

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

CALLED TO ORDER

Mr. Gildea: Called meeting to order at 6:32.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Ms. Harris: Jim Gildea; Kim Tovar; Erica Nuzzo; Ken Marcucio; Dan Foley; Laura Harris.

Melissa Mongillo, absent; Rebecca O’Hara, absent; Karla Malerba, absent.

Currently we have six of nine members. A quorum and able to transact business.

Also Present:

Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent of Schools

ANY ADDITIONS/DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS

Mr. Gildea: Any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda. Seeing none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Gildea: Anyone from the public who wishes to speak before the Board of Education tonight.

Anyone from the public who wishes to speak, twice. Anyone from the public who wishes to speak, three times.

Anyone from the public who wishes to speak remote before the Board of Education tonight.

Anyone remote, twice. Last call for remote, three times.

Close public portion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion the Board of Education enter into Executive Session to discuss the Appointment List and the Superintendent of Schools is invited to attend. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Laura Harris and a second by Ms. Kim Tovar.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Laura Harris	Yes

Melissa Mongillo **Absent**

Rebecca O’Hara **Absent**

Karla Malerba **Absent**

Ms. Harris: Making motion. At 6:34.

Ms. Tovar: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries. Back in at 6:45.

APPOINTMENT LIST OF NEW HIRES

Motion to approve the appointment of Kelly Ann Roman as Team coordinator for the Derby Middle School, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Laura Harris and a second by Ms. Erica Nuzzo.

Jim Gildea **Yes**

Kim Tovar **Yes**

Erica Nuzzo **Yes**

Ken Marcucio **Yes**

Dan Foley **Recused**

Laura Harris **Yes**

Melissa Mongillo **Absent**

Rebecca O’Hara **Absent**

Karla Malerba **Absent**

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Ms. Nuzzo: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Let the record reflect there were five votes, yes and one recusal, Dan Foley.

Motion that the Board of Education approve the Appointment List of New Hires as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Laura Harris and a second by Ms. Kim Tovar.

Jim Gildea **Yes**

Kim Tovar **Yes**

Erica Nuzzo **Yes**

Ken Marcucio **Yes**

Dan Foley **Yes**

Laura Harris	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Absent
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Ms. Tovar: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries. Welcome to Derby.

Ms. Olson: Introducing and welcoming Nick Ruel, the music director at Derby High School.

Ms. Moffat: Introducing and welcoming Angela Grindrod to Derby High School as our new head Softball Coach.

Mr. Gildea: To Nick and Angela, on behalf of the Derby Board of Education, we welcome you to the school system. We’re very much a family. And we look forward to all your contributions. Thank you.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance committee: Ms. Harris: We’re supposed to meet next month before the Committee of the Whole.

Negotiations and Personnel: Ms. Tovar: We are meeting next Wednesday.

School Community Relations and Policy: Ms. Harris: We do have three policies tonight for a first and second reads. And we had a really nice conversation with the Student Health and Safety Committee, we had a combined meeting talked about cell phones and hopefully a uniform next school year. Our newsletter. Did everybody get the email? Did everybody start writing their paragraph or two for us. Dina sent a deadline out. Thank you, Dina for doing that. I appreciate it. So we can get it in our new edition for our newsletter.

Plants and Facilities: Mr. Foley: We had a meeting tonight. Financials look good. We’re spending less money than we did the year before. We talked about mural. There’s no update on that, except that they’re trying to coordinate that with the 350th anniversary of Derby. I brought up the fact that 50 years ago, we did have the 300 anniversary. They want to coordinate that with the mural, if we get the funding, which right now it might be difficult to do it. That’s probably not going to happen because we do not have the funds. Half of it was going to be paid by ESSER and the other half by the City. So, I don’t think it will happen. Doctor, are you optimistic or?

Dr. Conway: The only way I see it happening is if it’s part of our referendum, which also qualifies with the reimbursements for the State. That’s the only way I see at this point. Unless there’s other security grants that become available.

Mr. Foley: Heating systems, no problems there.

Sal pointed out we are \$33,000 over what we can carry for the year. And his goal right now is three percent or 15,000 to go to pay the increases, our three percent increase in pay. 5,000 for small appliances. And the remaining 13,700 I believe to upgrade some of the food services. And that's about it.

