

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

North End Middle School, 534 Bucks Hill Road, Waterbury, Connecticut

PRESENT: President Stango, Commissioners Brown, Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, Hayes, Sweeney, and Van Stone.

ABSENT: Commissioners D'Amelio, Harkins, and Morales.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Ouellette, Assistant Superintendent Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

SILENT PRAYER

President Stango called the special meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. with a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

STANGO: Is there anyone here wishing to address the Board on our Special Meeting item only this evening?

1. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, with Commissioner Van Stone voting "no", it was voted to approve of the 2012-2015 Agreement with the School Administrators of Waterbury (SAW), as attached.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Do we have any discussion? Yes Commissioner Van Stone.

VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President, through you. I just wanted to thank Commissioner Hayes and Commissioner Sweeney, along with Mr. Frost and the folks from SAW who got this job done. I think, if we were to look at this in a vacuum, this is a very fair and good contract and I thank you for your work. Sadly, we don't live in a vacuum however, we live here in Waterbury. I have concerns as we sit here in Waterbury, with the tax rate where it is, the unemployment where it is, the fact that we haven't seen any extra ECS money in four plus years and haven't seen a budget increase in about the same amount of time, and I'm not convinced we're gonna get a goose egg tomorrow when the Mayor comes out. I have concerns that while our administrators, I believe as a whole, have done a fantastic job and have done what they needed to do to get to these numbers, I'm not too sure that we, as a City, right now have the wherewithal to afford it. We have a new school coming on line this year, we have new grades opening up in our K through eights for the next handful of years, we

have a Waterbury Career school opening in the not so distant future and with all these expenses continuing to rise and no real income to offset them, that gives me pause. While I have no doubt that this will pass tonight, I will be respectfully voting "no". I just didn't want any administrators to think it was a knock on them, it's just I have serious concerns where the City and State is heading financially and I think we need to recognize this with every dollar we spend. Thank you Mr. President.

HAYES: Thank you. I'll be supporting this. I do believe our administrators conducted themselves professionally with an amicable agreement and, quite honestly, they could have gotten more if they decided to take us to arbitration, in my opinion. What other organizations are settling for is a little bit more than what we had . . . they probably could have gone, at an additional cost to us, and have us paying more than that. I understand that times are tough, but I'd just like to thank a lot of our administrators who haven't left us because, quite honestly, they could have made a lot more money other places. So I am appreciative of the fact that they stayed and they want to stay with us. I don't necessarily think they're staying for the money, I really think they're here because they want to do a good job for our students. So, it's difficult to give any extra money to anything, but I think it's something that I think they deserve and I'll be supporting it.

STANGO: Any other discussion?

BROWN: I wanted to also echo the comments of the former speaker and say I think this is a fair agreement and I would also like to say, for the record, that I don't think we can afford not to do this. Education is an investment of our future of Waterbury. Without well educated people we are not going to . . . for the economy . . . so I have a little bit of a different lens that I look at. This is a long-term investment and I think our parents and . . . community here in Waterbury will look at this as a fair agreement and I think it's part of our overall push for economic development and a strong economic future for Waterbury. So I will be supporting this as a wise investment for Waterbury. Thank you.

STANGO: Any other discussion? All in favor, opposed.

VAN STONE: No.

STANGO: Motion carries six to one.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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