

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

ABSENT: President Stango.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Ouellette, Assistant Superintendents Cullinan and Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, and Attorney Maurice Mosley (6:44).

1. SILENT PRAYER

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

SUPERINTENDENT: In our prayer this evening let us remember Mr. George W. Barnhardt who passed away on February 9. Mr. Barnhardt was a lifelong Waterbury resident and a long time teacher in our City where he taught Technology Education and served as the Supervisor of Technology Education.

Mr. Barnhardt went on to become a professor of Technology Education at Central Connecticut University where he trained and supervised future Technology Education teachers – many whom are presently employed in our district.

Let us remember him and recognize his service and dedication to education tonight.

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: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner D'Amelio.

D'AMELIO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Harkins.

HARKINS: Present.

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 (absent).

4. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Copy of communication dated January 31, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Sandy LaMadeleine for the position of Food Service Helper.
2. Email communication dated February 2, 2012 from Antonio Pinto regarding World Language Programs at non-profits.
3. Communication received February 2, 2012 from Mrs. Hill regarding bullying.
4. Copy of communication dated February 6, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Pamela Czarsty for the position of Part-time Office Aide.
5. Copy of communication dated February 6, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Dustin Lombardo for the position of ABA Behavioral Therapist.

HARVEY: All those in favor, opposed, abstentions? So moved.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Committee Meeting of October 24, 2011, Rescheduled Regular Meeting of November 1, 2011, Rescheduled Committee Meeting of November 14, 2011, Regular Meeting of November 14, 2011, Committee Meeting of November 21, 2011, Regular Meeting of November 28, 2011, and Sheriff Call Meeting of December 2, 2011.

HARVEY: Discussion? All those in favor, opposed, abstentions?

6. 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.

HARVEY: 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.

Forest Little, 122 MacArthur Drive, had the following comments: Good evening Board of Education. This is my first time here. I am a homeowner in the community, taxpayer. I am here this evening for a bullying issue that is going on at Wilby High School and my son. I have a copy with me, a letter that I had wrote to Dr. Ouellette and her assistant Ms. Marold that have helped me so far in this situation. My son made a mistake, he purchased weed at the school and I found it at home. I reprimanded him, I went to the school, I confronted the drug dealers, I told the truant officer. The truant officer shook these kids down at the school, however, my son's name was not, I feel, held in anonymity, because immediately after he was harassed. He has been, papers thrown in class, bullied on the bus to where I have case numbers for such, kids were suspended after they got the videotape. I did not feel my son was safe. He was calling me crying, running home and I was in Hartford. I withdrew my son from the school. I met two days ago with Mr. Mosley in the Department of Education's office and to put it shortly, Ms. Marold met, Ms. Ouellette was not available at the time. We have not been able to meet with her, although in writing, she has assisted with this procedure. The best the Board of Education gave me, excuse me not the Board of Education, the Department of Education gave me was my son should be able to be tough enough to take it and we can provide a short bus for him to go to school if he can't ride the regular bus with the other children. I know these are teenagers, there is a little gang affiliated with the kids that have been mentioned in this, the "Scheme Team". The police are aware of it. It's been brought to my attention by the truant officer, they are just kids. However, I am also an active member at the YMCA and I, just recently, received an email within the last 48 hours from the YMCA how three teens jumped an employee and hospitalized him, outside the YMCA. So my concern here is that I have not withdrawn my son because he did not feel safe at school, he sat down at the school lunch table, everyone left. He, being thrown papers, kids physically shoved him up against the locker, he shoved the kid back. On the bus they all had their feet out, wouldn't let him through, calling him names, singing songs of how you're a snitch, how you're a rat. I brought this on him more than himself but I'm not gonna let it stop either. I am very concerned, not only with just my son, with other kids in the community that are involved in these type of situations at this school. I have other friends and peers that are dealing with difficulties, not so much as the bullying, but the drug issues and some of the problems that I am incurring at Wilby High School. I just want to bring it to your attention as was directed to me by Mr. Mosley, come to the Board of Education if I didn't like the school bus or go back to Wilby High School. I don't want to send my son back to that high school and I will not take him back to that high school. I don't feel he feels safe. Thank you for your time.

