

## **WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### *MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING*

Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

West Side Middle School, 483 Chase Parkway, Waterbury, Connecticut

**PRESENT:** President Stango, Commissioners Brown, D'Amelio, Harvey, Hayes, Morales (6:37), Rodriguez, Sweeney, and Van Stone.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Harkins.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent Kathleen Ouellette, Chief Academic Officer Anne Marie Cullinan (6:43), Special Advisor to Superintendent Paul Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer & Chief of Staff Paul Guidone, Attorney Maurice Mosley (6:45), and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

#### **1. SILENT PRAYER**

President Stango called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with a moment of silence.

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

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

#### **3. ROLL CALL**

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner D'Amelio.

D'AMELIO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Harkins (absent). Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Morales (arrived at 6:37 p.m.). Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Van Stone.

VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here.

#### **4. COMMUNICATIONS**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file the following communications:**

1. Copy of communication dated September 6, 2012 from James Tessitore regarding WTA Grievance 11-12-26.
2. Email communication dated September 10, 2012 from James Sanders regarding Mr. Ralph and Sheryl Lee Ralph.
3. Copy of communication dated September 11, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Lisa Antidormi for the position of Paraprofessional.
4. Copy of communication dated September 13, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Claris Barton for the position of Paraprofessional.
5. Copy of communication dated September 14, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Mary Liverman and Mary Gonzalez for the position of Paraprofessional.
6. Copy of communication dated September 17, 2012 from Civil Service certifying James Burns, Tammy Champagne, and Javauna Graham for the position of Paraprofessional.

STANGO: All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

#### **5. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to allow the public to address the Board at 6:37 p.m.**

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. All speakers are encouraged to submit prepared written statements to the Commissioners. Comments shall be limited to a maximum of three minutes. There will be no responses this evening to any questions or concerns raised; they will be referred to the Administration for review and response.

**Winifred Blanchard Ward, 79 Bouffard Avenue, had the following comments:** I'm an Associate Minister at Grace Baptist Church and I also teach and counsel there, I'm also on the Governance Council at Walsh School. And we have a few concerns as a Council; I want to just address those things to you. I notice that, I was reading the WTA contract and there were three places that referred to the 1 to 125 ratio. One of the places was in Article 8, Section 2 (c) and it talks about the recess, and I'm not gonna read the whole thing because it's long, it says that "if teachers are assigned to recess duty the teacher/student ratio shall be approximately 1 to 125". In Article 8, Section 2 (d) states that "the number of teachers required to perform bus duty at K – 5 schools, middle schools, and high schools shall be based upon a ratio of 1 to 125 except that

under temporary and extenuating circumstances, additional teachers may be assigned to perform bus duty". There's another place that reads "notwithstanding the above provision, the following schools may have up to eight bus pupil monitors due to the location of their building". It names three schools – Generali, Chase, and also Bucks Hill Elementary School. When I was reading it I wondered why Walsh School wasn't on that list but I'm sure there's a reason. Then I further read down where it says "bus and pupil monitoring duty shall be assigned by the said chief administrator of each said school. Teachers so assigned must not leave the school at the end of the school day until all pupils are placed safely on the bus and buses." For me the operative word was "safely". I found discrepancies regarding safety in our school system and I wanted to just talk about that. There was another article, 8, Section 2 (d) (iii) but I'm not gonna read that, it's long. I had an opportunity to go to Walsh School on the first day and when I went, I was running a little late so I ended up running into the buses as they were coming down Dikeman Street, coming around that little curb, there was a lot going on for that narrow, one-way street. I saw Ms. Brown trying to direct the traffic to keep it moving. And so what I did I parked away from the school around the corner and as I was walking back I saw a couple mothers dropping off their children, as I saw them dropping off their kids I saw a lot of unsafe things happening and I wanted to address that and I wondered why this Board is not helping our Superintendent Dr. Ouellette as she's trying to work things out with you regarding the safety of the school. I'm gonna stop there, three minutes go by fast as I know as a minister. Thank you for listening, God bless each of you.

