

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 - 7:00 PM
DANBURY HIGH SCHOOL - BLACK BOX THEATRE
43 CLAPBOARD RIDGE ROAD, DANBURY CT 06811**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, G. Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Joseph Britton (Via Zoom), Rachel Chaleski, Kate Conetta, Gladys Cooper,
Loren Daly, Joseph DaSilva, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro, Albert Russo,
Amy Spallino
Absent: Kathryn Hodgdon
Also Present: Dr. K. Casimiro, Frank Connolly, Edwardo Miranda, John Spang, Kim
Thompson, Kelly Truchsess, Kevin Walston

IV. RECOGNITIONS

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Board welcomes public participation and asks that comments be limited to 3minutes. The public may offer objective comments of school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Education personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the Danbury Public School System. Danbury residents are also invited to send brief comments and questions via email in advance to DPS_publiccomment_BOE@danbury.k12.ct.us.

Dominic Reynolds

Will changes be made to bus routes? My child is still arriving late to school every morning. -has the district thought about a keyboarding program/app for the Elementary Student? Since the pandemic and because students will be expected to continue to use the Chromebooks, students need to learn how to type.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

EXHIBIT

MOTION: K. Molinaro moved, seconded by J. DaSilva, that the Board of Education approve the item on the Consent Calendar, Exhibit 21-101, as recommended:

MINUTES

9/8/21 Regular Meeting

21-101(pg.4)

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

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
DANBURY TOWN CLERK
2021 OCT 14 P 3:40

BY: [Signature]

Absent: Kathryn Hodgdon

Motion carried at 7:05 pm

VII. EDUCATIONAL STAFF REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

NEA-Danbury Representative: Erin Daly, President-None

DSAA: Dr. Kristy Zaleta, President-None

VIII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

DHS Representatives: Gregory Parker and Dung (Tina) Ngo

- School Opening-Hallways were crowded but are better now as underclassmen begin to learn all the hallways. Masks have not been an issue except for the fact that Buildings C and D get hot. Cafeteria lines have not been a problem and the tents are popular for outside eating. Students love the blue tables.
- Senior Fest rescheduled due to rain until 10/29.
- First Home Game is Friday 9/25 against Norwalk at 7pm, orange and blue theme.
- On 10/13 the freshmen & sophomores have PSAT's, while seniors have cap and gown, photos and handprints.
- On 10/16 is Homecoming Game at 1 pm against staples.
- The week of 10/25 is in person spirit week, student are excited to wear Red, White and Blue, Day in Paradise, Orange and Blue Day, Character/Decades Day and Twin Day.

ACE Representative: Nicole Quizphe

- ACE Staff Interviewed new students and welcomed them to the Fall Semester.
 - On 8/30 ACE ran Orientation Day to deliver expectations for attendance and course schedules, behavioral norms, and social emotional learning activities.
 - On 9/10 the ACE Humanities Department Grade Level Benchmark was held. They have created a Google Classroom that the entire student body participates in based on the highest grade level in English and Social Studies. After benchmarks were completed, ACE held an afternoon BBQ to welcome students and staff back.
 - ACE will be hosting Parent's Night on 9/27 at 5 P.M. under the ACE tent.
 - ACE thanks the district for providing the tent.
- G. Cooper-thanked the students for bringing the information to the Board.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Education Specification for Solar Panel Installation at King Street Intermediate

MOTION: K. Conetta moved, A. Russo seconded, that the Board of Education table the Education Specifications for Solar Panel Installation at King Street Intermediate

School in accordance with

21-102(pg.10)

- K. Walston-Informed the Board that there will be no reimbursement from the grant because the roof has to be less than 5 years old.
- R. Jannelli-We attended meetings and it was never mentioned before. There was a lot of work dedicated to this project. It is a shame that this is on hold.

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

Absent: Kathryn Hodgdon
Motion carried at 7:18 pm

B. End of the FY 2020-21 Financial Report (General Funds)

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by K. Molinaro, that the Board of Education approve the End of the FY 2020-21 Financial Report (General Funds) in accordance with 21-103(pg.11)

- Russo-My thoughts are that we should have some numbers attached to this motion.
- K. Walston-Asked Frank Connolly to explain the financial report.
- F. Connolly-We have gone through a lot of changes in the Finance Department and the end of year balance will be substantial due to COVID. He was reluctant to publicly announce a fluid number. The board can accept this report or to table it.
- K. Walston-We need to have firm numbers for the Board.
- R. Jannelli-Recommended to table until numbers are solid. In the past we generally have the end of year report within a couple of meetings, so we are not too behind.