April Kennedy, 122 MacArthur Drive, had the following comments: I am here with my fiancé Forest Little, we are local homeowners and tax payers and our son is being bullied at his high school. We brought this to the attention of the Superintendent's Office and we feel that nothing has been done to insure the safety of my son. My son is 16 years old and he has tried to distance himself from a crew of kids that he was hanging with. In doing this he has had to do some things that were not favorable.

These kids have turned on him and, in turn, have turned the entire school and everyone on his bus against him. My son is being humiliated, harassed, and bullied in his school and nothing is being done about it. Our options given to us were to send our son back to Wilby High School and to have a special education bus come and pick him up to and from school. This is unacceptable. We are parents and we need to be heard. It is not acceptable that we are told that nothing could be done and our son needs to rise above this situation. There is not a situation where my son's life is being threatened, when my fiancé's life is being threatened, when these kids are telling my son that they're gonna bring a gun to school and shoot him; the option is not to return him back to his school. I'm asking you for your help because we've already asked for the help of Dr. Ouellette. She is very, very well aware of this situation and her final decision was to return my son back to Wilby High School, to send him to an Enlightenment School which I understand is for children that need to be disciplined, and have him board a special education bus to get to and from school. This is unacceptable. We pay our taxes, we are parents, we are involved in our son's education and we need action taken immediately. Thank you.

Paul D'Angelo, 227 Mansfield Avenue, had the following comments: Thanks for the opportunity to speak to you tonight. I want to talk to you if I can tonight about Barnard School but not specifically Barnard School, more about the idea than the location. But as I was preparing, I was thinking about the tremendous opportunity that we have, and I know I spoke to you about it before so I apologize for being repetitive but I really think we have a tremendous opportunity right now with Barnard School, or perhaps another location, but to find a way to get to these students at the K through 3 level in regards to reading and literacy. We all know that those 720 days that they spend in kindergarten, first, second, and third grade are absolutely the most imperative grades for education and, more specifically, for reading. We also know through the research that students who are not reading at the grade level when they leave the third grade have a far less chance of graduating high school. In fact, half the chance that those reading at or above grade level do. And I just feel that we have an opportunity to not only lead Connecticut but lead the nation with some of the things that we're doing at Wendell Cross and some of the other schools in regards to literacy, but to have a more focused effort in a specific location perhaps where if it was Barnard School we could take 150 kids or 100 kids out of some of the other schools that are overcrowded like Chase and other places, and really focus on reading. But if it's not a K through 3 reading academy, perhaps it's a situation where we bus students in that aren't reading at grade level on a daily basis, into Barnard, where they meet with a literacy team of people we already have on staff and really get the attention they need in a real setting that's really geared towards literacy. And I just wanted to come tonight really to get that out because I know they're kicking around, or you're kicking around different ideas for Barnard and I know this is an idea that if we choose to go down that road we could probably do at a very reasonable cost. I have been talking to business people that would be more than willing to come forward at a Curriculum Meeting if they were allowed to and discuss how they could help. I've spoken to reading teachers within the district and even two principals that I talked to today, both of which, from Waterbury, said they would love to be involved with something like that. And I just, again, really think it's, it's not only a responsibility, or obligation, or opportunity, but it's our responsibility and the answers that we're seeking on closing the achievement gap and improving test scores, we know, we all know they're not gonna come from Hartford, they're not gonna come from Washington, we know what they're gonna say, they're gonna say more money, better evaluations for teachers and principals, more

accountability, and pre-k, early childhood intervention. They've been saying it for 20 years, we've all been saying it for 20 years, but we also know that if these children aren't reading by the time they leave third grade, at grade level, we lose them, we lose them forever. So I would hope you consider giving me the opportunity to meeting with the Curriculum Committee, perhaps, and some of the other people that would be more than willing to work, as well, to at least talk about ideas. Thank you.

Representative Larry Butler had the following comments: What I passed out is a release on President proposed 100 plus million dollar commitment in the budget for STEM teaching of teachers. And I just wanted to share this with you because if our children are gonna compete with the rest of the students around the world, I think STEM is gonna be one of those factors that's going to reach that commitment. Also, when I'm finished, I'm gonna hand this out, this is about a conference in Bridgeport next week so hopefully a member or two can attend and bring back information to this Board.

