City of Derby - Board of Education Meeting

September 20, 2018 6:30 PM
Derby Middle School Cafetorium
73 Chatfield Street

Attendance Taken at 6:30 PM:

Present Board Members:
Mr. Jim Gildea
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio
Mrs. Laura Harris
Mrs. Janine Netto
Mrs. Debra Borrelli
Mr. Dan Foley
Mr. George Kurtyka
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara

Board members not present:
Mrs. Casey Picheco was excused

I. Call to Order
I.a. Opening Ceremonies
I.b. Roll Call
I.c. Additions/deletions to the agenda
Motion Passed: Motion to move item VI Policy 5118 – Tuition before XIV Survey on Restorative Practices by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Laura Harris. Approved unanimously.

II. Public Participation
Student Ryan Callahan asked to add to the agenda a list of grievances prepared by students and parents regarding a student who has recently been added to the senior class. Student Alisa Mineo was also present to speak on this matter.

Mr. Callahan explained that Student A jumped a grade making him a senior. This student has had the opportunity of outside courses and unequal advantages to the other seniors in the class. The student's QPA places his/her ranking at the top of the class. Mr. Callahan indicated that this student should not be allowed in the class ranking as he/she had opportunities not available to the students of the Derby School system. Mr. Callahan pointed to times when he attempted to register for AP classes but was not allowed due to prerequisites policies in the school system.

Ms. Mineo explained that while the student deserves acknowledgement of their achievements, the inclusion in the ranking will result in the remaining students in the class being knocked down a notch. This change in ranking may have a significant financial effect on obtaining scholarships as well as college acceptances. To her understanding, the exclusion from the ranking would have no effect on the student.

Mr. Gildea thanked the students for their participation in the meeting and explained that the matter will be referred to the Policy Committee. Existing policies will be reviewed to determine where or how they apply to the situation. It was noted that the handbook speaks to only students who have attended Derby High

School prior to the second semester of the junior year will be included in the senior ranking. The next meeting of the Policy Committee is October 9th at 6:30 PM.

Heather Callahan stated that she understood there was a Policy meeting on September 18th and was lead to believe action was happening without student/parent input. Mr. Gildea explained the process and invited all concerned to attend the next meeting.

Ms. Mineo questioned when a decision would go into effect. Mr. Gildea indicated that the timing would be part of the discussion.

Ed Wolfe stressed that a drop in rank can have a significant financial impact.

Candace LaBelle, 2nd grade teacher at Irving School approached the Board asking that they consider reviving the policy of tuition free school for staff member's children. She explained how participating in this offering has allowed her the ability to be more involved in after-school and community projects because her children are here in the school system. She suggested that the offering could be a possible incentive for staff.

III. Health and Wellness Raffle Recipients

As part of the May/June initiative Healthy Mind, Healthy Heart, Healthy Family and with the new association with Aetna' health plan the district is partnering with the City, Griffin Hospital and Aetna, and in the near future The Edge gym, with a health and wellness plan. All staff were allowed to participate in a biometric screening which was then shared with their own primary physician. As a promotion, Aetna raffled off two Apple watches and two Fitbits. Tracy Landolfi and Ivory Urban received the Apple watches and Rachael Caggiano and Antoinette Oldakowski received the Fitbits.

IV. Executive Session

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education enter into Executive Session to review the appointment list and accept a letter of retirement, and the Superintendent of Schools is invited to attend at 7:07 PM. with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mr. George Kurtyka.

Mr. Jim Gildea - yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio - yes
Mrs. Laura Harris - yes
Mrs. Janine Netto - yes
Mrs. Debra Borrelli - yes
Mr. Dan Foley - yes
Mr. George Kurtyka - yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara - yes

Without objection the Board returned to open session at 7:40 PM.

V. School Security Officers

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education approve the appointment of John Serra as a School Security Officer conditional upon successful completion of a drug test, background check, Post certification and current pistol permit, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mrs. Debra Borrelli.

Mr. Jim Gildea - yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio - yes
Mrs. Laura Harris - yes
Mrs. Janine Netto - yes

Mrs. Debra Borrelli - yes
Mr. Dan Foley - yes
Mr. George Kurtyka - yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara - yes

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education approve the appointment of John D'Antona as a School Security Officer conditional upon successful completion of a drug test, background check, Post certification, current pistol permit and the completion of ACES application and employment process, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mr. George Kurtyka.

Mr. Jim Gildea - yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio - yes
Mrs. Laura Harris - yes
Mrs. Janine Netto - yes
Mrs. Debra Borrelli - yes
Mr. Dan Foley - yes
Mr. George Kurtyka - yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara - yes

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education approve the appointment of Frank D'Amore as a School Security Officer conditional upon successful completion of a drug test, background check, Post certification, current pistol permit and the completion of ACES application and employment process, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara.

