DERBY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting
Derby Middle School
10 Nutmeg Avenue, Derby, CT 06418
6:30 p.m.
October 15, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER
A. Opening Ceremonies
The meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m.

B. Roll Call
All board members are in attendance.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Thomas Lionette inquired about the colors for the school to ensure we were aligned with the athletic programs. The chairman informed him that the colors are red and white and black is only used as a trim.

III. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
Kaitlin Garrity advised the Board that progress reports have been sent out and the PSATs for sophomores and juniors will be sent out shortly. A college fair, which showcased 50 schools, was held on October 2nd. All the juniors and seniors were allowed to attend. Also on October 2nd, the cheerleaders went to Irving School to assist with an education pep rally. Picture Day was held on October 11th and Big Red Productions is selling Pink Out shirts throughout the month for the Hewitt Wellness Center.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION
At 6:55 p.m., a motion that the Board of Education enter into executive session for discussion and possible action regarding personnel matters and that Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Conway, be invited to attend was made by Kim Kreiger and seconded by Stephanie D’Onofrio. The motion passed without further discussion.

V. PUBLIC SESSION
At 7:48 p.m., a motion to come out of executive session was made by Kim Kreiger and seconded by Denise Bottone. The motion passed with all in favor.

Kim Kreiger made a motion that the Board of Education accept a one year extension to the DAA contract as recommended by the superintendent of schools. The motion was seconded by Denise Bottone and carried with all in favor.

VI. APPOINTMENTS
Kim Kreiger motioned that the Board of Education approve the schedule of appointments, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. The motion was seconded by Denise Bottone, Laura Harris and Stephanie D’Onofrio recused. All remaining members accepted the motion and it passed without further discussion.

VII. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
There was no report.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
Superintendent Conway forwarded the current recommendations from the Operations Committee regarding redistricting concerns discussed at two parent forums. There will be an email forwarded detailing the concerns and strengths discussed. Some concerns were regarding the evaluation of homes, transportation costs, mixing low income students with middle income students and how the test scores are affected, and special education. The teacher recommendations were also forwarded to the Board.

Dr. Conway informed the Board that the District is moving to the smarter balance assessment system, but measurable results will not be available for at least 2 years.

He mentioned that a parent had concerns regarding school start and end times and inquired about altering them to ensure older students are home when younger students (siblings) leave and return from school. This issue is on the agenda for discussion, but it is not in relation to redistricting.

The superintendent discussed research relating to students transitioning from elementary school to junior high. This research focuses on adolescent factors going on with children at the time of transition from fifth to sixth and is more of an argument about a K-8th organization of grades. Any loss or gain is leveled out by ninth grade or at the end of the year in which they transitioned. Researchers are also clear that many variables are involved district to district. K-3 research was done on students who transitioned six times to different schools in different communities. More details on this research will be mailed.

He also mentioned that the committee looked into the diversity of the district. The district is currently just within the state percentages for variables above or below what a school must be in relationship to their overall minority population in a district. If we went to the K-2, 3-5 model today we would be outside the variables for each of the schools and they would all be classified as “high poverty”. Moving to this model without anything else might create a bigger problem that we have right now.

He discussed questions that were raised about Ansonia and Milford. Ansonia’s change was mandated by the state. They have a K-5 model, but it’s not what anyone wanted and it’s not neighborhood schools. Milford has a K-2, 3-5 model and has no plans to change that. The superintendent is of the understanding that community members there do not like it.

Superintendent Conway stated that if the board is ok with the report, it will be forwarded out. The board stated that they have no objections.

IX. ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS
A question was asked about how the Learning Center was being used since there have been a lot of students in and out of the Center as well as a high teacher turnover. The Learning Center serves as additional behavioral and academic support for students. There are no students in there full time. Special Education PPT, 504 meeting or a CST recommendation is needed to determine if a student needs additional services by the Learning Center. The students usually only attend for one to two periods. Once it is determined that they should be integrated back into regular classes the transition takes about two weeks. In respect to the question of high teacher turnover, Superintendent Conway added that now when they interview for positions in the Learning Center they aren’t just interviewing for a teacher. It’s a very specific position and the individual must be aware of what they are getting into and that they will thrive in that environment.
X. DERBY FAMILIES COMMON CORE UNIVERSITY
              (DFCCU)

Dr. Chambers advised the Board that in November she is starting a Derby Families Common Core University. This will consist of monthly meetings at each school in the district. She will be working with each school principal to develop common core for the families in their school. The meetings will be grade specific and discuss what the common core is, what the big shifts are in changing to this type of curriculum, a video on what a common core lesson looks like, what kind of tests and assessments will be used, and how parents can help their children at home. These meetings will have a different focus each month and will run from December through March or April.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion was made by Kim Kreiger that the Board of Education approves the minutes from the following meetings:

a. September 3, 2013 -- Committee of the Whole
b. September 26, 2013 -- Special Meeting

Laura Harris seconded and the motion passed without further discussion.

