

Board of Education
Darien, Connecticut

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Darien Public Schools'
Administrative Offices
Meeting Room
7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Adjourn to Executive Session (2nd Floor Conference Room) for the purpose of discussion regarding personnel and negotiations pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 1-200(6) (A) and (B)
3. Reconvene in public session.
4. Adjournment.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019**

**PLACE:
DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS'
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
MEETING ROOM
7:30 P.M.**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1. Call to Order..... | Mrs. Tara Ochman | 7:30 p.m. |
| 2. Chairperson's Report..... | Mrs. Tara Ochman | |
| 3. Public Comment*..... | Mrs. Tara Ochman | |

*Public Comments are limited to three minutes per individual and are designed to allow community members to inform the Darien Board of Education of their opinions and/or concerns. Where appropriate, community members are also encouraged to reach out to the school administration during regular school hours. There should be no expectation for dialogue on such public comments to take place at a regular public meeting, given that by law the Board may only discuss matters that are set forth on its agenda.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019**

4. Superintendent's Report..... Dr. Elliott Landon
5. Approval of Minutes..... Board of Education
6. Board Committee Reports..... Mrs. Tara Ochman
7. Presentations/Discussions
 - a. Update from Department..... Dr. Susie Da Silva
Chairpersons on Priorities and Outcomes
 - b. Curricula Update: Health and.. Dr. Susie Da Silva
Wellness PK-12
 - c. Update and Discussion on..... Mrs. Shirley Klein/
Extended School Year Mrs. Shira Schwartz
Program
 - d. Verbal Update on High School. Mrs. Ellen Dunn/
and Middle School Scheduling Mrs. Shelley Somers
 - e. Running Track Update..... Ms. Jennifer Montanaro
 - f. Further Discussion and Dr. Elliott Landon
Possible Action on Proposed
2020-21 School Calendar
8. Action Items
 - a. Personnel Items..... Ms. Marjorie Cion
 - i. Appointments
 - ii. Resignations/Retirements
9. Public Comment* Mrs. Tara Ochman
10. Adjournment..... Mrs. Tara Ochman

EL:nv

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APPROVED
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, April 9, 2019

PLACE:
DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
BOARD OF EDUCATION CONFERENCE ROOM
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

	Brown	Burke	Dineen	McCammon	McNamara	Maroney	Ochman	Ritchie	Stein
Present	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Absent									

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Dr. Landon, Dr. Da Silva, Ms. Klein, Ms. Cion and Mr. Feeney

AUDIENCE: Approximately 25

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Call to Order | Mrs. Tara B. Ochman, Chair,
at 7:36 p.m. (0:00) |
| 2. Chairperson's Report | Mrs. Ochman, Chair,
at 7:37 p.m. (0:01) |
| 3. Public Comment | Mrs. Ochman, Chair,
at 7:38 p.m. (0:02) |
| 4. Superintendent's Report | Dr. Elliott Landon
at 7:38 p.m. (0:02) |
| 5. Approval of Minutes | Board of Education
at 7:39 p.m. (0:03) |

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019:

1st Mr. Burke

2ND Ms. McNamara

	Brown	Burke	Dineen	McCammon	McNamara	Maroney	Ochman	Ritchie	Stein
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No									
Abstain									

RESULT - MOTION PASSED (9-0-0)

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019:

1st Ms. Ritchie

2ND Mr. Brown

	Brown	Burke	Dineen	McCammon	McNamara	Maroney	Ochman	Ritchie	Stein
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

No									
Abstain									

RESULT - MOTION PASSED (9-0-0)

6. Board Committee Reports

Mrs. Ochman, Chair,
at 7:40 p.m. (0:04)

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

7. Presentations/Discussions:

a. Conversation with Jeremy
Ginsberg regarding Planning
and Zoning Municipal
Use Amendment

Dr. Elliott Landon
at 7:41 p.m. (0:05)

Ms. Ochman made a motion to amend the agenda

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE ITEM G DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF AN IMPARTIAL HEARING OFFICER:

1st Mr. Burke
2ND Ms. Ritchie

	Brown	Burke	Dineen	McCammon	McNamara	Maroney	Ochman	Ritchie	Stein
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No									
Abstain									

RESULT - MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0)

b. Presentation and Discussion
on State Required 2023
Changes to Graduation
Requirements

