

West Hartford Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
March 7, 2017

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

Regular Meeting – Town Hall – Legislative Chamber

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The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm	<i>Roll Call/ Pledge of Allegiance</i>
No Student Participation at this time	<i>Student Participation</i>
No Public Communication at this time	<i>Public Communication</i>
No Unfinished Business at this time.	<i>Unfinished Business</i>
Mr. Sarzen moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded: THAT the Board of Education receive the Superintendent’s recommended 2017-2018 Education Budget and begin the process of reviewing and modifying for final approval and adoption as the Board of Education Budget at the April 4, 2017 Board of Education Meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tom Moore, Superintendent, presented the 2017-2018 Education Budget to the Board of Education. He noted tonight as the first step in the budget adoption process, stating there will be several budget workshops as well as a public hearing to receive public comments before the Board adopts a final budget, which will then be forwarded to the West Hartford Town Council. He then thanked all the staff including principals, administrators, school staff and the executive team for the hours put into the budget preparation. Superintendent Moore stated that all materials from tonight will be available on the WHPS website. Mr. Tom Moore gave a perspective on who West Hartford is as a district. Highlighting our 9,700 students with 73 different home languages, he stated there is no one like us. We rank 128 out of 169 towns with respect to per pupil spending, but rank 3 rd in the state based on AP participation. Superintendent Moore went over what we spend compared to other towns in our DRG noting we	<i>New Business Presentation of the Superintendent’s 2017-2018 Budget Recommendations</i>

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spend on average \$15,022 per student - \$12 million less than if we spent at the state average. Superintendent Moore explained the Governor's proposed budget and the impact it will have on school districts. The largest impact, increasing our budget by over \$8 million, was the requirement that the town contribute toward teachers' retirement costs. Another major driver in the budget this year is higher medical expenses, as it was a difficult year as unfortunately a lot more people got sick. Other increases included the cost of pensions, an increase in transportation for students placed out- of-district, and higher tuition costs for students placed out-of-district. To ameliorate the increase, the superintendent's budget includes reductions that can be made in school and department office supplies, including books and computer supplies, an increase in the pay-to-play amount, and staff tightening. Superintendent Moore asked the Board to consider the recommendations outlined in the budget book and remember that everything in it represents a person who works hard to make our school district better. Closing statements included the next steps in the process, upcoming meetings and a quote by Bernice Johnson Reagon who said, "Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you, they're supposed to help you discover who you are." The Board thanked Superintendent Moore and also thanked everyone who came out to the meeting tonight.

Ms. Exum moved and Mr. Sarzen seconded:

THAT the Board of Education approve the revised minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of February 22, 2017.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Greenberg mentioned she attended the Chocolate Café, noting that for her, the music was the highlight of the event. Mr. Zydanowicz congratulated the Hall girls basketball team on being named the CCC Divisional Champions and for ranking 7th in the state tournament. Sarah Berman commented on Hall sports including the boys basketball team playing Weaver High School. She also mentioned that the Pops' n Jazz opens this weekend. Hugo Barrillon commented on Conard sports including the boys hockey senior night and the opening of the musical Cinderella. He mentioned Black History Day at Conard and the upcoming International Woman's Day.

*Approval
Of Minutes*

*Information and
Reports*

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Dr. Overmyer-Velazquez announced the following meeting dates:

1. Wednesday, March 15, 2017, BOE Budget Workshop #1, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314.
2. Tuesday, March 21, 2017, regular Board of Education Meeting, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, room 314, Legislative Chamber, 7:00 p.m., followed by BOE Budget Workshop #2.
3. Wednesday March 29, 2017, Public Hearing 7:00 p.m. followed by BOE Budget Workshop #3, Town Hall, 50 South Main Street Legislative Chambers, room 314.
4. Tuesday, April 4, 2017, regular BOE meeting, Adoption of the Superintendent's 2017-2018 Budget, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall, 50 South Main, Street, Legislative Chamber, room 314

*Announcement of
Meeting Dates*

John Joyce of 170 South Main Street commented on the presentation of the budget, noting he would like to hear the responses and opinions of each of the Board members.

*Comments from
Visitors*

Mr. Zydanowicz moved and Mrs. Blanks seconded:

Adjournment

THAT the Board adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Chairperson Carol A. Blanks, Secretary
Respectfully submitted by: Mrs. C. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

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