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Board of Education
Darien, Connecticut

**TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**PLACE:
DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS'
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
6:15 P.M.**

1. Call to order
2. Executive session for the purpose of discussing attorney-client privileged information
3. Adjourn to public session

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016**

**PLACE:
DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS'
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
MEETING ROOM
7:30 P.M.**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Call to Order..... | Mr. Michael A. Harman | 7:30 p.m. |
| 2. Chairperson's Report..... | Mr. Harman | 7:35 p.m. |
| 3. Public Comment..... | Mr. Harman | |
| 4. Superintendent's Report..... | Dr. Dan Brenner | 7:45 p.m. |
| o DHS U.S. Presidential Scholar | | |
| o Tudor singers | | |
| 5. Approval of Minutes..... | Board of Education | |
| 6. Board Committee Reports..... | Mr. Harman | |

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016**

7. Presentations/Discussions:

- a. Presentation: Teachers'..... Ms. Cory Gillette
College Primer
- b. Update on One to One..... Mr. Marc Marin
Initiative
- c. Report on Barbara..... Dr. Susie DaSilva
Harrington Fund Awards
- d. Discussion on Installation.... Dr. Brenner
of Lights at DHS

8. Action Items

- a. Personnel Items.....Ms. Margorie Cion 9:30 p.m.
 - i. Appointments
 - ii. Resignations/Retirements

9. Public Comment..... Mr. Harman

10. Adjournment..... Mr. Harman

DB:nv
May 19, 2016

(APPROVED AS CORRECTED ON 5/10/16)
MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 26, 2016

PLACE:

Darien High School
Auditorium
7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Harman, Chair; Mesdames Hagerty-Ross, Zuro, McNamara, Stein and Sullivan; and Messrs. Burke, Dineen, and Martens.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Dr. Dan Brenner, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Susie DaSilva, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Shirley Klein, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services; Mr. Michael Feeney, Director of Finance and Operations; Ms. Marjorie Cion, Director of Human Resources.

VISITORS:

Approximately 30.

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Harman called the regular meeting to order at 7:44 p.m. The next Regular BOE meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Darien Board of Education Meeting Room.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT.

Mr. Harman said that he had hoped to announce that the Board of Finance (BOF) had approved both the Board of Education (BOE) Operating and Capital Project budgets but over the Spring Break, the State announced that they were cutting the traditional Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) allocation. He added that this development was on the agenda and would be discussed later in the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mr. Jack Davis, Greenwood Ave., Representative Town Meeting Finance and Budget Committee Chair, came forward to address the Board.

He said that he wanted to bring out some points so that everyone would be starting with the same basis. He said that there was a recent article in the *Darien Times* about the ECS cuts. He said that in the article, he was quoted as saying that the State employees receive health benefits. Mr. Davis said that he just wanted to clarify that the health benefits that the State employees receive are seriously out of whack with not only the business environment, but also that of the teachers' environment and other municipal workers at this time. Mr. Davis said

that he wanted to make it clear for the record that he was not putting the teachers in the same category as the State employees regarding the Health Savings Plans and the contribution percentages.

Mr. Davis said that he would like to review the exact chain of events that transpired. There are certain actions that have to be taken based on Darien's Charter. The BOF was required to deliver their final budget to the RTM on Tuesday, April 19th. Once that final budget is delivered, the BOF cannot make any additional adjustments to the budget because it was in the hands of the RTM. There were discussions as to whether a swap of one Capital project with another could be done by the May 9th meeting. However, the RTM cannot touch revenue or add items to the budget. The RTM can only cut. So this would have required the BOE passing a resolution and having the BOF calling a special meeting. The item would also have to go the RTM Rules on a timely basis to be added to the May 9th agenda. The item would have to be considered first on the agenda and later would have been removed. Mr. Davis said that the process was confusing and would not have been a prudent decision, so it was not moved forward.

RTM F&B has met and there have been preliminary discussions. Prior to Hartford's decision, Mr. Davis said that he would have recommended that his Committee meet two days after the BOF meeting and vote on the overall budget and this would have allowed them to move forward. However, that is not the case. The F&B Committee has authorized Mr. Davis to suggest to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and the BOE, that if there are additional give backs, they would prefer that Capital is deferred rather than hitting the Operating Budget. Mr. Zagrodzky, the Chairman of the BOF, agrees. Mr. Davis said that the F&B Committee would prefer this type of decision come from the individual boards and not from the F&B Committee. He cautioned everyone that he was not certain that this would be the case and added that the F&B Committee might pass the budget as submitted. Mr. Davis said that he just wanted everyone to be clear on what RTM F&B can and cannot do and what they are requesting from the BOE and BOS.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Dr. Brenner said that he would like to take this opportunity to highlight a trip to China that some of the high school students had taken. He said that these were often once in a lifetime experiences.

Dr. Brenner then introduced DHS teacher, Mr. Patrick Egan, who came forward to address the Board. He said that this was his third year teaching the Chinese Exchange Program at the High School and it was a year long course for approximately 12 students. This year, there was an overwhelming number of 25 students who applied to be in the course, so the staff has to be very selective.

In the fall of this year long course, the students host Chinese students from two different cities. He then explained that the students stayed in Shanghai for two weeks and then visited other cities. Mr. Egan listed the chaperones and gave a quick overview of the cultural discussions that happened along the way. The point is trying to understand the group dynamic and being ambassadors for Darien and for America.

Mr. Egan introduced three students who shared individual perspectives about their experiences during their trip to China. DHS students Forrest Lazzara, Kerry Blatney, and Oliver Smith shared the details and photographs of their experiences. Mr. Egan said that during the trip, the students had been able to keep an online blog. He gave the Web address and thanked the Board for supporting the program through its existence.

Dr. Brenner noted that this was a major commitment for the chaperones and he thanked the staff because while it is a great experience, it also entails a sacrifice. Dr. Brenner said that he had spent some time trying to put together a meaningful exchange program. He said he applauded the students for this endeavor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

April 6, 2016 Special Meeting

- ** MS. STEIN MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING.**
- ** MS. HAGERTY-ROSS SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH SEVEN IN FAVOR (HARMAN, HAGERTY-ROSS, SULLIVAN, STEIN, BURKE, MARTENS AND DINEEN) AND TWO ABSTENTIONS (ZURO AND MCNAMARA).**

April 6, 2016 Regular Meeting

- ** MS. HAGERTY-ROSS MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2016 REGULAR MEETING.**
- ** MR. DINEEN SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2016 REGULAR MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED WITH SEVEN IN FAVOR (HARMAN, HAGERTY-ROSS, SULLIVAN, STEIN, BURKE, MARTENS AND DINEEN) AND TWO ABSTENTIONS (ZURO AND MCNAMARA).**

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS.

There were no reports at this time.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS.

- ** MS. STEIN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE AGENDA TO ADD AN ITEM.**
- ** MR. DINEEN SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ** MS. MCNAMARA MOVED TO ADD AN AGENDA ITEM TO APPOINT MR. DJ COLELLA AS THE NEW PRINCIPAL FOR HINDLEY SCHOOL TO THE AGENDA.**
- ** MS. SULLIVAN SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ** MS. ZURO MOVED TO APPOINT MR. DJ COLELLA AS THE NEW PRINCIPAL FOR HINDLEY SCHOOL.**
- ** MR. MARTENS SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Brenner then gave a brief overview of Mr. Colella's resume. Mr. Colella came forward and thanked the BOE and the members of the interview committee. He said that he was looking forward to becoming part of the Darien Community.

A. DISCUSSION OF CAPITAL PROJECT ADJUSTMENTS.

Mr. Harman then provided some background information regarding the situation that the BOE found itself because of the statutory deadlines. He then listed the timeline of events regarding the news that the State was eliminating the Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) grant for many of the wealthier towns. The BOF suggested five cuts that would have impacted the BOE Capital Budget. The ECS grant is a major source of funding for the various school districts in the State. He gave a brief overview of the ECS grant formula, which is intended to equalize the education for all of the municipalities in the State. It is a block of revenue that is granted to the Town and then passed through to the District. A shortfall in this grant would effectively require a spending cut in either the Capital Budget or the Operating Budget for the BOE or the Board of Selectmen (BOS). The other alternative would be a tax increase and then a transfer from the Town's General Fund.

One complication is that the State decision to go forward with the ECS grant cut would not be made until after the RTM vote. Mr. Harman said that the BOE had the opportunity to weigh on the decision regarding the impact of these cuts. The discussion will be focused on the impact of these potential cuts and what the BOE decides to do.

Dr. Brenner said moving forward, he was not clear on the process, but believed that there needed to be a discussion about the facts after the vote transpires, and the BOF would be able to request a transfer of projects. He said that the only conversation that the BOE could have would be to add any additional projects. The proposed swap of projects is not possible at this time.

Mr. Harman said that this happened on Thursday of Spring Break. Dr. Brenner said that the BOF had removed the DHS storage unit, the new carpet at the middle school, and the rack bodied dump truck. The BOF indicated that this was a deferral, not an elimination. Ms. Hagerty-Ross said that the BOF has approved \$182,000 worth of Capital Priority 2 projects in error.

Board questions and comments and responses: a) **What is the anticipated total ECS grant cut and what will happen if the RTM votes on the budget with the cuts and the ECS funding comes through. I want to see the whole picture and have it articulated so that everyone understands how much we are giving up and how much the Town is giving up.** (Mr. Harman said that the sum total of the grant reduction comes to \$1,317,925.00. Ms. Hagerty-Ross explained that originally, \$500,000 had been removed from the budget because they knew it would be cut. Mr. Harman reviewed the figures and said that there would be a slight increase of 2.93 in the mill rate. Part of the shortfall will be covered with a mill rate increase and there are concerns about what would happen if the ECS funding is not reduced. Ms. Hagerty-Ross explained that if the ECS funding isn't cut, the BOE would have to go back to the BOF and request a reinstatement of the funding for the projects. This would require the items going back to the various committees and ultimately, the RTM, for approval.) b) **Was the funding for the cafeteria consultant cut?** (Mr. Harman replied that it was not. Ms. Hagerty-Ross said that they had actually added the money into the budget.) c) **Regarding these three items that the BOF deferred, would these have been the same three items the administration would have put forth?** (Dr. Brenner said that the projects would have been on the list, but they might have been prioritized differently. Mr. Harman said that one of the other items on the list was the Ox Ridge gym floor, but Dr. Brenner had quickly pointed out that it was a safety issue. He reiterated that the BOF considers these to be deferrals because they are not part of the Operating Budget. Ms. Hagerty-Ross disagreed and said that the only thing that can be cut on April 8th is the Capital budget. While using the word "defer" is nice, the actual action was a cut because the BOE will have to go through the entire process again.) d) **So we have to start all over from scratch again?** (Ms. Hagerty-Ross agreed. Mr. Harman pointed out that the RTM would still have

the right to cut line items. Dr. Brenner said that the BOF understood the need for the projects but they wanted to share the pain with the Board, the taxpayers and the Town. He went on to say that the 1997 truck had more miles on it than could be counted and while the carpets in the middle school could last another year, they badly needed replacement. He said that everyone at that meeting was trying to work together. He pointed out that deferring something and not acknowledging the need are two different things. Ms. Hagerty-Ross said that as the budget is moved to the RTM, all the Capital Projects are Priority 1 projects. She reminded everyone that the Board had already requested the BOF to keep the gym floor in, so there is nothing left that the BOE could give up. The Town gave up the emergency generator. Ms. Hagerty-Ross pointed out that the ECS funding was something that they had always been told was not their funding. The Excess Cost funding has always been added to the ECS grant, which is actually additional money that the BOE could be getting. In prior years, the BOE has asked that this extra funding be added to the Special Education Reserve and the Town has refused to do that as well. This is an additional revenue stream for the Town. In light of that, Ms. Hagerty-Ross said that the BOE has given what they can give and she hoped that they can find other places in the Town budget to cut. Mr. Harman said that this was also about Risk Management and these are items that are outside of management control. He said that the District does a projection and they try to manage the money as best they can.) e) **If there is push back from the RTM about adding the \$500,000 to the mill rate, would the Board be asked to look to make more budget cost cuts in the Operating budget? How would that come about?** (Mr. Harman said that it would be at the May 9th meeting when the RTM would perform a line item cut on the Capital side or a cut on the Operating side. It was pointed out that if the RTM did not wish to increase the mill rate, they could go to the General Fund.) f) **It doesn't just have to come out of our hide?** (Mr. Harman said no. He pointed out that the key issue was a grant that was coming to the Town on the revenue side. The RTM will be making a final decision and then the BOE will start to plan how to move forward. If the grant comes through, then the BOE will start working on restoring the deferred projects.) g) **So, as a Board, there is really nothing left for us to do other than perhaps communicate to the RTM that the budget was created thoughtfully and we hope that they understand these items are needed. The BOE is essentially giving up these projects and willing to put them off for a period of time in order to deal with Hartford.** (Mr. Harman said that the key issue was that the Board had a chance to discuss this and make sure everyone understands where the Board is right now.)

B) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE OF CONTEMPLATED GIFT FROM MUSIC FOR YOUTH FROM MIDDLESEX MIDDLE SCHOOL. (File #2491)

Mr. Sadlon came forward and presented the proposal, which includes three performances at the middle school on June 9th. He thanked the Music for Youth program for their generous gift.

**** MS. SULLIVAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE CONTEMPLATED GIFT FROM MUSIC FOR YOUTH FROM MIDDLESEX MIDDLE SCHOOL.**

**** MS. MCNAMARA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C) PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE MIDDLESEX BOSTON FIELD TRIP. (File #2492)

Dr. Boccanfuso came forward to present the proposed field trip.

Board questions and comments and Administration's responses: a) **What happens to the students who don't go?** (Dr. Boccanfuso said that we fill their day with fun things to do and whenever we can, we add information about Boston so they can see the various sites that the others are going to.) b) **Very few students stay behind?**

(Dr. Boccanfuso said that there were only a few who did not go.) c) **I mentioned this last year, but just looking at the numbers, it costs \$450 per student for \$170,000 one night trip to Boston, which is also subsidized by the Student Activity Account. It just seems like a lot of money to ask from families for only one night.** (Dr. Boccanfuso agreed and pointed out that Boston was an expensive city. When the students used to go to Washington, D.C., the monuments and many of the sites were all free, so that trip cost less. We use an upscale company so the buses don't break down. There were times in the past when we did use cheaper buses. There is a guide on each bus the entire time and the accommodations for the guides are part of the costs.) d) **Part of this program is hiring a guide to conduct the trip?** (Dr. Boccanfuso explained that they hire the company and when the bus shows up, there is a tour guide on that bus that remains on that bus the entire time.) e) **So, it's not the teachers or the staff that does it?** (Dr. Boccanfuso said that when eight buses roll in, there are eight tour guides on those buses. They guide the students through the tour. They are able to move 400 people through the city in a pattern that actually works. There are a lot of logistics behind the scenes and it is always so smoothly done. These people are pros and they are amazing. They move us safely and efficiently through the city.) f) **Do we offer scholarships for the students who can't afford it?** (Dr. Boccanfuso said that there are scholarships from the Student Activity Fund from the magazine drive for the students who can't afford it. Now parents can pay online and some chose to pay a monthly amount. There have been parents in the past who we have supplemented the cost, have given the school \$30 or \$40 a month and pay it back to the fund. The goal is to get every child to go if they can go.) g) **The trip still includes the boat ride around Boston Harbor?** (Dr. Boccanfuso said it did. The students are the only group on the boat so the staff knows everyone on the boat. It is the Inner Harbor, they go out and come back in to go to the Blue Man Group.)

**** MS. SULLIVAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MIDDLESEX BOSTON FIELD TRIP.**

**** MR. MARTENS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH EIGHT IN FAVOR (HARMAN, HAGERTY-ROSS, ZURO, SULLIVAN, STEIN, DINEEN, MARTENS AND BURKE) AND ONE OPPOSED (MCNAMARA).**

D) PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE MIDDLESEX COLEBROOK/IVORYTON FIELD TRIP. (File #2493)

Dr. Boccanfuso came forward to present the proposed field trip.