Quickly I want to move on to your meeting that you had last night and I didn't want to speak last night because I didn't want to seem like I was pandering to an angry crowd, so I figured I'd just come here and say that a lot of your concerns are things that you probably already anticipated like traffic and sidewalks or paving or safety concerns and I know and encourage you to work with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to seek local, state, and federal funds to address those issues going forward.

Finally, I just want to talk about the houses that were being taken by eminent domain. I would request that the Mayor, who's not here, or somebody from the City, actually share with those who are contesting in court to have, request that the judge give them 100% of the appraised value on their houses in the process, because it still is a shame for them to lose in this process.

Finally, for the last two properties that are going to stand in front of this beautiful school that's being built, I have to tell you that is one beautiful school, I love the layout, but when you see those two remaining houses in front of that school, it's almost like an eyesore. So it's too bad, and maybe there's something you can still do in offering them a multi-family dwelling, offer to sell, and maybe we can find a foreclosed house somewhere in the City, the City could purchase and offer the last family that's looking at bankruptcy, to have a fair swap of property to remove those two properties and let that school stand with an open facade because it was one beautiful school. So I commend you on the school, it's just that last piece I think needs to be addressed and I would like to thank you for your time.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:51 p.m.

HARVEY: All those in favor, opposed.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following report:

Members of a new education reform coalition issued a joint statement Tuesday, February 14th, in support of the Governor's proposed education reform package. The membership includes the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, the Connecticut Association of Schools, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Connecticut Business and Industry Association, the Connecticut Council for Education Reform, and Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (also known as ConnCAN). The joint statement detailed their agreement on educator preparation and certification, teacher evaluation and support, principal evaluation and support, the relationship between time and learning, school and district accountability, pre-kindergarten, and education contract negotiations. The coalition suggested that contract negotiations focus on student learning needs and that the State's binding arbitration laws be amended to reflect this as a priority. More details will be forthcoming as they become available.

Goodwill Lodge will host the Greater Waterbury African-American Mayor for a Day Celebration, with Vice President Karen E. Harvey as the honoree. The celebration will take place on Feb. 22 at the Goodwill Lodge of Elks, 238 North Elm Street, at 6 p.m. This free event is sponsored by the African-American Mayor for a Day Committee and is open to the public. Any questions contact the Rev. Thomas Mallory 203-233-0782.

NBC-30 news anchor and reporter, Brad Drazen, visited Regan School and video-taped students working on the CMT TEST PREP FUN website. He also interviewed the students as well as Principal Noreen Buckley. Channel 30 will air this news report the week before our administration of the Connecticut Mastery Tests.

Rotella Art Teacher Suzanne Dionne reports that 116 pieces of art that she submitted on behalf of her students to the Artsonia program was displayed at the 2011 National Art Education Convention in Seattle. The artwork was submitted by 27 students in first grade, 29 in second grade, and 26 in kindergarten. Some students had multiple pieces displayed. Artsonia is an online student art gallery. Ms. Dionne also reports that Rotella will be among the schools represented at the 2012 National Art Education Convention in New York City on March 2nd and 3rd. Through Artsonia, 500 teachers nationwide were selected to exhibit one piece of artwork which will be displayed at Big Screen Plaza on Avenue of the Americas. She selected a piece of artwork created by Rotella second grader Jaylen Drape. Also, Artsonia extended an offer to Ms. Dionne to display the work of three students sometime in February or March, again at Big Screen Plaza. These students were chosen: Emma Plourde, Grade 1, Alanna Pais, Grade 2, and Nicholas Pleva, Grade 2.

On March 12-31 there will be a Youth Art Celebration through the Connecticut Art Education Association at West Woods Upper Elementary School in Farmington. Ms. Dionne will be entering artwork from first graders Megan Prescott and Rachel Ortiz, and from first graders Vasile Cioana, Marie Sylva and Ayla Martin.

District staff, Board of Education Commissioners and representatives from O & G and the architectural firm the SLAM collaborative, met with neighbors of the Waterbury Career Academy High School site last evening. Neighbors expressed concerns about drainage, increased traffic, and lack of sidewalks in the area. After listening to their concerns, Paul Guidone assured them that the education department would review the issues raised and get back to them at a possible future meeting.