Academic and Curriculum: Ms. Harris: Did Dr. Rafferty bring his football? That's okay. It was very enlightening.

Athletic Committee: Ms. Tovar: We did meet on Monday. We discussed District employees what they should be doing on days in reference to if they have a game, that they have to leave earlier than what their school schedule gets out. What is the protocol. We discussed that. We did also discuss after school athletic supervision.

Dr. Conway: Jenn Moffat was going to be meeting with Robbie to see if there's Alliance District Funds this year. As it was previously through two grants. I'll have to check with Robbie what the budget for that. We'll look at the Alliance District Grant. We'll look at the Enterprise Athletic Account where there might be funding for that.

Ms. Tovar: We also did go over the Elementary School Running Club and Derby Middle School. Unfortunately, we do not have those items this year. We did not find any type of funding for them.

Dr. Conway: If we can move funding into a grant that has nothing to do with the after-school programs that frees up money in the budget that we just moved to support the after-school programs. That works too.

Ms. Tovar: We talked about Esports. We have found that there are gaming, video gaming has been brought as a sport. Although it's not a traditional athletic sport. So we may not do anything with it this year, it may be something for potentially in the future to bring in some kids who are not involved in anything that may be gamers and go from there.

Student Health and Safety: We had our joint meeting with Laura. And then she updated you. I have nothing new to add to what she said. We did have expulsion that manifested itself out.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Dr. Conway: You have my report. I'm just going to mention two different highlights this month. Was a meeting today that we had scheduled last week with Jack Walsh to continue planning for the school district and the school's role for the 350th. To be able to tap into Jack's expertise and history but also the resources that are currently on the electronic valley website that he maintains and what resources would be best to put together units of study that we will implement into the curriculum elementary through high school. And not just for the 350th but moving forward. We really think it's important that each of the curriculums, the social study curriculum, have units of study specific to Derby in them. So, Jack will assist with Dr. Rafferty in identifying those kind of resources for the units of study that he has already built a repository for on the electronic valley. And some of the other activities that we have on there, like the quiz that he ran for many years. It's pretty neat. We'll be also reaching out to the Derby Historical Society and resources that they would have as well. Not just a resource to look at, but actual resources to bring into the classroom

once we lay out those units of study. And then looking at what part of that becomes part of the 350th anniversary what are the contributions from the kids and the schools toward the anniversary.

Mr. Gildea: I'm on the Committee.

Dr. Conway: Yes. We're super excited about that. Some neat stories that Jack shared about the history and other specific to athletics, just throwing it out their now, the 1937 football team. There's a pretty neat story on that. It's such a cool story. More to come on it.

Update you, I've been working on is the safety and security. Notice went out to parents. School meetings have taken place at all schools, except for the high school which will take place tomorrow during advisory period. We make a decision to break them up into grade level, smaller grade level meetings. We have an agenda of items that the people involved between the principals and assistant principals, school security team and Derby Police will walk students through as part of those meetings. Explain to the students why we're doing them but also the risks and consequences of them posting things, even as a joke, on social media, what the ramifications are for everybody, not just the students, but the entire community.

Ms. Harris: Roll out with the laptops. Everything ran smoothly with all the kids.

Dr. Conway: Everything ran smoothly. We did a lot of work over the summer to make sure that that happened that way.

Mr. Gildea: All set.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

FACILITIES REPORT

Mr. Hoffman: Gave an update on school grounds to get all buildings ready for school to open.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Dr. Rafferty: Giving an update on the curriculum, developing and writing. I do plan to finish by the end of the year.

Able to access free training developing mentors across the District. Assessment in Math, teachers can provide their students. We also believe we can extend it after school. That's part of the Strategic Plan.

Also talking about report cards. Conversation of progress reports. We want to do away with progress reports. We want you to put them in power school. We don't want parents to wait for the progress reports. We want the parents to be updated more frequently. But the missing part is teachers just need on top of communicating with their families.

Dr. Conway: I'll have to double check. They have to start in third grade for cursive writing. We can set you up as a parent in power school.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Motion the Board of Education approve the proposal from EnviroMed for Indoor Air Quality testing. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Laura Harris and a second by Ms. Kim Tovar.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Laura Harris	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Absent
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Ms. Tovar: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Discussion.

For State law prior to January 1, 2025. 25 percent of your schools in five years.

Dr. Conway: This won’t start this year.

