

Region One Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 5, 2018

A regular meeting of the Region One Board of Education was held on Monday, February 5, 2018 in the library at HVRHS. A quorum was in attendance: Pat Mechare, Canaan; John Sanders, Cornwall; Jonathan Moore, Kent; Jennifer Weigel, Salisbury; and Bob Whelan, Sharon. Absent: Doug Humes, North Canaan.

Also in attendance were: Superintendent, Pam Vogel; Assistant Superintendent, Lisa Carter; HVRHS Principal, José Martinez; HVRHS Assistant Principal, Ian Strever; Director of Pupil Services, Carl Gross; faculty/staff; press and public.

Chair Whelan welcomed the public, read a statement regarding public comment, and called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Student representatives Dean Saccardi and Carianne Callinan reported on the recent spirit week. Unfortunately, their pep rally had to be cancelled due to weather but will be re-scheduled.

Public comment was heard from Kim Fallon of Sharon. She spoke of her frustrations with NYP's and Flex Blocks. Flex blocks are regularly scheduled 4 out of 6 days, but are often cancelled due to late openings, early dismissals, or other events going on in the school. She explained that Flex blocks should be made a priority in the schedule to give students the opportunity to achieve excellence. She also said that there is an issue with formative assessments in that since they are not counting, students are just not doing it.

Public comment was heard from Dana Scarpa of Salisbury. She said that her son is currently a senior, and this year, there were changes both to the schedule and to the grading system. She feels that the grading has been inconsistent and it is putting a lot of stress on her son. She said that the changes may have gone too fast and that it has been difficult for parents, students, and teachers. She offered her assistance to be on committees in the future to work on improvements.

Public comment was heard from Kurt Stampfle of North Canaan. He expressed his concern regarding a lack of honors/AP courses in the history department and that this places students at an unfair disadvantage. He would like to see AP courses added into the history department.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding Focus on Student Learning: Discussion of High School Achievement Data. Principal Martinez compared the percentage of the number of D's and the number of F's historically to the current number of NYP's. He also discussed SAT results for 2016 and 2017, comparing the results for HVRHS to the state averages. He recommends the implementation of PSAT for the fall (September) of 2018 for all 9th grade students.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Weigel, seconded by Mr. Sanders, to add the three Robotics Team field trip approvals to the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Vogel explained the concept regarding the practice of nominating "*Those who Contribute to HVRHS*" to the Board.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Mechare, seconded by Ms. Weigel, to approve the practice of nominating "*Those who Contribute to HVRHS*" to all future agendas. Brief discussion was held regarding implementing parameters. Motion carried unanimously.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Weigel, seconded by Mr. Moore, to approve all items listed under the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

- a. Minutes:
 - i. 1/8/18 Regular Meeting
 - ii. 1/18/2018 Special Meeting
 - iii. 1/31/2018 Special Meeting
- b. Approval to Hire Facilities Manager
- c. Committee Reports
 - i. ABC Committee—Minutes 1/24/2018
 - ii. Building Committee—Minutes 1/30/2018
 - iii. Policy Committee—Minutes 1/30/2018
 - iv. Personnel Committee—Minutes 1/10/2018
 - v. Communication Committee—Minutes 2/1/2018
 - vi. Budget Committee—Minutes 1/22/2018

Discussion was held regarding advanced placement (AP) courses. Assistant Superintendent Carter presented data that she collected from teachers, current students, and recent graduates regarding AP courses and AP tests. She provided three options to the Board for how to proceed, with the recommendation to add humanities-level courses as alternative selections to AP and for the Board to pay for one AP test per student. Students enrolled in AP courses would not be required to take the test. Ms. Mechare stated that she would talk to the Alumni Association about supplementing the costs of these tests for students.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Ms. Weigel, to accept the recommendation from Ms. Carter to add humanities-level courses as alternative selections to AP courses, and for the Board to pay for one AP test per student. Students enrolled in AP courses would not be required to take the test. Discussion was held regarding how effectiveness would be measured. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sanders reviewed the previous motion that was made by the Board in their September 2017 meeting for honoring former Superintendent Patricia Chamberlain with the planting of a tree. The Arboretum and Landscaping Committee stated that the planting does not fit into their format. Mr. Sanders stated that he has three people who have committed to assisting in proposing an alternative plan including Phil Hart, Kevin LaFond, and Dot Cecchinato.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Weigel, seconded by Mr. Moore, to have Mr. Sanders work with the community members to bring a recommendation to the Board at the next scheduled meeting regarding the recognition of Patricia Chamberlain. Motion carried with one abstention from Ms. Mechare.

