

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Crosby High School, 300 Pierpont Road, Waterbury, Connecticut

PRESENT: President Stango, Commissioners Brown, D'Amelio, Harkins, Harvey, Morales, Rodriguez, and Sweeney.

ABSENT: Commissioners Hayes 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, and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

SILENT PRAYER

President Stango called the special meeting to order at 7:03 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: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner D'Amelio.

D'AMELIO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Harkins.

HARKINS: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hayes (absent). Commissioner Morales.

MORALES: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

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

STANGO: Here.

HARVEY: I did receive a call from Commissioner Hayes stating he would not be at this meeting but he would be at the next one.

STANGO: Thank you.

1. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

- 1.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the appointment of William Rice as Instructional Leadership Director, effective immediately.**

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

SUPERINTENDENT: Well, it certainly gives me great pleasure this evening to recommend Mr. Rice this evening for the Instructional Leadership Director. As the Board's aware, we went through a thorough first round of interviews for our first two Instructional Leadership Directors and, in fact, Mr. Rice was helpful with that. As we continued with our search, we had to really look no further because we had our really true ILD, the standard that we're looking for, sitting right in our own department. And he went through a thorough interviewing process with many Committee members. There were 74 applicants and William was ranked in the top three in all three phases. He did a phenomenal, phenomenal job. We did have Commissioners sitting in, even on the last interview with the Superintendent. So it gives me great pleasure to recommend William this evening. Let me give you a little bit on William's background. Currently he's Supervisor of Math for the Waterbury Public Schools. He served as Principal in McKinley/Tisdale in Bridgeport; he was a House Master at Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk; and he was an Assistant Principal at Harding High School in Bridgeport. He also has teaching experience; he taught Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Science at Central High School in Bridgeport. So you can see he has a wealth of experience in leadership roles. He also experience in supervision and evaluation of teachers, instructional coaches and administrators with training from Cambridge and the National Urban Alliance. Strong practical and theoretical knowledge of curriculum development, evaluation and best practices in instruction at the elementary and secondary level. I can go on and on and on about his experience that I provided for you in that packet. We are very thrilled to recommend him to you this evening.

STANGO: Any further discussion? Roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #1.1:

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, D'Amelio, Harkins, Harvey, Morales, Rodriguez, Sweeney, and President Stango – 8

(applause)

RICE: I definitely would like to thank the Board, the Superintendent, Mr. Guidone, Mrs. Cullinan, and Dr. Sequeira for this opportunity. In my short time here, what I've learned the most is that I am working with a dedicated group of educators who have the best interest of the students of Waterbury in mind and I'm so honored to have this opportunity to work with them on a day-to-day basis to provide the best education possible for them. The "Blueprint for Change" definitely gives us a clear direction on where we want to go in this district and what our goals are for the students. But we all

know that change takes time and it's difficult but we absolutely know that it's needed in order for us to provide the skillset for each of our students in the City of Waterbury to maximize their potential. You want to be able to look in the eyes of a kindergarten student and a senior in high school and feel good about what you did to insure that they had the skillset to be able to be successful citizens in the United States and in our City to be able to do everything that they plan to do in their lives. So those things we want to do and we want to continue to work diligently towards to ensure that all of those things happen. Students are much more than standardized tests and educators have to understand that. Educators are truly life-changers and hope-givers for students and we do that through education. So, I'm absolutely excited about this opportunity to help provide those things for the students of the City of Waterbury. Thank you.

1.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the appointment of Melina Rodriguez as Supervisor of Special Education, effective immediately.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. Once again, it gives me great, great pleasure to recommend to the Board of Education this evening the approval of Melina Rodriguez who currently serves, and is in district, our district-wide Bilingual School Psychologist, as the new Supervisor for Special Education. Out of 24 applicants within the pool, Melina certainly rose to the top in all the phases of the interview process. She has exceptional accomplishments and leadership experience that represent the quality of excellence we are pursuing for this administrative vacancy. Just to give you a little bit of background, she has a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology, Masters in School Psychology, 6th year in School Psychology, and a 92 in Ed Leadership. She gives a well-rounded perspective to the Special Education Department and so we are thrilled to be able to recommend her to you this evening.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #1.2:

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, D'Amelio, Harkins, Harvey, Morales, Rodriguez, Sweeney, and President Stango – 8

(applause)

RODRIGUEZ: Good evening Dr. Ouellette, President Stango, and the remainder of the Board Commissioners. I am very honored and feel blessed beyond words to have been chosen to be a real, to take on a real responsibility in this district as a leader and I look forward to working with all of you to support the students in our district, to be successful in utilizing the blueprint that we have in place, and achieving their ultimate goals, all our special ed students. I am so thankful to Mrs. Cullinan and all the Supervisors that have supported me through this process and I am excited and appreciate all your support. Thank you.

1.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve the revised job specifications for the position of Waterbury Career Academy Building Principal.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

2.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file the Superintendent of Schools notification of the following appointments effective immediately:

Elizabeth McGrath, Interim Building Principal, Kennedy High School.

SUPERINTENDENT: It gives me pleasure this evening to announce the return of Elizabeth McGrath as the Interim Principal of Kennedy High School while the district searches to fill the Principal position at Kennedy High School. As you're aware, the public is aware, Mr. Yamin was appointed to the Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services. That transition will happen with the next week or so and we will need to have an interim in the meantime as we begin our search. It should be about a month, a month and a half.

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education