

Committee of the Whole

March 02, 2021 6:30 PM

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. Call to Order

Mr. Gildea: We're going to get started at 6:34. Welcome everybody to tonight's Derby Board of Education meeting. Thirty-eight people, a nice little crowd. So, I appreciate you being here. We'll officially call the meeting to order.

a. Opening Ceremonies



Pledge of Allegiance

b. Roll Call

Ms. Netto: Mr. Jim Gildea; present; Tara Hyder, here; Laura Harris, here; Rebecca O'Hara, here; Dan Foley, present; Melissa Cannata, here; Ken Marcucio, present. George Kurtyka has not joined us yet. Janine Netto is present.

Mr. Gildea: Let the record reflect we have eight of nine Board of Education members.

c. Additions/Deletions to the agenda

Mr. Gildea: Any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. I see no one offering any.

II. Public Participation

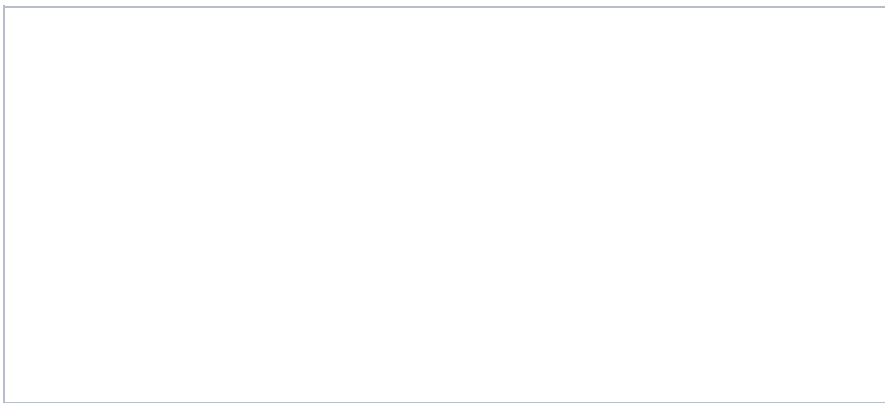
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

* Prior to the commencement of any public meeting of any board of the city, the agenda for said meeting shall be posted in the meeting room and the first order of business of said meeting shall be the entertainment of public discussion on any item on said agenda and the conduct, length, and method of terminating said public discussion shall be determined by majority vote of the members of said board of commission.

Mr. Gildea: Item number two, does anyone from the public wish to speak before the Derby Board of Education meeting. John Netto.

John Netto, 141 Park Avenue, Derby, CT. I do want to say I am very surprised we are hiring a full-time coach rather than opting for an interim coach due to the time constraints. I do not know much about the head coach. I wish him luck. I extend any help that I can offer.

I do have to take this time to thank the assistant coach, Sal Frosceno. I knew the offers he has been made and turned down and come here to his hometown and give back to the community. I



needed to take this moment to recognize his accomplishments and baseball resume because I am sure the Committee knows they are very quite impressive. I'm not surprised Frosceno return to derby. And we'll be fortunate to have him as long as he decides to stay. Frosceno has been coaching these kids for years. He returned to Derby to give back before he was raised and played baseball himself. Any players on his team have been looking up to him since they were five years old. Over the past three summers, he has already been assisting our high school team. He played for a top-notch college program at US Boston. I asked his former coach two years ago for a reference when my summer program of looking for a coach US Boston Mass Coach said, you'll be lucky to have him, amazing player. Great kid. He'll be a great addition to your program. The Derby kid will return home, eager to share what he learned and as already helped many Derby players over the past seven, eight years, to get a good start for a successful baseball career here. It is great to see the Derby kid now a young man in place. He knows the players and has been there for them since he was playing little league and helping Derby Police Union Clinics. Frosceno is a two-time Allstate player when he played Center Field

for the Red Raiders and the State Championship Game. His college career is just as impressive with two LEC championships, three regional appearances, a New England Championship and a baseball field. Sal, best of luck and I hope you're in Derby for the next few years. Thank you.

Mr. Gildea: Very nice, John. Thank you very much for the words. Anyone else from the public who wish to speak before the Board of Education. Twice, three times.

Public portion is closed.