Administrative Reports

- a. HVRHS Principal
- b. HVRHS Assistant Principal—No Report
- c. Athletic Director
- d. Business Manager
- e. Pupil Services—No Report
- f. Assistant Superintendent
- g. Superintendent

A **motion** was made by Ms. Mechare, seconded by Ms. Weigel, to add discussion of the 2018-2019 Regional Calendar to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding the feedback from the elementary Boards regarding the 2018-2019 Regional Calendar. Suggestions were made for future calendar planning.

Public comment was heard from Denise Cohn of Falls Village. She stated that she has a son who is a freshman this year. Her daughters went to school here and she feels that they were very well prepared for college, but is worried that her son is not on the same path. She feels that there is so much of a focus on NYP's, and is wondering about the other kids and the data regarding their achievements.

Public comment was heard from Kurt Stampfle of North Canaan. He expressed that he was following up on his initial AP comment and concerns. He stated that the school only has 4 AP courses, none of them in History, and that this needs to be addressed.

Public comment was heard from Linda Patz of North Canaan. She had comparative data for neighboring schools regarding their AP course offerings. She stated that Wamogo has 13-15 AP Courses, 3 of them in History, and Litchfield has 14 AP Courses, 2 of them in History. She stated that the AP course offerings is not only in the history department.

Public comment was heard from student, Marco De Pascali Pepe, an exchange student from Milan, Italy. He read a statement that he prepared regarding his support for the new grading system. He feels that the new grading system is a great opportunity for students to understand topics that may not have been clear the first time. He suggested that a policy regarding the grading system be enforced for greater success.

Public comment was heard from Dana Scarpa of Salisbury. She thanked Jennifer Weigel for pointing out the error in Principal Martinez' data. She also thanked Principal Martinez for stating that the formative assessments are extremely important. She also stated that her son is currently enrolled in 4 AP courses, and she doesn't want to pay for 4 AP exams, as she is also paying for college applications. She said that many of the schools don't accept the AP tests so there is no need for him to take the tests but that he takes the courses for the rigor.

Public comment was heard from Kim Fallon of Sharon. She stated that formative assessments are where the learning takes place, but unfortunately the students are not doing the homework, and as a result, some teachers are no longer assigning it. She also stated that classes are being slowed down in an attempt to get everyone to a minimum of 70%. She feels that Principal Martinez' recommendation of requiring all 9th graders to take the PSAT is great. She also asked whether college visits are waived absences. Assistant Principal Strever stated that it is not waived per state law, but that as a school, we do make an exception for that.

Public comment was heard from Lynn Harrington of Kent. She asked if the previous D and F data that Principal Martinez shared was for all subjects or just core subjects. It was clarified that it was for all subjects.

Public comment was heard from Jennifer McCarthy of Sharon. She asked the status of Business Courses being added to course offerings. Superintendent Vogel stated that they would add that topic to the agenda for next month's meeting.

Public comment was heard from Dana Scarpa of Salisbury. She asked if the schedule would be changing again next year. She stated that the schedule is working and that her son loves flex.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Mechare, seconded by Ms. Weigel, to move into executive session for the purpose of discussion and possible action on collective bargaining strategy, inviting in Superintendent Vogel and Business Manager Sam Herrick. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session began at 9:00 p.m.

The Board exited the executive session at 9:16 p.m.

No action was taken.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Weigel, seconded by Mr. Sanders, to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Bunce

Tina Bunce
Board Clerk

Un-Approved