Mr. Jim Gildea - yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio - yes
Mrs. Laura Harris - yes
Mrs. Janine Netto - yes
Mrs. Debra Borrelli - yes
Mr. Dan Foley - yes
Mr. George Kurtyka - yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara - yes

Dr. Conway introduced the new security officers, one a retired State Police Officer, one a retired Seymour Police officer and the third a retired Bridgeport police officer. He also acknowledged Mrs. Netto and the entire board for their advocacy for armed security within the school district.

VI. Appointment List

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education approve the appointment list, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Mr. Jim Gildea - yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio - yes
Mrs. Laura Harris - yes
Mrs. Janine Netto - yes
Mrs. Debra Borrelli - yes
Mr. Dan Foley - yes
Mr. George Kurtyka - yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara - yes

VII. Retirement

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education accept the letter of retirement of Christopher Kuna, Custodian at Derby High School, with best wishes, with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Mr. Jim Gildea - yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio - yes
Mrs. Laura Harris - yes
Mrs. Janine Netto - yes
Mrs. Debra Borrelli - yes
Mr. Dan Foley - yes
Mr. George Kurtyka - yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara - yes

VIII. Sub-Committee Reports

The Finance Committee has not met.

The Negotiations and Personnel Committee will meet September 25, 2018.

School/Community Relations and Policy Committee will meet on October 9, 2018.

Plant and Facility Committee has been working with Treasurer Keith McLiverty to finalize cost projections for the architect and finalize possible State reimbursements. There is no further information at this time.

Long-Range Planning Committee – nothing reported.

Field House and Baseball Field Building Committee met earlier this evening and viewed a virtual presentation of the project. Final bids were opened on September 18th so there are firm costs for the overall project. Ms. Payden has been apprised of the projected costs and is on board to complete this project. Tentative dates of completion are March 1, 2019 for the baseball field and May 1, 2019 for the field house.

Student Health and Safety Committee – A meeting will be scheduled soon. The Board thanked Chief of Police Narowski and Det. Sgt. Netto for their efforts to move forward with security in the schools.

Temporary Regional School Study Committee will be interviewing consultants on September 24, 2018. There are four candidates. Once the consultant is in place the Committee will be moving forward. Mrs. Harris suggested that the committee should seek student participation in the process.

IX Superintendent's Report

Currently there are 14 students enrolled in the Advanced Manufacturing Program and it is going along very well.

The Commissioner's Network is being planned and will be discussed later in the meeting.

Meetings attended:

- Performance Matters Conference hosted by CSDE
- Attended and participated in the meeting for the selection of school security officers
- Attended 4 days Restorative practice training with DMS practice training
- Conducted new hire training
- Attended a Superintendent Network meeting

- Attended DCF forum – forum was set up as part of his role on the CAPS executive board to bring together the State's Attorneys office, DCF and the DCF state's attorney to talk about the mandated reporting issues
- Attended the Field House and Baseball Field Committee meeting
- Attended the Athletic Field Project Committee meeting
- Attended weekly meetings with contractors
- Attended a Policy Committee meeting
- Attended the Health and Safety Committee meeting
- Attended the Temporary Regional School Study Committee meeting
- Attended the opening events at each of the schools.
- Attended the Board of Alderman meeting
- Attended the CAPS Board of Directors and Executive Board meetings
- Participated in the BHCare Board of Directors meeting
- Conducted the convocation ceremony with a special thank you for all that attended.

Mr. Gildea acknowledged and praised Dr. Conway for all his assistance in developing the request for proposal and the selection of a consultant for the Temporary Regional School Study Committee. His time and effort in support of the committee is greatly appreciated.

X. Administrator's Reports

Mr. Nardone submitted his report. Mrs. Netto asked if windows at the Middle School offices could be tinted for sun deflection as the blinds block view into the offices which is a security concern. Mr. Nardone indicated that costs have been sought on that matter and will be reviewed further.

Mr. Myzithras reported that projects are on going. Work continues on the website and he is doing training for all the stake holders. Another significant project is the schools phone system contract is expiring in June and he has been meeting with vendors and evaluating the district's needs. He continues the Chromebook distributions in the DMS and DHS. He will be assessing the number of students that have yet to get their Chromebooks and will work with the administrators to resolve any issues that the students may have whether financial or other reasons.

Mrs. Netto questioned whether payment can be made on line. It was noted that having cash brought into school is a concern and may be an easier option on line.

XI. Approval of minutes

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education approve the minutes of the August 16, 2018 meeting and the September 4, 2018 meeting, as written; with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mrs. Laura Harris.

Mr. Jim Gildea -	yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio -	yes
Mrs. Laura Harris -	yes
Mrs. Janine Netto -	yes
Mrs. Debra Borrelli -	yes
Mr. Dan Foley -	yes
Mr. George Kurtyka -	yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara -	yes

XII. Financial Report

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education approve the financial report for the period through August 31, 2018, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools; with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mr. George Kurtyka.