III. Board of Education Birthday



Mr. Gildea: That's awesome.

Dr. Conway: Wish our Chairman Jim officially a Happy Birthday to Jim Gildea.

IV. Student Representative to the Board of Education

Mr. Gildea: Ms. Chevarella you are up.

Ms. Chevarella: This past month is Black History Month. Working and celebrating Black History Month. We even have some teachers. Also we're having our first ever fashion show. That's in the works with student council. We are also have our talent show. We also have International pie coming up. That should be fun.

Mr. Gildea: Can I ask a question. So how do you feel seniors and we'll start to see more students coming back.

Ms. Chevarella: I've been back like two weeks now. More people are coming back. I think people 100 percent will come back.

Mr. Gildea: I think it is important, coming on the last three months of the 12 years together. Hope you'll see your classmates come back. Prom, senior night, topics started to discuss and think about.

Ms. Chevarella: Thursday night we have a prom committee meeting. It's open to juniors and seniors.

Mr. Gildea: Thursday will be your first meeting. Very nice thank you. Any questions. Thank you
V. Student Recognition



Ruben Gonzalez



Jessica Rudnick



Tairique McFarlane



Zara Rivera



Kevin McBroom

The Aquarion Water Company's Black History Month Committee announced that two Derby High School students were selected as winners for the 20th Annual Black History Month Quiz and Writing/Essay Contest! **Congratulations to Mrs. Kingsbury's students, Ruben Gonzalez (Grand Prize for 12th Grade) and Jessica Rudnick (Runner Up for 12th Grade!)** We would also like to recognize the following students

for their thoughtful submissions: **Tairique McFarlane, Kevin McBroom and Zara Rivera!** Derby High School was well-represented

Mr. Gildea: Item number five, student recognition.

Dr. Conway: I'm going to hand it over to Principal Olson.

Ms. Olson: We are very excited to be able to recognize some students this evening has succeeded in the Black History Month quiz and essay contest. Ms. Kingsbury put this writing out to her 12th grade English class. And this group of students stepped up. Stating names of students. Two of our students in this contest were recognized as part of the regional winners, Ruben and Jessica. We are very proud of them.

Mr. Gildea: Are any of those students on today. Thank you, Mr. Logan.

Senator Logan: This is more than just a regional contest. This is a Statewide contest. And we had folks participate and students participate as far away as Groton and Stamford and Bridgeport and Fairfield and Trumbull. And for Derby to have two winners in the 12th grade, that is pretty impressive. All of the participants will be getting certificates from Aquarion. But our two winners as far as the grand prize winner, Ruben Gonzalez. Read certificate. Receiving a \$50 gift card. Jessica will receive a \$25 gift card. Congratulations in representing Derby well. Good role models for our community.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you very much, Mr. Logan, I appreciate that. All five of those students, your work is impressive.

Ruben and Jessica, thank you very much for the work that you do.

VI. Executive Session

Motion Passed: The Board of Education enter into Executive Session to discuss the appointment list of new hires, and the Superintendent of Schools is invited to attend. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Mr. Gildea: Go ahead, Laura, you go.

Ms. Harris: Making motion to enter into Executive Session.

Mr. Foley: Second.

VII. District Team Facilitator Position

Motion Passed: The Board of Education appoint Jackie Nathman as a District TEAM Facilitator, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. Kenneth Marcucio.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
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Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Mr. Marcucio: Second.

VIII. District TEAM Facilitator Position

Motion Passed: The Board of Education appoint Tracy Landolfi as a District TEAM Facilitator, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. Kenneth Marcucio.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Mr. Marcucio: Second.

IX. District TEAM Facilitator

Motion Passed: The Board of Education appoint Jennifer Andrews as a District TEAM Facilitator, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mrs. Tara Hyder.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Ms. Hyder: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Doc, are they all here. They are part of the family already. I think we're super excited to have them on board for certain.

