

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, January 19, 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 6:39 p.m. with a moment of silence.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The students of the Young Civic Learners group 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 Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file the following communications:

1. Communication dated December 12, 2011 from Attorney Todd regarding notice of legal action from Lyle Huneke.
2. Communication dated December 12, 2011 from Lisa Mason regarding Board's request to hear from teachers.
3. Copy of communications dated December 13, 2011 from Civil Service certifying Shanee Couture, Robert Dwyer, Jr., Erica Swain, and Christina Diaz for the position of Paraprofessional.
4. Copy of communication dated December 21, 2011 from Civil Service certifying Joanne Laviana for the position of Administrative Support Specialist I.
5. Copy of communication dated December 23, 2011 from Blum Shapiro regarding the City's audit for year ending June 30, 2011.
6. Communication dated December 28, 2011 from Registrars of Voters regarding projected changes in polling places for 2012.
7. Communication dated January 3, 2012 from Louise Allen Brown regarding submittal of the 2012 Target Corporation Grants.
8. Copy of communication dated January 9, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Michael Santoli for the position of Maintainer I.
9. Communication dated January 10, 2012 from Cheri Lounsbury, Candace Eggleston, and Stacey Robinson requesting transportation for their children to New Haven Magnet Schools.
10. Copy of communication dated January 11, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Marion Buonocore for the position of Food Service Site Coordinator.
11. Copy of communication dated January 11, 2012 from Civil Service certifying Marcy Pogodzienski for the position of Teaching Vice Principal, Wallace Middle School.
12. Copy of communication dated January 11, 2012 from AFB Management regarding their proposal for facility maintenance.
13. Copy of communication dated January 12, 2012 from Victoria Borges regarding her child.

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

5. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey 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 6:43 p.m.

STANGO: Any discussion? All in favor. Motion passes. 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.

Sam D'Ambrosi, 59 Westwood Avenue, had the following comments: I am currently serving as President of the Waterbury Board of Health and we have, for the past few years, prioritized some of the combating childhood obesity. And I'm not gonna talk just about childhood obesity but it brings up the point where it leads into. In addition to being a member of the Interdepartmental Committee and the district's Wellness Committee, I can attest to the fact that this topic has been mainstay agenda issues for discussion and planning for some time. The Dream Team, which I also sit on, brings together an array of Waterbury citizens from different disciplines who can be helpful in affecting changes in our City policies aiming to curb obesity. Much progress is being made at this time. It is no secret that over 30% of our population is either overweight or obese and the number continues to rise. This is a far leap from the 70's and 80's where the number was in the middle teens. Based on that fact alone, two distinct elements of the weight management and wellness equation needs to be brought into focus – nutritional guidance and expanding opportunities in physical activity. A quick look at the nutritional side of that equation, Food Service Director Linda Franzese has made some serious inroads in providing nutritional meals for our students in the public school system and annual instructions in nutrition is included in the district health and wellness curriculum – K through 12. Now I look at the activity component, I know Joe Gorman has continued to lead efforts to increase opportunities for additional physical activity which helps balance that side of the equation. He also co-chairs the Interdepartmental Committee and the District Wellness Committee and is sensitive to the needs of curbing childhood obesity. By working together with other teams, boards, and committees, we cannot only help but also succeed in reaching our goal. Ladies and gentlemen, this crisis is real and we should put all our efforts into solving it. That's why I would like to lend my support for the hiring of strength and conditioning coaches at our three comprehensive high schools. I understand the primary responsibilities of these positions include organizing and administering sport specific physical conditioning and fitness development to contribute toward the health and welfare of our students at all three high schools, and, in general in our student athletes, in particular. This initiative aligns with and compliments the goals we are trying to achieve at the Department of Health and in our battle with obesity and starting our students out on a health path. As such, I am compelled to lend my support as President of the Waterbury Board of Health, and ask that you vote to approve hiring these coaches this evening. Thank you very much.

STANGO: Is there anyone else wishing to address the Board. We have some presentations we'd like to make and Vice President Harvey will inform us on those presentations.