Today at Kennedy High School from 4:00-6:00 p.m., School Governance Council Module 3 Training took place. This is a collaboration between Waterbury Public Schools and CABA. Our presenters were from the Waterbury Public Schools, Mr. Ron Frost, Director of Personnel, on Participating in the Hiring Process. CABA sent Consultant Mr. Bob King, to discuss Lessons Learned from Previous Councils, which were presented as a webinar. Also, Mr. King discussed the Culturally Responsive Practice. Module 4 will be back at Wilby on April 24th and this will complete our series of School Governance Council Trainings. Mrs. Mary Ann Marold has planned these training sessions with each of the high schools that had a School Governance Council to give parents equal access. All sessions have been videotaped. We thank Mrs. Marold for her fine work on keeping the community informed. Respectfully submitted.

8. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

HARVEY: I, too, would like to join in and thank the participants that attended the neighborhood meeting last evening and know that we heard you, we heard you loud and clear regarding the concerns of the sidewalks, the traffic flow, the drainage, as well as some other things that were mentioned. We appreciate you coming out and know that there will be follow-up as Dr. Ouellette mentioned and that we will work with you to get these resolved.

And also briefly, just a point of personal preference, I want to thank Dr. Ouellette for mentioning, it was a complete surprise to me that I would be selected Mayor for the Day, just totally humbled and I just want the community to know that I wouldn't be able to achieve anything unless we work together. So we'll continue to work together, ask them to stay involved, and again, I'm just humbled and I hope that my fellow Commissioners will be able to join me, as well as the Mayor, on February 22 for the celebration. Thank you.

Okay, to the Consent Calendar. Are there any items to be removed from the Consent Calendar? If not I will read the Consent Calendar.

Vice President Harvey proceeded to read the list of Consent Calendar items.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.15, as listed:

- 9.1 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the Department of Education's fiscal years 2013 – 2017 Capital Budget Plan, as attached.
- 9.2 With the approval of the Committee on Rules & Regulations, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of revisions to the Accommodating Students with Food Allergies policy (#8014), as attached.

- 9.3 With the approval of the Committee on Rules & Regulations, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of revisions to the Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (Student Wellness) policy (#8025), as attached.
- 9.4 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to file a grant application (ED049) for the proposed Bucks Hill Elementary School Asbestos Abatement project.
- 9.5 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to file a grant application (ED049) for the proposed Bunker Hill Elementary School Asbestos Abatement project.
- 9.6 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed Bucks Hill Elementary School Asbestos Abatement project.
- 9.7 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed Bunker Hill Elementary School Asbestos Abatement project.
- 9.8 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the formation of a Building Committee for the proposed Bucks Hill Elementary School Asbestos Abatement project. Such Committee to be made up of Patrick Hayes, Coleen Flaherty-Merritt, Karen Harvey, Ann Sweeney, and Jason Van Stone.
- 9.9 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the formation of a Building Committee for the proposed Bunker Hill Elementary School Asbestos Abatement project. Such Committee to be made up of Patrick Hayes, Coleen Flaherty-Merritt, Karen Harvey, Ann Sweeney, and Jason Van Stone.
- 9.10 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends acceptance of the Driggs School Roof Project (State Project #151-281 RR) as complete.
- 9.11 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities by school organizations and/or City departments, as listed.
- 9.12 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities by outside organizations and/or waiver requests, as listed.
- 9.13 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Marianna Vagnini, WAMS, and eight chaperones to take 85 students to Agawam, MA on May 25, 2012 to perform at Six Flags.

- 9.14 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Phillip Sterling, WAMS, and nine chaperones to take 85 students to Agawam, MA on May 25, 2012 to perform at Six Flags.
- 9.15 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Nicole Martone, KHS, and five chaperones to take 50 students to Lenox, MA on April 20, 2012 to attend a performance of Macbeth at Shakespeare and Company.

HARVEY: Any discussion? All those in favor, opposed, abstaining? Motion passed.