Ms. Olson: We've made a recommendation to appoint three people as a shared District Team Facilitator this year really in an effort to really strengthen and expand the induction and support services that we give not only to our beginning teachers, but also in supporting our mentors in an ongoing way and are team paper reviewers. So the district, we have a lot of people who support our beginning teachers. And we just thought that it really is in order to provide some really great services ongoing for teachers throughout the entire two-year induction period. That it would be best to be able to have people having a small part of that role and focusing in on that area of strength. So in the model that we propose right now, we have each taken on a singular responsibility, somebody supporting each one of those areas and then helping to develop a strong kind of prints documents that they will be able to use for teachers if they got hired in the mid-school year and weren't with us. So we're very excited about this. Jen, Tracy and Jackie are phenomenal team and we're looking forward for them starting the works. So congratulations to all of you and thank you for the appointment of them.

Mr. Gildea: Awesome. And on behalf of the Board, certainly you already are family for certain. We're very fortunate that we have pre-seasoned teachers stepping into the role.

Great job. Thank you.

X. ESL Teacher, 6th period assignment

Motion Passed: The Board of Education appoint Cristina DiNallo-DiMartino as the 6th period ESL teacher at Derby High School, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Ms. Melissa Cannata.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Ms. Cannata: Second.

Ms. Olson: I did just want to note that Cristina had been working at the high school since the beginning of the year and has been supporting our Italian Program. We've been very happy to have her over here at the high school. We're lucky that she holds dual certification and she's a great addition to help support our students here at the high school.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you very much.

XI. Part-Time Student Mentor - DHS

Motion Passed: The Board of Education appoint Jamie Bartone as a part-time grant funded Student Mentor at Derby High School, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. Kenneth Marcucio.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Abstain
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Mr. Marcucio: Second.

Ms. O'Hara: Abstained.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

Ms. Olson: This is a position here up at the high school. Ms. Bartone is coaching for clients today, so I haven't seen her yet online tonight. We are very excited to have her here. This is a grant-funded position through our school improvement grant. It is intended to support our students who are at risk and we are specifically going to be focused on Ninth Grade. It's a very relationship driven position. She's got tremendous experience working with students in a variety of capacities, not only as a softball coach but also as a residential instructor with a special needs program for non-profit. Also with Parks and Recs Summer Programming and YMCA. She's also a Derby High School Alum and we are very excited for her to go ahead and get started with us in this position.

Mr. Gildea: Thanks, Ms. Olson. And again, the Board certainly looks forward to Jamie's contributions as well.

XII. Paraeducator - Irving School

Motion Passed: The Board of Education appoint Jamie Bartone as a part-time grant funded Student Mentor at Derby High School, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. Kenneth Marcucio.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Abstain
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Motion Passed: The Board of Education appoint David Grenon as a Paraeducator at Irving School, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Nice to see you David.

Ms. McCoart: Good evening everyone. It's a pleasure to introduce David to the Board. He's going to be filling in a position in our second and third grade classes as a paraeducator. He currently holds a position as a Senior Clerk for Connecticut DEEP. He does substitute teaching at Irving School recently. He did some work through Kelly Services. So we were able to see him in action. He immediately jumped in and formed a relationship with students. He's a recent college graduate with a double major in psychology and English. And he's looking to get his foot in a school setting. So we're really excited to welcome David to the Irving Team. And he's very excited to jump on board. So welcome, David.

David: Thank you.

Mr. Gildea: On behalf of the Board of Education, we welcome you to Derby.

XIII. Head Baseball Coach - Derby High School

Motion Passed: The Board of Education appoint Robert Swierbitowicz as Head Baseball Coach, Derby High School, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mrs. Tara Hyder.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Laura Harris	Abstain
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Ms. Hyder: Second.

Ms. Harris: I abstain.

Mr. Gildea: Ms. Harris abstains.

Dr. Conway: Mr. Bradshaw.

Mr. Bradshaw: We'd like to welcome Rob as head baseball coach. Rob has hit the ground running. He's already bringing in an impact. He's bringing in an experience as a High School Coach at Lewis Mills. He's had success. And he's presented some great planning. He's already using his local community to bring success connecting little league to Middle School and High School. Looking forward to having him on the Athletic Staff at Derby High School.

Dr. Conway: Saying a few words about Rob and welcoming him. We're very fortunate to have someone with experience not only on the field but off the field. Welcome Rob.

Mr. Gildea: We welcomed you here a few months ago. We welcome you here as our head baseball coach. We welcome you to Derby as a baseball coach. Best of luck, sir.