Board questions and comments and Administration's responses: a) **We had a question about the dates last year about doing it on the three days before Thanksgiving because that Wednesday is a heavy traffic day. Is there any reason that we could not move it a week earlier or later?** (Dr. Boccanfuso said that Thanksgiving week was a shortened week. She said that she thought most families would not take Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday off of that week because they want their students to go on that trip. She said that in the past, some students have been picked up by their families on Monday or Tuesday night. It is worked out with the parent in person beforehand with the staff. The trip has been that week for the 30 years that Dr. Boccanfuso has been in Darien. Nature's Classroom has to be booked a year in advance. Schools lock into different weeks depending on that school's priorities in their Districts. She listed a number of options that have been discussed with the Nature's Classroom staff. The teaching staff that does not go covers for the staff that does go.)

**** MR. BURKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MIDDLESEX COLEBROOK/IVORYTON FIELD TRIP.**

**** MR. DINEEN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

E) UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM.

Ms. Klein came forward to present the information on the ESY Program. ESY will be from June 27-29; ELP will be July 5-August 27 and all the classes will be at the High School from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Board questions and comments and Administration's responses: a) **How does this calendar compare with last year? We've always been concerned with getting notification out to parents to make alternative plans.** (Ms. Klein said that it has been later last year. Our targeted date was to have it rolled out and everyone assigned by the beginning of May.)

F) UPDATE ON ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR 2016-2017.

Dr. DaSilva came forward to present the information.

Board questions and comments and Administration's responses: a) **The chart makes comparisons easy to read. I'm curious as to why we have so many more boys than girls in middle school and high school?** (Dr. DaSilva said that while gender does change the dynamics in classrooms, we do our best particularly at the elementary level to have heterogeneous classes that are balanced between needs, strengths, gender and all the other types of variables.)

G) ACCEPTANCE OF SOFTBALL FIELD AT DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL. (File #2494)

Dr. Brenner said that this was an indication that the field has been turned over to the District following the completion of the work.

Board questions and comments and Administration's responses: a) **The letter says that it is "substantially completed". Other than the grass, is there anything else that is on that punch list?** (Dr. Brenner said that it was basically the grass, which will fill in. That field will be open for the fireworks.)

**** MS. SULLIVAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE SOFTBALL FIELD AT DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL.**

**** MS. ZURO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

H) FIRST READING AND DISCUSSION OF THE 2017-18 SCHOOL CALENDAR. (File #2495)

Dr. Brenner said that the February vacation had been adjusted as the Board requested in February.

Board questions and comments and Administration's responses: a) **Do we know when the 2017-2018 Conference Days will be?** (Dr. DaSilva said that the current schedule is the same as in the past with four days in December and three days in March. The administration will be making a proposal about this and the trimesters may change. It will influence where the conferences will be. Because of this, we have not posted those dates yet.) b) **In February, does the administration have any concerns about doing these two three day weeks.** (Dr. Brenner said that this was the trade-off. The Board spoke about this at length last year and this year is an anomaly.) c) **Could you clarify next year?** (That would be 2018-19) d) **And the Flex Days?** (The way this works is that the State said the District can't take a full week unless they use flex days. The district won't be able to manage it based on the way that the holidays fall to make it work. That is what we have been told. This particular year we could.) e) **Like New Canaan, Greenwich and Westport?** (Dr. Brenner said that Greenwich is taking the week, and Westport will be taking the week in 17-18. He said that he did not think

New Canaan would be taking the week. Discussion followed about the dates that the State was asking the District to take and which ones that the District would be taking. The conversation was that it would be better to be consistent and not flip-flop.) f) **But I'm still not clear about what it is from the State that is preventing us from taking the week off.** (Dr. DaSilva said that it would be possible to take the week, but the District is required to take the prior Friday, which ends up being more than a week. That was the concern from the Board. Discussion followed about the upcoming years and how the calendar would vary each year.) g) **CES will vote on this in October and this whole thing could change where the Friday becomes a regular school day.** (Dr. Brenner said that if it was changed, the administration would come back to the Board and this was one of the nice things about doing it two years ahead of time. Discussion followed about how the changes would impact graduation and snow days.)