HARVEY: We have here tonight, pleased to have a group of middle school aged students who completed a course; they're called the Young Civic Learners. They graduated from a course that was offered at the OIC Center here in the City of Waterbury. They did a presentation, Dr. Ouellette attended, myself, Commissioner Brown, Attorney Mosley, Mary Ann Marold, and we witnessed this event/presentation. We were all very pleased with the presentation and we felt that it warranted a certificate of achievement so that is what we're here to present tonight. As the Superintendent and President make their way to the podium, I will read what the Young Civic Learners, what it is – it is a community project which gives children the opportunity to not only learn about law, the law that governs them, but also learn to be engaged citizens in their community. The town of Waterbury has been known to have a large population of young people. The Young Civic Learners' Youth Program consist of two courses - 1) Play by the Rules – this course taught the students about the laws that pertain to them such as alcohol, school, drugs, and transportation. The second course – Project Citizen – this class focuses on a strategic instruction on how to define a public policy, state a problem, research, make a solution, and how to implement that solution. So what we witnessed on Saturday was their presentation based on research, interviews, etc. They were very articulate, it was very interesting. I hope at some point we can see that presentation. But what we're here for tonight is to recognize your achievement. Please stand. Before I even go any further, I'd like to introduce the instructor, mentor of the program and I'm gonna ask that she will help out with the pronunciation of the names. Ms. LaTeena Bartee.

The following were presented a Certificate of Completion from the Board:

Joshua Collado
Allyanna Jones

Siouxsie Gagne
Erin Smith

Savannah Hernandez
Vincent Walker

Applause.

HARVEY: LaTeena, would you just come to the mic and let us know what your involvement was on this and why you were completing this project.

LATEENA BARTEE: Hello Board of Education. It's my great pleasure to be here today and the Young Civic Learners' family. As you see, their parents came and the volunteers, the facilitators are here. They were there every time the Young Civic Learners were there so they became a family. My community project, I came from a class called PLTI, I don't know if you're familiar with it, it's Parent Leadership Training Institute. We had to do a community project and my community project was putting middle school students, actually teaching them about civics and what law governs them because they had a program for high schoolers that allows them to have advocacy, that type of discussion, but they do not have it for middle school students in Waterbury. So I decided to research a program and researched from the internet, Civics First, which is a non-profit organization in Hartford. They gave me the books for free, I recruited the children, and the children recruited their friends and that was Young Civic Learners.

They took two courses – Play by the Rules, a course where they learn about the laws that govern them like transportation, drugs, what happens if they go to the mall and also Project Citizen is when they actually try to implement a public policy or try to figure out, they learned about existing policy but tried to figure out about how to change that policy or maybe there would be some solutions. And honestly they did a wonderful job. I could not have commended them anything more.

HARVEY: Thank you very much. Lastly, I'd like for the parents to stand. Thank you. President Stango, in conclusion, I would again congratulate the students and I hope that we continue with the program and I would ask that, I mean I loved talking with you guys, we have 10 Commissioners here so maybe the next round you can invite some of the other Commissioners to come out and to talk and to teach and I think the kids will learn a lot from that. So thank you very much and congratulations.

HAYES: I think we should recognize Ms. Barteo for taking the challenge; you've put this all together. I've known you since you were a little girl and I'm not surprised at all that you're doing something like this. But I really do appreciate you taking this so we can have more like you to try to mentor our younger kids. Thank you.

STANGO: Thank you very much. We're certainly proud to have you students in our Waterbury Schools. Excellent job.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:55 p.m.

STANGO: All in favor.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following report:

On Saturday, January 14th, I had the opportunity to speak to the students at the Young Civic Learners Graduation ceremony. The Young Civic Learners is a community project that gives children the opportunity to not only learn about the law that governs them, but also learn to be engaged citizens in their community. The Young Civic Learners youth program consists of two courses: Play by the Rules which teaches students about the laws that pertain to them such as alcohol, school, drugs, and transportation. The second course: Project Citizen focuses on strategic instruction on how to define a public policy, state a problem, research, make a solution, and how to implement the solution. I congratulated the students for demonstrating great leadership and personal responsibility by becoming engaged citizens and for stepping forward to learn how to effectively make a difference in our world. I also commended their parents for all of their support in encouraging their children to take part in this program and showing them the importance of fully participating in their community and becoming leaders.

On Tuesday evening, January 17th, I had a spirited and informative meeting with the Black Clergy of Waterbury at Grace Baptist Church. Grace Baptist Church is the home church of the former Board of Education Commissioner, the late Reverend Jonathan E.

Reed. Over 20 people were in attendance including Pastor Brown, Pastor Green, Pastor Blue, Pastor Mallory, Pastor Ward, Pastor Warren, Pastor Wade, Pastor Hughes, and Sundae Black. State Representative Butler, Vice President Karen Harvey and Monroe Webster from the Mayor's Office was also in attendance. Attorney Mosley joined me from Central Office.

Reverend Lydell Brown, the Chairperson of the Black Clergy, opened the meeting and all the participants introduced themselves.