Mr. Swierbitowicz: I look forward to coaching right along with Sal. I'm going to put my best foot forward. I enjoy the kids already. I'm going to do my best. Thank you very much again.

XIV. Assistant Boys Baseball Coach - Derby High School

Motion Passed: The Board of Education appoint Salvatore Frosenco, II as Assistant Baseball Coach, Derby High School, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mrs. Tara Hyder.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes



Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Ms. Hyder: Second.

Mr. Bradshaw: Good evening everyone again. The Committee was glad to select Sal, Jr., as assistant baseball coach. I've known him quite a while. I was his teacher. I know he is going to be able to use the fundamentals with our team. Congratulations, Sal.

Dr. Conway: The moment I met Sal, he's done nothing than impress me. Sal is full of action. I had an opportunity to talk to Sal's Coach. Academically, athletically and his personality. Always going through the extra mile. Sal is one of the best athletes I have ever coached. Always a team first guy. Welcoming him and saying a few words about him. This is the future with Rob and Sal and the baseball program. And I can't wait for the game at Payden Park in the first game on that field in April.

Mr. Gildea: On behalf of the Board, I remember you. Best of luck Sal.

Sal: Thank you very much.

XV. Appointment of New Hires

Motion Passed: The Board of Education approve the appointment list for new hires, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. Kenneth Marcucio.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes

Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Mr. Gildea: Is there anybody we didn't do.

Dr. Conway: We have one person.

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Mr. Marcucio: Second.

XVI. Administrator's Reports

Mr. Gildea: Admin Reports.

a. Little Raiders University

Ms. Conway: We were very busy for the month of February. We did SEOs. Ms. Newman for Chinese New Year she did cheese egg. She is a paraprofessional. She did a very nice lesson on the Chinese New Year and did projects with the students. We also celebrated our 100th day. We would like to welcome Ms. Margaret. She's a new member of LRU. She keeps our schools very clean and germ free. And she's just an amazing woman. And she fits right in and speaks with the children all the time.

For Valentine's Day we had a very nice party. We welcome a new member of our family. We show a video on how he's growing. We're continuing our zooms with the families. We continue working very closely with the library. Any questions.

Mr. Gildea: Very nice. We talked about the social media part. Good stuff. We appreciate the update. Any questions. Thank you.

Ms. Conway: Thank you.

b. Bradley School

Mr. Ciccarini: Good evening, everyone. I hope everyone is having a good night. I always like to talk about academics. But I'm going to take a step back for a second, because you can't talk about academics without talking about the people that deliver the academics. And I'm sure as you can gather from Dr. Conway's phone calls, right now Bradley School is dealing with a few challenges in the building in terms of health and well being. And I want to take a moment to really commend my team at Bradley School.

They are the most amazing group of educators I've ever had the pleasure of working with in my 24 years of public education. I mean, we're talking about teachers that are there until 8, 9, 10 o'clock getting planned and things ready together for kids.

And Despite everything going on, as you can tell from our assessment scores, kids continue to grow and learn despite all the obstacles my teachers continue to face on a daily basis. Our kids are fortunate to have the team of educators at Bradley School working with them on a daily basis. And none of this would be possible without them. And I'm not one to give out compliments, you can ask my staff that. They will tell you that. But I want to take this opportunity and my time this evening to truly thank my team to let them know they are very appreciated not only by me, but by our students and by our families. And I hear it every day when I communicate with the families. So I want to thank them for all their hard work and for their perseverance and for their grit for hanging in there and for continuing to deliver high quality education to all our students, whether they're remote or in person on a daily basis. So that is all I have to say. But I'm certainly open to any questions that any Board members might have about my report.

Mr. Gildea: I know you've had a tough last couple days as far as the COVID 19. You're attendance is high to begin with. See any changes from a couple months ago?

Mr. Ciccarini: Our attendance is in the 93 to 96 percent range. So today's attendance was 92.7 percent compared to yesterday which was one of 93 percent. So even on days like today where we had to suddenly go remote overall, we had 17 students out today and some of them were for some things that were out of the families control. But overall, we're very pleased with our daily attendance even on days like snow days that are remote days or days like today where we had an unforeseen issue and we have to suddenly go remote. Very late too. The information came in late. Dr. Conway was gracious enough to send a message out.

