CITY OF DERBY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING – DERBY MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETORIUM
March 18 2010
MINUTES

Call to order
Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
all rose and pledged allegiance.

Roll Call
Present: Andy Mancini, Laura Harris, Casey Picheco, Jodi Chevarella, Ken Marcucio, Martin Hubbard, Stephanie D’Onofrio and Kim Kreiger. Rebecca O’Hara and Ms. Gjata the student representative arrived at 7:12 p.m. There is a quorum.

Also Present: Dr. Tracy, Superintendent of Schools, Fran Gallo - Principal of Irving School, Linda Coppola - Principal of Bradley School, Fran Thompson - Principal of DHS and Sally Bonina - Principal of DMS.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
Mr. Gallo will give an update on the Derby.net program after public portion sponsored by the CT Health Foundation. Also, there are two field trips under Superintendent report

MOTION to amend the agenda as recommended by the superintendent by Ms. Kreiger, second by Mr. Mancini , all in favor, motion carries.

Public Participation
Shelly Sheridan - Middle School teacher - is asking the board to consider what the Middle School students think about the school colors.

Mrs. Witek - Academy Hill, Derby. She is a resident for 49 years. She is a nurse at the Middle School and High School. There is no nurse for the Middle School and there are a lot of issues. In September there will be more issues for insulin pumps, asthmaics, epvi pens, etc. If there are two emergencies at the same time, where does she go? It is an accident waiting to happen. How can you consider a curriculum coordinator when it is a third of her salary? Get a nurse.

Tom Lionetti - 79 Sunset Drive. He is asking the board to consider the tradition of the colors of red and white for the school colors. It should stay red and white. Also, there are three children in the school system now, not living in Derby that are not paying tuition.....please make sure the students are living in Derby. He lives in Derby and does not want to pay taxes to educate someone from Ansonia, Shelton and Seymour etc.

Sally Bonina - principal of Derby Middle School. Every school needs to have its own colors. They presently do. Bradley School has white and green, Irving School has blue and gold, the Middle School presently has red, white and blue, Derby High School has red and white. This encourages the students to have their own identity. The students must invest themselves in their own school, not the school in which they are heading. This is an integral part of forming a school culture as they grow and progress to the next level. They need to look forward to the changes that their next school brings, not to look at it as a continuation of their present school. The Middle School
students are not miniature high schooler's. It took them so long to get their own school. They now should not be made to feel that they are no more than an extension of a high school. As far as uniforms are concerned, the present uniforms do incorporate two colors, red and white. Economics dictate that this remains the case, that doesn't mean dictating that the school colors must match.

Matt Bradshaw - Asst. Principal of Derby Middle School. He did a poll at the school with the students. 113 students were for red, white and blue. 68 for red and white. He urges the board to listen to the voice of the students. He also supports the students having their own identity as being important.

Linda Coppola - Principal Bradley School. She supports Mrs. Witek.

For the record, Rebecca O'Hara has arrived at 7:12 p.m.

Dr. Tracy has a letter from someone who could not be present - Beth Collette - 157 Minerva St.....

"On January 4, 2010, a very important event happened here in Derby, the Middle School opened its doors. This decision regarding school colors may not seem very important, but in my opinion has far reaching effects. Forcing the Middle School to be Red Raiders is doing a disservice by not allowing the school students to become independent and develop in this environment. I would like to be clear, I recognize it is a privilege and an honor to be a Derby Red Raider, my child starts 6th grade and associates themselves to the Red Raider mascot and colors. What are you offering these students, what do they have to strive for? There is not a stable sports programs currently being offered at the Middle School with the current budget season. Will there be a sports program in the future for what the young children of Derby had as programs available through the City, so when they are playing sports at this age they are not associated with their school. All these athletes should be looking forward to is going to the high school and becoming Red Raiders to give the students three years of nothing but the same association while they continue their education at the Derby high school. Let me say that the Middle School children need goals and their own identities. Middle School is a time to help students learn to take responsibility, grow and mature. It was not part of the reasoning to open the Middle School to give the students their own identity separate from the high school. She learned that the Middle School was known as the Middles. How was it that the Middies ceased to exist? The best part of the story is how when a student graduated from DHS the class ring had to have a ??? and an Indian on it? We've gotten away from embracing our history being a first inland seaport in the State of Connecticut as a distinction that no other town or city can make. Do you not think that bringing back the Derby pride in giving children a sense of belonging starts with the history of the city? In closing please ask yourselves my question, what is in the best interest of the child? I urge you take into account the administrators, principals and students point of view on this issue as it will have lasting repercussions. Please let DMS fly their red white and blue colors with Derby pride, Thank you, Beth Collette."

Fran Gallo - Principal Irving School. He is in support of Mrs. Witek. Two or three times he has found himself in an emergency situations where getting his nurse back from St. Mary School was crucial. Other times he had to administer aid to children, where he is not qualified.

Sally Bonina - Principal DMS. She does not propose substituting the nurse position. They need a full time nurse.
Mr. Witek - As far as the sports code, the uniforms are handed down from the high school (red and white). If they are, what is going to happen when the colors change? Where will the money come from? Keep the colors, red and white, where’s the Derby pride?