MOTION: Withdrawn

MOTION: A. Russo moved, seconded by R. Chaleski, that the Board of Education table the End of the FY 2020-21 Financial Report (General Funds) in accordance with 21-103(pg.11)

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

Absent: Kathryn Hodgdon
Motion carried at 7:30 pm

C. 2021-2022 Teacher Evaluation Plan

MOTION: A. Spallino moved, seconded by K. Conetta, that the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 Teacher Evaluation Plan, as recommended by the TEVAL Committee, and in accordance with 21-104(pg.12)

- R. Chaleski-Asked what the changes were.
- K. Walston-Thanked all who worked on this project. Will let K. Truchsess add to it.
- K. Truchsess-The number of observations has been changed slightly. The number of in person meetings was tweaked.

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

Absent: Joseph Britton (Off Zoom), Kathryn Hodgdon

Motion carried at 7:35 pm

X. PRESENTATION

XI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Reopening Update-

K. Walston has received many emails regarding bussing issues. We have been challenged due to the shortage of bus drivers. It keeps improving and we are working with the bus company to continue to improve the timing of the busses. The State has been working with districts to expedite new drivers. Discussed the possibility of letting the HS out earlier to alleviate the afternoon runs.

- R. Chaleski-Sated that it is not just the busses being late but also how crowded they are.
- J. DaSilva-Asked if we are having challenges with the bussing for student activities? Is STA complying with their contract?
- K. Walston-Explained that activities have had some challenges, but it was figured out. He will be working with STA about compliance with our contract.
R. Jannelli-Are the kids being marked late due to busses being late?
- K. Walston-Explained it is the general practice that the school announces if busses are late.
- J. DaSilva-Is there a reason why the tracking App shuts off after 4:00 PM?
- K. Walston-The App and the navigation system is not very accurate because changes are made. I will communicate with the bus company to see why it shuts down.
- K. Walston-Discussed the new COVID Mandate from the State for Vaccination status.
- K. Thompson-Explained the requirements as of today. We have 1,767 are collecting paychecks. Of those about 400 have not responded to the request for their information. We think that about 80% of our staff are vaccinated. The rest will have to test weekly. We will have a testing schedule.
- R. Jannelli-Do we have local testing sites?
- K. Thompson-Yes, there are a few no cost testing sites in Danbury. Not sure that insurance will continue to cover testing.

B. Enrollment Update-

11,711 students 220 students pending. We are at 11,807 and anticipate we will be around 12,000 by 10/1.

- R. Chaleski-Read in the paper that we will be doing another enrollment study. Wasn't it done last year? Are we doing the study? Concerned about the way I heard it.
- K. Walston-My apologies, it was discussed at the Facilities Meeting.
- R. Chaleski-What warrants the statement that we need an Elementary and Middle School? There is no question that all three Middle Schools are overcrowded and that we have been looking for more Elementary space.
- K. Walston-I only reiterated what was discussed at the Board.

XII. DISCUSSION

XIII. INFORMATION

XIV. BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- G. Cooper-Discussed upcoming dates of meetings and committees.
- L. Daly-Very hard to hear what is going on.
- A. Spallino-It is very hard to hear, and we had no microphones tonight.
- G. Cooper-Understood and will try to go back to Beaver Brook. Thank you to everyone involved with Graduation 2020.

XV. BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

R. Chaleski-Attended the Band Show and it was fantastic. CABA convention 11/12.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: DaSilva moved, A. Russo seconded that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session to present the tentative agreement with Teamsters Local Union 677 International Brotherhood of Teamsters for Safety Advocates, with action in public session.

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

Absent: Joseph Britton (Off Zoom), Kathryn Hodgdon

Motion Carried at 8:30 PM

Motion to return to public session made by Kate Conetta, Second by J. DaSilva

XVII. PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: K. Conetta moved, seconded by J. DaSilva that the Board of Education ratify the agreement with Teamsters Local Union 677 International Brotherhood of Teamsters for Safety Advocates, as presented.

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

Absent: Joseph Britton (Off Zoom), Kathryn Hodgdon

Motion carried at 8:53 pm

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn J. DaSilva, Second A. Russo

Motion carried at 8:54 pm

Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary