

Committee of the Whole  
February 02, 2021 6:30 PM  
J. R. Payden Field House - Board & Supt. only and  
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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81128957262>

Meeting ID: 811 2895 7262

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Gildea: I'd like to call this meeting of the Derby Board of Education to order at 6:33.

**a. Opening Ceremonies**



Pledge of Allegiance

**b. Roll Call**



Mr. Gildea: Welcome everybody. Under the opening ceremonies take this opportunity. So celebrating her 30th birthday Janine. Happy birthday.

Ms. Netto: Thank you.

Mr. Gildea: Part of our opening ceremonies, there's a number of our school counselors here, Junior National Honor Society. We want to mention that. It's the first week of February. It's national school counselor week. So certainly, on behalf of the Board, we'd like to thank the school counselors to help our students get ready for college, work force, military. On behalf of the Board, we'd like to thank all of our wonderful school counselors during national school counselor week. Thank you.

Ms. Netto: Jim Gildea; Laura Harris; Tara Hyder; Ken Marcucio; Dan Foley; Melissa Cannata; George will be joining us late. Janine Netto is present. Rebecca not present.

c. Additions/Deletions to the agenda

Mr. Gildea: Any additions/deletions or corrections to the agenda.

**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: Anyone from the public who wishes to speak before the Board? Public once. Public twice. Anyone from the public, three times. Okay. Seeing none.

### **III. Student Representative to the Board of Education**

Mr. Gildea: Isabelle Cheverella.

Isabelle: I've been working with student council, staff and administration. The headphone committee is student council members and our student advisors. We all work together. We're really excited and happy to put this policy hopefully in action and I'm especially happy to help out with students every way I can with mental health. So I just wanted to inform you that.

Mr. Gildea: If I could ask a few questions. Is this a policy you'll bring to us or work with the administration on?

Isabelle: I had a meeting with Mr. Coplin and Ms. Olson. We think it's more of a Derby High School thing. We went over the student handbook. So it looks like something they can help with that. But I'd also like you guys to be on board with it. And you guys think it's a good idea and all of that.

Ms. Netto: What the policy is that you're putting it on the table.

Ms. Olson: It's really electronic is what it's labeled on under the Board policy. There would be signals for high school students to have access to technology. Student council did an excellent job bringing forth bodies of research of supports, mental health and wellness. Whether teachers had opportunities when students were doing independent work eventually to have access to music. Some teachers have very strong feelings about for mental health. Identify yes or no, based on the Board policies or red or green card. I believe that was instituted several years ago. And so that was like the practice at Derby High School is what we are looking at addressing, not the actual policy itself.

Mr. Gildea: Okay. Any questions. I'm just curious from a student's perspective, how was remote learning on snow days? Any conversations through student council?

Isabelle: Me personally, I prefer kind of working on snow days so we kind of don't have to make it up in the end. I really wasn't too bad. I think the teachers did do very good with it. We have a student council meeting coming up next week. So I can always mention it to them and make sure everybody else kind of feels the same. If it's okay and all of that.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you. Any Board members have any questions for Ms. Cheverella.

Ms. Harris: I'd like to invite you or any other fellow members of your committee to a policy subcommittee. We're meeting next Tuesday, February 9th and also meeting on March 9th. You're welcome to our subcommittee for policy. I'd welcome anybody.

Isabelle: Thank you so much.

Mr. Gildea: Anybody else have any questions. Thank you so much for your contributions. Thanks for sharing it.

#### IV. 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. Janine Netto 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

Dr. Conway: If we can leave this item agenda here or we can possibly move this to the end. We have one appointee tonight. If they're not here, which I don't see them now, we can move this to the end.

Mr. Gildea: I'm agreeable to that. If no objection to the Board, we'll move this a little bit.

Ms. Netto: Making motion at 8:06.

Dr. Conway: Jim Obst is here. If he can join us.

Mr. Gildea: All right.

