

**APPROVED  
MINUTES  
DARIEN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AUGUST 23, 2016**

**PLACE:**

Darien Board of Education  
Meeting Room  
7:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Harman, Chair; Mesdames Stein and Sullivan; Messrs. Burke, Dineen and Martens.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mesdames Hagerty-Ross, Zuro and McNamara.

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Dr. Dan Brenner, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Susie DaSilva, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Shirley Klein, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services; Ms. Marjorie Cion, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Michael Feeney, Director of Finance.

**VISITORS:**

Approximately 12.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Harman called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Mr. Harman stated that the next Board of Education meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room. He thanked everyone for attending and stated that he is looking forward to a successful year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public came forward to speak.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Brenner stated that the Administration is working tirelessly to prepare for the start of the new school year. He stated that 65 new teachers and 3 administrators have been hired. He is very excited about who has been hired.

Mr. Feeney stated that parents have been notified that bus routes have been finalized. Parents can search the bus routes on Aspen. The routes have also been published in the *Stamford Advocate*, and the *Darien Times*, and on our website. Dr. Brenner stated that Mr. Feeney and another administrator tested the bus routes several weeks ago to ensure that there are no problems with the routes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **July 26, 2016 Special Meeting and Executive Session.**

- \*\* MR. BURKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 26, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
- \*\* MS. SULLIVAN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **July 26, 2016 Regular Meeting.**

- \*\* MR. BURKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 26, 2016 REGULAR MEETING.**
- \*\* MR. DINEEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Harman stated that the next Board of Education Budget Committee meeting will be on Friday, August 26, 2016.

### **PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

#### **A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR STADIUM LIGHTS TO PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

Dr. Brenner stated that in the previous meeting, the stadium lights were approved. Since that meeting, he has met twice with neighbors residing near the stadium. The neighbors expressed concerns, and as a result of those meetings, he is requesting that the Board reopen the item in order to make changes.

He requested that the Board approve a 7:30 p.m. hard and fast shut off time for the stadium lights with the caveat of teams being able to complete games that run past that time. He requested that the agreement be put in place for five years. Reasons for a game running late would be a rare occasion when a team arrived to the stadium late and the game started late, or an instance when the game went into overtime.

Mr. Burke stated that he does not take the five year span lightly. It shows the Board's commitment to the neighbors and hopes that the neighbors trust the Board's judgment.

Mr. Harman stated that his concern is with the ability to play back to back games.

Board questions and comments and Administration's responses: **a) What happens after the five years are up?** (Dr. Brenner stated theoretically – nothing. After the term expires, a new agreement would be put in place.) **b) Will there still be an annual review?** (Dr. Brenner stated that annual reviews will still be in place.) **c) Who is the keeper of the switch?** (Dr. Brenner stated that the Athletic Director and the Director of Facilities will be able to shut off the lights.) **d) What kind of notification will there be to neighbors when there will be a late game?** (Dr. Brenner stated that a protocol will have to be put in place to track the number of late games, and how neighbors will be notified.)

**\*\* MS. SULLIVAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION WITH AMENDMENTS FOR STADIUM LIGHTS TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.**

**\*\* MR. DINEEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **B. DISCUSSION ON STUDENT ACTIVITY FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES AND AUDIT REPORT**

(File #2537)

Mr. Feeney stated that the Student Activity Fundraising Guidelines and Audit Report creates a standardized template for fundraising by sports teams and clubs. He reviewed the process on how the account is set up, and what the necessary forms that fundraisers will have to fill out in order to be in compliance. Surplus funds in excess of \$1,000 raised by sports teams and clubs will, at the end of the year, be put into the general activity account.

Board questions and comments and Administration's responses: **a) What happens when fundraising for one particular gender far exceeds the fundraising for the other gender?** **b) Does a club have to request funding from the general fund before doing any fundraising on their own?** **c) Can fundraising money be put through a third party and not be kept outside of funds that would normally have to be put into the general fund?** **d) Have coaches and the athletic director had conversations yet on how the process will work?** **e) Is there a way to track how much each team has been raising each year?** **f) Funds are transferred to the general fund at the end of the year?** **g) Does this prohibit certain types of fundraising from being done?** (Dr. Brenner stated that this will help the schools comply with Title IX and prevent sports teams from being disproportionately funded. Clubs do not have to put in requests for funding before doing fundraising, on their own. If fundraising dollars are spend on team equipment without authorization, there will be consequences. Loopholes cannot be used to get around contributing excess dollars to the general fund. As of now, the Athletic Director and coaches have not had formal conversations. Everything will have to be clear to all parties as to how the process will work. At the end of each school year, leftover funds in excess of \$1,000 will be put into the general fund. A tally is taken of the money that each club and sports team have fundraised in each year. This does not place any additional restrictions on how teams can fundraise, be it through a car wash, or other activities.)

