



City of Derby - Board of Education Meeting Committee of the Whole

Derby Middle School Cafetorium
73 Chatfield Street

Attendance Taken at 6:35 PM:

Present Board Members:

James Gildea
Melissa Cannata
Daniel Foley
Laura Harris
Tara Hyder
George Kurtyka
Kenneth Marcucio
Janine Netto
Rebecca O'Hara

Also in Attendance:

Dr. Matthew Conway Jr. – Superintendent of Schools
Kaitlyn Gerckens – Student Representative
Mario Ciccarini, Bradley School Principal
Aimee Misset, Irving School Principal
Rachael Caggiano, Middle School Principal
Martin Pascale, High School Principal
Alison Conway, Little Raiders University
Shelley Sheridan, Special Education Director
Jennifer Olson, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Mark Izzo, Business Manager

I. Call to Order

I.a. Opening Ceremonies

I.b. Roll Call

II. Public Participation

No one came forward and public portion was closed.

III. Student Representative to the Board of Education

Ms. Gerckens updated the Board on the activities at the High School. Spirit Week is underway with great support for the winter programs by the student council and students. The band is playing at many of the games. The second semester is starting. Students are working on the winter formal. Members asked about the new dress code and Ms. Gerckens indicated that she has heard no complaints although this is the winter season and everyone is dressed for the weather.

IV. Administrators Reports

Mr. Ciccarini reviewed the mid-year testing schedule. The Leaf program has had very positive results.

Mr. Ciccarini was asked about the Johnson Controls work. He indicated that overall it has been a good experience. There is some temperature imbalance between classrooms. The setback schedule results in a cool start on some mornings. In the gymnasium the units are still being worked on to make it a bit warmer. There is a noticeable improvement with the new lighting in the gymnasium.

Mrs. Misset has been working to enhance the PTO program and noted that several parents have been volunteering during the holiday season. They are planning a fair night in February. The fifth graders had their wax museum which is always popular. They are also preparing for the mid season testing. Regarding Johnson Controls, work is progressing well although the piping is very visible. The staff and students are looking forward to air conditioning in the building. Maintenance is working on adjusting the imbalances in temperature in the building.

Mrs. Caggiano stated that preparations are underway for the mid-January testing. She will be bringing two students who recently demonstrated their rocket club projects to next month's meeting. Their interest and enthusiasm in technology is infectious and encouraged.

A student is requesting to start a peer to peer tutoring club. She developed a very detailed presentation on the process and Mrs. Caggiano is discussing the possibilities with that student.

Mr. Pascale noted that there are only 95 days until graduation. He had a very good meeting with the seniors recently to discuss the planning of the event and the various activities running up to graduation. This past school year the graduation was held on the baseball field due to the football field being under construction. Historically the graduation has been on the football field, weather permitting. A decision on the location for this year should be determined.

Mr. Pascale indicated that instant decision day was a great opportunity for the students to find out their acceptance in their furthering education choices. Opportunities for scholarship funds were also presented.

Mrs. Conway stated that the month of December highlighted all the different holidays. A parent donated a white board to the classroom. She noted the fundraiser in November with the sale of shirts was a great success.

Mrs. Sheridan is preparing for staffing adjustments. The staff is establishing exit strategies for all the learning centers. They continue to work with students in need that do not fit the criteria. They will continue to work on entrance and exit criteria.

Mr. Bradshaw was excused this evening. Mr. Pascale noted the resignation of the football coach, George French after ten years of service. Interviews are underway to fill this vacancy. It was a good fall season with the new football facility and field house available for use. Indoor Track is in full swing utilizing the field house facilities. Basketball and Wrestling are also underway. Middle School programs are moving forward as well.

V. Derby High School SAT Comparisons

Mr. Pascale reviewed the SAT score analysis. 80 eleventh grade students took the test on April 2019.

	ERW-writing	Math		Combined
Derby	463	423		886
State	513	499		1012
National	491	482		973
Benchmark	480	530		

Mr. Pascale stated that 62.5% of the students showed growth from the PSAT to the SAT scoring. Students did perform better after taking the SAT Prep Course. Members discussed offering the course within the regular curriculum as was done previously but dropped. It was noted that the effectiveness of the course is attributed to the model of the most current staff member administering the course and his style and effect should be extended to additional personnel to result in a broader reach. Further discussion is warranted as the students who did take the course did perform within the range of the State average scores. Dr. Conway and Mr. Pascale noted that due to the relatively small number of test takers as well as the transient student population that the numbers could be skewed. To achieve a truer comparison would require reviewing scores student by student.

VI. Curriculum Update

Mrs. Olson reviewed the I-Ready performances and results for October through December. She also reviewed the testing schedule of assessments in district. She discussed curriculum progress and how the various grades are mastering or are in need of further time or resources to master the set goals. Testing results give her the opportunity to make adjustments and to intervene or target identified weaknesses as well as acknowledge the successes in the projected goals..

VII. Executive Session

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education enter into Executive Session to review the appointment list for new hires, to accept a letter of resignation and to discuss unaffiliated employee contracts, and the Superintendent of Schools is invited to attend at 7:55 PM. with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

James Gildea	yes
Melissa Cannata	yes
Daniel Foley	yes
Laura Harris	yes
Tara Hyder	yes
George Kurtyka	yes
Kenneth Marcucio	yes
Janine Netto	yes
Rebecca O'Hara	yes

Without objection the Board returned to open session at 8:30 PM.

VIII. Appointment of New Hires/Vacancy List

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education approve the appointment list for new hires, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

James Gildea	yes
Melissa Cannata	yes
Daniel Foley	yes
Laura Harris	yes
Tara Hyder	yes
George Kurtyka	yes
Kenneth Marcucio	yes
Janine Netto	yes
Rebecca O'Hara	yes

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education adjust the salary of the Central Office position, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mr. George Kurtyka.

James Gildea	yes
Melissa Cannata	yes
Daniel Foley	yes
Laura Harris	yes
Tara Hyder	yes
George Kurtyka	yes
Kenneth Marcucio	yes
Janine Netto	yes
Rebecca O'Hara	yes

IX. Resignation

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education accept the resignation of Michele Gulielmo, Math Teacher at Derby Middle School, with regret and best wishes with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mrs. Laura Harris.

James Gildea	yes
Melissa Cannata	yes
Daniel Foley	yes
Laura Harris	yes
Tara Hyder	yes
George Kurtyka	yes
Kenneth Marcucio	yes
Janine Netto	yes
Rebecca O'Hara	yes

X. Adjourn

Motion Passed: Motion. The Board of Education adjourn its meeting at 8:32 PM passed with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto and a second by Mr. George Kurtyka

James Gildea	yes
Melissa Cannata	yes
Daniel Foley	yes
Laura Harris	yes
Tara Hyder	yes
George Kurtyka	yes
Kenneth Marcucio	yes
Janine Netto	yes
Rebecca O'Hara	yes

Karen M. Kemmesies

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Recording Secretary

Minutes are subject to approval at the next Board meeting.