

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Waterbury Arts Magnet School, 16 South Elm Street, Waterbury, Connecticut

PRESENT: President Stango, Commissioners Brown, D'Amelio, Flaherty-Merritt, Harkins, Harvey, Hayes, Morales, Sweeney, and Van Stone.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Ouellette, Assistant Superintendents Cullinan and Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, School Business Administrator Paul Mazzaccaro, and Attorney Maurice Mosley.

1. SILENT PRAYER

President Stango called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. with a moment of silence.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mrs. Hill led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner D'Amelio.

D'AMELIO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Harkins.

HARKINS: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Morales.

MORALES: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Van Stone.

VAN STONE: Here.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Copy of communication dated April 17, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Carmen McClain for the position of Paraprofessional.
2. Copy of communication dated April 19, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Lori Polleta for the position of Paraprofessional.
3. Copy of communication dated April 23, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Ashley Vance for the position of Paraprofessional.
4. Copy of communication dated April 27, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Sharon Romano for the position of Food Service Helper.

STANGO: All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Special Committee Meeting of January 6, 2011, Committee Meeting of January 10, 2011, Rescheduled Regular Meeting of January 19, 2011, Committee Meeting of January 24, 2011, Regular Meeting of January 31, 2011, Committee Meeting of February 7, 2011, Special Meeting of February 7, 2011, Regular Meeting of February 14, 2011, Special Meeting of March 29, 2012, Committee Meeting of March 29, 2012, Regular Meeting of April 5, 2012, Rescheduled Committee Meeting of April 19, 2012, and Regular Meeting of April 19, 2012.

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

6. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to allow the public to address the Board at 6:42 p.m.

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

Mayor Neil M. O'Leary had the following comments: Thank you, Mr. President. Commissioners, members of the public, Alderman Brunelli, thank you for being here. I just wanted to announce to you, if you haven't already heard, and of course Dr.

Ouellette was notified this morning, the City of Waterbury has been selected by Governor Malloy to be the beneficiary of the GEAR UP Program which is an acronym and the acronym stands for “Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs”. It’s a grant that Naugatuck Valley has applied for; Naugatuck Valley Community College has applied for, for several years in the past, however, this year it was awarded. It’s a seven year grant which is broken down to 1.7 million dollars per year which will total 11.2 million over the seven years to help prepare middle and high school students for post-secondary education. I have some notes here. GEAR UP will begin providing academic support to students in sixth and seventh grade and continue guiding them through high school graduation. The goals are to provide early intervention, a seamless diagnostic test system, academic advising and academic and social support to increase the likelihood of middle school, high school and college completion.

According to NVCC research, over 75% of students matriculating to the College test into remedial courses, indicating disconnect between the requirements for high school graduation and the skills required to successfully navigate college-level course work.

GEAR UP will be offered to all sixth and seventh grade students at North End Middle School, Wallace Middle School and West Side Middle School, approximately 2,550 students total, to develop academic and social support and college expectations. The students will continue in the program over the course of the seven-year grant to high school graduation.

The grant will fund a full-time program coordinator, three full-time on-site academic advisors for each middle school, part-time teacher advisors to coordinate after-school programs and mentors/tutors to assist. The program will also be aided by NVCC-Waterbury AmeriCorps volunteer mentors.

Each year, students will take the Accuplacer diagnostic tests to gauge reading comprehension, sentence skills and arithmetic and elementary algebra units and detect academic needs. Based on the results, each student will work one-on-one with an academic advisor to establish an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) for advising, mentoring and guidance toward college and career goals. Students will retake the Accuplacer at the end of each school year to determine the effectiveness of the intervention.

Based on students’ academic year performance, 600 out of the 2,550 students in the original cohort will be invited to accept “scholarships” to attend the five-week GEAR UP summer component where they will take English, math and science in the morning and participate in a work-based learning project in the afternoon. The Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (WIB) has also pledged to provide eligible participants with priority admission for summer youth work experience as well as work readiness/career skills training workshops. One day per week, the students will visit the NVCC campus for cultural, academic or social enrichment activities.

In the eleventh grade, students will be expected to enroll in a minimum of 3 credits at NVCC per semester resulting in high school seniors graduating with a minimum of 12 earned college credits. So this is quite a big deal, it really is, and my compliments are to Naugatuck Valley Community College, in particular, to President DeFilippis and her staff

for being persistent in applying for this grant. And to be clear, this is to support our already, support our mentoring system that's already in place. It certainly is an opportunity for our students to have more hands-on experience. Certainly, as you heard in the message, the message is clear; any student who wants to go to college should be given an opportunity to advance to that level. And this is directed to do exactly that. As you can see by the size of the grant, 1.7 million dollars a year for seven years, the State of Connecticut, the State Board of Education, and, of course, this Board of Education, I hope, understands that this is quite an opportunity that has been given to the City of Waterbury. So we're very grateful. On behalf of myself and the Board of Education, the Board of Aldermen, this is quite an opportunity to enrich our students' abilities for college. We're thrilled about it. So I just wanted to announce it here in case you haven't heard it. It will be all over the papers tomorrow and probably on the news tonight. Thanks everybody, have a great night.

