CITY OF DERBY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
DERBY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETORIUM
March 17 2011
MINUTES

Call to order
Meeting called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
All rose and pledged allegiance.

Roll Call
Present: Andy Mancini, Laura Harris, Stephanie D’Onofrio, Casey Picheco, Ken Marcucio, George Kurtyka, Jonathan Haydu - Student Representative and Kim Kreiger. There is a quorum.

Also Present: Dr. Tracy, Superintendent of Schools, Christine DiGrazia - Principal Bradley School, Fran Gallo - Principal Irving School, Fran Thompson - Principal DHS, Dr. Lois Knapton - Director of Special Education, Jonathan Haydu - Student Representative, Jennifer Barriga - Board of Education and Henry Domurad - City of Derby - Finance Director.

Absent: Rebecca O’Hara and Christine Robinson, Sally Bonina - Principal DMS

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
The Board of Education Goals and the Superintendent Goals will be moved to the April 5 2011 meeting.

Public Participation
No one from the public spoke.

Student Representative Report
Jonathan Haydu presented his report. The stash for cash competition begins tomorrow. The Junior/Senior basketball game will also be tomorrow. Junior College Night will be on March 24th. A blood drive will be held March 21st. Spring sports have begun. Mr. Haydu has been accepted to Western New England.

Monthly School Dashboards
The principals presented their monthly, quarterly and year to date performance dashboard results for all four schools. The reports cover enrollment, attendance co-curricular participation, lagging readers, suspensions, high grades, low grades, AIMS Web, Mathematics, Assessments and CMT performance along with post high school plans and drop outs.

A copy of the report is on file with the minutes in the town clerk’s office.

Administrative Reports
Dr. Knapton, Director of Special Education. The pre-school teacher hired in January is doing very well and being well utilized. Twenty five students are using the pre-school services. It gives the lead way to continue the process of opening two learning centers.

Approval of Minutes -
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A MOTION by Ms. Kreiger with a second by Ms. Picheco that the Board of Education approves the minutes from the following meetings:

Special Meeting, February 8, 2011
Special Meeting, February 10 2011
Board Meeting, February 17 2011

all in favor, motion carried.

NEASC Report
Mr. Gallo presented his summary of what was said and things being addressed. The report includes a financial commitment, the need to formalize things being done, and to make sure there are systems in place to provide the maximum opportunities for the students.

Dr. Tracy addressed the board. The leadership team at the High School has made a tremendous difference as to the tone, safety and spirit and the pride of the school.

The additional space was noted in the report. They commended a greater emphasis on inquiry and problem solving regarding the recently revised curriculum. The safety, climate and student teacher ratio were found to be manageable.

The report states there is inadequate financial support. There is a big gap between what the students are doing and the state averages on CAPT scores.

The grouping practices do not reflect the diversity or promote equal opportunity. Dr. Tracy stated work with the faculty needs to be done to see if there is truth to that and if so, what can be done.

There is not enough professional curriculum development. The library took a lot of hits. There is limited parent feedback.

Strategic Planning Progress Report
Connie Condon of Diversified Non Profit Services was introduced. She is a leader in early childhood education in the Valley. Ms. Condon spoke regarding the Vision Statement, Mission Statement and the six areas they will work on; academic excellence, quality teaching, organizational efficiency, family & community partnerships, student wellbeing and generating enrollment & revenue.

INFORM, Student Data System
A MOTION by Ms. Kreiger with a second by Ms. Harris that the Board of Education approve the enhancement of the district's Power School system through the addition of the "Inform Student Data Assessment Tool", at a cost not to exceed $19,500 as recommended by the Superintendent, all in favor, motion carries.

New Business
City proposal regarding the responsibility for Worker's Compensation costs.

The issue is to proportionately place the hard cost of the insurance policy of PMA to the Board of Education. The City is currently paying approximately $160,000.00, $75,000.00 of which is for PMA to manage the cases, another $67,000.00 - $70,000.00 is excess cost and $16,000.00 for the State of Connecticut. Right now it goes on the ED01 form to the State, which the City gets credit for, but no cash is transferred.

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The proposal is to have it pro-rated. Two thirds of the population is the Board of Education. The other issue is when someone goes out on comp. that department is billed for the salary, and in the Board of Education’s case, it goes straight to worker’s compensation and the City has been picking up that share of the salary.

The proposal is to have the Board of Education continue to pay the salary for the period of time the person is out. This way the City won’t be paying it every two weeks.

The Board will follow up with the City.

Financial Report
MOTION by Ms. Harris with a second by Mr. Mancini that the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2011 as recommended by the School Business Manager, all in favor, motion passes.

Old Business
Policy Committee - Mr. Mancini reported they are making progress and will be making recommendations. The new series will be started within three weeks.

Committee of the Whole
The next meeting will be held on April 5 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the DMS. The goals removed from tonight’s agenda will be discussed at this meeting. John Saccu and other members of the Mayor’s Task Force will also be in attendance.

Superintendent’s Report
The parent portal has been and will be going on line at the beginning of the fourth quarter (early April).

Executive Session
A MOTION at 8:50 p.m. by Ms. Kreiger with a second by Ms. Harris that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, including the non-renewal of contracts of certain non-tenured faculty members, and that Dr. Tracy be invited in the Executive Session, all in favor, motion carried.

A MOTION that the Board return to Public Session at 9:21 p.m. by Ms. Kreiger, second by Ms. Pichenco, all in favor, motion carried.

Personnel Matters
A MOTION by Ms. Kreiger with a second by Ms. Harris that the Board of Education accept resignations of three members of the faculty with appreciation and good wishes as recommended by the Superintendent, all in favor, motion carried.

A MOTION by Ms. Kreiger with a second by Mr. Mancini that the Board of Education approve a childrearing leave request without pay for the 2011-2012 school year, as requested by a member of the faculty and as recommended by the Superintendent, all in favor, motion passes.

In the capacity as the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Tracy recommends that the Board of Education not renew the teaching contracts of thirty non-tenured teachers at the end of the 2010-2011 school year in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151 and that the Board authorize Dr. Tracy furnish written notice of this action. The recommendation is made because the Board of Education is not assured at this point of funding

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necessary to operate all current district programs and courses as a result, the Board may find it necessary to eliminate positions. All of these teachers have been advised that Dr. Tracy intends to make this recommendation tonight. If the Board takes this action, the teacher(s) have the right under Connecticut General Statutes 10-151 to request the reasons for the Board’s action not to renew his or her contract. Further, depending on those reasons the teacher may be entitled to a due process hearing to seek reconsideration of the Board’s decision not to renew the contract of employment. Dr. Tracy also recommends that he be authorized and instructed to communicate notice of this action in writing to the affected teachers and to respond for the board with any appropriate request that may be forthcoming from the teachers or their representatives as provided in the teacher tenure law.

Teacher Non-Renewals

A MOTION by Ms. Kreiger with a second by Mr. Mancini that pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 10-151, the Board of Education does hereby non-renew the teaching contract of non-tenured teachers at the end of the 2010-2011 school year as recommended by the Superintendent, and further that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the board in writing to the teachers in question, and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the board to any requests for a hearing if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, and that the Superintendent be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if the hearing is required by law indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Education, all in favor, motion carries.

Adjourn

A MOTION by Ms. D’Onofrio with a second by Mr. Kurtyka to adjourn at 9:26 p.m., all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Cesaroni
Recording Secretary

****These minutes are subject to approval by the Board of Education at their next scheduled meeting.