## **C. UPDATE ON COPY CENTER**

Dr. Brenner stated that an employee has been hired to run the new copy center. The center will be up and running on Friday. It will provide better service at a lower cost.

## **D. DISCUSSION OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION CONTRACT**

Dr. Brenner stated that the contract, in a reasonable way, involves coaches, parents, administrators, and the students in setting out expectations for proper conduct for all students in our schools. It is a larger conversation than initially thought and additional time needs to be spent in discussion. He stated that we will be working as a committee and he invited board members to be a part of that. He will be coming back in ten weeks with a report for the board.

## **E. REPORT ON DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL SAT RESULTS AS PART OF THE STATE TESTING PROGRAM** (File #2538)

Dr. Da Silva stated that we now use the SAT as an accountability measure instead of the SBAC. There is no writing portion on the new SAT. The intent of the newly redesigned SAT is to make it more aligned with state standards and Common Core standards. Students are able to cancel their scores on the SAT. Even if they cancel right after completing the test, the scores are still able to be used for accountability purposes. In the mathematics part of the test, students performed less well, but we do not need to provide additional instruction outside of what we currently provide.

Mr. Marc Marin stated that this is a redesigned SAT, and cannot be compared to previous administrations of the SAT. There are different reports put out by the College Board and by the Connecticut Department of Education. The College Board report does not include thirty scores that were canceled. The Connecticut Department of Education includes the numbers.

Board questions and comments and Administration's responses: **a) What is the rationale behind our response to the math scores?** (Dr. Da Silva stated that it was thought that the scores would be linked to student performance in the first start of the school year, but that turned out not to be the case.) **b) Do we have a survey of how many students took SAT prep or tutoring?** (Dr. Da Silva stated that we do not have that information.) **c) How many times are our students taking the SAT?** (Dr. Brenner stated that we can provide that information. He added that scores are static in relation to how many times a student takes the test.)

## **F. DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF DISTRICT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2016-2017** (File #2539)

- \*\* MR. BURKE MOVED TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2016-2017.**
- \*\* MR. DINEEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **G. DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF BOARD GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2016-2017** (File #2540)

- \*\* MS. SULLIVAN MOVED TO ADOPT THE BOARD GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2016-2017.
- \*\* MR. DINEEN SECONDED THE MOTION.
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**H. FURTHER DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF UPDATED FACILITIES USE FEE SCHEDULE**

(File #2541)

Mr. Feeney stated that the schedule was being done on a three year basis. He reviewed the costs, and stated that there is a 2% across the board increase, with the exception of the Middlesex cafeteria. The cafeteria remains at its current rate.

Board question and Administration's response: **a) Has there been any push back to the rate increases?** (Mr. Feeney stated that there has been no push back other than from the Middlesex cafeteria.)

- \*\* MS. SULLIVAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE UPDATED FACILITIES USE FEE SCHEDULE.
- \*\* MR. DINEEN SECONDED THE MOTION.
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**I. FIRST READING OF BOARD MASTER AGENDA FOR AUGUST 2016-JANUARY 2017** (File

#2542)

Dr. Brenner gave an overview of the proposed Master Agenda.

Board questions and comments and Administration's response: **a) The plan does not include a snow date for the special meeting of the budget. Can we include one?** (Dr. Brenner stated that one can be put into the plan.)

**J. VERBAL UPDATE ON REGULAR AND SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFFING FOR 2016-2017**

Ms. Cion reviewed the list of new hires that have come in for the school year.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**A. PERSONNEL ITEMS** (File #2543)

- I. Appointments**
- II. Resignations**

- \*\* MR. BURKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS.
- \*\* MR. DINEEN SECONDED THE MOTION.
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**B. CONTRACT WITH THE CUSTODIANS UNION** (File #2544)

- \*\* MR. BURKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE CUSTODIANS UNION CONTRACT.**
- \*\* MS. STEIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. CONTRACT WITH THE MAINTENANCE UNION** (File #2545)

- MS. SULLIVAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAINTENANCE UNION CONTRACT.**
- MR. DINEEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Millyn Gaaserud, Driftway Lane, spoke about the Student Activity Fundraising Guidelines and Audit Report. She stated that it will be important to explain to parents how the new guidelines will work. She took part in organizing three banquets last year and all of them had different processes for handling the fundraising.

Mr. Paul Michalski, Middlesex Road, spoke about the Stadium Lights Application. He thanked the board for keeping an open mind with the lights discussion. He also stated that we should be proactive on environmental issues. There may be ten endangered species in Darien, and we should ask to do an environmental review rather than wait to be asked to complete a review.

Ms. Jill McCammon, Old Kings Highway South, asked if after school vendors need to go in the appendix of the Facility Fee Schedule.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MR. MARTENS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* MR. BURKE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathrine Stein, Board Member  
(in absence of Sarah Schneider Zuro, Secretary)