**Sundae Black, 79 Blackman Road, had the following comments:** I too am here because of Walsh School, I am on the Governance Council of Walsh School and three minutes does go by fast so I'm gonna get to the point. I have a serious concern with the safety of the children and I have to express this because when you think about what this Board is put in place to do and the teachers are to do, a part of that is to educate the children and the safety of the children so when the school is operating successfully and safely with seven administrators in place to make sure these students are getting on and off the buses safely and someone comes in and drops that down to four because they're out of compliance, I have a concern with that because in any organization you will find that if you're out of compliance in an area you just don't immediately make that change, you have to take a look at what's happening with the school, with the situation, where the school is located, you have to access it, and then you have to come up with some type of plan so that you're not just all of a sudden dropping from seven to four who are monitoring these children. As Reverend Ward said, this is not an area that's safe, let's put it that way, it's not a safe area, it's a one-way street, it's a narrow street, it's a lot of kids going back and forth, either they're walking to school or being dropped off to school, there are some safety concerns there so I would employ that this Board would take a look at that and consider going to Walsh School, as a matter of fact stop by on a Friday morning, or Monday through Friday, and see what happens as these buses are going back and forth and how the teachers are trying to make sure these kids are safe. That's the one issue.

There's several other issues that I've heard about during our meetings at Walsh that I am concerned about. Another issue would be the issue with the programs that they have not received a grant for so the K – 3 literacy grant program was denied, I would ask this Board, and I know you're not answering any questions or speaking back today, but I would ask you what are you gonna do as a Board to put something in place so that

Walsh School will continue to grow? Because as I continue to hear about the different issues that are surfacing at Walsh School, I'm, I want to say is Walsh School being set up to fail? Is that the goal? Because if that's the goal we're not doing our jobs as administrators, we're not doing our jobs as a Board, so if they have certain things in place that they have proven that the children have improved and we immediately take things away such as the Supplemental Educational Services and we don't offer them grants so that they can continue to help with the literacy problem, then we have to ask ourselves "how are we helping our children"? And I think that, if I could say, that everyone on this Board is on this Board for a reason, everyone is on this Board to make sure that the education of these children in the City of Waterbury is at the best that it can be and if we're saying that that's what our goal is, then I would ask that each one of you take a look at what's happening at Walsh. They have improved, they have made some improvements within the school and if you take away all the assistance that they have then you're setting the school up to fail and I think that is a shame because then we're not looking out for the children.

**Gwen Samuel had the following comments:** I am the President and Founder of the Connecticut Parents' Union. I am here speaking for the Walsh School Governance Council, I was invited to come this evening. First, it's a pleasure to see Ms. Liz Brown, I know her from the Commission on Children, you have a strong resource that understands children across Connecticut. I ask you and I implore you to work with her cause she understands the issues of children in Connecticut and it's an honor to see you here this evening, it's the first time seeing you in the position. The goal of the Connecticut Parents' Union is to work with parents, families, and communities to protect the educational rights of children. So I'm concerned about the children's safety and well-being in Walsh Elementary School. And these are the three issues: I'm worried about the Waterbury Teachers' Union contract in regards to teachers' duties because there is nothing that sounds so irresponsible as having anything that has a student teacher ratio of 1 to 125. So no matter how you spin this if a child has an asthma attack, if a school is experiencing bullying, if a child is being beaten up somewhere, or there is an emergency or you have an evacuation plan, we have so much going on in our country, in our state, that if there's an emergency I cannot imagine that one teacher is going to be able to manage and move and maneuver children safely. So you're going to, I'm asking you to put the needs of children first, work with the teachers' union to ensure that when contracts are designed they're designed with the students and the children in mind because each school has different autonomy, different needs whether you have a preschool and the needs of preschool children, whether you have middle school and the needs of middle school children, or we have needs of high school or alternative settings or special needs or autistic. It cannot be cookie-cutter contracts to meet the needs of children.

Number two, Walsh did not get the K – 3 literacy grant, we understand that. But we, as a state, you has a city, and you as Board members, and you as individual educators are still responsible to ensure that the children get their needs met. We cannot raise achievement and reduce the gaps just because you didn't get the grant. That means we're gonna still have to create an alternate plan to ensure that the needs of children get met. So I am here to lend my services to not only to Walsh Elementary School but to school governance councils throughout the City of Waterbury because I understand we say that School Governance Councils are glorified PTA's and they're just an advisory roles, but the bottom line is we have to work together as parents, as

community, as faith leaders, and as educators to ensure that the needs of children are met, that's not a negotiable conversation. The question is what are we going to do to ensure that the needs are met?

In regards to support supplemental services, Walsh is the lowest performing school in this City. That shouldn't stop us from still doing our job. They're increasing, they're having marginal gains but they're making gains so we need to make sure the school has the proper resources and supports so that the gains can continue to be made. And so I have to agree with the School Governance Councils, if you don't support the needs of children then you have to wonder are there alternative methods going in place? I know it's ending, I want to believe that every person here has the needs and the rights of children first. So I'm here to lend our support to ensure that the schools are successful in Waterbury, that Walsh is successful, and that every student in the school is successful. So please, again, don't look at cookie-cutter molds to address the needs of the children, you look at each individual school and each individual child as an individual. Thank you.

**Heather Brown, WSMS, Teaching Vice Principal had the following comments:** My Principal has asked me to speak on behalf of her, Maria Burns, she is unable to attend this evening's meeting because of her own student's open house tonight. She would like to extend an invitation to all of you to West Side Middle School's Fourth Annual Community Day Celebration. As a CommPACT School, our staff has put together an exciting event to kick off the new school year with a community celebration which includes musical performances by our students, art activities, games, and a book share. I believe in front of each of you there is a tri-fold that gives a little more information out the Community Day. This year we'll have a special ribbon-cutting ceremony for our new nature walk. If you have not had the opportunity to go back to our nature walk it's absolutely beautiful, giving our students an extension of the classroom out in the woods behind the school, it's absolutely beautiful. This nature walk, which was made possible by the generosity of the POTE Foundation and Mr. Don Carver of the City's Waterbury Department. Please join us on Saturday, October 13, 2012, from ten to two. Sincerely, Maria Burns. Again, she does regret that she could not attend. Thank you very much.

**Karol Washington, 24 Coach Drive, had the following comments:** I'm going to be short and brief. I just want to just ask you from your hearts and your minds, you're voting on a very important thing today, very important. And I just want to say whatever you heard in the news media or whatever, please ignore that because Satan always has to step in and just try to ruin everything. But guess what, it's not going to destroy our destiny, not this family, but it hurted, it really hurted, the dirt that was brought out and shame on the Waterbury Republican, the reporter, and he knows that, I had words with him. I'm just praying earnestly that from your heart you take a look at what you're voting, okay. Don't do it because Jim is voting for this one and that one, do it from here because it's time for a big change in the City of Waterbury. It's a little late, but we need a big change and I trust in this Board, okay. That's all I have to say. God bless you.

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:52 p.m.**

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

## **6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following report:*

Twenty-two of our students have had art work published in a book called *Celebrating Art*, as part of an international online art contest featuring the works of students from throughout the United States and Canada. Two of the students received special recognition for high merit. All of the students' art work was submitted for consideration by their teacher, Suzanne Dionne, of Rotella.

Jade Gopie will represent Wilby High School at the 2012 "Education Nation" National Summit at the New York Public Library this Sunday with Brian Williams. This will be a live broadcast focused on solutions teachers employ to help the nation's youth. You may recall that Jade Gopie was the teacher who participated in the Exxon Mobil public service announcement about the National Math and Science Initiative and Project Opening Doors two years ago.

At a special luncheon held in Middletown last Friday, Community Liaison Gladys Johnson Wright and four others from around the state were recognized for their forty plus years of support for Title I parent involvement with Certificates of Congressional Recognition signed by Congressman John B. Larson. Among the other honorees was Isabella Brown, who served on Waterbury's Title I District Parent Advisory Council as a parent volunteer several years ago and who has continued to volunteer on a state level in support of Title I programs.