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

11. 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 11.1 through 11.8, Superintendent's Notification to the Board, as listed:

- 11.1 Athletic resignations:
Wright, James – CHS Freshmen Boys' Baseball, effective 01/10/12.
- 11.2 Grant funded appointments:
Carlson, Chelsea – Eagle's Nest Preschool Teacher's Aide, KHS, 15 hours per week @ \$10.00 per hour, non-union/no benefits.
Gutierrez, Jon – Teacher, Middle School Credit Retrieval/CMT Prep, WMS.
Hartery, Patricia – Instructional Tutor, 10 months per year, 18 hours per week @ \$31.00 per hour, non-union/no benefits.
Kalnins, Siobhan – Substitute, Maloney School's Before/After School Program.
Lindley, Carly – English Teacher, High School Exit Criteria Program, CHS.
Melendez, Ivelisse – Pre-k Bus Driver, Special Education/ECEP, salary according to the SEIU contract, effective immediately.
Rodriguez, Babbette – Pre-k Bus Driver, Special Education/ECEP, salary according to the SEIU contract, effective immediately.
Santiago, Koulla – Instructional Tutor, 10 months per year, 18 hours per week @ \$31.00 per hour, non-union/no benefits.
Strumi, Manuela - Charlene – Instructional Tutor, 10 months per year, 18 hours per week @ \$31.00 per hour, non-union/no benefits.
Tice, Charlene – Instructional Tutor, 10 months per year, 18 hours per week @ \$31.00 per hour, non-union/no benefits.
Walker, Wesley – Office Manager, Educational Grants, 35 hours per week, union position with salary and benefits governed by SEIU.
Williams, Richard – Teacher, Middle School Credit Retrieval/CMT Prep, WMS.

11.3 Gilmartin School's CMT Prep Session, salary according to individual's contract, effective immediately:

Bovat, Sue – Paraprofessional
Klem, Lisa – Substitute
Natoli, Jane – Teacher
Croce, Kelly – Teacher
Ouellette, Sherri – Behavior Therapist

11.4 Extended School Hours (ESH) Program Appointments, salary according to individual's contract, effective immediately:

SCHOOL	NAME	ASSIGNMENT
Chase	Moffo, Laurie	Teacher
	Ouellette, Chris	Teacher
	Tyson-Wood, Wendy	Teacher
Hopeville	Kaplanka, Jennifer	Substitute
Wilson	Fraser, Kathleen	Substitute
	Reho, Jessica	Substitute Secretary

11.5 Teacher new hires:

LaChance, Mark – Enlightenment/State Street, PE/Health, MA-step 3, effective 01/23/12.

Lopez, Francesca, Regan/Bucks Hill, Speech-Language pathologist, 6th+15-step 1, effective 01/12/12.

Wallace, Matthew – Walsh Grade 5, MA-step 1, effective 02/03/12.

11.6 Retirements:

Edmonds, Catherine Z. –Family and Consumer Science, WHS, eff. 06/30/12.

Escobar, Sureta – Social Worker, Hopeville School, effective 06/30/12.

LaVallee, William Jr. – Art Teacher, WAMS, effective 06/30/12.

Ramirez, Maria L. – Bilingual Grade 1, Hopeville School, eff. 06/30/12.

Richard, Margaret M. –Library/Media Specialist, WHS, effective 02/29/12.

Robinson, Lesley Anne – Art Teacher, KHS, effective 06/30/12.

11.7 Leave of absence requests:

Calabrese, Melissa – Washington grade 2, requesting an unpaid childrearing leave of absence from 02/06/12 through the end of the 2011/12 school year.

Mastroianni, Nicole – WMS Social Studies, requesting an unpaid childrearing leave of absence from 01/30/12 through 02/29/12.

11.8 Adult Education appointments effective 02/17/12:

Name	Class	Hours p/wk	Rate
Byrnes, Gale	Classroom Aide	20	\$21.50
DelaRosa, Mary	Up-Cycle Crafts	2	\$31.00
Wrent, Gretchen	Cake Decorating 101	2	\$24.00
Orten, Immaculate	Master of the Art of Manicures	2	\$24.00
Pierelli, Daniel	Substitute	as needed	\$24.00

HARVEY: Any discussion? All those in favor, opposed. Is there any Unfinished Business from the Preceding Meeting only? Any Other Unfinished Business, New, or Miscellaneous? Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: In light of the information we received this evening, I'd like to have a correspondence from the Superintendent regarding, and a copy of the letters that were handed to us this evening by our first two speakers, just so we have our side of the story.

SUPERINTENDENT: Actually, Attorney Mosley is here this evening. There's definitely different sides to the story and I will definitely have Attorney Mosley, who's been working on it. My apologies, I could not meet with the parents, we had it scheduled, but I certainly will introduce myself to them. I'd like to meet with them personally but there is definitely some more details that need to be shared and I would like Attorney Mosley, perhaps, to share that with the press and with the Board.

