

## **WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### *MINUTES ~ SPECIAL MEETING*

Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Washington School, 685 Baldwin Street, Waterbury, Connecticut

**PRESENT:** President Stango, Commissioners Brown, Harkins, Harvey, Hayes, Rodriguez, and Sweeney.

**ABSENT:** Commissioners D'Amelio, Morales, and Van Stone.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent Kathleen Ouellette, Chief Academic Officer Anne Marie Cullinan, Special Advisor to Superintendent Paul Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer & Chief of Staff Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

### **SILENT PRAYER**

President Stango called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. with a moment of silence.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Dr. Ouellette led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **ROLL CALL**

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner D'Amelio (absent). Commissioner Harkins.

HARKINS: Present.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Morales (absent). Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Van Stone (absent). President Stango.

STANGO: Here. Just for the record, Commissioner Van Stone and Commissioner D'Amelio could not make it tonight and send their regrets.

### **1. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

**1.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted, by Roll Call vote, to approve the**

**appointment of Robert A. Johnston as High School Building Principal,  
Kennedy High School, effective immediately.**

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: It is with great pleasure I got to second his appointment. I think Mr. Johnston has been one of our shining stars. Every time we have moved him to a position with more authority and more responsibility he's done a great job for us and I anticipate the same as he takes over as the Building Principal at Kennedy High School.

SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. President, if I may, just to share with the public some of Mr. Johnston's credentials. Mr. Johnston has a Bachelors and Masters Degree and a Sixth Year from Southern Connecticut State University which includes a 026 in History & Social Studies and an 092 in Administration. He has been a Social Studies teacher at Kennedy High School, Supervisor of Social Studies, Family & Consumer Science, and Assistant Principal at John F. Kennedy High School. Just to put it in perspective, there were a total of 17 applicants for the position and in all three phases Rob ranked top in all three phases of the process. He is committed to working in urban education and enduring educational excellence for all students; a collaborative administrator who works with his staff, students, and parents to build a professional learning community. He is one of our finest and I know he will be extremely successful. So, with that, it gives me great pleasure to recommend him to this appointment this evening.

STANGO: Thank you, Superintendent. Is there any other discussion? Hearing none – roll call vote please.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #1.1:**

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, Harkins, Harvey, Hayes, Rodriguez, Sweeney, and President Stango – 7

*(applause)*

JOHNSTON: First, I'd like to say just how truly honored I am to be named Principal at Kennedy High School. Without sounding like I'm exaggerating, I kind of feel like there hasn't been someone that has stood before the Board and who has felt as honored as I do in this particular case with Kennedy High School. Having been a former student at Kennedy, graduating from there, having taught there, coached there, and been an Assistant Principal there; to a large extent it's home. So I'm very proud of Kennedy High School, I feel like I have the best staff in the City of Waterbury. I know many principals must feel this way but I feel like I have the best high school students in the City of Waterbury also and I take a great deal of pride when I see them each and every day. And, lastly, I would just like to thank each member of the Board, Dr. Ouellette, everyone who was involved in the interview process, for demonstrating confidence in my abilities. I can guarantee you you will not be disappointed and I'm just very, very excited to get started. Thank you very much.

*(applause)*

**1.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted, by Roll Call vote, to approve the appointment of Kevin L. Walston as Instructional Leadership Director, effective immediately.**

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion?

SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure this evening to recommend Mr. Walston for the position of our last Instructional Leadership Director. We've been very patient with the search and he has extensive credentials, he has a 92 endorsement. Kevin's experience in education is rare as he has held leadership positions at the elementary and secondary level expanding from . . . urban education. He was also a House Master at Norwalk High School, a Principal of Harding High School in Bridgeport. His professional development and training includes work with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and a Professional Development Team member at Mount Pleasantville in Pleasantville, NY. We received a total of 74 applicants for the position of directorship and the interview process was very extensive and thorough and I'm pleased to say Kevin ranked number one in all three phases of the interview. He is truly an exceptional administrator with his array of talents with K-12 experience and I am sure he certainly will make our team complete in the role as Instructional Leadership Director. It gives me great pleasure to recommend him this evening.

STANGO: Any other further discussion? Hearing none – roll call vote please.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #1.2:**

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, Harkins, Harvey, Hayes, Rodriguez, Sweeney, and President Stango – 7

*(applause)*

WALSTON: Good evening everyone. I just want to take an opportunity to thank everyone, the people who interviewed me over the last couple of weeks, it was a very grueling process and I'm happy to see myself here this evening. I really do feel like being in this position now is a culmination professionally of all my work I've done over the years. I have a true passion to serve urban education and be in urban education and make an impact on urban education. Superintendent, I'm excited to hear of the 74 applicants I'm here this evening. I owe a lot to the people I worked with over the years and I know they'll be happy to see me here this evening as well. Thank you, again.

*(applause)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.**

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk  
Board of Education