Ms. Netto: Jim Obst is invited to attend as well.

Ms. Harris: Second.

#### V. 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. Janine Netto 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: Madam secretary, I guess we're going to skip five. We'll skip seven. I guess we can do six after executive session.

Ms. Netto: Making motion.

Mr. Marcucio: I'll second.

## VI. Letter of Resignation

**Motion Passed:** The Board of Education accept the letter of resignation of Renata Blue, Paraprofessional at Irving School, effective February 4, 2021, with regret and best wishes. passed with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto 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. Netto: Making motion.

Mr. Marcucio: Second, Ken.

## VII. Paraeducator Memorandum of Agreement

**Motion Passed:** The Board of Education approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the Paraeducators Union, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto 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. Netto: Making motion.

Mr. Marcucio: Second, Ken.

### VIII. FY22 Budget Discussion/Review

Mr. Gildea: Item number eight. Is that going to be Mark Izzo?

Dr. Conway: Correct, Mr. Izzo.

Mr. Izzo: Good evening. Welcome to budget season. Okay. Can everybody see the budget? Sorry I didn't send this out. I did not get out ahead of time. We're going to go through it. The Finance Committee has reviewed this, Rebecca, George, Laura and Mr. Gildea saw a copy of this too.

Let's go through the pitch. This is not called again the, we'll go through the principals' budget and we'll go through the Superintendent's budget. So, this is what Dr. Conway is coming forward with. We met with the Finance Committee numerous times. Talk a little bit about the timeline. My apologies for not getting this out to you prior to tonight. But as soon as we're done here, I'll send it out.

I don't get too excited by location because we're really budgeting down to the body, to the teacher, to the staff person. We are adding a few new things to the budget. This is again by object. Again, it can go through this, the majority of our expenses are based upon our salaries, our staff. So certified. Not certified.

Everything has a story here. But basically, everything is done by the contracts. The paras are up this year, nurses are up this year. I did some projections to that. So you'll see, we'll talk about the staffing later. We did add a special education teacher here. And we did add a speech teacher here. A special education teacher saving two students that would have been out of district, so that is going to help our cause there. This year we had a much, let's say, happier story than we had in years past.

All done at the bottom line, there's an increase of about 3.9 percent. Again, we have a couple of heads, go through that on the back end there. Again, I add the retirement in there. This is based upon a teacher retirement, the 40 days at a certain rate. So I budgeted one of them for this year. That's what you'll see, 30,000 this year.

People services, let's talk about this a little bit. We bought a couple of students back in. Working on another student bring student back in next year. Stacey is looking at that now. So we do need additional speech services inhouse, I'm sorry, I meant to say PT. That's provided at the facility the student's at. But if we bring the students in house, we need to bring in more services, contracted service. So you'll see a little bump up there. I've added 30,000 in for OT and 5,000 in for PT.

Down to special education piece. What happened, where we were last there, I think we're down a couple of students. Our student services for out of district are down from where they were last year. Right now if you add in special education transportation then add in the out of district, we're only over by about 45,000, 50,000 compared to last year. In years past, we talked about hundreds of thousands of dollars. Stacey and James have kept them going. They're very active, always look at the students that we have out. We only have overall about 50,000 last year.

Communication services. Again, thanks to Brad, he and I got together on changing contractors for our phones. Service has been outstanding on the phones, we're using a new supplier. That's going well. The low price is not only the best price. So this supplier has done an outstanding job.

This is all supplies. We're going to add some Google classroom stuff. We already have remote learning. We're going to add some zoom enhancements to. We're looking at an increase of 3.19 percent over last year, \$608,000. That's about half of what we were looking for last year. Increase is about \$75,000. If you take out special education, which is up about 1.9 percent, everything else is 3.4 with a net of 3.2.