Mr. Gildea: I realize we’re getting close to that.

Dr. Conway: We are hoping that the State will come up with more funding for schools like ours. What they realized is there are no contractors out there and there’s not enough contractors out there that could actually do the work, are trained, licensed and can do all the work for all schools in the State of Connecticut all at once. So, they have to stretch it out over year and reduce the number of schools they have to do each year. Because there’s not enough of people to do the work. This is like in the making for a couple of years.

Mr. Gildea: So, if we did two schools at 20,000, that would constitute 20 percent of our schools. So, we can meet the State mandate technically by doing one school.

So, you’re saying, Doc, in order for us to approve it with the stipulation that it would not occur until next fiscal year when we budget for.

Dr. Conway: So, we budget for it in our ‘25/’26 budget. The first year we’re supplementing it, is beginning ‘25/’26 school year. For the period commencing July 1st, 2025 and ending including June 30, 2030.

Mr. Gildea: Bring it before the Finance Committee.

Jim Hoffman: Not required to vote on no.

Motion the Board of Education withdraw the proposal from EnviroMed for indoor air quality testing. Passed with a motion to withdraw made by Ms. Laura Harris and a second by Ms. Kim Tovar.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Laura Harris	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Absent
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent

Ms. Harris: I withdraw my motion.

Ms. Tovar: Second.

PLAN TO REDUCE EXCESS OPERATING BALANCE FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Motion the Board of Education approve the Plan to Reduce Excess Operating Balance for School Nutrition Programs. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Laura Harris	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Absent
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Mr. Gildea: Second.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Mr. Gildea: It's on the report. Three percent for salaries.

Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the August 22, 2024 meeting. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Laura Harris and second by Ms. Kim Tovar.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Laura Harris	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Absent
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Ms. Tovar: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion that the Board of Education approve the financial report for the period through August 31st, 2024. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Laura Harris	Yes

Melissa Mongillo **Absent**

Rebecca O’Hara **Absent**

Karla Malerba **Absent**

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Mr. Trainor: Three weeks in. We’ve got a lot going on. Projects. Getting all our invoices and purchase orders. We are working in HR to clean up some of our processes.

We are very heavy into the grant writing season. We have six or seven grants just buttoning up. We’re waiting on grant award letters from the State after submitting applications. It will take 24 to 48 hours that the grant was approved. We know it’s coming. But we’re not spending a dime until that grant award letter comes in. So, the secretaries are always putting the Purchase Orders in. So, were waiting until we actually get the award amount and then it goes live. Very exciting stuff. The financial report you have in front of you.

Special Ed Team has done a wonderful job managing kids moving in and out of District, managing resources. So, the Team has done some real great things. So many moving parts to the budget.

Dr. Conway: Maybe put together a work sheet on this Robbie.

Mr. Gildea: I don’t know how we encumber it. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF POLICIES

POLICY 3541.441 – Use of Ridesharing Services, First Read.

Motion that the Board of Education review Policy 3541.441 – Use of Ridesharing Services as a First Read as recommended by the School Community Relations and Policy Committee. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Laura Harris and a second by Ms. Kim Tovar.

Jim Gildea **Yes**

Kim Tovar **Yes**

Erica Nuzzo **Yes**

Ken Marcucio **Yes**

Dan Foley **Yes**

Laura Harris **Yes**

Melissa Mongillo **Absent**

Rebecca O’Hara **Absent**

Karla Malerba **Absent**

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Ms. Tovar: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

POLICY 6141.3291 – One to One Device Program, First Read.

Motion the Board of Education review Policy 6141.3291 – One to One Device Program as a First Read as recommended by the School Community Relations and Policy Committee. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Laura Harris and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Laura Harris	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Absent
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

POLICY 1147 – Banners and Plaques, Second Read.

Motion the Board of Education approve Policy 1147 – Banners and Plaques as a Second Read and Adoption. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Laura Harris and a second by Ms. Kim Tovar.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Laura Harris	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Absent
Rebecca O’Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent

Ms. Harris: Making motion.

Ms. Tovar: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries.

ADJOURN

Motion that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Ken Marcucio.

Jim Gildea	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Laura Harris	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Absent
Rebecca O'Hara	Absent
Karla Malerba	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Marcucio: Second.

Mr. Gildea: Motion carries at 8:03.

Marianne Samokar

Recording Secretary