Reviewers for NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young People, have completed their review of the Buck's Hill Pre-K Program Annual Report submitted to them, and have notified the district that the Buck's Hill Pre-K Program continues to maintain its NAEYC Accreditation, a mark of excellence in Pre-K programming that our parents are looking for and our students deserve. We congratulate all of the district staff that work as part of that program.

National Hispanic Heritage Month began Saturday, September 15th, and will continue through Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Waterbury Public Schools have traditionally celebrated this month by inviting students to learn about Hispanic heritage in different ways. This year, Bilingual Education Supervisor Adela Jorge-Nelson, Language Arts Supervisor Patricia Moran, and Social Studies Supervisor Michael Harris have collaborated on developing a variety of optional activities for students of all ages. First, High School and Middle School students are invited to write an essay about a person of Hispanic descent who has made a positive impact on our country. Or, High School and Middle School students may complete a Report about a Hispanic country, highlighting various elements of the country's culture. The work that is completed by each student must show evidence of research. Alternatively, high school and middle school students may also choose to create a Poster based on the National Hispanic Heritage Month Theme "Diversity United, Building America's Future Today." Selected Poster entries will be displayed, and one will be featured on next year's celebration invitation. Younger students in elementary schools may work as individuals, small groups, or as a class on their optional Hispanic Heritage Month projects. They may either write their version of a

Hispanic folktale they read during their Literacy Block at school, or create a poem in response to something they read about Hispanic Heritage Month, or they may even choose to create a report or project about famous Hispanic people or Hispanic countries. The due date for these submissions is Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. After receiving the Hispanic Heritage Month student submissions, the Supervisors will assure that there is a piece of student work from each school displayed at the Chase Building, and selected students will represent their schools at a ceremony celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Brass Mill Center will be announcing the start of this year's My School's Cool promotion in the next few days. The program will officially begin on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup> with all receipts from stores or restaurants in the mall or Brass Mill Commons shopping plaza to count. Once again, the total dollar amount of receipts and other incentives will be divided by the number of students so that all schools are competing on an equitable basis. You may recall that last year, Bucks Hill Pre-K at the Annex was the big winner, receiving a total of \$10,000 for their efforts. Sprague School was the second place winner earning \$3,000. And State Street School claimed third place and \$2,000. Eleven other schools each received \$ 500.

Please be reminded that the dedication ceremony for Jonathan Reed School is scheduled for Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

## **7. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

STANGO: The dedication of our newest school, the Jonathan E. Reed School, will be held on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 in the afternoon. The dedication will be followed by refreshments and tours of the building until four. The public is invited to attend. I just want to say that now so if any viewers are watching this, as it's shown through the week and next week, I want everyone to be aware of this and I certainly know that this Board invites the public to come and enjoy the day. Thank you very much.

Does anyone wish to remove an item from the Consent Calendar?

HARVEY: Item 8.1.

STANGO: Item 8.1 is removed from the Consent Calendar.

*President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 8.2 through 8.8.*

## **8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 8.2 through 8.8 as listed:**

8.2 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to the Kiwanis Club of Waterbury to hold

their annual Snack Sale during the period of October 9 through 23, 2012, subject to review by the Director of Food Service.

8.3 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the ED049R for the Carrington Elementary School Project, as attached.

8.4 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to the following to apply for the 2012-13 Target Field Trip Grant:

- Sprague School/Patricia Deer
- Driggs School/Heather Wilson
- Bucks Hill School/Angela Razza and Tina Taylor
- Bucks Hill School/Angela Razza and Jessica Gerrish

8.5 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to apply for the Connecticut State Department of Education's 2012-13 Quality Enhancement Grant for the School Readiness Program.

8.6 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Professional Services Agreement, with the following agencies, for Sub-grantee Services under the School Readiness and Child Day Care Grant for grant years 2011-13:

Ark I & II	Catholic Charities
Children's Center	Children's Community
Easter Seals – All Kids	F. R. C.
Kid's Town	New Opportunities, Inc.
NVCC	Rainbow Academy
St. Mary's Hospital	Waterbury Public Schools
Waterbury Youth Services System, Inc.	YMCA

8.7 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities & Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities by school organizations and/or City departments, as listed.