Dr. Phyllis Connors, 172 Country Club Road, had the following comments: I'm here tonight to present the gifts to the officials in the Central Office and the Board of Education from Shandong Province Department of Education and Qingdao Experimental Primary School and the Qingdao Junior High School. I had to get an extra suitcase to bring them all back. I must admit, I did peek, so I will tell what they are ahead and give you a short explanation. For every Board member we have a silk friendship knot that is completed in one cord. I will pass them out to you. I also chose a verse from the Dao, different ones to fit each person. I hope that is satisfactory. The first gift is a beautiful porcelain desk set from the Qingdao Experimental Primary School for Dr. Ouellette. The second gift is to Dr. Paul Sequeira, I peeked. It is rare tea all boxed up in a casket. Many thanks were sent to both Dr. Ouellette and Dr. Sequeira for all their support in enabling the Chinese to bring 75 children from China with 10 of their teachers in January. The Chinese people were extraordinary gracious to us and very hospitable, and made a tremendously interesting visit for us in China. I must take a little time to present the third gift to Mr. Paul Guidone who was absolutely the driving force behind the children coming from China to here and enabling the entire program to go forward. I have to make a few remarks about his gift. It is the Chinese Imperial Turtle, made of jade. The Imperial Turtle stands guard in front of the Imperial Palace inside the Forbidden City. It is a symbol of long life and infinite wisdom and is considered to be the geometric pattern for forms of Feng Shui. So for Mr. Guidone... the Imperial Turtle. For Mayor O'Leary, we have the friendship knot because he is a member of the Board of Education in some way, shape, and form, lots of forms. And for the rest of the members of the Board of Education, the Friendship Knot, formed of silk and one thread. Your explanation is attached, including its symbolism origin. It is with many, many thanks that I give this to, in gratitude for the wonderful program that you have supported for Carrington School and with the hope that all of you sitting here can go forward on another trip to China. So if you can do "the Lewis and Clark" you can see for yourself what we are missing and what we want to create in the future. Many, many thanks to all of you.

STANGO: Thank you Dr. Connors. I'm hoping this is a new tradition and all our speakers bring gifts.

Sarah Shatas, Cara Guerin, and Molly Gamache – Waterbury Arts Magnet School students, had the following comments:

MOLLY GAMACHE: I would like to thank the President of the Board of Education, the Commissioners of the Board, and the Superintendent of Schools for this opportunity to speak in front of you all today and share our journey to Costa Rica. Hello ladies and gentlemen, my name is Molly and this is Cara and Sarah. We are a few of the sophomores that attended the Theater/Language Club Costa Rica trip 2012. Now many schools usually pick European trips like Spain or Italy, like we have done in the past, well this year we decided to try something new, so why not Costa Rica? Not only was this trip eye-opening and insightful, but we were hands-on in the rainforest experiencing nature that we had only read about in books. I never dreamed I'd be kayaking down a river in the rainforest or swimming near a waterfall feeling the pulse of the waves. It was a trip of a lifetime and every day was filled with new adventures and experiences. By the end of each day we were tired but we were ready to do it all again the next day at 6:00 a.m. sharp. I think it is safe to say we have all tried something new on this trip like going zip-lining or as simple as one of our peers, Amber, flying for the first time. We now have a slide show to present.

CARA GUERIN: Hi, I'm Cara, and this is a slideshow of our first day in San Jose. We arrived half-way through the day and we got to spend the rest of the time touring the City. The first top picture is, we were there on Good Friday so we got to see a very cultural experience with the Parade of the Resurrection of Jesus. It was really interesting to see and we have never experienced anything like that before. There's a picture of the Cathedral in San Jose. We didn't get to go inside but it was an experience to see the parade outside of it.

This was day two; we got to go see the Poas Volcano outside of San Jose. We were lucky enough to see the crater of the volcano before it smoked up and we also went to the Biodiversity Reserve where we got to apply our biology class experience to understand the photosynthesis and all the leaves and we got to see butterflies. And one of the things our tour guide told us while we were there was if a butterfly landed on you it was seven years of good luck. So we took that into consideration.

And this was our third day, this was one of my favorite days, we were able to go kayaking on Arenal Lake and then we got to go swimming in, we got to see the La Fortuna Waterfall and we got to go swimming at the base of the falls. That was probably one of the best experiences of my life to go see that. We had to climb down 400 steps to kayak but it was worth it climbing back up.

SARAH SHATAS: I'm Sarah, and I'm gonna describe day four which is when we went to plant trees where they would like to make another forest so they can block wind from the areas that they don't want wind. So we each planted a tree to help this effort. And we also went to a school to experience how the Costa Rican children go to school. They danced for us and they showed us some of their cultural dances. And afterward, we got to play out in their field with them which we played soccer which is one of their main sports.

