

**Board of Education Meeting
Andrew Avenue Elementary School
March 13, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education convened with a Board Study Session at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at Andrew Avenue Elementary School. Present were Board members Mayor Michael Bronko, Kathleen Donovan, David Heller, Michelle Kalogrides, Barbara Lewis, Thomas McKirryher, Raymond Savoy and James Scully. Dr. John Tindall-Gibson, Superintendent of Schools and John Petuch, Business were also present. Rocky Vitale was absent.

Brigitte Crispino, Director of Instructional Services, Lori Ferreira, Dean of Academic Programs, and Earl Whiskeyman, Director of Technology, were also in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Theresa Forish, Principal of Andrew Avenue School, introduced students who were recognized for their musical talent and for representing the school and the district. The students performed a “welcome” song and the *National Anthem* and led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Board Chair Kathleen Donovan and Dr. Tindall-Gibson presented certificates to the following students: Elliott Almeida, Felicity Berrios, Katherine Blanchard, Anthony Bruno, Sarah Ciarcia, Stephanie Clark, Maria Contreras, Elizabeth Crabtree, Olivia Creager, Kerry Fitzmaurice, Sean Graveline, Trevor Harper, Erin Korowotny, Dante LoCascio, Michael Macary, Amanda Pelosi, Shane Swierbitowicz, Stephen Torres, Donald Wisniewski and Emily Wisniewski.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: made by Thomas McKirryher seconded by James Scully to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education meetings of February 7, 2008, February 11, 2008, February 27, 2008, and March 3, 2008.

VOTED: Unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brendan Heller, 29 Coventry Lane, Naugatuck High School Student Council Representative to the Board of Education, updated the Board as follows: CAPT testing ended, the Color Guard is competing, spring sports have begun and seniors are looking forward to graduation and college.

FINANCIAL REPORT

John Petuch, Business Manager, distributed and reviewed the current status of the 2007-2008 budget.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Kindergarten Readiness: Mrs. Forish proposed adding a kindergarten readiness program/transitional kindergarten for children who are age eligible for kindergarten, but who do not have the necessary skills. She asked the Board to consider allowing Andrew Avenue School to pilot this as a half-day program.

National External Diploma Program (NEDP): Tom Pompei, Director of Adult Education, spoke of this program which allows adults to demonstrate their high school level skills by applying their life experiences. The program consists of two phases: Diagnostic and Assessment. Once the NEDP participant has satisfied all of the phase requirements, the high school diploma is awarded. Mr. Pompei stated that the average age of the EDP student is 37, and that Naugatuck currently has 4,578 adults over the age of 18 who do not have a high school diploma. There would be no extra cost to the district for the program. Mr. Pompei is also in the process of applying for a grant, and he would like to begin this program in September 2008. The Board will review the materials for this program and vote on whether or not to approve it at the April Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Heller added that he attended the basketball game between the Naugatuck High School students and the faculty. Six hundred people attended the game, which was organized by the high school DECA club. The teachers and students raised almost \$4,000 for cancer research. Mr. Heller congratulated Mr. Pompei and the high school faculty for winning the game. He also offered congratulations to Mr. Pompei, who is the district's Athletic Director, and the Boys' Swim team which won the NVL championship two weeks ago.

Textbook Approval: Mrs. Crispino discussed the proposed text for high school advanced placement U.S. History.

MOTION: made by Michelle Kalogrides seconded by Barbara Lewis to approve *America: A Narrative History*, Brief Seventh Edition (2007) by George Brown Tindall and David Emory Shi.

VOTED: Unanimously.

AED Notification Letter: Mr. Heller informed the Board that the original version of this form omitted the location of the AED in each school; the form has been modified by adding a line to include that. A vote on this change will be requested at the next Board of Education meeting.

Parent Access to PowerSchool Acceptable Use Policy: Dr. Tindall-Gibson proposed this as a regulation to go along with a Board of Education policy on internet use that would apply to students, parents and staff. It was presented this evening because we would like to use this with parents at this time.

Stipends for Extra-Curricular Activities: Dr. Tindall-Gibson explained that in the Naugatuck Teachers' League contract there are stipends that have been in the contract for a long period of time but have never been used. He asked the Board if they would like to modify some of these stipend positions. After discussion, the Board authorized Dr. Tindall-Gibson to contact the NTL and, if they agree, open negotiations on these issues.

Personnel:

MOTION: made by Thomas McKirryher seconded by David Heller to appoint Francis Serratore as Principal of Naugatuck High School.

VOTED: Unanimously.

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MOTION: made by David Heller seconded by Thomas McKirryher to accept the resignations of Colleen Juodaitis, Paraprofessional, Cross Street Intermediate School (effective 2/8/08); Allene Granja, Program Manager, Head Start (effective 3/6/08); Lt. Col. Robert Kaelin, JROTC Teacher, Naugatuck High School (effective 2/22/08); Shannon St. Germain, Transportation Paraprofessional, Special Services (effective 3/21/08); Jeffrey Milner, Physical Education/Health Teacher, Central Avenue Elementary School (effective 6/30/08); Sofia Karistinos, Reading Assistant, Andrew Avenue Elementary School (effective 6/30/08); Marilyn LaFountain, General Cafeteria Worker, Hillside Middle School (effective 2/14/08); Michelle Towne, Bathroom Monitor, Naugatuck High School (effective 2/29/08).

VOTED: Unanimously.

MOTION: made by David Heller seconded by Thomas McKirryher to accept the retirement of Anthony Spino, Principal, Prospect Street Elementary School (effective 6/30/08).

VOTED: Unanimously.