8.8 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities & Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities by outside organizations and/or waiver requests, as listed.

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

## **9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

8.1 **Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Morales, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the request of Karol Washington to name the Cafetorium (Café/Auditorium) of the Reed School in honor of Stanley Lee Ralph.**



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

HARVEY: Roll call vote please.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #8.1:**

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, D'Amelio, Harvey, Hayes, Morales, Rodriguez, Stango, Sweeney, Van Stone, and President Stango.

**10. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 10.1 through 10.8, Superintendent's Notification to the Board, as listed:**

10.1 Athletic resignations effective immediately:

Bao, Jamie – Head Soccer Coach, NEMS.  
Maffuid, Tom – Football Coach, WHS.  
Russo, Pat – Head Football Coach, WHS.  
Steinfeld, Kara – Head Cheerleading Coach, KHS.

10.2 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:

DelDebbio, Amy – Instructional Tutor, WAMS's Read 180 Program, 18 hours p/week, 10 months per year, \$32.00 p/hour, no benefits.  
Franceskino, Jennifer – 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Grant, downtown Academy.  
Moffo, Rosemarie – Parent Liaison, Generali School (currently Office Aide), 180 days per year, 30 hours per week @ \$15.12 p/hour, non-union position with benefits governed by the SEIU Agreement.  
Tavares Carpenter, Sarah – CPEP Program Coordinator (replacing Joseph Perrucci) NEMS, nine months p/y @ \$150 p/m stipend, funded by Priority School Grant.

10.3 NEMS STEM After School Program appointments, 10 hours per week at appropriate union rate, effective immediately:

*Program Administrator:* Michael LoRusso  
*Data Clerk:* Heidi Greguoli  
*Teachers:* Grace Halloran, Miriam Wilson, Yvonne Borque, Michael Pannoni, Charles Vaughan, Jason Martinez (2 days), Mary Colgan (2 days)  
*Paraprofessionals:* Leslie DePaulo, Robin Andrikis, Nydia Solla (sub)

10.4 Teacher transfers:

Liebman, Jennifer – Library Media Specialist, from Wilson/Regan Schools to Chase School, effective 2012/13 school year.

10.5 Teacher new hires:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Step</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Bennett, Tania	State Street	Special Ed	6 <sup>th</sup> /1	9/11/2012
Calabrese, Tina	DW	Elem. Guidance	MA/1	8/30/2012
Defeo, Dawn	Maloney	Spec Ed Pre-k	6 <sup>th</sup> /1	9/17/2012
Della Calce, Anthony	NEMS	Gr 8 Math	BA+15/1	8/27/2012
Dillon, Katelyn	Generali	Speech	6 <sup>th</sup> /1	9/6/2012

Dorlini, Jennifer	Gilmartin	K	MA/1	8/31/2012
Erdmann, Jeffrey	Hopeville	Music	MA/1	10/1/12
Gernat, Jillian	WSMS	Special Ed	MA/1	9/6/2012
Harrison, Paul	WHS	Math	MA/1	8/23/2012
Hudobenko, Tanya	WSMS	English/LA	BA/1	9/6/2012
Maghini, Michele	Sprague	Kindergarten	MA/1	8/27/2012
Murray, Mary K	Driggs	Grade 5	BA/1	9/10/2012
Phelan, Kyle	Gilmartin	Math	BA+15/1	8/27/2012
Velodota, Danielle	Chase	Grade 5	BA/1	8/29/2012
Welch, Kristen	WHS	Math	BA/1	8/24/2012

10.6 Retirements:

Fuller, Donald – Driggs School grade 5, effective 08/31/12.

Gardino, David – Supervisor of Music, effective 08/31/12.

10.7 Resignations:

Difabbio, Ronald – Enlightenment Teacher, effective 08/30/12.

Drechsler, Jennifer – Bucks Hill Pre-k Teacher, effective 08/01/12.

Holley, Fornita – State Street Special Education, effective 08/31/12.