On day five we went to a nature reserve and we went zip-lining which was one of my favorite days. At the nature reserve we saw lots of insects, we learned about fruits that aren't edible but they're very important to Costa Rica, and we saw some very interesting trees and animals. On one of the pictures there's a, we saw a centipede and when it feels harmed it curls up into a ball and I thought that was very interesting. When we

went zip-lining, we all got strapped in and we got to zip-line over the rainforest and over fields. I don't know how high we were but we were a few hundred feet high and you would go very fast and it was really cool. One thing we did was we did the Tarzan swing and you jumped off a ledge and you got to be like Tarzan, it was really awesome, it was a really fun day.

Day six was our crocodile and bird tour and our night at the beach. On the crocodile and bird tour, the man giving the tour, would get out of the boat and feed the crocodiles right in front of us, it was really dangerous but really interesting to watch. And at the beach we saw the sunset of a lifetime and found sand dollars which was an awesome experience for souvenirs that you didn't have to pay for.

MOLLY: On day seven, we spent the whole day at the beach. We got up bright and early and we traveled by bus to where we were going and then hiked up a path to get to the beach. There we kind of just relaxed the whole day but it wasn't just a regular beach, it was on the Pacific and we saw the white faced howler monkey, which is the picture in the middle. We saw an iguana and we were told we were supposed to pack up our food on the beach but someone didn't and a raccoon stole their food which was pretty funny to watch. When we went swimming the whole day and we found kind of like a coral reef and we were able to see different kinds of fish under there and it was pretty amazing. I got pretty bad sunburn but that was my favorite day.

And then day eight was the last day and most of the day we traveled but by the time we got to San Jose again it was packed and we got to see what San Jose was like when there was like people because the first day went to San Jose it was Good Friday and the whole street was just, there was no one there. And we got to go to a folk dance that night, which was amazing. We saw traditional dances and at the end they showed the Costa Rican flag and we also had to say goodbye to the friends that we made from Washington State because they were also with the tour with us and we hopefully made friends to last a lifetime. I have to admit we had a lot of fun and tons of laughs. We got to see how other people lived and how different and similar to other parts of the world.

And then finally, day nine, we got back to America. Thank you.

STANGO: Thank you ladies for that report. We're very happy you came here to present that. And I'm very, very happy that you said we had fun because I'm a true believer that when you learn you should also be having fun. Thank you for that.

Mrs. Hill had the following comments: I don't know how I'm gonna follow those students but I'm gonna do the best I can. Good evening Superintendent Ouellette and all Board members of the Board of Education. I'm here tonight to let you know, as many of you may already be aware, this district recently presented a very educational presentation on bullying. I'm sure if you missed it, you can contact one of the principals, check with one of your fellow Board members, or someone that did attend and you will find the students and staff, it was an awesome presentation, to say the least. As some of the Board members are aware, my concerns have always been to try to stop bullying for any child, period. This awareness with this presentation on bullying was not a homerun; it was a grand-slam. Often times this Board is criticized too much about money that you spend on our children's education or you ask yourself why does schools need an assembly for bullying, the policy covers it. The fact is, Waterbury is known to

give its children the best and I believe this Board is doing that, as the former Board members tried to do. I'm sure no school called to ask for money for the Kleenex used at that presentation. I'm positive children who have held their pain in, telling no one how they felt, not even a staff member, was helped that day. I am positive of that. I'm sure they now know that the community, the staff, and everyone will hear them. I'm sure 99 percent of students at the presentation I was at were very educated that the message is bullying does stop now. The award of this presentation is knowing the difference it will make in our schools. As I was leaving the building, two students in front of me were speaking down the hallway, and this is not a bad thing, one said to the other I'm never gonna bother another child again. How priceless is that? I want to thank you for always putting our children first when you make your votes. Sometimes you don't think you make a difference because things are going to get tighter, but you are making a difference and remembers that. I'm asking, along with other bullying sessions currently held at our schools, to find a way to bring this presenter back year after year after year so that there is no victim out there in silence. No child who is a victim of bullying shall have to live in silence. If you attended, you could feel the pain of what bullying does. These victims live and suffer with it along with their families but Waterbury has the resources, fortunately, somehow, thank God you find them, to help our children and I can tell you, and many of you know I've been here speaking, I've often been stopped at grocery stores and they say oh, you're the voice for bullying, in a positive way. This has been the best thing that Waterbury has done for bullying in the district. I have been coming to meetings, I don't know at least four years, maybe five, I've stopped counting, and I do think it makes a difference . . . people tell me oh, the Board doesn't listen, I think you do listen. What is the solution? I don't think any of us has a guarantee on the answer but I can say this, if we helped one child in just one school, and this was held in many schools in the district, we made that difference, you, every one of you Board members made that different. Not just because I was here over the years, but because you cared and you found the money to get this presenter back. And I hope the school that I was at that taped it, we can put it on Channel 16 once a month to let people know that, maybe moving into the district, that we will not accept this in Waterbury. If your child is going through it, Waterbury will help them, the school has resources, the district has resources. If further resources are needed they're there, Waterbury has them. I'm also exploring, and I'll be talking to the Mayor or Dr. Ouellette, about starting a parent's support group for children who have been bullied that you may be aware of. I think the key thing here, if anybody attended this, there are no words when a child stands in front of, I don't know, at least two or three hundred students and staff, and they get up there and they say just stop or leave me alone, I'm so sick of it. And I know we made the difference. Thank you and God bless you.