Dr. Susie Da Silva/
Mrs. Ellen Dunn
at 8:15 p.m. (0:39)

c. Presentation on Capstone
Project/Digital Portfolio-
Middlesex Middle School

Dr. Susie Da Silva/
Ms. Shelley Somers
at 8:55 p.m. (1:19)

d. Discussion and Possible
Acceptance of Contemplated
Gift from Tokeneke PTO

Dr. Elliott Landon
at 9:39 p.m. (2:03)

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE GIFT FROM THE TOKENEKE PTO:

1st Ms. McNamara
2ND Ms. McCammon

	Brown	Burke	Dineen	McCammon	McNamara	Maroney	Ochman	Ritchie	Stein
Yes	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
No						X			
Abstain									

RESULT - MOTION PASSED (8-1-0)

e. Update on Kindergarten
Elementary, Middle School,
and High School Enrollment
for 2019-2020

Dr. Susie Da Silva
at 9:45 p.m. (2:09)

f. Further Discussion and Action
on Establishing 2019 Darien
High School Graduation Date

Dr. Elliott Landon
at 9:49 p.m. (2:13)

MOTION TO ESTABLISH JUNE 18, 2019 AS THE DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DATE:

1st Ms. Ritchie

2ND Mr. Maroney

	Brown	Burke	Dineen	McCammon	McNamara	Maroney	Ochman	Ritchie	Stein
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No									
Abstain									

RESULT - MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0)

g. Discussion and Possible Action
on the Appointment of an
Impartial Hearing Officer

Dr. Elliott Landon
at 9:50 p.m. (2:14)

MOTION TO APPROVE AN IMPARTIAL HEARING OFFICER FOR STUDENT DISCIPLINARY MATTERS FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR AS THEY ARISE:

1st Mr. Burke

2ND Mr. Dineen

	Brown	Burke	Dineen	McCammon	McNamara	Maroney	Ochman	Ritchie	Stein
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No									
Abstain									

RESULT - MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0)

MOTION TO DELEGATE TO ITS APPOINTED HEARING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY FOR HEARING EXPULSION EXPUNGEMENT REQUESTS AND FOR HEARING SCHOOL ACCOMMODATIONS APPEALS, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION APPEALS AS PROVIDED BY STATUTE:

1st Mr. Burke

2ND Mr. Maroney

	Brown	Burke	Dineen	McCammon	McNamara	Maroney	Ochman	Ritchie	Stein
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No									
Abstain									

RESULT - MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0)

8. Public Comment

Mrs. Ochman, Chair,
at 9:54 p.m. (2:18)

9. Adjournment

Mrs. Ochman, Chair,
at 9:54 p.m. (2:18)

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

1st Ms. Ritchie

2nd Ms. McCammon

	Brown	Burke	Dineen	McCammon	McNamara	Maroney	Ochman	Ritchie	Stein
Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No									
Abstain									

RESULT - MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0)

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m. (2:18)

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathrine Stein,
Secretary

Darien Public Schools - Administrative Offices

35 Leroy Avenue – P.O. Box 1167 – Darien, Connecticut 06820-1167
Tel: 203-656-7414 Email: sdasilva@darienps.org

Memo

May 2019

To: Elliott Landon, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*
From: Susie Da Silva, Ed.D., *Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, K-12*
Re: Accomplishments and Priorities

Our curriculum leaders, in partnership with our teachers and administrators are the strength of Darien's Responsive Curriculum model. Each spring, we collect feedback from our teachers across all content areas to identify the strengths and challenges of our curriculum and units of study. This feedback, along with data, state initiatives, and budget, help identify our curriculum priorities for the school year. The curriculum model in Darien is unique in that all curriculum areas are revisited each year and are responsive to what we learn from our students and teachers.

The curriculum leadership of Darien continues to be proud of its accomplishments across all of our content areas and levels. One of our goals this year was to periodically share updates with the Board of Education and to highlight curriculum updates, progress and future work. These updates also highlight the vertical alignment and collaboration that takes place K-12. Curriculum presentations shared this year are linked below:

- English, K-12
- Math, K-12
- Science, K-12
- Social Studies, K-12; and,
- Health and Wellness, K-12.

The most important work that our curriculum leaders do on a daily basis continues to be supervising and evaluating teachers in support of the implementation of the curriculum. This work is done through a variety of approaches which will be described in more detail on May 14th.