Even today we had very solid attendance. And our attendance has been very good. And again, to go back to my original point, the work that teachers do, their communication with families, communication with kids. The way they set up Google Classrooms, so that even for our younger students, it's fairly easy to navigate. So it's really a testament to the teachers. And we have tools like go-guardian, teachers and paras in the classrooms are there to direct the students and let them know that we are there to support them and make sure the time we have together is valuable and being used for academic purposes.

Mr. Gildea: Not so much the attendance, and I did say attendance, I meant in-person. I guess I was looking to see if you were happy with your in-person numbers.

Mr. Ciccarini: Through last Thursday we were at the lowest, we had our higher percentage of in-person learners at Bradley School. We were closing in on 90 percent. We had under 30 students were remote. Because of what happened today, that number has jumped. into the 90s, but that is going to be temporary. We expect in another week and a half or another two weeks be close to where we were. But more and more parents were sending kids back every day. Parents talk to each other. So remote parents are talking to in person parents to see how things are going in the school. All the feedback that we received from parents was very positive. But overall, we were very pleased. We had more than one class where all of our students were in person as of last Thursday. A few parents may continue to opt to continue in remote, even in a couple weeks because of what's happened. But that's certainly understanding. Overall, we were very pleased and still are with the number of in person students we had versus remote learners.

Mr. Gildea: I do think there's a big difference between the attendance level at the elementary school and the attendance level at the high school, it's simply because high school kids make their own decision about whether they come back or not. And again, I'm not being a hypocrite, but as a parent, and so I think the Board needs to consider that and decide whether or not we continue to let seniors and juniors to have in person or not because they're concerned about the COVID. Clearly the educational work isn't as strong when your teacher who's teaching eight kids in your class to 12 kids out of your class. I think we have some discussions to have and I appreciate your honesty about the in person numbers. Thank you.

Mr. Ciccarini: Any other questions from any other Board members?

Mr. Gildea: Any other questions.

Mr. Marcucio: This is more directed toward Doc. I thought we were going to try to get that 87 percent is the target percentage down?

Dr. Conway: Mr. Rafferty is working on a couple of different models now, sir to better present that data to the Board and the Community. So, and we'll be making those changes to the report as soon as we know what that will be.

Mr. Marcucio: Thank you.

Dr. Conway: The one you're looking at is a close model that we'll present.

Mr. Gildea: Any other questions for Mario.

c. Irving School

Ms. Misset: Good evening everyone. I'll start by addressing your remote learner and attendance question. We are seeing more students come back at Irving. We started the year about 30 percent with remote when we went through some rough patches. We had gone up to over 40 percent of our students being remote. And we are slowly working our way back down more quickly lately. So we are now at about 27 percent of our students being remote. And we are seeing more students change each week. As well as we have had many new students move into the district lately into our neighborhood. And they are all, some of them wanted to start remote, but we were able to convince them to start in person. I'll piggyback off of what Mario said, a lot of that credit goes to our staff for really taking the time to build relationships, to reach out to the families, answer their questions, explain the benefits of being here, explain the safety protocols in place.

They really work very closely to make sure that parents and students feel comfortable coming into the building. So I think we're going to continue to see a number of our remote learners drop. After midyear data, we're able to have conversations with parents about yes, your child is making growth. Yes, they're learning but they're not getting as much as they would have if they were here in person. It's not an easy conversation to have with parents. But at the end of the day parents really want what's best for their child and some of them are realizing that they need to be back in school. So I feel like we're seeing a move in the right direction there. Very happy about that.

Mr. Gildea: Mario said he was about 90 percent remote. 83 percent in-person. Did I hear that right?

Ms. Misset: No, we're about 73 percent in person right now.