SUPERINTENDENT: Thank you, Mrs. Hill.

STANGO: Thank you, Mrs. Hill.

Alfredi Tilli, 699 Highland Avenue, had the following comments: I come to live here 12 years before and I find a great place to live. I'm really happy I live in this area and what I come here because I'm a member of Parents Training Leadership Institute and want to put my voice out how we can be better, how we can prepare for the weather conditions. I was a trip in Kansas and I see how better was the kids prepared for the weather conditions in Kansas. Can we do it better than them? Yes we can. How we can do it better, we can make one hour in every school in Waterbury training from Fire

Department, Department of Energy, Security . . . , Red Cross, all these organizations to work together to make the programs in every school in Waterbury one hour a month to train to be better in weather conditions. I don't want our community to be like position in Louisiana a couple years before or couple months before like happened . . . of Indiana. And I hope we can do it better. Thank you.

Athena Wagner, 1558 Highland Avenue, had the following comments: I don't see it on the Agenda right now but I'm here to address the issue of the gun range/gun retail shop next to Sprague Elementary School. I have to agree with our former Superintendent's statement, although it may be a little harsh, that I think it's asinine. You have a 60 to 70 percent minority and special need student population at Sprague Elementary School. Any of you here on the Board today, if you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, at elementary school-age level, would you approve this if it was going next to their schools? Adjoining driveways? The hazards of lead poisoning? Both indoor and outdoor ranges? You can't tell me it doesn't exist because I did send an email full of information pertaining to that to all Board members. But we want to do this to bring revenue to the City. And I ask you at what expense? At the expense of our children, once again. And I am here in opposition of that gun range going next to an elementary school, it is dangerous. No one that's eligible to have a license to carry, a permit to carry, has to go through any psychological or mental evaluations. You don't know who John Q. Public is carrying a gun in and out of that proposed facility that close to the school. It's just simply dangerous. And what are you willing to risk - the safety of these children? Do you have to have an incident before you say this is a bad idea? We're not proactive, often times we're reactive, then it's too late. And I ask, I know it's in litigation, and I also ask the reason that it came to litigation is because so many parents and the principal of Sprague School opposed this proposed location for a gun range and retail shop. And I ask that you give the status of that litigation to the people concerned and the public. Thank you.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 7:14 p.m.

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

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT: I'd like to thank Mayor O'Leary for outlining the Superintendent's, half of her report this evening, and I'd like to thank Mrs. Hill for having another quarter of my report. In the future, I'll collaborate with all parties before I present.

Superintendent Ouellette read and distributed the following report:

Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced today that the City of Waterbury will receive \$11.2 million over seven years from the State of Connecticut to help prepare middle and high school students for post-secondary education. GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a federally-funded discretionary grant program designed to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in college.

Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) will serve as fiduciary for Waterbury and administer the grant through its Bridge to College Office. The program will be modeled after the existing NVCC Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation (ConnCAP) program, which has served Waterbury's first-generation college/ low-income high school students since 1987 with a comprehensive high school graduation rate of 99% and college matriculation rate of 90%.

While ConnCAP serves high school students, GEAR UP will begin providing academic support to students in sixth and seventh grade and continue guiding them through high school graduation. The goals are to provide early intervention, a seamless diagnostic test system, academic advising and academic and social support to increase the likelihood of middle school, high school and college completion.

GEAR UP will be offered to all sixth and seventh grade students at North End Middle School, Wallace Middle School and West Side Middle School, approximately 2,550 students total, to develop academic and social support and college expectations. The students will continue in the program over the course of the seven-year grant to high school graduation.

The grant will fund a full-time program coordinator, three full-time on-site academic advisors for each middle school, part-time teacher advisors to coordinate after-school programs and mentors/tutors to assist. The program will also be aided by NVCC-Waterbury AmeriCorps volunteer mentors.

The annual Language Arts Festival for our students was held Monday morning at the Palace Theater. Students created authentic responses to literature and non-fiction pieces of work which included poems, essays, opinion statements, Readers Theater, music, dance and art. Differentiation for students is maximized which provides students the ability to demonstrate their knowledge aligned with the modality of their strength. The Festival is a true academic showcase of student achievement, as well as a forum to highlight the skills mastered throughout the year.

I attended a STEM Career Fair at Crosby High School on Wednesday, April 25th. The career fair was hosted by the Crosby Science Department with support from the Crosby Technology Department. It introduced students to the numerous career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The presenters included forty career professionals and fifteen colleges. Students were able to walk through the booths, read poster boards, and talk with career professionals. There were also short videos integrated throughout the day on a variety of careers.