Schepis, Lori Ann – Generali Special Ed, effective 08/31/12 (new hire who rescinded contract).

Shapiro, Jan – CHS Special Education, effective 09/07/12.

Tacchi, Justin – WSMS Reading/LA, effective 08/31/12 (new hire who rescinded contract).

10.8 Adult Education appointment effective 09/21/12:

Schenck, Barbara – CNA Substitute, as needed @ \$32 p/hour.

STANGO: Motion is made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries. Item #11 – Unfinished Business from the Preceding Meeting Only. Item #12 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Two things. Is the Governance Council still here? I will be there tomorrow morning to observe. I haven't been there in awhile, that early in the morning, but I will be there tomorrow morning to observe what is occurring with the buses and I will make notes and if there's anything particular you want me to pay attention to just let me know.

Second, Hispanic Heritage Month. I know for Black History Month we have a calendar of events so that the Commissioners can visit the schools. I don't know if anyone is here that can say we will get that same type of document. Is it possible for us to receive a schedule so that we can attend the events for Hispanic Heritage Month?

GUIDONE: Sure.

STANGO: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Just to follow up on what was mentioned tonight by the Governance Council. I would like to have the Superintendent report back to us on what's happened with regard to cutting, there was a statement that we went from seven to four people out watching. And I know that the literacy program, I'm sure she has something else in mind for that. I don't know, Dr. Ouellette, would you like to give us a little update on what was said tonight, the safety issues at Walsh School?

SUPERINTENDENT: Yes. Currently we're in negotiations with the WTA. Mr. Frost is, Mr. Guidone could also, although we have to be very careful, this is a bargaining unit issue and I'd have to make this private. There's been ongoing discussions, I've been down to Walsh School myself, I understand their concerns and we're trying to rectify the situation as soon as possible. Perhaps, we've offered issuing stipends as of yet have not been accepted and I know Mr. Guidone has issued the assistance of traffic control and the Police Department as well with regards to Walsh. I don't have the details, it's been prior to my arrival, with regards to why three schools were only named in the contract, but perhaps Mr. Guidone will want to add more information with regards to that.

HAYES: I assume Chase and Generali is because of the traffic. Was the other school Bucks Hill or Bunker Hill?

GUIDONE: It is Bucks and I was surprised when I looked at it. I don't think anybody has to ask about Chase or Generali. But just to support what the Superintendent said, we're aware of the situation, we're actively discussing it, and I have personally requested of the Deputy Chief of Police to have police officers monitor both the arrival and dismissal of the school and give us some recommendations and advice on what they consider are any safety issues and of course we'll work cooperatively with them. They were very responsive to me and will be there next week.

HAYES: What about going from seven to four? Is that simply in the past there was seven and now there's four?

SUPERINTENDENT: That was an agreed upon arrangement I believe with Walsh staff for some reason, I don't understand...

HAYES: Why it was reduced?

SUPERINTENDENT: Yea, at this point in time. I believe, you know, because it's not in the contract we're adjusting it and we certainly, again, we need to negotiate with WTA and I'd hate to do that publically to be honest with you. But as soon as we rectify the situation we'd be happy to share that.

HAYES: I just thought it should be clear. There was some idea that the Board got involved and cut back and all that kind of stuff.

SUPERINTENDENT: No, no.

HAYES: It appears that because of the language of 1 to 125, they have 600 kids there and now we have four, where in the past there may have been others that were willing to do it and now it appears that they're not.

SUPERINTENDENT: Correct. There is exactly that happening. They volunteered, there's contract language, so it's a very complicated issue and we're trying to rectify it as soon as we can.

GUIDONE: As usual we're open to the issue and there's nothing more important than safety to us.

SUPERINTENDENT: Exactly. We have to honor the contract. If we have to amend that contract then that's what we have to do. We certainly understand the contract language and safety is of utmost important to us.

HAYES: There was another statement that the Board is not working with you to resolve this issue.

SUPERINTENDENT: I didn't get that impression Commissioner, at all, I love my Board.