Subsequent to the introductions, I gave some introductory remarks. My remarks centered around preparing all our students for the global society, changing the culture in Waterbury schools in order to eliminate the achievement gap, and explaining that from this point forward all stakeholders' voices in the community will be listened to.

The ministers were very passionate in their remarks and put forth some extremely important concerns.

Following are their major concerns:

1. Hiring of multi-cultural administrators, teachers, and other personnel that can relate to the students in our school district.
2. Preparing our students for the 21st century which includes closing the achievement gap.
3. Uneven application of school discipline (e.g. approximately 4 years ago 60% of the black students in one of our high school were suspended).
4. More AP and STEM courses in the schools.
5. More sensitive guidance counselors in the high schools.
6. Better maintenance in the inner city school.
7. Better teacher training.

I challenged the participants to join us on the front line in addressing these issues. They accepted the challenge and we agreed to have periodic meetings to assess our progress in meeting these concerns. It was a good first meeting.

The State of Connecticut is requesting a waiver from No Child Left Behind regulations and expects to file that waiver request by February 21st.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities has announced that it is recommending changes to a state law that requires cities and towns to fund education at a level equal to the previous year's funding. Currently, funding may decrease only if enrollment decreases, and only then by no more than 0.5% of the previous year's budget. This is known as MBR, or Minimum Budget Requirement. CCM will also promote higher state funding of public education and/or changes to the way the state's Education Cost Sharing Grant is distributed.

Chase Elementary School will be conducting Finals for the Scripps National Spelling Bee tomorrow morning, January 20th at 9:00 a.m. in the school gym. Chase School subscribed this year in order to have the opportunity to enter a 5th grader in this prestigious competition. The winner of this week's local competition will represent Chase School in the Scripps National Spelling Bee at a later date.

Crosby High School's Mock Trials team recently won the regional round by defeating Trumbull and East Catholic High School and a quarterfinals round where they defeated Westhill High School of Stamford. The next trial will be sometime in February at New Britain Superior Court. There are 10 regions and about 200 teams competing this year. Donna Mancuso is teacher/advisor for this group.

Wilby High School students participated in Waterbury AmeriCorps, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service at Naugatuck Valley Community College. The students from Wilby were an excellent representation of the great work that takes place there.

The Peer Helpers at Bucks Hill School are assisting with the organization of a pick-up of used household and clothing items for the Vietnam Veterans of America. The organization serves and supports all U.S. veterans and their families. The school will be collecting clothing, toys and small household items in good condition. Pick-up is on Thursday, February 9th. Respectfully submitted.

STANGO: Are there any questions for Superintendent Ouellette?

BROWN: I just had one question. In terms of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and some of the legislative issues, I think it would be appropriate that those issues probably be taken up in the Legislative Committee.

SUPERINTENDENT: That would be great. I know that school systems, especially the size of Waterbury, relies on the minimal budget requirement and if they were to dissolve that it certainly would have a significant impact on our budget here in Waterbury. So I agree Commissioner, that's an excellent point.

STANGO: Any other questions?

7. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

STANGO: Just for my comments, I just have a couple of announcements or information. The Board Retreat is definitely set for February 13 and the site is pretty much determined, but not exactly just yet, so we'll wait to announce that to the Commissioners. Commissioner Brown will serve on the School Readiness Council; she's already attended a meeting I believe, and I will serve on the Magnet School Interdistrict Advisory Board which meets monthly. That's all I have to say for my comments. So we'll move on now to the Consent Calendar. Is there any Commissioner who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar? Alright then.

President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar list.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt, with Commissioner Hayes recusing himself on Items 8.1 and 8.2, it was voted to approve the Consent Calendar, Items 8.1 through 8.11, as listed:

- 8.1 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Local 760, Service Employees International Union AFL-CIO, Secretarial, Clerical Bargaining Unit, for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.
- 8.2 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Local 760, Service Employees International Union AFL-CIO, Classroom Assistants and Transportation School Assistants Bargaining Unit, for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.
- 8.3 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Location Agreement with When We Grew Up: The Documentary, LLC, for the filming of the independent film "When We Grew Up".
- 8.4 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the following Resolution approving the acquisition of specific properties for the Waterbury Career Academy High School (WCA), to wit.
- 8.5 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the ED042/Phase 4 for the Jonathan E. Reed School Project (State Project #151-0253 N/PS).
- 8.6 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Professional Service Agreement with Megan, LLC (d/b/a Fairfield Testing Laboratory) for material testing services for three Waterbury Career Academy and Carrington Pre-k through 8 School Projects.
- 8.7 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the new position of High School Strength and Conditioning Coach for Crosby, Kennedy, and Wilby High Schools (3 positions) with a 0.35 coaching salary ratio per season.
- 8.8 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the job specifications for the position of Human Resources Generalist – Education, as attached.
- 8.9 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.
- 8.10 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.