I attended a very emotional anti-bullying presentation at Wilby High School on Friday, April 27th. Similar presentations were provided all week at our middle and high schools. The consultant, LaMarr Darnell Shields, showed clips of bullying reflections and spoke with students and staff about bullying in other districts and strategies to deal with bullying in our schools. In addition, students were welcomed to share some of their personal stories about the issue. Many, in fact, did share their heart-breaking stories of people they knew or about their own personal experiences. Bullying is a problem that impacts nearly everyone in some way, either as a victim, a friend, or family member of a

victim. This is a concern to us within the district, and it is an issue that we will need to continue to address and monitor.

On Saturday, April 28th, three of our students from Carrington School's 21st Century Learning Community Program won at the state-wide invention convention. Over 650 students from throughout Connecticut competed for various awards. The top three winners at Carrington also won awards at the state level. These three students were: Allan Riedel won with his "Sponge Glove"; Rachel Petersen won with her "Stride-n-Slide"; and Nicole Rotella won two awards with her "Braille Hanger".

Tuesday May 1st was Law Day. The Waterbury Bar Association and Young Lawyers Section presented awards to those who have demonstrated outstanding service to society. They also honored the members of the Crosby High School Mock Trials Team, who won the state championship in competition earlier this year.

It is with great pleasure that I will host another Meet and Greet next Wednesday evening, May 9th, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the WOW / NRZ (Walnut-Orange-Walsh / Neighborhood Revitalization Zone) Community Learning Center, 308 Walnut Street, Waterbury. This is a community event, and members of the community are invited to attend.

The city wide elementary school concert will be held at Rotella School on Tuesday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Wallace Middle School will host an Open House to welcome incoming sixth graders on Wednesday, May 16th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

STANGO: Any questions for the Superintendent? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: The anti-bullying presentation was just breathtaking. I wonder, what middle schools have we presented this too?

SUPERINTENDENT: I believe all three, Mrs. Cullinan?

CULLINAN: All three middle schools, all high schools, WAMS, and the alternative school. So all of our middle and high school students experience the...

HARVEY: Did we have the same presentation at Wilby?

CULLINAN: Yes.

HARVEY: We had teachers in the aisle?

CULLINAN: We had the teachers and pupil personnel staff. After the first one we realized the impact of it so we geared up our pupil personnel staff to be available and we addressed it at our high school meeting to make sure that there's follow-up even today or next week or whenever students come forward with concerns.

HARVEY: And do we plan to have Lamar back?

CULLINAN: We do. We plan to have some training for pupil personnel staff around the bullying issue and some professional development for our administrators to bring it back to their staff and then follow-up with their students, too.

HARVEY: Thank you.

SUPERINTENDENT: We had high school students asking for some...

CULLINAN: Peer groups.

SUPERINTENDENT: Exactly, and meeting with the Superintendent and Central Office staff also. It was very, very successful. Again, thank you to Mrs. Cullinan.

HARVEY: Thank you Mrs. Cullinan.

8. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

On good news, yesterday the Board had good fortune to tour the new Jonathan E. Reed School on North Main Street. It is yet not finished but it is due to be open in the Fall of 2012 and it's right on track and it's going to be an amazing institution of learning. The new school is truly a sight to behold. When standing in the upper level window one can see the entire neighborhood. The school has set a new tone for the area; a person can see the surrounding area, the PAL Building, the future home of the PAL Park, which is under construction, it's gonna be a very nice piece of parcel. It's gonna be a very big step in improving the neighborhood and taking pride in the neighborhood. And this was always one of my own personal sets of mind set to when we put a school somewhere to improve the neighborhood whenever possible. I think it will be a flagship of K through 8 schools; it's going to be an amazing place. The new Reed School will certainly afford our students a great opportunity to learn and it will also honor the name of the Reverend Jonathan E. Reed.

So it was a pleasure to be there, I'm looking forward to the opening, I'm looking forward to visiting again, and when we have our opening, I invite everyone to come for that, it's going to be an outstanding event. That concludes my report.

HAYES: I'd like to make a motion to move Item #11.1 ahead of the Consent Calendar.

VAN STONE: Second.

STANGO: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor, opposed.

11. AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON NAMING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to approve the request of Michael Yamin, Principal of Kennedy High School and David Rossi, Athletic Director of Kennedy High School, to name the Kennedy High School gymnasium in honor of John "Jack" Taglia, former teacher, guidance counselor, and coach.

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

HAYES: I was absent last week, on vacation. I don't know if anything was said but this is one of the things that I really enjoy about when we spend all our time on this Board is to honor people who really deserve to be honored. Mr. Taglia was a basketball coach, a guidance counselor, but he was a role model for those kids at Kennedy High School. Out of any high school game I've ever been too, I never had a more strong leader and the attention of all those kids like Mr. Taglia. He went on the road, the kids wore ties. They were respectful. As one who's gone to so many games, sometimes those communities aren't as respectful towards our kids but our kids have always, especially under Mr. Taglia's leadership, they always acted in a respectful manner, a way I was always proud of them and I know that them the leadership. So I really do, I'm glad I was able to be here, but please let me know when that dedication is going to be made, because I won't miss it.

STANGO: Thank you Commissioner Hayes, very well said. Any other discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion carries.