BROWN: I want to echo what Commissioner Hayes just said and I think in terms of bullying, we should take this very seriously, as we do, we do have a bullying policy in place that's pretty comprehensive. I know that . . . isolate the victim and the perpetrators, sometimes the isolated victim does say that no one is listening to them. So I'm hoping that, not in this particular case because I don't know the details, that the school climate committee of the impacted school will take this seriously and have a community meeting about bullying because if this family feels, or any family feels that they're isolated and they can't really identify with other families or other children because they're not the only ones, it's always good to have a community meeting and build that support from the community against this type of activity. And I'm not talking specifically about this instance because I don't know the details but, in general, what we know about bullies is that they do intend to isolate and harass certain students on an ongoing basis and only when the community doesn't accept it, then it can start to stop. So I'm hoping that we could look more globally at this and find out if there are things that we can do to proactive about this.

MOSLEY: If someone could tell me what the issue is first then I'll be glad to elaborate.

HARVEY: First of all, because of the sensitive nature of this issue, I think that we should take this offline and I've asked the parents to stay so that we can devise some plan of what we're going to address. So Attorney Mosley if you can just, I'd prefer that you not say anything right now, that we talk to the parents, the parents are still here, if you're willing to stay so we can try to work out something.

MOSLEY: I'd be glad to do that.

HARVEY: Any other issues to be brought before the Board at this time?

SWEENEY: Mrs. Cullinan, if you have a moment. I just wanted to commend you on the resurgence of the Juvenile Review Board. I'm very happy to hear that that's coming to the forefront again. I met Commissioner Brown a couple of years ago when she helped us write a grant for that program and I was sorry to see that it didn't take off the way we had hoped. If there's anything that I can do to help you with that I will be there for you, you know that. I was a little confused by the article in the paper because the Juvenile Review Board, last time around, came out of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Truancy. And I was a little confused by the article in the paper that alluded to the fact that there's some confusion over whether we refer truants to the Juvenile Review Board. So can you just clear that up for me?

CULLINAN: The new Juvenile Review Board is a collaboration with DCF, Waterbury Youth Services, and the Waterbury Police Department and the Waterbury Board of Education. And we're looking at the JRB will have referrals that come directly from the Waterbury Police Department of students in lieu of going to the Superior Court or have the option, with their families, to go to the Juvenile Review Board. The other set of students, we're working on a pilot program with West Side Middle School and, again, those students who are kind of headed down the wrong path, have accumulated a certain amount of suspensions, will be diverted to the Juvenile Review Board instead of going the expulsion route. So we have that program planned with the Juvenile Review Board. At the same time we are working with the Waterbury Police Department and Project Safe Neighborhoods on another plan for our students who are in our middle schools and up to freshman year of high school, again, as a diversion to students getting into the court system. Again, students who have truancy issues and students who have accumulation of suspensions and again are headed towards an expulsion. So we're trying to run both programs. The Juvenile Review Board is a little bit different; it's community with some school folks on the Board to review cases and to refer to outside agencies for kind of a wrap-around service model. The Project Safe Neighborhood will look at families and students as a diversion and will recommend our students go into a counseling program around some diversionary tactics around anger management and those kinds of issues. That will be run by DCF and the parents and the students will attend counseling. So at the same time I think Mr. Puffer, when he interviewed me, we were talking about both programs. It doesn't mean that Juvenile Review Board will not look at students with truancy because sometimes truancy is an issue that results in other issues, but we're really trying to keep our kids out of the court system.

SWEENEY: Thank you again for not giving up on it. Thank Kelly Cronin and her staff for not giving up on it. I think it's a worthwhile program, I think we just need to give it time to grow.

CULLINAN: And Lt. Capozzi has really been instrumental with the Policy Chief in really this collaborative effort. So it's not just us, it's really a collaboration of the community.

SWEENEY: Our thanks to him and the Police Department, as well. Thank you.

HARVEY: Is there any other unfinished, new, or miscellaneous business?

HAYES: Can I just request that we do have an update when the Review Board does get in place, when they have it all worked out, so we have an idea.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Morales, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:11 p.m.

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