

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021 - 7:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
LIVE STREAM**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairperson, G. Cooper, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLLCALL

Present: Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Loren Daly,
Joseph DaSilva, Kathryn Hodgdon, Richard Jannelli, Kathleen Molinaro,
Albert Russo, Amy Spallino, Kathryn Hodgdon
Absent: Joseph Britton, Kate Conetta.
Also Present: Dr. Pascarella, Courtney Leborious, Kelly Truchsess, Kevin Walston, Dr.
Casimiro, Kim Thompson

RECOGNITIONS

Jill Russell-Benner, Danbury Music Department Head
Danbury School District recognized as one of the 2021 Best Communities
for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation

EXHIBIT

21-66 (pg.5)

Dr. Pascarella introduced and congratulated Jill Russell on the success of all grants to provide instruments and resources for the Music Department. The Little Kids Rock Grant provided a Hybrid Piano which was a great help. Jill has used music as a second language to reach kids through our hybrid model. Another \$10,000 Grant from Save the Music Foundation, funded by Sony, gave the opportunity to make gains with all the limitations by providing needed PPE materials. Jill presented a video as a farewell for Dr. Pascarella with students performing throughout the schools during distance learning. Tremendous honor to be named one of 23 Schools to receive “One of the Best Music Communities”.

CABE Student Leadership Awards

Broadview Middle School

Rogers Park Middle School

Westside Middle School

Danbury High School

Alternative Center For Excellence

21-67 (pg.6)

Amanda Magnago, Giani Chieffalo

Raquel Baer, Alexandra Perez Leyva

Chloe Djiliani, Eric Guo

Jake Goodwin, Rebecca D'Ostilio

Leila Freitas, Brian Galarza Valverde

- Staff Members of each school recognized each student's accomplishments.
- Dr. Pascarella congratulated all the recipient students and mentioned that all these students are their North Star.
- On behalf of the Dr. Sal and the Board R. Chaleski read a letter of appreciation recognizing National School Nurses Week.

- K. O’Dowd appreciated all the good wishes. Phyzer can now be given to students ages 12-15. Working to plan clinics through the schools for ages 12-18. They will also open the clinics to the parents of the students. Dr. Pascarella thanked K. O’Dowd for all her leadership.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Chrissy Maruffi-DHS, Westside, & Pembroke parent
 Good Evening all. I want to start off by saying how grateful I am for ALL of your hard work and dedication, especially given the increased difficulty of navigating us through this pandemic the last year and a half.
 At the last BOE meeting, as well as Reopening Workshop, it was mentioned by Dr. Sal, that although distance learning will not be an option next year, we will be able to utilize that framework next school year for inclement weather-related closures.
 As we all know, over this past year, remote learning on a snow day quickly became a topic of heated debate, and one that most people have strong opinions on one way or another. There are no doubt many scheduling benefits to having a reliable 'last day of school' date months in advance. And there are also valid social-emotional concerns over taking away that unexpected 'day off', as it is something all children enjoy and have fond memories of long into adulthood.
 I wondered if we might be able to find a balance between the two scenarios? For instance, maybe you could give students the first one or two snow days, a traditional day off from learning. Then after those have been used, fall back to a remote learning option for all others going forward. Doing this could allow us to have the best of both worlds; keeping a (mostly) fixed last day of school, as well as a little of that spontaneity students (and staff!) enjoy so much and look forward to.
 Thank you again for all your hard work, and allowing me this opportunity to contribute an opinion.
- Oswaldo Chin
 Dear Board Of Education Officials,
 My name is Oswaldo Chin and I would like to thank all of you for the great work you have been doing despite the pandemic. Please do not feel discouraged of unfounded and baseless criticisms from people who do not represent our children nor they represent the Latino community, these people are representing special interests which is the Prospect charter school and their personal agenda under the camouflage of advocating for our children and the Latino community.
 Please keep up the good work and thank you for your time.

CONSENT CALENDAR

EXHIBIT

MOTION: Kathleen Molinaro moved, seconded by Joe DaSilva that the Board of Education approve the item on the Consent Calendar, Exhibit 21-68, through 21-70 as recommended:

MINUTES

4/28/21 Board Regular Meeting	21-68 (pg.9)
5/3/21 Board Workshop	21-69 (pg.23)
5/5/21 Policy Committee	21-70 (pg.24)

Votes Yes: Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Joseph DaSilva, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino, Kathleen Molinaro, Loren Daly, Richard Jannelli, Kathryn Hodgdon

Absent: Joseph Britton, Kate Conetta.