(applause)

TAGLIA: Thank you. Thank you doesn't do this any justice. To say that I'm humbled and appreciative is an understatement. This is not why you coach, you don't expect stuff like this to ever happen but I'm eternally grateful for the honor that you bestowed on me tonight. I started in 1974, and I'm not going to go through the whole chronology here but, right next store at Croft School at the Alternative School. And the 33 total years I put in at Kennedy, all I ever wanted to was work hard, teach the game of basketball, instill some responsibility and discipline into my players, and make Kennedy High School and the City of Waterbury proud of us and, hopefully, we did that. You know this isn't all about me, this is quite an honor but it's about all the assistant coaches that I had, the guys that worked tirelessly and with little recognition they helped to improve not only the team but the younger kids on the team and improve their skills. These guys I'm internally indebted to for all the hard work and dedication they put in, it was a privilege to work with those guys. This is really about my players, the hundreds of kids that I coached. You know these guys they came to practice every day, they came on time, they worked hard, they came in bad weather, nights, weekends, vacations, holidays, and through thick and thin all they ever wanted to do was improve as players and improve as a team. And we never measured wins and losses at the end of the year, it was always about the hard work, the dedication, and the effort that they put in and those guys never disappointed me. To this day, I love and respect all of those kids and they were the best, those guys are my heroes. I'm trying to compose myself here, I apologize.

Finally, I'd like to thank publically Mr. Dave Rossi, a friend, a colleague, my Athletic Director. I happened to see the presentation on TV the other night and I can't say enough about his support for this and I want to thank him publically. I want to thank Mr. Yamin, the Principal, I had the privilege of working for him my last couple of years of teaching and I certainly appreciate Mike's support. And I'd be remiss if I didn't thank Mayor O'Leary, Dr. Ouellette, Mrs. Cullinan, Mr. Stango, and all the members of the

Board of Education cause without your blessing, this would have never happened. So with that, on behalf of myself and my family, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart, it's something I'll be eternally grateful for and it's something that I'll cherish for the rest of my life. Thank you all very much.

STANGO: Everyone knows Mr. Taglia as Jack Taglia but more commonly around Kennedy he's simply "Coach".

HAYES: Mr. President, I just wanted to add one other thing how we talk about parental involvement, Coach Taglia's parents still went and watched him coach, that was amazing. You just hope you get enough parents to watch their kids play; he had his own parents come and watch him coach for all those years.

MORALES: I know he's a great coach but I had the pleasure to play against him. But he's still a great coach.

STANGO: Thank you Commissioner Morales. Are we finished on this? I don't think we can ever be finished on this; we can probably go all night. I'm looking forward to the opportunity when we do that dedication that maybe we will go all night. Thank you very much.

Turning now to Item 9, Consent Calendar. Does anyone wish to have anything removed from the Consent Calendar? Commissioner Van Stone.

VAN STONE: Mr. President, I'd like to remove Item 9.1 from the Consent Calendar.

President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar list.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 9.2 through 9.10, as listed:

- 9.2 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the ED042/phase 3 for the Waterbury Career Academy High School Project (State Project #151-0276 N).
- 9.3 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities, at no charge, by the following school organizations and/or City Departments, as listed.
- 9.4 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that permission be granted to the following organizations for use of school facilities with fees as outlined in their attached use of Building permit and subject to the receipt of all necessary deposits, insurance information, and/or life guard/CPR certifications, as listed.

- 9.5 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Anita Watkins, WHS, and three chaperones to take 15 students to New York, NY from May 25 through May 27, 2012 to visit the Fashion Institute of Technology and the Metropolitan Museum.
- 9.6 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Krislyn Petti, WHS, and two chaperones to take 30 students to New York, NY on May 21, 2012 to visit Top of the Rock/NBC Studios.
- 9.7 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Joann D'Angelo, WAMS, and four chaperones to take 50 students to Boston, MA on May 31, 2012 to visit Isabella Gardner Museum.
- 9.8 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Richard Pastore, CHS, and 24 chaperones to take 250 students to Agawam, MA on May 29, 2012 to visit Six Flags New England.
- 9.9 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Ana Ramos, CHS, and two chaperones to take 30 students to Agawam, MA on June 1, 2012 to visit Six Flags New England.
- 9.10 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Tracy King-Johnson, WAMS (high school), and two chaperones to take 25 students to New York, NY on May 14, 2012 to visit El Repertorio Española.

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

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

9.1 Committee on Schoolhouses

Upon a motion by Commissioner Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve a Maintenance Services Agreement with Trane U.S. Inc., in the not to exceed amount of \$98,426.00, for chiller compressor overhaul and repair at Waterbury Arts Magnet School.

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. Discussion? Commissioner Van Stone.

VAN STONE: Thank you, President Stango. I apologize, this very well may have been covered at the last Workshop which I was absent. Since my names on it, I feel compelled to ask a couple of questions. To either Mr. Guidone or Mr. D'Agostino who would rather take the question, the chiller in the building now is the original which would make it somewhere in the area of 11 years old?

GUIDONE: A little younger, but yes, original chiller, actually one of two chillers that comprise the power plant that operates the two WAMS buildings and the Palace Theater.