STANGO: That is why I read the disclaimer every night and it says "there will be no response this evening to questions or concerns raised". It gives the Superintendent, it gives Central Office, it gives us time to digest what was said. The Superintendent can prepare, the Superintendent then apprise us of the situation. I know that we are all anxious to get the situation resolved, and we will, but the Superintendent, in all honesty, needs time to prepare her response and that's why we go that route.

HAYES: I understand but I think this is under New Business, it came up to us, and I think we should be able to raise, it isn't like I'm answering a question, I had questions raised, the answers of which I don't know and I just thought the Superintendent could tell us what she knows at this point

SUPERINTENDENT: And to be honest I'm not personally involved with the negotiations of this and we need to be careful because it is collective bargaining and I would caution the Board on conducting that in a public forum. But I assure you we will move on this as quickly as we can.

STANGO: Please be aware that Central Office is, and Superintendent, is on top of it as we witnessed every time a speaker came up the Superintendent went directly from her table to that speaker to make an initial contact. And further contact will be made.

SUPERINTENDENT: Actually, about that, I was glad they brought it up too; they need to voice their concerns. But there were other parts of their speeches that I wanted to make sure they had accurate information. So I invited them all to have tea with me next week...

STANGO: Are you inviting us also?

SUPERINTENDENT: You certainly are welcome Mr. President, I will get the cookies. Just to clarify because it's important to be strong advocates for Walsh School and for our community, but it's also so important to have the correct facts, the accurate facts.

STANGO: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Just in regards to the grant that didn't come through. That was a new pilot grant offered by the State this year, correct.

SUPERINTENDENT: Correct.

SWEENEY: We haven't cut a program because we didn't get a grant.

SUPERINTENDENT: No we have not, we did not.

SWEENEY: We did not get a grant that would have given us an additional program that we don't currently have, we didn't cut it.

SUPERINTENDENT: No, we have not.

SWEENEY: And in terms of SES, I know we talked about this early on...

SUPERINTENDENT: We are not cutting any support programs.

SWEENEY: The SES program, it just means that we don't have to go with the model that the State had before where we had to use their companies, we will have something in place of that.

SUPERINTENDENT: Correct. There's just that little bit of, it's not totally accurate, so I just want to make sure that folks who took the time to address the Board and myself this evening continue to advocate for our students but have the right information, the correct information. So I'd like to sit with them personally, I want to go over what's the Commissioners' Network, what's the Alliance, the document is huge with regards to all reform so I want to make sure they have a clear understanding. We've applied for everything, the State has been very supportive actually, they supported the Family Resource Center, so maybe they're saying too, Waterbury, you can't take it all. I will sit with you certainly and clarify that.

SWEENEY: I just want to say personally I'm glad that we don't have to be under that thumb of the State with the SES. I never approved of how that program ran, I never approved of the results that we got from it, and I've said all along that we could do a better job with that. I think that for us it's going to be a plus that we don't have to follow that model any more. I'm happy about that.

SUPERINTENDENT: I want to comment because I know, we will be conducting curriculum audits, the Chief Academic Officer will be doing that and we've had some discussions and truthfully literacy is at the forefront and the pre-k – three. So stay tuned.

STANGO: Any further Unfinished or New or Miscellaneous Business? Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: I just want to give kudos to Duggan School and the Brooklyn Community and all the partners who helped develop and implement this wonderful memorial to the 1955 Flood victims. I encourage everybody to go by and see it, it's so well done. The ceremony was very moving, there were actually people there, relatives of people and they gave really, it was a true partnership, community partnership. I especially wanted to thank Paul Guidone and President Stango for their personal advocacy and role in it and the Park Department. It was just like this great collaboration and I think it's

something to be proud of. We had delicious Brooklyn Bakery donuts, that was the highlight. It was a great event and thank you to everybody who made that possible.