Tom Lionetti - 79 Sunset Drive. He agrees with Mr. Witek. He is confused with the identity. Where does the identity come from? The Middle School has been in the high school for years. He has never heard of changing their colors for identity. They have their own school. This is their identity, but it should still be red and white.

Public Portion closed.

**Derby.net program**

Mr. Gallo addressed the board. Two years ago he approached the board regarding a grant from the Connecticut Mental Health Foundation he was pursuing. It is now known as Derby.net program.

It was proposed as an eighteen month process for 200,000.00 for five years.

They were up against big communities, but the police, the Valley Health District, PCRC and the schools combined a presentation and were awarded the grant.

They are in the process of finding a space to set up the program and are ready to go.

Mr. Gallo introduced the clinician; Lisa Iwanowski.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** by Ms. Kreiger that the Board of Education approves the minutes from the following meetings, second by Ms. Chevarela, all in favor, motion carries.

Special Meeting - February 23, 2010
Regular Meeting - February 25, 2010
Special Meeting - March 1, 2010
Special Meeting - March 1, 2010
Special Meeting - March 2, 2010

**Recognition**

Expression of appreciation to All Star Transportation and our school bus drivers for their service to the children of Derby.

Dr. Tracy introduced Dawn Brundage who Dr. Tracy speaks to first thing in the morning on a snowy morning. Ms. Brundage introduced some of her drivers and the dispatcher.

**Student Representative Report**

Ms. Gjata presented her report. CAPT testing is over. Fundraising is going on for St. Patrick’s bracelet sale, the juniors had their masquerade ball. The National Honor Society had pennies for patients and will sponsor a blood drive March 29th, a cystic fibrosis walk will be held soon. A career test is March 25th. Mrs. Hanson and Romano are taking students to Broadway. Spring sports are under way. There is a relief effort project for Haiti with Ms. Gjata, some senior students and Dr. Tracy to help build a school. They have found underclassmen to join them.

**Standing Committee Reports**
A. Committee on Teaching & Learning - Mr. Mancini stated they discussed the guidance departments functions and responsibilities at the Middle School and High School.

B. Committee on Budget, Personnel & Facilities - Ms. Kreiger stated they approved the review of the financial statement up for approval this evening by the full board, the hosted email, and additional cell phone service which is an agenda item this evening.

C. Committee on Policy & Planning - Ms. Chevarella stated the committee discussed student registration and the process of verifying residency, and the school colors and mascots for a possible motion for this evening.

Administrator Reports
Ms. Bonina - Derby Middle School presented her report. It was a busy month for CMT's. The Family Fun Night was rescheduled for April 7th. The Junior National Honor Society is collecting money for Pennies for Pictures. Middle School student Aubrey Puzinsky participated in the Southern Connecticut Regional Musical Festival.

Ms. Coppola - Bradley School. The student council participated in a bowl a thon to benefit the Herman Camp Group and raised over $700.00. Kindergarten registration is going on at both schools and there are up to 51 children at Bradley. John Saccu is presenting a bullying and respect program for the third and fourth graders. Next week is the mother and daughter dinner and 200 are expected. There is a multi-cultural program scheduled for the last day of the month.

Mr. Gallo -Irving School. The school is finishing up CMT's. Next week will be the kick off for the Derby.net program.

Dr. Knapton - Special Education Director. Ms. Knapton spoke about the AIMS Web and the data.

Mr. Nardone - Facilities Manager. Mr. Nardone is not present.

Mr. Thompson - Derby High School. There is a new program to help new students called the "Back Pack Club". It is an opportunity for kids to shadow a classmate and the program has received positive feedback. The graduation will be Friday on June 18th at 6:00 p.m. at Ryan Field. "Grease" will be April 23rd & 24th. The prom is May 28th.

Superintendent's Report
Dr. Tracy introduced Valerie Knight-DiGangis to the board. She will help look for grant opportunities.

Ms. Knight-DiGangis got an entitlement grant in the amount of $6,000.00 for technology at the high school.

She also got a one-time grant in the amount of $50,000.00 for the after-school program. Hopefully, this will position Derby to apply for a much larger grant available in the summer called the "21st Century Learning" grant. It is a five year grant in the amount of $1,000,000.00. This would help with the after-school program along with the Derby.net program.

She also submitted a proposal to the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to support an on-line learning community.

Finally, a $140,000.00 grant was submitted to the state for another "21st Century Learning Committee" specifically for technology.
In-class coaching for Choice Theory principals will start March 31st. The concept will be to observe the classrooms and confer with the teachers.

The board reviewed dates for a budget workshop with the tax board.

**Enrollment Report**
The report runs through the middle of March. The count is 1457.

**Attendance Report**
Attendance remains strong.

**Field Trip for the Cheerleading Team of DHS for the Regional Tournament in Rhode Island**
*MOTION* that the Board of Education approve a field trip for the Derby High School Cheerleading Team to the regional competition in Rhode Island on March 19 & 20 as recommended by the Superintendent by Mr. Hubbard, second by Ms. Picheco, all in favor, motion carries.