Motion carried at 7:54 pm

EDUCATIONAL STAFF REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

- NEA-Danbury Representative: Erin Daly, President
 - Erin Daly discussed the recognition event for all the staff retirees. They were able to honor 7 retirees and staff were able to drive by and wish them well. It was a very special moment. The Bridge the Gap Rally to fund the schools through the town budget went well. The efforts did not fall short and wanted to congratulate all for the efforts to fund our schools. Over 100 people came to the rally on behalf of funding the budget fully. E. Daly clarified that her role as the Union President is to bring information to the BOE that is not always pleasant.
- **DSAA: Dr. Kristy Zaleta, President**
 - Dr. Zaleta presented a Video of K-8 Art Experience. It included Art Works from many of your schools. Celebrating the Arts, thank you to Rachel Wade.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

- DHS Representatives: Jake Goodwin & Rebecca D'Ostilio
 - Dr. Pascarella congratulated both students for a well-deserved recognition as they retire from their BOE representative's position.
 - Prom tickets were sold last week and will be happening at the Amber Room on May 28th. We know our seniors are super excited that we could make this happen for the end of the year.
 - Class officer elections took place today during Flex. Organized by the BOG, students sent in videos of their speeches, and students could watch each speech and vote through a google form. Students really went all out, some even used green screens. We had over 25 students participate!
 - BOG elections will take place next week during flex, and the new officers will attend the June 9th Board of Ed meeting with us.
 - Seniors were able to take a class picture on the field in smaller groups. We were also able to add our handprints to the outside wall with help from the PTO.
 - On May 10th, the DHS Key Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with an induction of new members. Thank you for all that you do!
 - The Peer leaders put together a celebration for Teacher Appreciation week that included food and even handwritten poetry!
- Some stuff about sports:
- Congratulations to DJ Donovan and Annarita Lynch for being named CIAC Scholar Athletes for 2021. They will be awarded in early May.
 - The DHS Hockey team took the division 3 championship at the South-West Conference.

- Spring Sports are in full-effect, with the baseball, softball, volleyball, lacrosse, and tennis teams playing home and away games every day.
 - So now about more school-related things:
 - The Chipotle Fundraiser organized recently was a success! We appreciate the PTO so much!
 - DHS, in partnership with Community Health Center, Inc, is offering vaccinations to eligible seniors. Many students have gotten their first dose of vaccine already!
 - The class of 2021 met yesterday, to take senior class pictures, and leave a nice memento in the form of a handprint on the blue wall near the gym entrance due to the hard work of the PTO. It was an asynchronous learning day, and the Juniors took their SAT. We wish them good scores and good rest today.
 - Many Seniors are also committing to college, and we couldn't be more happy for them.
 - On April 19-23, students took their CT Seal of Biliteracy test, which is a fantastic opportunity.
 - The date for Prom is May 28th, from 7pm to Midnight at the Amber room, and tickets will be sold next week!
 - The Senior trip will be Friday, June 4th to Six Flags New England. Hopefully students will be able to get a semblance of their Senior Year back.
 - Graduation planning is also underway, which is a great feat.
- Ace Representatives: Chris Johnston & Nicole Quizphe
 - ACE students will host our 18th annual Coffee House on June 3rd. Students and staff will have the opportunity to share their creativity through reading original poetry, musical performances and art work.
 - The ACE graduation ceremony will take place on Wed June 8th at the Broadview Auditorium at 3 p.m. The change in date will allow ACE students to participate in both the ACE graduation ceremony and the DHS graduation ceremony.
 - On June 16th ACE will be celebrating the birthday of our founder Joe Pepin. A virtual slideshow is being created to celebrate the impact that Joe has had on the Danbury community, and the ACE facebook page is collecting appreciations that alumni and staff have for Joe. Students in the building are working on creating a bulletin board to celebrate Joe's legacy and the history of ACE.
 - The ACE Humanities Dept will be administering our Humanities Benchmarks the week of May 17th to May 21st.
 - On May 21st ACE will be hosting a spring career day with virtual guest speakers to present careers that serve the community. This special day is being organized by Dianna Dinardo and DJ Jimenez.
 - ACE staff will be running entrance interviews from May 18th - 20th and then again on May 25th and 26th. Thank you to the ACE staff for beginning the process of building the relationships with our incoming families.
 - ACE would like to announce our April Student of the Month award winners: Raimir Rivera and Alexa Doerr. Congrats to Alexa for also making the honor roll in Quarter 3.
 - ACE would also like to publicly acknowledge and congratulate our most recent students of the week: Lillianna Poma and Jenn Seden. Keep up the great work!

- ACE students are participating in the 53rd annual Danbury Cultural Commission Poetry Contest. Students from the entire school will have the opportunity to submit their original works. Submissions are due by March 29th.

ACTION ITEMS

A. 2021-2022 School Reopening Plan

MOTION: R. Chaleski moved, seconded by J. DaSilva that the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 School Reopening Plan for five full school days per week for 180 days as presented by the Administration.

Votes Yes: Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Joseph DaSilva, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino, Kathleen Molinaro, Loren Daly, Richard Jannelli, Kathryn Hodgdon.

Absent: Joseph Britton, Kate Conetta,

Motion carried at 8:15 pm

- R. Chaleski wanted to mention that she is glad that we will reopen schools and glad we are making it work.

B. 2021-2022 Revised School Calendar

MOTION: R. Chaleski moved, seconded by J. DaSilva that the Board of Education approve the revised 2021-2022 School Calendar in accordance with 21-71 (pg.25)

- Dr. Pascarella said his understanding right now from the State Dept is that the school districts will not have to provide remote learning.
- Dr. Casimiro replied to R. Chaleski comments about distance learning and what we have learned from it. The district is looking to create innovative practices through new learning environments. The district is very much thinking along those lines. Discussed changes to the Calendar such as reducing early dismissals.