MOTION: made by David Heller seconded by Thomas McKirryher to accept the retirements of Chris Evensen, Guidance Counselor, City Hill Middle School (effective 6/30/08); Julie Rosenblatt, Instructional Aide, Cross Street Intermediate School (effective 6/21/08); Michael Guisto, Custodian, Naugatuck High School (effective 5/25/07).

VOTED: Unanimously.

MOTION: made by David Heller seconded by Thomas McKirryher to approve the appointments of Catherine Rattanni, Special Education Teacher, Maple Hill Elementary School; Lorraine Cohen, Special Education Teacher, Maple Hill Elementary School; Sandra Fede, Reading Assistant, City Hill Middle School; Margaret Crotti, Reading Assistant, Andrew Avenue Elementary School; Casey Knittel, Reading Assistant, Hop Brook Intermediate School; Amber Brown, Transportation Paraprofessional, Special Services; Teresa Velez, Transportation Paraprofessional, Special Services; Beryl Yudkin, Program Manager, Head Start; Bernadette Savia, Talent Show (2007-2008), City Hill Middle School; Joseph Longo, Custodian, Naugatuck High School; Keith Raczkowski, Coach, Boys' Baseball, City Hill Middle School; Fred Scheithe, Coach, Girls' Softball, Hillside Middle School; Ricky Plasky, Coach, Boys' Baseball, Hillside Middle School; Tom Deller, Coach, Pre-Season Baseball, Naugatuck High School; Tom Deller, Coach, Varsity Baseball, Naugatuck High School; Ronald Plasky, Coach, JV Baseball, Naugatuck High School; Terry McManamy, Coach, Freshman Baseball, Naugatuck High School; Kevin Wesche, Coach, Varsity Softball, Naugatuck High School; Maribeth Ford, Coach, JV Softball, Naugatuck High School; Ralph Roper, Coach Boys' Track, Naugatuck High School; Matt Basile, Assistant Coach, Boys' Track, Naugatuck High School; William Hanley, Coach, Girls' Track, Naugatuck High School; Craig Blanchard, Coach, Varsity Golf, Naugatuck High School.

VOTED: Unanimously.

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MOTION: made by David Heller seconded by Thomas McKirryher to approve the following leaves of absence: Lisa Antidormi, Paraprofessional, Western Elementary School, 2/24/08 through 2/28/08 (without pay); Terrie Hildreth, Transportation Paraprofessional, Special Services, 1/2/08 through 3/7/08; Bethany Lahey, Teacher, Maple Hill Elementary School, 2/7/08 through 4/7/08; Kelley Smith, .6 Music Teacher, Salem Elementary School, 5/28/08 through 6/30/08; Keri Macdowall, Social Studies Teacher, Naugatuck High School, 3/17/08 through 3/28/08; Lisa Matejek, Paraprofessional, Maple Hill Elementary School, 3/31/08 through 4/11/08 (without pay).

VOTED: Unanimously.

MOTION: made by David Heller seconded by Thomas McKirryher to approve the non-renewals of Andrea LeClair, Guidance Counselor, Naugatuck High School; Janetta Dobler, ERS Literacy Coach, Andrew Avenue Elementary School; Alan Maccarella, Mathematics Teacher, Naugatuck High School.

VOTED: Unanimously.

MOTION: made by David Heller seconded by Thomas McKirryher to approve the termination of employment discussed in executive session.

VOTED: Unanimously.

The Board was informed of the transfers of Giuseppina Caruso from General Cafeteria Worker, Naugatuck High School, 3 hours/day to 3.5 hours/day; Todd Perrelli, from Custodian at Prospect Street Elementary School to District-wide Maintainer.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Dr. Tindall-Gibson requested the Board's approval for an out of state field trip: Naugatuck High School ROTC (20 students) requesting permission to travel to Newburgh Free Academy, Newburgh, New York for an ROTC drill competition on March 15, 2008.

MOTION: made by David Heller seconded by James Scully to approve the above field trip.

VOTED: Unanimously.

Dr. Tindall-Gibson directed the Board to the regular monthly Fire Department Reports, and the Enrollment Report in their packets. Also, one request for facility usage from SPARK at Andrew Avenue Elementary School.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES: Mr. McKirryher reported that the committee met today and approved the budget for the district with the exception of one magnet school; a lead teacher gave an overview of the district – all is going well.

Facility Planning: Minutes of the February 27, 2008, meeting attached.

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MOTION: made by David Heller seconded by James Scully to accept committee reports.

VOTED: Unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Evaluation of Superintendent and Board: Mrs. Donovan referred to documents for both evaluations and distributed a self-evaluation worksheet and asked Board members to complete it for next month's meeting.

Residency Hearing Panel: Dr. Tindall-Gibson informed the Board that according to State statute a panel must consist of three members appointed by the Board and requested a motion by the Board.

MOTION: made by David Heller seconded by Thomas McKirryher that the Board approve on advice of counsel a resolution for purposes of a residency hearing conducted in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §10-186, that three members of the Board be appointed to attend hearings and constitute a subcommittee designated by the Board to conduct any and all necessary residency hearings.

Dr. Tindall-Gibson requested another reading of the motion. Discussion followed. Motion withdrawn.

MOTION: made by David Heller seconded by Thomas McKirryher that a committee be formed of any three members that are available for a residency hearing when and if needed pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes.

VOTED: Unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Heller spoke about Student Art Month, during which displays of student art work are placed throughout the banks in Naugatuck. Mr. Heller visited Naugatuck Savings and Webster Bank and met with Mrs. Siefert, an elementary art teacher, and viewed the art work.

Mr. Heller thanked Brigitte Crispino for her work with focus groups in the search for the high school principal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Harper, 150 Ward Street, asked about the DARE program, and voiced her concerns about the need for programs geared toward middle school students.

MOTION: made by David Heller seconded by James Scully to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

VOTED: Unanimously.