**Field Trip to the Boston Museum of Science - Bradley 6th Grade**
*MOTION* that the Board of Education approve a field trip for the sixth grade at Bradley School to the Boston Museum of Science on June 4th as recommended by the Superintendent by Ms. O'Hara, second by Mr. Mancini, all in favor, motion carries.

*MOTION* by Ms. Kreiger that the Derby Board of Education authorize the purchase of Hosted E-mail service from Digital Back Office, as recommended by the Superintendent, pending the Board of Aldermen approval of the necessary bid waiver, second by Mr. Mancini, all in favor, motion carries.

*MOTION* by Ms. Kreiger that the Derby Board of Education grant an exception to the Policy 1330: Facilities Use, waiving the facilities and custodial fees for the veteran's Annual Memorial Day Observance at Derby High School, as recommended by the Superintendent, second by Ms. O'Hara, all in favor, motion carries.

**Financial Report**
*MOTION* by Ms. Kreiger with a second by Ms. Picheco that the Board of Education approve the Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2010 as recommended by the Committee on Budget, Personnel & Facilities, second by Ms. Harris, all in favor, motion carries.

*MOTION* by Ms. Harris that the Derby Board of Education Policy #5133 be amended as follows:
• That the Title of the Policy be changed from "School Colors" to "School Colors and Mascots"; and
• That the text of the Policy be revised to read as follows:

The school colors at the high school and middle school level shall be red and white. Any decorations in the Derby High School or Derby Middle School related to athletics shall be red and white.

The school mascot at the high school and middle school level shall be the Red Raider.

Any uniform worn by a Derby athlete at the high school and middle school level shall be red and white with the option of black as a third trim color, not to exceed 20% of the entire uniform.
as recommended by the Committee on Policy, Planning & Community Relations, second by Ms. Picheco.

discussion.....Mr. Hubbard stated for the record the high school should be red and white, the middle school students should have the say in what colors they want, Mr. Hubbard would also like the board to take into consideration what the principals, teachers and faculty and especially the children of the middle school have said before making a vote.

MOTION by Mr. Hubbard to make an amendment to the proposed document for Policy #5133 that it be redirected not only just from athletics and decorations of red and white, but to include other fashions of school functions, second by Mr. Mancini.

discussion.....the amendment refers to the third paragraph "the school colors of the high school and middle school level shall be red and white [will remain] any decorum in the DHS or DMS related to athletics (will be taken out).....Mr. Hubbard withdraws his amendment, Mr. Mancini withdraws his second to the motion

MOTION to make an amendment by Ms. D’Onofrio that the colors of the schools will be red and white with black trim at the high school and blue trim at the middle school and the uniforms will also be red and white with black trim at the high school (20%) and blue trim (20%) at the middle school, second by Ms. Kreiger,

Roll Call: Mr. Mancini - yes, Ms. Harris - no, Ms. Picheco - no, Ms. Chevarella - no, Mr. Marcucio - no, Mr. Hubbard - yes, Ms. O’Hara - no, Ms. D’Onofrio - yes, Ms. Kreiger - yes, motion fails.

MOTION that the Derby Board of Education Policy #5133 be amended as follows:
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  and
• That the text of the Policy be revised to read as follows:

The school colors at the high school and middle school level shall be red and white. Any decorum in the Derby High School or Derby Middle School related to athletics shall be red and white.

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Any uniform worn by a Derby athlete at the high school and middle school level shall be red and white with the option of black as a third trim color, not to exceed 20% of the entire uniform

Roll Call: Mr. Mancini - abstained, Ms. Harris - yes, Ms. Picheco - yes, Ms. Chevarella - yes, Mr. Marcucio - yes, Mr. Hubbard - no, Ms. O’Hara - yes, Ms. D’Onofrio - no, Ms. Kreiger - no, motion carries.

MOTION by Ms. Harris, second by Mr. Mancini that the Derby Board of Education authorize the provision of a district cell phone for use by the Facilities Manager, as recommended by the Superintendent, all in favor. motion carries.

Vacancy Report
There are no administrative or teaching positions open at this time.

There are appointments to make after executive session; help desk technician, 1/2 time library positions at Bradley and Irving and a cheerleading appointment.
Old Business
no old business.

New Business
no new business.

Executive Session
MOTION by Ms. D’Onofrio with a second by Ms. Picheco that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, a legal matter, collective bargaining matters, and a student residency matter, inviting the Superintendent and Dr. Knapton, all in favor, motion carries.

MOTION by Ms. O’Hara with a second by Ms. Picheco that the Board of Education return to public session all in favor, motion carries.

Appointments
MOTION by Ms. Picheco with a second by Mr. Mancini that the Board of Education approve the Schedule of Appointments, as recommended by the Superintendent, all in favor, Ms. O’Hara recused herself, motion carries.

MOTION by Ms. Kreiger with a second by Ms. Harris that the Board of Education take action with respect to a student residency matter, all in favor, motion carries.

Adjourn
MOTION by Mr. Mancini with a second by Ms. D’Onofrio to adjourn at 9:45 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.