Mr. Gildea: Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Misset: So just a few things going on. We're really relying more on the leadership teams and also the committees. All the teachers are part of the committee that meets once a month. Some really good things coming out of our committees. We will be rolling out a virtual honors ceremony on Friday. From there we'll move down to some VIP awards for the younger grades. They are working on some events around

kindness. Schoolwide Data Team continues to work with our data and really push towards some strategic planning for academics. Our Excel team is working on a ceremony for their bilingual students to celebrate their accomplishment as well as put some bilingual books into their hands for the spring and summer. And our safety committee continues to kind of monitor the needs of staff. Again, because we have new staff and we can't have as many meetings, they've been putting together some safety videos effective way to getting information out to staff. So those are the things going on lately. We are looking at our mid-year data working with teachers to use IReady and other resources to kind of target the skills kids are lacking on and we'll just keep progress monitoring right through the spring. Any questions.

Mr. Gildea: No. I appreciate you talking about the remote learnings and wonderful report. Thank you. Any questions.

d. Derby Middle School

Ms. Quartiano: Good evening, everyone. I will be presenting for Derby Middle School this evening. We have 68 percent of our students in, which is our highest percentage thus far. We see that number increasing daily as families are becoming more and more comfortable with our safety measures and protocols that we've put in place. Excited to welcome students coming in and we look forward to more joining us.

At Derby Middle School, we are plugging along, always exciting. We have lots of things going on for February. We were able to hold our data team meeting. We were able to identify our next school wide strategy. We do that during our leadership data team meetings as well as our individual grade level meetings. We were able to roll out the strategy full staff during our HQI fun shop hosted by Dr. Rafferty. It was a great success and a great hit.

As an admin team, we do attend weekly meetings in order to align us as well as individual buildings. Always something that we look forward too. We recently completed our Commissioner of Network Audit with our State person. She interviewed some of the leadership team, staff members as well as attending some classrooms. We were able to do that virtually. Provided all of the zoom links for every classroom. We did celebrate the 100th day of school virtually. Lastly, one of our young gentleman in 6th grade, we should have a fundraiser to raise money for Yale New Haven Hospital Cardiology Unit, the Pediatric Division. He himself as a baby, underwent heart surgery and was given this little teddy bear that had a zipper in it and had a heart in it.

We held a penny war competition to our students, were able to raise over \$1,000 just by bringing in their pennies. They brought in dollars. They did bring in silver. \$1,000 our school raised. We were able to present the family a total of \$1,356 to purchase these bears for young children who are undergoing heart surgery. And that's in addition to the \$800 that this young man raised on his own. So we're very proud of our students coming together.

Mr. Gildea: That's a lot. Very thorough thank you. I appreciate the remote learner. Any questions.

e. Derby High School

Ms. Olson: Good evening everyone. Right now, Derby High School has 347 students enrolled. Our current daily attendance rate is 92.36 percent. We have been hovering right around 50 percent in person 50 percent remote. A change from 66 percent was our high of remote learners. And that was in mid-January. We had about 220 students who were learning at home at the time.

We are seeing additionally a change in our student population, just in the past three months from December, January and February. We've welcomed 13 new students to school. We also said goodbye to six students who

transferred out as well. As students are coming and going, there's a different learning track from time to time as well. So about 50/50 is our change. The halls do feel alive right now. Each week, we've been having new students come back from remote learning. And we're very excited to have. The halls were very quiet in mid-January for us.

As I break down my report tonight. For students, we are very excited about our sports games. Our track team had an inter squad meet yesterday. Students, we have been holding our junior meetings with our students and parents for post-secondary planning. A big part of that is preparing for the SAT. Our grant funds have allowed us to offer a free SAT PREP program for students. SAT are going to be held on March 24th. PSAT for grades nine and ten will be the week before March 18.

Additionally, supporting our students is our Career Fair. We have right now over 30 professionals who are prepared to go ahead and speak about their profession. Professional Development in what teachers are asking for. We've provided opportunities for some additional test proctoring support for our new staff for SATs. We also have the State Department of Education here as well because we're a State school improvement grant school. And had an opportunity to show the learning in our classroom for our educational consultant, which we were really excited about.

Lastly, in supporting supporting school operations. We're really happy about being able to meet with the Valley Community Foundation just to talk about streamlining our scholarship management and how we award. Also just planning the end of year big events, graduation plan, A, B, and C, our Scholarship and Honors Program and the recognition. We had a meeting today about how we're going to select and share that information with families. So lots of great things happening right now and we've been pretty busy up here.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you.