- **Professional Development:** Department Chairpersons plan, organize and implement professional development for their teachers. Professional development does not begin and end during "Professional Development Days" but rather throughout the entire school year. In addition to full professional learning days, teachers also use faculty meetings and professional learning time to grow their craft, ask questions and engage in dialogue and collaboration.
- **Learning Rounds:** This practice involves all administrative teams across all levels and contents, observing and reflecting on teaching/learning together. This model includes vertical and horizontal observations, in addition to cross-content area observations. The shift to have a common lens on teaching and learning allows for a shared K-12 vision, ultimately, ensuring the collaboration and calibration around best practices in teaching and learning.

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- **Curriculum Writing and Revising:** The district now memorializes curriculum that is shared and common. Curriculum can be found on staff websites, which includes units of study and the corresponding learning sequence. In addition, we have enhanced our communication with parents through accessibility, responsiveness and the creation/availability of resources. Parent and staff websites can be found on the district websites.
- **Supervision and Evaluation:** In addition to formal observations, teachers are informally observed with a significant frequency. Department Chairpersons have built time into their schedules to both conduct observations, in addition to providing teachers with feedback.
- **Model/Coach Teachers:** Across K-12 classrooms, our curriculum leaders work toward a coaching model in support of professional development for teachers. As model teachers themselves, they look toward implementing best practices for teachers in a risk-free environment. This is a highly effective strategy in ensuring teacher growth and the implementation of professional development.

It is important to note that each department personalizes their work based on their specific department needs. The work of each department has been strengthened by having an evaluator with content expertise. Teachers now receive feedback in teaching methodologies *and* in content. This continues to be a significant strength of Darien's curriculum model.

Darien continues to be innovative, thoughtful, and efficient across all curriculum areas K-12. We collect feedback/data across the year from our teachers and students in an effort to ensure capacity and continued growth. We continue to partner with teachers and families to be the best that we can be. The department chairpersons and I look forward to answering any questions at the Board of Education meeting scheduled on May 14th.

Sincerely,

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

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Tel: 203-656-7414 Email: sdasilva@darienps.org

Memo

May 2019

To: Elliott Landon, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*
From: Susie Da Silva, Ed.D., *Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, K-12*
Re: Health and Wellness Update

This school year we continue to study the health and wellness for the students of Darien. While the work of health and wellness is complex and involves many layers, we are proud of our accomplishments thus far. As shared with the Board of Education last spring, we conducted a knowledge summary prior to beginning this work. The purpose of the knowledge summary was to guide us in *developing an innovative and comprehensive skills-based health education curriculum; creating opportunities for social and emotional learning to occur in all aspects of the school curriculum and school communities, and meeting the specific needs of students related to all components of health (social, emotional / mental, physical, etc.).* The knowledge summary also identified challenges facing our students and schools:

- *Participants reported that students' school performance may suffer due to emotional issues, especially stress, anxiety, depression, or substance use.*
- *Teachers and administrators reported that school counselors' and psychologists' offices are tasked with meetings and IEP assessments, leaving little time for supporting students' mental/emotional health.*
- *Instructional time is not currently allocated for some grade levels in health education.*

At the Board of Education meeting on May 14th, I intend on sharing the collective work of administrators, teachers and staff developers, as well as our future work/next steps. Here are a few highlights of the presentation:

- **PK-12 standards-based *scope and sequence* for the teaching of health education:** This scope and sequence allows for the teaching of health education beginning in the early years, and extends to grade 12. The scope and sequence is anchored in *National Health Education Standards, CT Sexual Health Education Guidelines, CT State Statutory Requirements in Health and Safety; Alcohol, Nicotine, Tobacco and Drugs; and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome* as well as the five social/emotional learning competencies (SEL) identified by *Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)*. Reflected in the scope and sequence is the teaching of health education to students in grades 9-12 separately. Sample unit plans for all levels have been developed and will continue throughout the summer and the 2019-2020 school year. I look forward to showing you a sample of the depth and breadth of the units plans that have been created thus far.
- **Creating environments that are safe, joyful, engaging and provide students a sense of belonging and significance:** Across our schools we continue our commitment to the strong relationship between academic success and social-emotional learning. To date, we have teachers trained in Responsive Classroom I, Responsive Classroom II and a small cohort moving to Responsive Classroom certification. We also had groups of teachers trained in Responsive Classroom I for middle school.
- **Integration of the 5 CASEL competencies across content areas:** We identified specific areas within the content areas where each of the 5 competencies can be taught, as well as those that require more development. This

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work is being done K-8. An example of what this work looks like will be illustrated on May 14th.