Mr. Gildea: Mark, I was going to ask you. I do appreciate the breaking out by areas. I just want to understand one thing, earlier when you did the special education line item, and I just want to understand the difference, you had mentioned there was 150,000 increase, but on this page it shows the 74,000. So do we eliminate, was the 150 the out place increase and then there was an offset to make that total 74,000.

Mr. Izzo: Yes. So it's 126 is the increase.

Mr. Gildea: So I get it. Insurance and communication services. Special education services only, it went up 74,000. I point that out because it was not insignificant. Thank you.

Mr. Izzo: No problem. Any questions at all, please stop me. I know I'm going too fast. If I send this out, any questions at all, call me, email me. I'll explain this.

Mr. Gildea: Do you have the five year file that shows the 2.1 million dollars over the five years? I think it's important to see this. To see the improvements that we've made this year. I appreciate it.

Mr. Izzo: I will send that out. That will be part of my budget book. So basically it just shows you the spread of where we are. Derby High School is highest because we offer the more services. If you add up the certified salaries and non-certified salaries. So you have 66, 67 percent of your budget. And then you add in other purchasers, which is primarily special ed. We've been very blessed through the years with both the Alliance district, our Title 1, a portion went up this year. We know that Alliance was up. This is just basically just paying for our staff, custodial supplies, special education funds. Everything just keeps running. This is just basic stuff that we need to run our business. So it's a true operating budget. We're very careful here, we don't put anything in here that's out of normal for an operating budget.

Ms. Harris: The Little Raiders University Staff, are they in with Derby High School?

Mr. Izzo: No, Laura, they're not. We started Little Raiders with grant money. So that's all grant money.

Ms. Harris: So everything of Little Raiders is all grant funded, every penny?

Mr. Izzo: Every penny, it comes out of grants. That's where we're going to go out, agencies, privates are down. Again, student mix changes, some students age out. We have an increase this year. Bus transportation, contact with AllStar. That was part of our contract. I did put the retirement payout in there, 30,000. And then the occupational therapy costs we put in. We have a good relationship there with ACES. Something we've done in the past. Stacey and James are satisfied with ACES and the services they provided.

Downward savings are transportation. Tuition went down. Excellent contract with East River. 6.5 percent of electricity. We were able to negotiate an electricity contract. Those are the driver's up and the driver's down.

Ms. Netto: Additional person on the bus due to COVID. Are we going to be keeping and adding that same person for next year?

Mr. Izzo: Essers II is coming. Essers we took care of trying to get the students back up to speed. That includes the sanitation attendance at the school, and also the monitors on the bus. That funding is coming to the tune of 1.7 million dollars. We have an apportionment. We have all the guidelines and ground rules. Do

some pro forma budgeting on it. The application will be open in late February. Do we continue to put the bus monitors on, that won't be in this budget, that will be in a grant, which will be Essers II.

Ms. Netto: Thank you.

Mr. Izzo: Staffing a little bit. We added one special ed teacher to Derby High School. It's offset by our out of district. Our out of district has come down. Speech teacher at Irving. Again, we were paying \$100 an hour for speech services. We had focused at Irving. Add a speech teacher at Irving. That's now in the budget. That's a one and a one. We're going to add half of a PE teacher at DHS. We have a PE teacher there right now and she's working half time.

Other thing at the High School, when Jenn's gone in and looked at it, talk with Doc and offer some additional Tech Ed, Consumer Ed. Go back to where things were years ago. The idea is to add a Tech Ed teacher. Therefore we have savings and that reduces the costs. So you add all these up. Jenn's always really good, she'll come to me with a problem and ask for money. Reduce a social studies teacher. Some of this is being offset by out of district, like I said. It's being offset by reduced speech services. It's being reduced by replacing some senior staff with maybe less senior staff. So when you get all done, this is what the overall staffing analysis looks like.

Mr. Gildea: I don't mean to dwell on this. Our certified staff, I'm trying to understand when I see the special ed teacher, offset, if I see the speech teacher at Irving, it says offset, if I see the half time PE teacher, do those 3.5 positions go into that 428,000. And then obviously, the .5 on the reduction, 2.5 on the reduction comes out. I guess you're confusing me a little bit when you say, when I see the word offset there.

Mr. Izzo: When you're looking at the total big picture, the \$19 million dollar picture, okay. Although it looks like we're adding two and a half people, it would increase their salaries by a lot more.

Mr. Gildea: I get that. We're reducing our special education by \$74,000. It's only increasing by 74. To get to that area where we only increased it by 74, we hired a special education teacher inhouse.

Mr. Izzo: Right.

Mr. Gildea: Let's go to the speech teacher. Same thing, maintain and to keep down special education costs, we are hiring a speech teacher. Now those two are very crystal clear to me. I guess I don't understand the tech ed teacher a little bit more. That 75,000 is made a little easier because there's resignations. All of our contractual increases are offset by some of our higher seniority, so I don't think that comment applies only to the Tech Ed teacher, that applies to any of our staff members.

Mr. Izzo: Overall it does. When you look just at the high school, we had a couple of resignations which were higher, more experienced teachers, okay. That net savings of what we're paying them versus what you're paying the new staff, that offsets the money.

Mr. Gildea: I get that. Those resignations help offset the 2.9 salaries increase that everybody is getting. Those resignations aren't specifically due to the Tech Ed.

Mr. Izzo: I see your point, Jim. I'll work on the wording on that. This goes in the budget book. I appreciate your input. Let me revise that because I can see where you're coming from.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you.

Ms. Olson: This is specific to our learning center that we created the new classroom at the high school. And so this is a very specialized program that would be able to help offer more specialized for our students, whereas in the middle school they had specific academic learning center setup. The elementary schools had it. But then when kids got up to the high school, there really weren't any other options other than potentially going out of district. We were very fortunate.

Mr. Marcucio: We're putting in there that it's offset by out of district. That line item has gone up over \$100,000.

Mr. Izzo: It would have gone up a lot more. If we had a student that was out of district, that would have been 90 to \$100,000. That's being offset by the teachers now in district.

Mr. Marcucio: I understand that, Mark. What you have in red there does not go with what you have.

Mr. Izzo: The tuition would have gone up by about 100,000 more if we hadn't hired these teachers.

Mr. Gildea: That's how I understood it.

Mr. Marcucio: Didn't that line number go up over \$100,000.

Mr. Izzo: Overall, special ed went up 75,000.

Mr. Marcucio: But that one line item, is that out of district?

Mr. Izzo: Out of district tuition went up 126. Some of these schools went up 4 to 5 percent this year. So some of that has increased in the tuition rate. I'm going to take another look at this thing.

Ms. Hyder: I do have two questions. And I'm thinking Dr. Conway you can help me to understand. In terms of the .5 PE teacher, the addition, will that be added to the current .5 PE teacher, reposted as one full time as PE or will we then have one full time and two part-time PE teachers at the high school? What is the plan for that?

Dr. Conway: That would be added to the current .5 position to make it a 1.0 instead of having 2.5.

Ms. Hyder: Okay. Thank you. And my other question is to the reduction of .5 social studies at the high school. In thinking about the recent resignation of the Athletic Director and then the intention to pick up additional social studies courses, how can we reduce social studies courses if the intention is to pick up additional courses?

Dr. Conway: The current AD who is going back full time as a Social Studies teachers will be taking those two courses. So there won't be a reduction in courses. He'll take what the part time social studies teacher was teaching.

Ms. Hyder: Okay. So it's a reduction of a current part time social studies teacher that will be picked up by Matt.

Dr. Conway: Yes.

Ms. Hyder: Thank you for the clarification.

Mr. Gildea: What happens if another person in district takes the position and then we have to have two classes for that person.

Dr. Conway: That's exactly what will happen. That could be in any area based upon the people that apply.

Mr. Gildea: I hear you, but then we would not have that money budgeted, correct?

Mr. Izzo: Right.

Mr. Gildea: I'm just processing. But I'm processing the fact that we may have unbudgeted needs now based upon the athletic department heads.

Ms. Harris: Question of the social studies position.

Mr. Gildea: Let's say it was any teacher.

Mr. Marcucio: That's already budgeted in the budget, isn't it, Mark.

Mr. Izzo: So depends on how much money you're talking about. That's two periods out of the AD schedule.

Mr. Marcucio: Instead of being two social studies classes, it would be two different classes.

Mr. Izzo: It could be.

Mr. Gildea: Then we shouldn't reduce the social studies position. We should keep the social studies position in there for now.

Mr. Izzo: We'll just keep it in there. There's very, very few members of our current staff that are eligible to become an AD. We can definitely put that back in. Okay. Got it.

Let's go through the schedule here. I'm going to send this packet out tonight, you can review it. Until April 1st, the City, from our first budget meeting on, then the City Charter changed based on the taxpayers. All Department Heads are going to be required to provide an estimate. We submitted our estimate. We just provided one number. So tonight we're presenting to the COW and we have until the 18th. Basically, we'll present the full packet on the 18th. If that works, then that budget book will be formalized and sent to City Hall by the 25th.

Mr. Gildea: Okay. So then this Board will vote. I'm just curious what the City gave us, Alliance Grant, minimum that they can give us, I'm trying to understand the grant.

Mr. Izzo: I will. I have that break.

Mr. Gildea: Regionalization Committee, sadly, I don't anticipate -- I anticipate getting the same money we always get.

Mr. Izzo: The finance committee met. Judy was at our meeting. She knows what is coming. Present that to the Mayor and to the Co-Chairperson yesterday.

That's where we are. I'll email that out.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you.

### IX. Junior National Honor Society Proposal

**Motion Passed:** The Board of Education approve the formation of the Junior National Honor Society, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, passed with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto 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. Netto: Making motion.

Ms. Hyder: I'll second, Tara.

Mr. Gildea: You're up Rachel.

Ms. Caggiano: Everyone learning at home today. About March of last year, Mr. Nuzzo approached me he was interested to finding out what it would be to find out to start a Junior National Honor Society chapter at Derby Middle School. We put a proposal together. We made sure it was a mirror exactly what is on their website and what they recommend. Offering it to only current 8th graders and then current 7th graders. We think it's a great opportunity for our students to get part of an organization like this. There is a service component, we'll be looking to do it as a big group to all of the kids who qualify. Going forward look at the kids for fundraisers service projects. Raising funds for local. Raising funds for Yale New Haven Hospital. So kids can pick different service projects to be a part of.

Mr. Nuzzo: We put together all the appropriate paperwork. We feel we're ready to roll with it.

Ms. Caggiano: There is a yearly cost. There is a fee of \$20 for students to be part of the organization. Any student who would need a scholarship for that, we could provide it for them. Looking forward to getting this off the ground this year. Again, for some of the parents, students have applied. It's a little bit different at the Middle School. They're younger.

Mr. Gildea: I love the package that was submitted to us. Item number three, first honors in grades 6 and 7.

Ms. Caggiano: You got a first draft today. We are going to follow that 85 percent or higher.

Mr. Gildea: That's fair.

Ms. Caggiano: That's just one considering factor. We'd love to proceed forward and get it rolling for this year.

## X. Administrator's Reports

**Motion Passed:** The Board of Education approve the formation of the Junior National Honor Society, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. passed with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto 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

Mr. Gildea: Admins.

### a. Little Raiders University

Dr. Conway: Little Raiders is up first.

Mrs. Conway: Little Raiders is going awesome as usual. Attendance has been extremely high every day. We're in full person. We're academics this month was gingerbread and snowman. We have been working diligently on gingerbread man and students telling stories, categorizing and we are following the elf. We have been continuing to follow the CDC guidelines. So, we're still doing temperature checks and asking the wellness questions throughout the day and we also take temps.

We practice social distancing and air hugs and washing our hands until they almost fall off. We are trying to keep the traffic down to a minimal. We are having the service providers do Zoom for their services. Service providers were coming from other schools, because of that, we had to close a class. Since we have been doing remote services, everything has been working out really good. And we haven't had to close any classes. Culture and climate. Grandma she did knitting with the class. After the class, she dropped off little hearts and scarfs to the students. Derby Public Library they did a Zoom doing a science activity. We are continuing to use Google classrooms.

Mr. Gildea: Any questions.

### b. Bradley School

Mr. Ciccarini: Good evening everyone.

One highlight for our report this month. We were very proud. The week of January 25th to the 29th. We followed our Twitter account that week. It was a huge success. The message that the kids did. They did a fantastic job being kind to themselves and to others this week. We want to continue that through the rest of the school year.

So it was a fantastic event. The participation was great. We were very proud. Very thankful for our Team for putting it all together. That is our great highlight that I wanted to share this evening.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you, Mario. Any questions for Mario.

#### c. Irving School

Ms. Misset: Good evening. We are middle of the year testing right now. Figuring out where we need to go to the rest of the year. Been participating in the beginning of strategic planning with Rachel and Dr. Conway and Dr. Rafferty.

And really working having some meetings of Admins each week to try and get ourselves back into a cohesive team working on instruction. It's been nice to work academic piece and start to align some of the strategy work that's being done for Commissioner's Network. We ended the month of January. We have had great results. And a huge decrease in behaviors that we really want to capitalize on now. We've instituted some new monthly rewards. We put together some focus areas for the kids this month. Respect for learning time and respect for learning spaces. A school wide reward at the end of the month. Some of the teachers that were inspired by the work Bradley did, and we are doing a kindness counts month for February. Thank you for the motivation and inspiration from Bradley Team.

Mr. Gildea: I like that acknowledgment. Very nice. Any questions.

#### d. Derby Middle School

Ms. Caggiano: We've been working on strategic planning, which we did great. We got her book and reading through that. We continue to push forward with Commissioner's Network. Next week we're having Commissioner's Network Audit. One day for four hours. State Department of Ed will join us virtually joining classes. This year we don't need a Board member, but we'll have the same kind of pattern.

That will be all happening next week. Today is the 90th day of school. Celebrating the 90th day of school tomorrow. Mr. Nuzzo really excited for that. Student council up and running. Student council applications came in last Friday. That will be starting up again. The 7th grade team has put together a book club in the afternoon after school for kids. Email Ms. Betty K. or myself. A bunch of teacher are going to be in the book club. So far so good at DMS.

Mr. Gildea: Any questions for Rachel. Very nice.

Ms. Caggiano: We did get one more grant. We did get an additional \$150,000 to be spent strictly on Technology needs.

#### e. Derby High School

Ms. Olson: Good evening everyone. We are processing our grant. Awarded an addition \$77,000, which is fantastic.

We have our mid-year monitoring meeting with the State Department of Ed coming up mid-February. We also received some really exciting news this past week, our three students introduced to the Board, Olivia Ruggiero,

Justin Miriano and Mike Fernandes, who were nominated by Derby High School, those applications went to the State Department of Education and the Commissioner of Education has the ability to put forth students to represent Connecticut. We're very excited to share that. There's additional applications that they are going through. Also, our school counselors are working with the three applicants as well to prepare their records and additional documentation needed. That will be mid-February.

The process will include an additional review. By mid-April, semi-final will be announced. The 161 US presidential scholars will be named. So, we are really proud of our three students. I'm sending out an email to all schools notifying that of this accomplishment for them.

Dr. Conway has helped us put together an opportunity to be able to meet with Griffin Hospital to consider an allied program at the high school. Offer DHS students allied health track. Looking forward to that. Doing a lot at the campus with Derby Middle School. Make it a transition, our Human Relations Club is helping releasing our programming.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you Ms. Olson. Online program that you referenced?

