph DaSilva, Kathryn Hodgdon, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino

Also Present: Dr. K. Casimiro, Frank Connolly, Kathy O'Dowd, Kara Prunty Chip Salvestrini, Kim Thompson, Kelly Truchsess, Kevin Walston

IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

MOTION: K. Conetta moved, seconded by J. DaSilva, that in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-157, the Board of Education hereby elects Mr. Kevin Walston to serve as Superintendent of Schools, effective immediately, for a term ending June 30, 2024, and **FURTHER MOVES** that the Board of Education hereby authorizes its Chairperson to sign the related employment contract on behalf of the Board of Education.

- R. Chaleski- Stated that she will support the appointment of K. Walston because it is the right thing to do for the district but that she was dissatisfied with the process, and we need to look at how to strengthen the process.
- J. Da Silva- Congratulated K. Walston and stated he was glad about the appointment and although we can always do better with the process, he was happy with the outcome.
- K. Hodgdon- Stated that she was disappointed with the process and that she could not support the appointment. She thought it was an injustice the way the process was followed.
- L. Daly- Congratulated K. Walston and said she is looking forward to working with him and agreed with R. Chaleski and K. Hodgdon with concerns about the process.


Votes Yes: Joseph Britton, Rachel Chaleski, Kate Conetta, Gladys Cooper, Loren Daly, Joseph DaSilva, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino.

Votes No: Kathryn Hodgdon

Motion carried at 7:25 pm

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BY: 

- G. Cooper- Stated that the process was approved and that she hoped everyone can work together. Agreed that professional development is needed.
- K. Walston - Thanked the Community and cabinet for their support. He is looking forward to the challenge as he steps into Dr. S. Pascarella's big shoes and appreciates the confidence from the BOE.

V. PRESENTATION OF THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN

Presentation Attached

- K. Walston-We have been working on this plan since Spring of 2021 with input and feedback from the community. The State made it clear that the expectation was to open schools in person for Fall of 2021. We are using the leverage from Federal funds to hire staff and address the social emotional needs of our students. We got feedback from the Reopening Committee Meetings from Principals, Teachers, Nurses, and Tutors through breakout groups since they are experts in the field. This plan has been refined many times and we have a document that covers everything. This will be a fluid plan that we can change with any changes from the State.
- K. O'Dowd-Reviewed the medical recommendations.
- J. DaSilva-Asked about 7th Graders quite not 12 yet if they could get vaccinated. K. O'Dowd replied they must wait right now until they are 12.
- A. Spallino-Are Vaccinations required for all staff? K. O'Dowd-The mandate just came out this afternoon 8/25/21. We are going to digest the information.
- K. O'Dowd-Explained any sign of illness the student should stay home. The Dashboard will be activated again on the website. She also explained the new quarantine guidelines.
- J. DaSilva-Asked if desk shields will be used in the elementary schools? K. O'Dowd - The Shields can be used for snack, eating, or drinking if masks are off. Masks are the most important mitigation strategy.
- Dr. Casimiro-Explained the Instruction slides and the additional instructional supports. In addition, discussed Performing Arts and indicated the library will be back to regular distribution.
- K. Walston-Explained the cafeteria use policies with barriers. Continue outside seating at DHS. Until further notice Parent Meetings will be virtual. Essential visitors will be required to follow the policies.
- A. Spallino-Asked if the Mentoring Program can reassume? K. Walston replied that they will be working with them. May deem it would be appropriate to meet virtually.
- C. Salvestrini-Discussed Athletics plans. Followed the CIAC policy.
- Dr. K. Casimiro-Explained the Academic Priorities and ESSER Funding resources now and in the future. Focusing on the Instructional depth over breath.
- K. Truchsess-Explained Student Supports. Some additional supports have been added in the form of additional staff for Social Emotional needs. Parent liaison district wide. LEAP Grant
- K. Conetta-How many Parent Liaisons? K. Truchsess explained one per building.
- J. DaSilva-Read an article about remote learning not counting towards the 180 days? K. Walston explained that the State is not going to count remote learning as the required school days.

- J. DaSilva-Asked about the enrollment numbers? K. Walston explained that it has not declined.
- K. Molinaro-Asked if the Mask Mandate is only until October? K. Prunty explained that the State Mandate is until 9/30/2021 but that the City of Danbury Mandate does not have an end date at this point.
- G. Cooper-Thanked Cabinet for the presentation.
- R. Chaleski-Asked if once the Plan is approved, will it be posted on the website with the live links for parents. K. Walston said, yes it will be available, and links will be live.

VI. 2021-2022 SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN APPROVAL

MOTION: K. Conetta moved, seconded by A. Russo, that the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 School Reopening Plan as presented.

Votes Yes: Joseph Britton, Rachel Chaleski, Kate Conetta, Gladys Cooper, Loren Daly, Joseph DaSilva, Kathryn Hodgdon, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino.

Votes No: None

Motion carried at 8:21 pm

VII. ADJOURNMENT

J. DaSilva moved, seconded by R. Chaleski that the Board of Education adjourn its Meeting of August 25, 2021, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary

FUTURE MEETINGS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

August 30 th	First Day of Classes
September 6	Labor Day, Schools/Offices Closed
September 8	Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
September 7	Rosh Hashanah, Schools/Offices Closed
September 16	Yom Kippur, Schools/Offices Closed
September 22	Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
October 11	Columbus Day, Schools/Offices Closed
October 13	Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
October 27	Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 pm