VAN STONE: And of the 98,000 broken up, part of it for the actual labor, part of it is for the service agreement, I assume those are in line with what the standard cost usually are?

GUIDONE: Yes. One of the two chillers, this particular one, has been causing quite a bit of problem over the last year or two. John Cross had spent a great deal of time analyzing it and the best method to proceed, it was decided that it was not cost effective to replace the chiller but rather do a complete overhaul and to repair as new. You will see the document also includes a five year warranty, as well as a maintenance agreement, as it was bid out, and his analysis is this is the most cost effective way to proceed. We have also made some changes in the operating condition of the boiler plant and units and the way and manner they operate in and among the buildings to hopefully preserve the life of the other chiller as well as this one.

VAN STONE: Do you, or do you know if Mr. Cross, had an opinion if after this rebuilding of it is ten years kind of gonna be our life span or are we hoping for better?

GUIDONE: He's hoping to be able to extend that based on other operating conditions of the power plant.

VAN STONE: And it was his opinion that the rebuild would be far more...

GUIDONE: I had extensive conversations with him; he feels very strongly it's far more the best approach.

VAN STONE: Thank you, sir.

STANGO: Any other questions? Discussion? Motion has been made and seconded – all in favor, opposed, motion carries.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 12.1 through 12.4, Superintendent's Notification to the Board, as listed:

- 12.1 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:
Feroce, Marianne H. – Art Teacher, Stepping Stone Program, 32 hours per week during school year @ \$28.00 per hour, no benefits.
Riggs, Patricia – Elementary Instructional Tutor, 10 months, 18 hours p/week @ \$31.00 per hour, no benefits.
Sinclair-Shaw – from substitute Pre-k Classroom Assistant to permanent (replacing Tahl Elkayam who resigned), 35 hours per week, 10 months per year, salary and benefits according to the SEIU Agreement.
Yapa, Kumudinie – WHS Math Teacher, High School Exit Criteria Program.

12.2 Rotella Summer Program appointments, salary according to individual's contract:

Administrators: Gina Calabrese, Rosalie Veneziano
Network Specialist: Mark Poulin
A/V Tech: Bryan Michaud
School Secretary: Lisa Alexander

Teachers – Enrichment:

Bambus, Dolores
Biolo, Erica
Bonaldi, Gary
Decerbo, Laureen
Dionne, Suzanne
Dooling, Joan
Harrigan, Margaret
Harrigan, Patrick
Ledbetter, Brenda
Lee, Ellen
Mastrianni, Jason

Teachers – Academics:

Biolo, Dawn
Cipriano, Nancyjean
Ecke, Lisa
Gravel, Suzanne
Milo, Maria
Monroe, Mary
Pinho, Kelly
Santovasi, Monica

Aides:

Alseph, Valerie
Begin, Debra
Cicchiello, Ersilia
Lanouette, Victoria
Lloret, Melissa
Mancini, Nancy

Meehan, Lisa
Monteiro, Greta
O'Connor, Leda
Santos, Jeannine
Sugrue, Kathleen
Walters, Kimberly

12.3 Adult Education appointments effective immediately:

Neupaver, Buenna – C.N.A., 10 hours p/week @ \$31.00 p/hour.

12.4 Retirements:

Gay, Linda M – WSMS Reading/Language Arts, effective 06/30/12.

STANGO: All in favor, opposed, motion carries. Item #13 – Unfinished Business from the Preceding Meeting Only. Item #14 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Thank you, Mr. President. A couple of things quickly. I just want to repeat, I, too, enjoyed the visit to the new Reed School and it is already making an impact in that community. I'm so looking forward to also the community meeting the new principal of the school. Hopefully we can tag him along on Wednesday since it's in that community. But I also believe that it is time to reach out to the Reed Family, and I will take that on, to inquire about any type of artifacts or anything they would like to appear in the lobby of the school and just basically to reach out to them since the school is named after Jonathan E. Reed. That's one.

Second is, we had a blight committee meeting, it wasn't a committee meeting but, with the Mayor, for an update on what's been happening since the inception of this project. At the meeting we received an update on the Walsh School "renovations" and I don't believe that we did receive that, the Board members received that same update, so I'm

asking if we could provide that in the next packet for next week. In addition, I'm asking, now the Schoolhouse Committee has not met yet and it is my understanding we have accepted Mr. Cross' contract so I would like an update on where we stand with all of our schools since we have not received an update for some time. So, hopefully, we can do that, perhaps at the next Workshop that's scheduled, perhaps for next week. But I would also advise that at some point, we should have a Schoolhouse Committee Meeting scheduled so that we can receive updates on the conditions of our schools.

Next I'm going to ask, because it's happened again, that I had to decide on whether or not I was gonna cut myself into three places or into four places, meetings scheduled at the same time at the same day, that we need a school district calendar that we all follow. Because I know we have calendars, I know we have a district calendar, but I don't know if everyone is following that. But I'm finding that there's meetings scheduled at different times and it's very difficult to be at one meeting when I'm supposed to be at another and cut myself in half. So I'm just asking for that.