- **Meeting the personalized needs of students:** Teams of teachers and administrators have identified key areas of social, emotional, and behavioral health and developed a bank of goals, strategies and resources to support students. We look forward to the accessibility and expertise of our school psychologists and counselors to continue to grow this teacher tool kit, as well as offering students additional supports.

Linked below are additional resources that may be helpful in understanding how these different components come together in support of students' health and wellness.

- [The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model](#)
- [Shape America: Position Statement](#)
- [A Skills-Based Approach to Health Education](#)
- **Why skills based? Key paragraph:** *"There are numerous studies indicating that providing information about issues such as sex, STDs and HIV (transmission, risk factors, how to avoid infection) is necessary, but not sufficient, to lead to healthy behavioral change (Hubley, 2000). Programs that provide accurate information, to counteract the myths and misinformation, frequently report improvements in knowledge and attitudes, but this is poorly correlated with behavioral change related to risk taking and desirable behavioral outcomes (Gatawa 1995, UNAIDS 1997a). Skills-based health education can be effective in the more difficult task of achieving and sustaining behavior change."*
- [National Health-Education Standards](#)
- [CASEL core competencies](#)
- [CT Sexual Health Education Guidelines](#)
- [CT State Statutory Requirements in Health and Safety; Alcohol, Nicotine, Tobacco and Drugs; and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome](#)

We understand the role that schools have in supporting students' emotional health and wellness, and it is our goal to continue our efforts in providing safe, joyful and connected schools for all. I look forward to sharing this work at the Board of Education meeting on May 14th.

Sincerely,

Susie Da Silva, Ed.D.

Alternate Proposal

2020-2021 Darien School District Calendar

(4/23/19 Bd. of Ed. Meeting)

July				
	1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

August (1)				
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26*	27*	28
31				

24, 25 New Staff Orientation
26, 27 Professional Development
28 Teacher Work Day
31 Students Return

September (20)				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25^
28	29	30		

7 Labor Day
25 Professional Learning Communities – High School
28 Yom Kippur

October (22)				
		1	2	
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23^
26	27	28	29	30

23 Professional Learning Communities – High School

November (18)				
2	3*	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20^
23	24	25	26	27
30				

3 Professional Development
20 Professional Learning Communities – High School
25 Early Dismissal
26-27 Thanksgiving Recess

December (17)				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11^
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

11 Professional Learning Communities – High School
23 Early Dismissal
24-31 Holiday Recess

January (18)				
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15*
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

1 Holiday Recess (New Year's Day)
15 Professional Development
18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February (14)				
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12*
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

12 Professional Development
15 Presidents' Day
16-19 February Recess

March (23)				
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12^
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

12 Professional Learning Communities – High School

April (16)				
	1	2		
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23^
26	27	28	29	30

2 Good Friday
12-16 Spring Recess
23 Professional Learning Communities – High School

May (20)				
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21^
24	25	26	27	28
31				

21 Professional Learning Communities – High School
31 Memorial Day

June (11)				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

15 School ends for students
16 Teacher Work Day

Note #1: If schools are closed due to weather, additional days will be added to the end of the school year. Regarding High School graduation, by State law, after April 1st, Boards of Education are permitted to establish a graduation date. Therefore, the Board of Education will make that determination at its first regular April, 2021 meeting.

Code: _ Early Dismissal (11/25, 12/23, 6/15); * Staff Development Days; No School for Students; _ Teacher Work Day;

^Professional Learning Communities for High School Only – (9/25, 10/23, 11/20, 12/11, 3/12, 4/23, 5/21)

PERSONNEL ACTION REPORT**May 14, 2019**

Item	Name	Action	Replacing/Location/Position	Effective Date		Tenure Area	Certification Class/Step
				From	To		
Appointments							
1	Michelle Melillo	Appointment	D McClure/MMS/Art	8/26/2019	6/30/2023	Teacher	Art PK-12 MA Step 7
2	Carolyn Gamanos	Appointment	S Kawai/Holmes/Art	8/26/2019	6/30/2023	Teacher	Art PK-12 MA Step 12
3	Catherine Takovich	Change of Position	T Heyde/Hindley/Math Interventionist		NA	Teacher	Elementary MA Step 9
4	Alan Lui	Appointment	D Herman/DHS/Physics	8/26/2019	6/30/2023	Teacher	Physics 7 - 12 MA + 30 Step 3
Resignations and Retirements (Informational)							
5	Dylan Herman	Resignation	DHS/Physics		6/30/2019		