XII. POLICY ADOPTION
Motion: That the Board of Education adopt the Series 3000, as recommended by the Policy Committee.
Motion: That the Board of Education adopt the Policy 3514 on Equipment, as recommended by the Policy Committee.

Kenneth Marcucio advised Andrew Mancini that this issue would need to be voted on at the next meeting.

XIII. SCHOOL TIME SCHEDULES FOR 2014-2015
Superintendent Conway stated that he added this to the agenda due to a question from a parent. It was his understanding that when the high school and middle school separated it was the position of parents at the time that the middle school students not ride the bus with the high school students. Superintendent Conway reached out to the bus company to determine the cost savings of running the bus once for both schools and has contacted other districts regarding having middle school and high school students on the same bus. Ms.... explained that the reason the middle school and high school students ended up on separate buses was because they couldn’t all fit, The middle school needs all the school buses, whereas Bradley School doesn’t need them all so their start time got bumped. Superintendent Conway asked if the Board would be interested in researching changing the bus or school times. The Board will look into busing options and whether or not altering the times will be beneficial to the district and students. Superintendent Conway will bring his findings to the next Operations Committee meeting.

XIV. CONSOLIDATED GRANT APPLICATION
Dr. Chambers reviewed the grant funds coming in and the district’s priorities. She expressed a need to staff our schools in terms of enrichment and supporting students in need. She also advised the Board that the district received Title I Funds $483,000 and Title II $614,135. Some of that funding goes to St. Mary St. Michael. They are going to use their funds for tutoring. Technology is in need in most of the schools as is staffing in Irving and the middle school. The middle school does not have an intervention program. The high school has technology needs and need more computers. The grant will be delivered Friday.

Superintendent Conway thanked Dr. Chambers for her hard work in coordinating with all school and for getting this grant completed so quickly.
Kimberly Kreiger motioned to accept the consolidated grant application as prepared by Dr. Chambers. George Kurtyka seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

XV. SEED ASSESSMENT
In the past, the district has used the school performance index (SPI) for the SEED assessment. The SPI was based on previous year’s CMT/CAPT testing compared to the following year’s CMT/CAPT testing. Now that CMT and CAPT testing are going away, the SPI formula is no longer a valid formula of measure. Superintendent Conway explained that the state has asked each district to submit their recommended changes to the current SEED plan that would replace the SPI formula. Instead of using the SPI, a the K-8 level, Aims web testing will be used. The formula will be calculated the same, but using Aims web testing results as opposed to CMT/CAPT testing results.

Kimberly Kreiger motioned to accept the changes in the SEED plan to the assessment criteria as recommended by the Superintendent of School. Andrew Mancini seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

XVI. ACADEMICS COMMITTEE
Kimberly Kreiger updated the Board that her term as Committee Chair is ending. George and Rebecca were originally on the committee; however, neither is able to take on the commitment. The Board decided to wait until after the election to nominate someone as Committee Chair.

Ms. Kreiger updated the Board on the status of the committee’s endeavors. Some issues they are looking into are CMT scores, diversified staffing, schedule of reviewing issues, managing the website, and possibly starting a district newsletter.

XVII. CULTURE AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
Mrs. Harris advised the Board that they are also researching the possibility of starting a newsletter. They are looking into developing a senior student exit survey. The committee has asked Dr. Chambers to attend the next meeting on the 24th at 6:30 to discuss building diversity recognition and celebration into the curriculum. Also up for discussion at the next meeting is researching Derby’s history and bringing back some Derby alumni to build a sense of pride and heritage in the schools.

XVIII. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
Mr. Mancini stated that the committee recommends that based on the findings of the data in research that we explore other research based approaches to address our diverse population. They scheduled a series of meetings to further discuss options. Dr. Kahlenberg has been invited to attend the meetings to discuss his research regarding social economics. Dates and times are to be determined.

XIX. FINANCIAL REPORT
Kimberly Kreiger motioned to accept the Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2013, as recommended by the Assistant Superintendent. Laura Harris seconded and the motion passed. The total current balance is $1,114,619.00.

XX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
Executive Session was not needed.

PUBLIC SESSION
Public Session was not needed.

XXI. CHILD REARING LEAVE
Kimberly Kreiger motioned to approve a child rearing leave request, seconded by George Kurtyka and the motion carried without further discussion.
XXII. ADJOURN
Stephanie D’Onofrio made a motioned to adjourn, seconded by Christine Robinson, and passed with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Terri Kuskowski

These minutes are subject to the Board’s approval at their next scheduled meeting.