SUPERINTENDENT: If I may just comment, I certainly agree with you very much so Vice President Harvey and since that last event, we had three events on one Saturday, Mr. Guidone has pulled the tech committee and our public relations person together and we are coordinating that. I agree, for a district this size, we should be electronically logging in and securing, reserving time throughout the district. And we also had some discussions with regards to graduation, I will be unveiling that next week as to how do we accommodate all the special celebrations at the end of the year. But I agree, after that Saturday event, we have pulled together. It will be very much up and running in the Fall and that we won't have conflict. We will just, I'll just say that we'll provide the Board with an update on the workings of that but we will probably have to look at our elementary feeder schools into our middle schools into our high schools so they don't have conflicts. I'm not sure if we can accommodate the whole district but we'll try the best that we can. But I concur with you.

GUIDONE: That's completely accurate but I can tell you from our early planning that the best it could do is probably reduce the number of conflicts. There are so many events and so many planned circumstances, both school-based as well as among ourselves, the Board of Aldermen, and others, that we'll at least be able to know where they are, when they are, and try to avoid as many as possible but there are an awful lot of events going on throughout the district at any given moment. But yes, we are developing a system.

HARVEY: Lastly, I believe that the Commissioners did receive notification of this but tomorrow we will be interviewing candidates for Driggs School. If the Commissioners are available, I believe we did send an email out, so if you are available the interviews begin at 9:00 in the specified location. If you could be there that would be great. Thank you.

STANGO: Thank you, Vice President Harvey. Any other Unfinished Business?

HAYES: Just a quick follow-up, I want to, again, thank Mrs. Cullinan, from what I read and I was out of town, what happened with the bullying, I'm just looking forward to what we do next and what we got from that story is again, it's not just a Waterbury problem, it's a problem everywhere. But it looks like we're trying to address it and I really look

forward to us developing some programs. Mrs. Hill mentioned, it wasn't a bad idea, a support group for some of these parents cause I know, that's one of the things I wrestled with for years with when tell parents don't worry about it, but they say no, you won't believe what's happening to my kid. It might be helpful to coordinate some kind of program for parents of kids that are being bullied to help them band together and I'm sure that would go in a positive way towards helping us resolve and deal with this. I'd like to pursue maybe that particular aspect of it. I'm sure we're doing other things within the school but I think reaching out to those parents; I think that would be a really good idea.

STANGO: Thank you Commissioner Hayes. Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: I just publically want to congratulate the newest inductees of the WAMS School. I had the privilege of attending the ceremony, there were 18 students, all just very, very impressive and we should be very proud of them. They were inducted into the National Honor Society and I expect great things from them. Thank you.

STANGO: Thank you Commissioner Brown. Any others?

VAN STONE: I'm not going to go on too much because everyone has covered it, but I had the opportunity to go to the bowling seminar as well and I wasn't out the door yet until I was hoping we would somehow roll this out again, even if we can cater it a little bit to . . . into the elementary school grades, you obviously would have to cater some of the content for those kids but we can't pretend the bullying begins in sixth grade.

CULLINAN: In the Fall we did "Box Out Bullying" which was a theater arts presentation more geared toward elementary school students and we did it at their schools so that they felt comfortable with it. There was some puppetry and some discussion of bullying but it was geared to that age level.

VAN STONE: Do we know, we've obviously gotten huge feedback about this, and I think this is a special program, I don't think you can necessarily expect ever one of these to be a grand-slam, as Ms. Hill put it, do we know if the "Box Out" program was somewhat successful? Did we have a feeling at the end of the presentation?

CULLINAN: We did. It was also in the newspaper, the newspaper did do an article on it. It also included some parent workshops and some curriculum, some follow-up lessons for the classroom teachers to actually do with the students. So it was more geared to that level. We did discuss parent workshops with Mr. Shields for the future to actually do some parent workshops and some follow-up lessons with the teachers, so we're looking at it from a different perspective.

VAN STONE: Thank you. The second thing I'd like to touch on that the Superintendent notes was the kids from Carrington, I had the opportunity, as did President Stango, to go be one of the original judges out at Carrington and all three of those, in addition to probably about six or seven more, were really fantastic inventions. Two of these here, specifically the student saw an issue that they had at one with family members – one a blind grandmother and one a mother who had a degenerative hip condition which is the "stride and slide" and created new products to help their family get through everyday life easier. The excitement that they spoke about these with and the fact that they solved a

real life problem, was something that gave them a lot of joy. When we got the email that they actually went to the State level and won, I was extremely proud of them, they should be very proud of themselves. Thank you, Mr. President.

STANGO: I concur on your thoughts on that. I was very impressed. Any others?

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. into Executive Session for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee AND discussion of the selection of a site or the lease, sale, or purchase of real estate.

Present: President Stango, Commissioners Brown, D'Amelio, Flaherty-Merritt, Harkins, Harvey, Hayes, Morales, Sweeney, and Van Stone.

Also present: Dr. Ouellette (left at 8:10) and Paul Guidone (left at 8:10).

The Executive Session ended at 8:50 p.m. with no votes taken.

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