Ms. Harris: How many families of the junior class students attended the post high school studies meeting.

Ms. Olson: We had eight that attended that night. It was a low turnout for that particular evening, but we were able to share our presentation that had gone out we did individual outreach with the students. Had several follow-up meetings with families.

Ms. Harris: I did see numerous notifications on that. I just wanted to know how that worked out. Thank you.

Ms. Olson: Yes.

f. Raise Academy

Mr. DiLuggo: Hi, everyone. I'll keep my report very brief and to the point. No changes in terms of our overall population at Raise Academy over the past month. We are happy to report that we have seen an increase in student attendance. In particular, we're really excited about our students improvement about the remote and their ability to successfully participate during our remote learning.

Remote learning snow date, our student participation rate was 40 percent. We worked with our special education team and our teachers. And we were able to increase student participation to 40 percent by the end of the month. We were really happy with that. Hoping to see our students more comfortable using remote platforms. We did make a slight change to the Middle School schedule. What we did was shift the time for Middle School math a couple periods later. We did meet with Ms. Olson and Dr. Conway utilizing our student work for credit program. Mr. Nichols has sent us resources to help identify transition goals that our students can use in concert in seeking out work experiences in the community.

Hopefully more updates on that at our next meeting. We also are very happy to welcome a DHS student teacher to be working with the Raise High School social studies class, Mr. Dempsey from Naugatuck. That's where I'm from. By the way, Coach Swierbitowitz is also from Naugatuck. The student teacher, Mr. Dempsey did a great job coming in and just getting a feel for what the program is like. Lastly, we have been having Ms. Delgado, the high school social worker work with our Raise Academy students in fulfilling their counseling services hours because the fact that the Raise Middle School students were physically in the building, but Ms. Donovan is going to be taking those services over in effort to help get the students in Raise Academy Middle School, more time in Derby Middle School and also more time with the support service. That's pretty much all I have.

Mr. Gildea: Any questions. Mr. Kurtyka has officially joined us at around 7:30ish for the record. I appreciate the report.

g. Athletic Department Report

Mr. Bradshaw: Good evening everyone. I'm going to talk a little bit about each team. I think all the kids are just happy to be practicing, they're participating. They're part of the sport. They're doing the right thing. They're all being safe. I'm glad that they're able to practice.

They are happy to have their sports right now. Indoor track, dual meets. Try for something indoor. Otherwise, it's been pretty warm out. The league is looking at indoors. Boys basketball, they won in double overtime last night. Girls' basketball is still on a practice only schedule. They are enjoying it.

Cheer is still practicing. Speaking with the coaches soon. Middle school basketball, competitions, we do have games lined up for them next week.

Baseball season, possibly 18 games scheduled with the league. And for baseball, softball, hope to have a state tournament as long as we all stay safe. No visiting spectators' policy. That's all I have.

Mr. Gildea: Okay.

Ms. Hyder: I want to thank you for live streaming the basketball games. I know that there's work that gets put into that. And I personally can say I enjoy watching the games. I put it up on my TV and the family can watch them home and that's fun. We used to go to the games all the time. I feel like I'm there. So thank you for doing that. And I'm hoping that we can continue doing that into the spring season with our baseball and track. Hope we can continue to do that so spectators can view from home as well.

But the Field Committee before they stopped meeting, they had talked about putting a path behind the scoreboard up towards the picnic grove because for many years, for decades, there used to be just a path that we want out there that people use to get up to the Grove. And I'm thinking in anticipation of the spring season, I'm wondering if we need to work with Public Works or Facilities Department to talk about putting in a path before the spring sport season so that the coaches and throwers can efficiently make it from down at the track from up to the Grove during track meets just so that they can be with their athletes and get back down to the track as needed. Is that something that you can talk about Dr. Conway or you, Mr. Bradshaw?

Mr. Bradshaw: I can certainly look into it. I've talked with Mr. DiLuggo also. I think it's a little bit steeper now because they cut the hill back. I think that's where it gets a little tricky.

Ms. Hyder: I'm wondering how we can support that if needed.

Mr. Bradshaw: Mrs. Hyder, I'll just ask you know the people, I'll ask the City. I'll ask Parks and Rec and see what can get done to assist us. I don't know if there's anything the Board of Ed can do except sit back. So I'll start with that.