Mr. Jim Gildea - yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio - yes
Mrs. Laura Harris - yes
Mrs. Janine Netto - yes
Mrs. Debra Borrelli - yes
Mr. Dan Foley - yes
Mr. George Kurtyka - yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara - yes

Mr. Izzo indicated that the fiscal year is early in the process and he is getting encumbrances and grants in place. He noted that Special Education is already exceeding the budgeted amount. He is currently managing with the expectation that the Excess Cost reimbursement will cover a portion of the overage and there is expectation that a student will be leaving soon.

Dr. Conway noted that use of the VARCA building is being explored to see if it would be cost effective to provide the needed special education services in-house at the building. This is in the very early exploration stage. Mr. Izzo noted that the number of students needing services has increased significantly just since he started into the district until now.

Mr. Gildea requested a report detailing costs and functional data regarding the special education expenditures and student counts over the past five years. Mr. Izzo will compile and present to the Board.

Mr. Izzo reviewed the food services budget. While early in the fiscal budget he anticipates that overall the account will see a positive return. He indicated that the contract with Ansonia is expired and Derby is moving forward independently. Derby will be purchasing the vehicle that was mutually obtained under the previous contract.

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education approve the proposed transfer, as recommended by Business Manager and the Superintendent of Schools; with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mr. George Kurtyka.

Mr. Jim Gildea - yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio - yes
Mrs. Laura Harris - yes
Mrs. Janine Netto - yes
Mrs. Debra Borrelli - yes
Mr. Dan Foley - yes
Mr. George Kurtyka - yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara - yes

Mr. Izzo noted that there is a .4 FTE Social Studies Teacher position at the High School and he would like to transfer the budgeted amount that was for the support clerical assistant for the prior Athletic Director. With the hiring of the Athletic Director, there is no need for the assistant.

XIII. Policy 5118 - Tuition
First read
Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education review Policy 5118- Tuition as a First Read, as recommended by the Policy Committee by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Mr. Jim Gildea - yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio - yes
Mrs. Laura Harris - yes
Mrs. Janine Netto - yes
Mrs. Debra Borrelli - yes
Mr. Dan Foley - yes
Mr. George Kurtyka - yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara - yes

As expressed by Ms. LaBelle in public portion, the practice of allowing staff to bring their children into the district ended in October 2014. If a request was not made by the cut-off date of October 2014, the child will not be allowed to enter the district. Students already in the district were allowed to remain. Mrs. Harris suggested that the Superintendent explore the interest by the staff in renewing this practice and the possible number of students that it would involve. Members discussed further clarity in the language so as to insure that this practice would not negatively impact the budget significantly. They wanted the language to express that the student placement would be at the discretion of the Superintendent and the Board of Education. Language should express that the addition of the student would not result in increase in staff or school resources. The Policy Committee will continue to define the language at their next meeting.

XIV. Survey on Restorative Practices
Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education approve the research on the Restorative Practice Journey of Derby Middle School, as recommended by the Superintendent of School by Janine Netto and a second by Mr. George Kurtyka.

Mr. Jim Gildea - yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio - yes
Mrs. Laura Harris - yes
Mrs. Janine Netto - yes
Mrs. Debra Borrelli - yes
Mr. Dan Foley - yes
Mr. George Kurtyka - yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara - yes

Stacey Koreiwo explained that she requests to be allowed to do research on the Restorative Practice Journey and is doing so for her thesis for her 6th year accreditation. She has created a survey that will be distributed to the administrators and staff of the Derby Middle School that covers previous practices and the current restorative practices. She will use the data for her final chapter of her thesis. The results will not be identifiable but as some of the questions will be specific as to grade, years of service, gender, there may be minimal chance of identification.

XV. Commissioner's Network
Dr. Conway stated that the district has received a letter of acceptance. He has already had numerous phone calls to open the conversation. By February the application will be completed and submitted to the State. It is specific to the High School and the district will be planning out what the school will look like in the next 20 years. The funding will begin in the 2020 school year. Funding is assured for three years with possible extensions of two additional years.

XVI. McKinney-Vento Competitive Grant
Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education approve the submission of the McKinney-Vento Competitive Grant to the State Department of Education, as recommended by the Superintendent of School by Janine Netto and a second by Mr. George Kurtyka.

Mr. Jim Gildea - yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio - yes
Mrs. Laura Harris - yes
Mrs. Janine Netto - yes
Mrs. Debra Borrelli - yes
Mr. Dan Foley - yes
Mr. George Kurtyka - yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara - yes

XVII. Update on the Advanced Manufacturing Program
Fourteen students are currently enrolled. Once everything is up and running the program will be opened up to adults in an evening program.

XVIII. School Security
Covered previously in the meeting.

XIX. Athletic Complex Committee Update
Covered previously in the meeting.

XX. Adjourn
Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education adjourn its meeting at 9:00 PM passed with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mrs. Laura Harris.

Mr. Jim Gildea - yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio - yes
Mrs. Laura Harris - yes
Mrs. Janine Netto - yes
Mrs. Debra Borrelli - yes
Mr. Dan Foley - yes
Mr. George Kurtyka - yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara - yes

Karen M. Kemmesies

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Karen M. Kemmesies
Recording Secretary

Minutes are subject to approval at the next Board meeting.