I) PRESENTATION AND ACTION ON ELEMENTARY PARENT CONFERENCE DAYS FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR. (File #2496)

Dr. DaSilva presented the information regarding this which was in the information packet.

**** MS. ZURO MOVED TO APPROVE THE ELEMENTARY PARENT CONFERENCE DAYS FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**** MS. STEIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

J) FURTHER DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPOSED RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES.

Ms. Cion requested that the item be tabled due to the fact that the first page of the report was incorrect due to a change to encourage gender diversity.

ACTION ITEMS.

Personnel Items. (File #2497)

Appointments

Resignations/Retirements

Non-Renewal of Certified Staff Working Under One-Year Contracts and Long Term Substitutes.

Ms. Cion reviewed the appointments. She also said that the State requires the District to notify the non tenured teachers to be notified of their non-renewals prior to May 1st.

**** MR. BURKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE PERSONNEL REPORT INCLUDING THE APPOINTMENTS, THE RESIGNATIONS AND RETIREMENTS AND THE NON-RENEWAL OF THE TEACHERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND TO DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO NOTIFY THOSE TEACHERS PRIOR TO MAY 1ST.**

**** MS. ZURO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mr. Jack Davis, Greenwood Ave., came forward to give a perspective from the F&B about what they believe the future will hold. That brave new world is that as a Town, no one should expect any State funding. It is frightening not only for ECS, because if they are capable of changing the ECS, what would stop them from changing the ECR which is at \$ 2.3 million dollars. If Darien builds an \$80 million dollar new school, what will stop the State from changing how much they will reimburse.

Mr. Davis said that he did not understand how this occurred because the formula was a legislative formula approved by the legislators. He wondered how the Governor could change this without changing the legislation. All the districts get the same amount of funding despite the State's wealth or lack of wealth. He said the Governor has taken the money and directed it elsewhere.

The brave, new world will demand that things that are nice to have changes. He said that things like fire engines may be financed over 12 years instead of 10 and thought the BOE would not be the only Town entity with a 1997 truck. He went on to say that not everyone was able to attend the BOF meeting.

He said that the BOE was moving forward and thought that there would be things that would change with the Board of Selectmen as well. The budgets have been artificially low because the Town has been drawing down on the General Fund to keep taxes low. The grand list grew by 1%, which appeared as an increase, but expenses have been much higher. F&B has talked about this for a long time.

There are a number of things that will need to be addressed, so the General Fund may not be as available as everyone thinks. Mr. Davis listed a number of things, such as EMS, the public works garage, and the purchase of Eversource lights. Mr. Davis said that he felt that the High School Cafeteria was a need to have. If the CSR is cut, the Board should come back to the RTM F&B. He said that as long as he was chair, the Board was covered if the State cut that funding. In June the Town should know more about the overages on the Shuffle. It will be a \$500,000 or \$600,000 overage.

If the Town continues to draw down the General Fund, in a few years, there may be a situation where the Town has to tax to replenish the General Fund due to legal requirements. He said that he didn't want to get in to the budget craziness because there were people who won't understand the complexities. He added that there were towns such as New Canaan, who had already approved their budgets and were handed this unexpected cut. At least Darien has a bit of time to deal with this. He thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. Peter Orphanos, Raymond Street, came forward to address the Board. He said that what he was seeing was a procedural Twilight Zone. He said that he was hearing about deferments about projects that were truly needed. It sounds like the town would be paying for this either now or next year. He said that he agreed with Mr. Davis that there would not be any State funds. He asked whether it was better to figure out how to pay for it now and get the extra year's worth of utility.

Ms. Jill McCammon, Old Kings Highway South, came forward to speak about the field trips. She said they were exciting and looked forward to hearing from her children about them. She wondered if there was a process for the children with physical or emotional needs to be accommodated on those trips.