Ms. Hyder: Thank you.

Mr. Gildea: Thanks, Matt. Any other questions.

h. Special Education Supervisors Report

Ms. McCoart: So good evening everyone. Another busy month in the Department of Special Education. We continue our planning and placement team meetings. Shout out to the staff. They really do whatever is asked of them. I just want to thank her. She's really a team player in all areas.

We have seen an increase in student registration. The Committee just specifically for the Learning Center to kind of focus on daily living skills and the life skills curriculum. Working on social skills, communication skills. Planning for ESY already. A lot of stuff going on and we couldn't do it without the amazing staff that we have.

Mr. Gildea: Thanks, Stacey.

Mr. Nichols: Like Stacey mentioned a lot of those spring conversations are starting to happen, as well as talks of transitioning for our 5th grade students, 8th grade students and students that are perhaps graduating. Regarding the newest hires, both have really started off really strong getting acclimated to the staff and students. Mid-years have been wrapping up. A year to try something new. Having really great conversations with me how to grow how to practice and what those goals are.

Continuing with spring conversations began today with Mr. DiLuggo. Just really trying to iron out the times, structures, some goal assistance. How we support students and just how we can work together and make it the best we can be. Already talking about next year, spring. Just a wonderful effort all the way around.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you Mr. Nichols.

Ms. Harris: Thank you.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you to everybody. Outstanding reports. I appreciate the effort.

XVII. COVID 19 Update

Dr. Conway: All teachers are registered for their vaccine. The first one is Saturday, March 6th. So this coming Saturday between 9 and 3, able to schedule appointments. And then their second appointment is for March 27th.

All vaccinations for Ansonia and Derby staff together will be held at Ansonia High. We've also coordinated this through Valley Health Department and Griffin Hospital. And we were able to coordinate it for all of our valley districts the same day. So we will have four clinics across the valley to be able to get your vaccine. All education staff in all districts.

Ms. Harris: That's great to hear Doc.

Mr. Gildea: Very nice. COVID update. We start talking about sporting events, prom, senior night.

Dr. Conway: I think we'll be able to hold a graduation. Things like the prom and others are a little bit different in that even when we are able to have larger crowds at each even, it still is social distancing. So we have to keep that in mind while planning events that we can increase numbers certainly, like at a graduation. We still have to practice social distancing when you think about a typical prom, what does that look like. At the same time, practicing social distancing and using the other mitigation.

Mr. Gildea: Whether the event is inside or outside. In fairness, the world changes on 3/12 or 3/19. We all went to work that day and then everything changed. Last minute discussions last year for certain. I do think it's very telling for me that in person numbers, when you see elementary school, one is at 90, one is at 73, middle school is at 58 and the high school is 50. I think the older students are making that decision themselves. I think we need to have some closer discussions on about how long do we have that go on for.

I think a lot of them are home because they find remote learning easier or not enough of their friends are home. I think we allowed remote learning to become a little lax for the people at home. I just think that's the point I want to leave it and perhaps we'll discuss it another day.

Dr. Conway: Absolutely.

Ms. Hyder: Dr. Conway in anticipation for hopefully some end of year events, hopefully they'll be a little bit less complicated than last year because we have better ideas. It's not as new for us as it was last year. We just kind of jumped into everything. Would it make sense for us to look for other venues for end of year activities for all of the schools to have certain traditions at the end of their school year that are important to them. And then look at possibly outdoor venues even if it's our picnic grove for certain less formal venue or events. I have a feeling they might be booked more in advance than indoor venues. So it might be worth looking into for the events that our administrators think are important to try to still have at the end of this year.

Dr. Conway: I know that Jenn Olson has already started looking into those. You should have some information very soon.

Ms. Hyder: Thank you.

Mr. Gildea: Any other questions.

XVIII. Adjourn

Motion Passed: The Board of Education adjourn its meeting, passed with a motion by Ms. Melissa Cannata and a second by Mrs. Laura Harris.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mrs. Tara Hyder	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Ms. Melissa Cannata	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes

Ms. Cannata: Making motion.

Ms. Harris: Second.

Marianne Samokar, Recording Secretary