Ms. Olson: Griffin and Housatonic Community College. It will be an Allied Health Program. We're still in the beginning stages of exploring a partnership. Opportunity for our students to be able to engage in health related and study classes while they're in high school, that may lead to certifications such as DNA, Phlebotomy. All health-related schools in their evening programs.

Mr. Gildea: I am interested in what the qualifier would be to change that from a credit earning program or a certificate earning program. Thank you.

Mr. Marcucio: Explain a little bit the assessment page that's on there.

Ms. Caggiano: Nothing's actually changed there. If you look at each one of the grade, ninth grade for instance, the target college and career readiness benchmark for SAT, excuse me, PSAT, it grows by a grade level. Not all students participated in the fall benchmark. Students were remote learning. So you have to be an in person student during that time. So 50 percent met the target. The same for math.

Mr. Marcucio: Grade 12 in the math SAT or PSAT?

Ms. Caggiano: Grade 12 would be SAT. It's PSAT for grades 9, 10 and 11.

Ms. Harris: Facilities Manager you had a walk through for the high school. Is this for like items to be painted or?

Ms. Caggiano: We looked through different areas of the building that might need some attention, basic clean out, a lot of storage areas. Projects that we hope to be able to accomplish.

Ms. Harris: Thank you.

Mr. Gildea: Any other questions.

## **f. Raise Academy**

Mr. Nichols: How is everybody doing this evening.

At the last Committee of the Whole Meeting, we still have 19 students. We did appoint Matt Kozlozski our new program special ed teacher. So we're really excited about that. We are actually this week having his replacement start in the role of register behavior tech. We did make a slight adjustment to our schedule for the high school for the second semester. After consulting with our chemistry teacher for the high school students, we're actually going to be having all of our classes completed in the morning. So all of our instruction will be happening periods one through four. We've been noticing that the after-lunch transition had been a little bit rough. We want to see if it would be a new change for us that would benefit our students.

We've had a really good increase in our online from our students as compared to last spring. We're really happy with a lot of progress from our students.

Mr. Gildea: Any questions. Very nice.

#### **g. Special Education Supervisors Report**

Ms. McCoart: Good evening everyone. January kind of flew by but we have some updates to share. James and I we work with Mark regularly. We work with the Teams. So as we move forward during the month of January, I spent a lot of times in classrooms. We incorporated some pictures to kind of show the multiple forms and style and approaches that we do use. We have some individualized instruction, cooking lessons going on, small group virtual lessons, group occupational therapy a few times. A lot of great stuff happening. Definitely a main priority is definitely strengthen those programs, pre-K through 12.

Any questions for me.

Mr. Gildea: Any questions. Thanks, Stacey.

Mr. Nichols: I'm not going to repeat about our programming tonight. Certainly the Teams have been doing a really great job. I've been quarantined at home. Just finally getting back into the swing of it. I know I missed some cookies from Laura. Getting ready for spring testing. I just met with Dr. Rafferty the other day. Certainly time well spent there.

Mr. Gildea: Any questions.

#### **h. Athletic Report**

##### [Winter Sports Update](#)

Mr. Bradshaw: Good evening everyone. I don't have anything new to present.

Kids are definitely very excited to be practicing. That's really nice to see. Other news. It looks like Cheer may be going to be revisited. It looks like wrestling will stay the same. That is about all I have. If anything is changing with sports, everything is still exactly the same since last Thursday.

Mr. Gildea: Thanks, Matt. On behalf of the Board, we appreciate all your efforts. Thank you very much. Any questions.

**XI. Adjourn**

**Motion Passed:** The Board of Education adjourn its meeting. passed with a motion by Mrs. Janine Netto 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. Netto: Making motion.

Ms. Cannata: I second, Melissa.

Adjourn at 8:24.

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Marianne Samokar, Recording Secretary