

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

MINUTES OF THE (SECOND) SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held November 12, 2019, at Geraldine Johnson School, 475 Lexington Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Chair John Weldon, Vice Chair Jessica Martinez Secretary Joseph Sokolovic, Hernan Illingworth, Sybil Allen, Maria Pereira, LaMar Kennedy, and Joseph Lombard.

Acting Superintendent Michael J. Testani was present.

Mr. Weldon said the sole agenda item was to highlight school, student, and staff achievements.

Mr. Illingworth presented awards on behalf of the board. He highlighted the debate league, which now includes 13 schools. He said 82 middle school students participated last weekend in a tournament. He said a recent debate was held completely in Spanish. Central High and Fairchild Wheeler students recently competed in a huge invitational event at Vassar College.

Mr. Illingworth recognized Park City Magnet principal Terese Maguire and Careen Derise from Discovery Magnet for their work with the student debate teams. He said the vision of the debate league was put together originally by teacher Ron Rapice.

Mr. Testani thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Alicia Robinson, director of performing and visual arts, introduced Jennifer, an 8th grade student at Johnson School, who performed Chopin's Prelude in E Minor on the piano.

Mr. Testani presented an award to security officer Harry Bell of Curiale School. Mr. Bell said he hoped the award he received would show to kids that being positive is cool.

Mr. Testani presented an award to Ms Robinson. He said she had a passion for the arts that is unparalleled. Ms. Robinson said she was proud to serve Bridgeport, which runs through her veins.

Principal Christine Booth of Barnum School honored Shaenna Taylor, a special education paraprofessional, and student Gabriella Beardsley, a 6th grader.

Principal Dr. Joseph Raiola of Bassick High honored Elecy Varghese, a science teacher, and student Synthia Pharr, the National Honor Society president.

Principal Sharon Pivrotto of Beardsley School recognized 6th grade student Brian Torres-Castro and Deborah Simek, an intervention teacher for K to 6.

Christine Neary, assistant principal at John Winthrop School, honored Darlene Phillips, physical education teacher, and student Ricardo Marin.

Principal Stephen Cassidy of Black Rock School recognized student Yasidel Moya and Melva Riddick, a physical education teacher.

Assistant principal Ms. Booth of Waltersville School honored student Anaya Hernandez, an 8th grade student, and educator Rebecca Paquette.

Marcie Julian, principal of Blackham School, recognized educator Diana Frascatore.

Dr. Charmaine Worthy of Tisdale School honored Elizabeth Capasso, an 8th grade math teacher, and Arianna Hanley, an 8th grade student.

Angela Garafalo of the Bridgeport Learning Center recognized student Jovans Bien-Aime and Joseph Valentino, a middle school teacher.

Giovanna Ramos, principal of Thomas Hooker School, honored Jessica Warnken, a 3rd grade teacher, and student Camila Garcia, a sixth-grade student.

Principal Sangeeta Bella of Discovery Magnet recognized Careen Derise, a social studies teacher, and student Abraham Lima.

Ms. Garafalo presented the awards for Skane School to student Catheryn Gonzalez and staff member Anita Perez.

Principal Diana Soares of the Bridgeport Military Academy honored senior student Layeska Valmo Cedeno and Victoria Lametta, an English teacher.

Mr. Testani thanked Rita Valle and Tim Grasty from his office for making the evening possible.

Hallen School Principal Dyrene Newton honored Sarah Larson, a 4th grade teacher, and Cecilia Belton, 6th grader student.

Principal Jackie Simmons of Roosevelt School recognized teacher Rosa Amaro.

Principal Victoria Egri of Bryant school honored music teacher Jordan Knobloch and student Set Lobos Velasquez, a sixth grade English language-learner.

Mr. Testani honored student Spencer Estime of Read School.

Dr. Michael Watson, principal of Fairchild Wheeler Biotechnology, recognized Marilyn Carolina, a biology teacher.

Principal Eric Graf of Central High honored Ana-Luisa Moura, an honor student and school leader, and Laurinda Rua, a history teacher.

Principal Terese Maguire of Park City Magnet recognized student Kelliece Dixon and 7th and 8th grade science teacher Daria Collins.

Assistant Principal Dr. Byron Williams from Cesar Batalla School honored student Anthony Dozier and teacher Maria Santiago.

Johnson School principal Luisa Wolf recognized Kate Nelson, speech and language pathologist.

Helen Giles, principal of Classical Studies Magnet, honored student Sohana Huq who created a new song to start each school day.

The representative of multicultural Magnet recognized Jordan Barroso, a kindergarten student.

Principal Dane Brown of Harding High honored Ashley LaQuesse, a 10th grade English teacher, and student Carlos De Los Santos, an honors student with perfect attendance.

Alisha Perrin, principal of Dunbar School, recognized student James Santos-Tiburcio and Megan D'Angelico, school social worker.

Principal Jay Lipp of Fairchild Wheeler Aerospace honored David Viesto, a math teacher and track coach, and student Meredith Waters.

Rebecca Cabrera, principal of Madison School, recognized Linda Gaboardi, K-6 music teacher, and student Solomre Restrepo.

Principal Stephen Douglas of Geraldine Claytor Magnet School honored student Briana Cedenio and Laurie Maurao, an ESL teacher.

Mr. Testani noted the district has an amazing students from all sides of town and in all types of schools.

Deborah Santacapita, principal of Luis Marin Munoz School, honored kindergarten bilingual teacher Evelyn Barrios and student Veronica Desir.

Brett Gustafson, principal of Curiale School, recognized Andrea O'Neil, the school psychologist, and Lorrie Mondì, a staff member with 33 years of service.

Principal Francine Carbone of High Horizons honored student Mia Gonzalez and Kim Doran, a staff member focused on student achievement.

Cynthia Fernandes, Hall School principal, recognized student Jeniah Simmons and Krista Verrasto, a third year teacher.

A representative of Edison School honored student Chelsea Wilson and Daniel Veccharelli, a second grade teacher.

Tina Peluso-Ulreich, principal of Wilbur Cross School, recognized student Henmanuel Marte, a second grade student, and Melissa Boneski, a kindergarten teacher.

Mr. Testani honored Columbus School Jeroy Simms.

Beth Furnari, principal of Fairchild Wheeler Information Technology, recognized a senior student, Christopher Zica, and teacher Margaret Helck.

Mr. Testani thanked those in attendance for staying for the entire program, especially for the support of students and staff honored at the end of the evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod
Approved by the board on December 9, 2019