I just had a question as we moved forward, Superintendent, I know a lot of this stuff we have to approve and so forth but I would like to see some of your reporting be more of the meat of what's going on in our schools. And I know it's the beginning of the year but I almost would like to see how's attendance, how are we doing, kind of like if there was a way that we could get more of an understanding of what is being implemented and kind of, you know, how are the kids doing. I think, and I'm so glad that the parents came tonight, but these are the kinds of things we want to make sure we address and don't let fester and if things are happening we really want to know. So, you know, I know it's new in the year, I know we're gonna have our count on October 1, and we're implementing a lot of the Alliance components. I think maybe even a quarterly report of kind of how we're doing would be good which is so much information but I think the public, we want to know kind of how are the kids doing, where are we going with the teachers and what's happening. So I, for one, would like to have a little bit more substance about how the kids are doing at some point. I don't know whether that's report card time or something like that. Just something to think about.

SUPERINTENDENT: I thank you for that suggestion and I guess I'm following procedures in the past and I'm always willing to change. But the Superintendent's Report also I think shall be comprehensive with regards to large presentations that are forthcoming. For an example, at the next Workshop, you will see "CMT's". You won't see it under the "Superintendent's Report" but that's a comprehensive presentation. The second one after that you will see the "CAPT". After that you will see the "Alliance". So everything's strategically placed and I guess perhaps maybe the Superintendent shouldn't report out unless there's really substantial information in the report then.

BROWN: I don't mean that. I think it's great information and I enjoy hearing it all but I think going to that next level, which obviously you thought about...

SUPERINTENDENT: Absolutely.

BROWN: Is perfect. We don't want to not hear about all of this stuff.

SUPERINTENDENT: And I have some suggestions with regards to the agenda and how we prepare the agenda because you're right, my experience has been, as past Superintendent in another district, the Consent Calendar just goes and then the Superintendent's report is presentations, really meat and potatoes as you referenced to. I'm not used to or accustomed to this so I'm following procedures but making sure we're weaving into all those workshops substantial presentations. My thinking on that, and I'm still struggling with a Workshop versus a Board of Education meeting because I'm used to long Board of Education meetings where big presentations, a lot of questioning, drill and grill with regards to CMT's. My understanding and my mentoring with this approach has been that you really dive into a lot of detail at your Workshops and you streamline your Board Meetings. I'd be certainly welcome to go to those long Board of Ed meetings; I'm used to them, and to be able to present those. So that's my understanding of how Workshops work versus Board of Ed. If you notice, I've been trying to take the Superintendent's Report off of both, just to, so we don't, I certainly can adjust this the way you'd like.

HAYES: My only comment to that as someone who before I was on the Board, I appreciate the way we do business because at our Committee Workshops the public gets to hear that discussion, then they've got a week to digest it, to contact us, to ask questions, and then speak about it at our meetings as opposed to combining it all, if it's put in front of them the same night they don't know what to speak to. I know the Board of Aldermen finally moved to doing a workshop but they're still doing it the same night. To me this was really helpful to me, as a parent, I found out that the Workshops were where I should go and I only went to the meetings when I knew something was going the way I didn't want it to go and I'd bring a bunch of people with me like they're doing. So I think the way we have it set up with the committees first does allow the public to hear what we're saying, what we're thinking, and then respond to it prior to us voting; I like that. And I think, what Commissioner Brown, there's a couple of things, in particular for me, Commissioner Theriault used to always give us all these attendance reports. I think with attendance maybe a monthly report on how we're doing on our attendance. And the only other thing I think I asked about, I know I asked about, was a report on any issues with our new, I still call it discipline code – safe school, healthy climate, whatever that is. But I'd like to know if there's been any issues with that, with the changes. I haven't heard of any.

SUPERINTENDENT: If I report something, it's in the report, it means you need to hear about it and the public needs to hear about it. I think in my opening remarks the first week or two of school I indicated in speaking with principals, especially at the secondary level, there were minimal issues. If I don't report out it's probably not worth mentioning. If it was, I certainly would bring it to your attention.

STANGO: Any others? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: One other thing I forgot to mention and that is tomorrow evening at the Mount Olive AME Zion Church there will be a reception for our new teachers that will begin at 5:00 p.m. It will run from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. So the public is invited and I hope that folks will come out and welcome our new teachers. Thank you.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:19 p.m.**

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