Ms. Klein responded that there was provision for the students to be accommodated, whether it was in the IEP or the 504 plan. It will be reviewed and the students will be accommodated.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. BURKE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MS. MCNAMARA SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Schneider Zuro
Secretary

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**Darien, Connecticut**

TO: Dan Brenner, Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Susie Da Silva, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, K-12
RE: Report of Barbara Harrington Grant – Summer 2016
DATE: May 20, 2016

Darien Advocates for the Education of the Gifted (DAEG) has announced the award of 18 grants to Darien teachers totaling \$13,219.00 for advanced studies, workshops, conferences and curriculum development. Thanks to the generosity of DAEG members and the Darien community, we are pleased to provide funding to enthusiastic teachers whose applications fit our criteria of further development of their teaching skills and bringing that knowledge back to the classroom, ultimately benefiting Darien students.

The applications for this year reflect both independent study and collaborative efforts of Darien faculty as they pursue their interests and identify areas where they would like to gain more knowledge. Grants have been awarded this year to 5 high school teachers, 4 middle school teachers, and 9 elementary teachers. Details about each of the grants can be found below.

The Barbara Harrington Fund was established in 1984 by DAEG in honor of Barbara Harrington, founder of Darien’s IDEA Program for gifted students. Open to all teachers in the Darien Public Schools, the Barbara Harrington Fund offers teachers the opportunity to take courses that enrich their ability to deliver their curriculum. The grants are funded by contributions of members of the Darien Advocates for Education of the Gifted and other donors. Grant applications are processed by a committee of DAEG members along with central office and school administrators from all levels.

SUMMARY OF 2016 BARBARA HARRINGTON GRANT

Name	School	Topic	Amount
Dorine Bosler	DHS	Fine Tuned Wheel Class on advanced ceramic techniques	565.00
Michelle Currier	DHS	Mold Making and Slip Casting Course	550.00
Kathleen Gilbert	DHS	“Mindfulness, Radical Acceptance and Willingness: Integrating DBT Skills into Clinical Practice”	599.00
Tracey Owens	DHS	Taft Educational Center Workshop on Multivariable Calculus	950.00
Lorraine Westervelt	DHS	AP Computer Science Principles Workshop	950.00

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**Darien, Connecticut**

Jenny Lona	MMS	Tour fees for day tours in Mexico City and Puebla city; tours revolve around the Mesoamerican history	214.00
Jacqueline Luginbuhl	MMS	2-Day Google for Educators Bootcamp	398.00
Rebecca Stern	MMS	1-week course "Pixel to Line: A Conversation" at the Women's Studio Workshop Summer Art Institute	875.00
Lindsay Wrinn	MMS	Modernism and Scottish Literature course at the Scottish Universities International Summer School	300.00
Jackie Heyde	Hindley	ISTE 3-day Conference in Denver	650.00
Erin Brown	Holmes	Orton-Gillingham Reading Training	1,550.00
Cindy Pasiakos	Holmes	Teachers College Institute for Writing	825.00
Kelly Soisson	Holmes	Responsive Classroom II 4-day workshop	729.00
Dawn Taranto	Holmes	Teachers College Institute for Writing	825.00
James Allen	Ox Ridge	1 week of intensive percussion lessons with a professional percussionist, Shane Shanhan	1,000.00
Jessica Castagnetti	Tokeneke	Teachers College Institute for Writing	825.00
Kate Llewelyn	Tokeneke	Wilson Level 1 Reading Certification	589.00
Russ Caruso	TBD	Teachers College Institute for Writing	825.00
		TOTAL	13,219.00

PERSONNEL ACTION REPORT

May 24, 2016

Item	Name	Action	Replacing/Location/Position	Effective Date		Tenure Area	Certification Class/Step
				From	To		
1	Marie Vergara	Appointment	M. Shain/Royle/Special Education Teacher	8/29/2016	6/30/2017	Teacher	Comprehensive Special Education K 12 MA 3
Resignations/Retirements							
2	Micaela Tucker	Resignation	Fifth Grade Teacher/Holmes		6/30/2016		
3	Patrick Egan	Resignation	Social Studies Teacher/DHS		6/30/2016		
4	Amanda Donaldson	Resignation	Speech Teacher/Tokeneke		6/30/2016		
5	Kaitlyn Shea	Resignation	Paraprofessional/Ox Ridge		6/30/2016		