Votes Yes: Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Joseph DaSilva, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino, Kathleen Molinaro, Loren Daly, Richard Jannelli, Kathryn Hodgdon

Absent: Joseph Britton, Kate Conetta,

Motion carried at 8:21 pm

C. P-9326 Taping/Recording of BOE Meetings

MOTION: A. Spallino moved, seconded by J. DaSilva that the Board of Education accept for first reading Policy 9326 Taping/Recording of BOE Meetings, as recommended by the Policy Committee. 21-72 (pg.26)

Votes Yes: Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Joseph DaSilva, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino, Kathleen Molinaro, Loren Daly, Richard Jannelli, Kathryn Hodgdon

Absent: Joseph Britton, Kate Conetta.

Motion carried at 8:22 pm

D. P-9273 Conflict of Interest

MOTION: C. Hodgdon moved, seconded by A. Russo that the Board of Education accept for

second reading and adoption Policy 9273 Conflict of Interest, as recommended by the Policy Committee. 21-73 (pg.27)

Votes Yes: Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Joseph DaSilva, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino, Kathleen Molinaro, Loren Daly, Richard Jannelli, Kathryn Hodgdon

Absent: Joseph Britton, Kate Conetta.

Motion carried at 8:23 pm

E. P-9300 Methods of Operation

MOTION: L. Daly moved, seconded by C. Hodgdon that the Board of Education accept for second reading and adoption Policy 9300 Methods of Operation, as recommended by the Policy Committee. 21-74 (pg.29)

Votes Yes: Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Joseph DaSilva, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino, Kathleen Molinaro, Loren Daly, Richard Jannelli, Kathryn Hodgdon

Absent: Joseph Britton, Kate Conetta.

Motion carried at 8:24 pm

F. P-9321 Board of Education Workshop Sessions

MOTION: A. Russo moved, seconded by J. DaSilva that the Board of Education accept for second reading and adoption Policy 9321 Board of Education Workshop Sessions, as recommended by the Policy Committee. 21-75 (pg.30)

Votes Yes: Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Joseph DaSilva, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino, Kathleen Molinaro, Loren Daly, Richard Jannelli, Kathryn Hodgdon

Absent: Joseph Britton, Kate Conetta.

Motion carried at 8:25 pm

G. P-9313 Administrative Regulations, Formulation, Adoption, and Amendment

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Chaleski that the Board of Education accept for second reading and adoption Policy 9313 Administrative Regulations, Formulation, Adoption and Amendment, as recommended by the Policy Committee. 21-76 (pg.31)

Votes Yes: Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Joseph DaSilva, Albert Russo, Amy Spallino, Kathleen Molinaro, Loren Daly, Richard Jannelli, Kathryn Hodgdon

Absent: Joseph Britton, Kate Conetta.

Motion carried at 8:27 pm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. City Council Municipal Budget Approval
 - Dr. Pascarella mentioned thank you to all who attended. The Operational Budget was reduced to 1.25M. We will have to go in and see how to mitigate the loss.

- B. 2021-2022 Budget (Federal and State Grants)
 - Meeting and will look at the criteria updates and due dates. What we will need to do to open schools.
 - C. Leborious looking forward to working with the BOE as the process moves forward.

DISCUSSION

Tyler Infinite Visions System - Implementation Update

- Dr. Pascarella explained the HSA error and how they have worked to rectify it. July 1 is the deadline to open the new Budget year. We have hired a project manager to help with the conversion. This person will be working with LeBorious and HR. Would like to invite the Chair of the Finance Committee to join a finance cabinet meeting for information. A. Russo asked if he could attend as well.
- R. Chaleski asked about the HSA and Payroll issue with the new platform and C. Leborious explained it.

INFORMATION

- P-9325.31 By-Law 4-8 Public Participation 21-77 (pg.32)
- P-6614.82: Student, Staff, and Community Health and Safety 21-78 (pg.33)

BOARD CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

- G. Cooper explained that she has met with the Superintendent Search Company who will be leading the process. They will do their best to keep everyone informed when they start doing the work.

BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

- R. Chaleski reported on the Policy Committee. She also asked about when they will return to in person BOE Meetings. They would have to move to the HS for social distancing. G. Cooper said she would be comfortable to do so in September. L. Daly said the sooner the better. R. Jannelli proposed having the last meeting of the year in person since Dr. Pascarella will be retiring if
- everyone is comfortable with that. A. Russo seconds the sentiment to meet in June. A. Spallino agreed. G. Cooper asked if everyone is comfortable to have the last meeting at DHS in person.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Da Silva moved, seconded by A. Russo that the Board of Education adjourned its Meeting of May 12, 2021 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary

FUTURE MEETINGS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

May 26	Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm
May 30	Memorial Day - Schools/Office Closed
June 2	Policy Committee, 6:00 pm
June 9	Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm
June 23	Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm

(Meeting was videotaped)