- 8.11 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Virginia Barone, KHS, and four chaperones to take 45 students to Orlando, FL from May 23 through 27, 2012 to visit Walt Disney World.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. All in favor. All opposed. Motion carries.

9 . ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

10. COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES

- 10.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve that WTA grievance 11-12-07, heard by the Committee on January 12, 2012, be sustained, without establishing precedence, according to the following resolution: the grievant will be given first preference to a transfer to a school of her choice from any opening in the first transfer list posted for the 2012/2013 school year.

STANGO: All in favor. All opposed. Motion carries.

- 10.2. Upon a motion by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted to approve that the WTA grievance 11-12-11, heard by the Committee on January 12, 2012, be referred back to the Superintendent's Level as agreed to by both parties.

STANGO: Motion has been approved and seconded – all in favor, all opposed, motion carries.

- 10.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve that the WTA grievance 11-12-14, heard by the Committee on January 12, 2012, be referred back to the Superintendent's Level as agreed to by both parties.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion on that? All in favor. Motion carries.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file the Superintendent's Notification to the Board, Items 11.1 through 11.12, as listed:

- 11.1 Athletic appointments effective immediately:

Risucci, Tanya – Head Swim Coach, WMS.

11.2 Appointments:

Pogodzienski, Marcy – Teaching Vice Principal, WMS, effective 01/03/12.

11.3 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:

Cavallo, Angelica - Instructional Tutor, 10 months per year, 18 hours per week @ \$31.00 per hour, non-union/no benefits.

Cavanaugh, Ellon – Substitute , 21st Century Learning Center – Downtown Academy, Cohort 8/Project #2, salary according to contract.

Chaloux, Lisa – Instructional Tutor, 10 months per year, 18 hours per week @ \$31.00 per hour, non-union/no benefits.

Diaz, Jesenia - Substitute , 21st Century Learning Center – Downtown Academy, Cohort 8/Project #2, salary according to contract.

Gambucci, Anne Marie – Career Technology Educational Liaison, WAMS, 15 hours per week, 35 weeks, \$30.00 p/hour, non-union, no benefits.

Gronda, Stephanie – Teacher, 21st Century Learning Center – Wilby High School, Cohort 8/Project #1, salary according to contract.

Hinton, Marci – Teacher, North End Middle School STEM After-school program (replacing Dave Habersang), salary according to contract.

Sullivan Blum, Margaret – Instructional Tutor, 10 months per year, 18 hours per week @ \$31.00 per hour, non-union/no benefits.

Williams, Sarah – Instructional Tutor, 10 months per year, 18 hours per week @ \$31.00 per hour, non-union/no benefits.

Yatsenik, Rodney – WHS Math Teacher, High School Exit Criteria Program, funded by the School Improvement Grant, salary according to contract.

11.4 Middle School Credit Retrieval Program appointments, subject to student enrollment, salary according to individual’s contract, effective immediately:

Perillo, Audra – Wallace Middle School.

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

SCHOOL	NAME	ASSIGNMENT
Bucks Hill	Brown, Susan	Teacher Sub
Chase	Argenta, Lauren	Teacher Sub
	Calabrese, Matthew	Sub Administrator
	Holmes, Heather	Teacher
	Perugini, Maryanne	Teacher Sub
	Shagensky, Robert	Teacher
	Silva, Nancy	Teacher
	Weed, Pamela	Teacher
	Yost, Amy	Administrator
Hopeville	Brandes, Alicia	Teacher Sub
	Callahan, Michelle	Teacher
	Diorio, Christine	Teacher
	Esposito, Mark	Teacher
	Garcia, Nilsa	Teacher Sub

	Gomez, Bridgette	Teacher
	Paternoastro, Gina	Teacher
	Perez, Aurea	Teacher
	Smith, Richard	Teacher
	Torres-Gray, Felicia	Paraprofessional

- 11.6 OdysseyWare After-School Online Learning Lab Coordinator/Instructional Tutor appointments, maximum of 6 after-school hours p/week, salary according to contract:

School	Coordinator/Instructional Tutor	Substitute
Crosby	Caouette, Crystal	Brown, Sam
Kennedy	Conway, Michael	Borges, Laura
Wilby	DePaola, Victoria	Docherty, Fiona
WAMS	Newmark, Cathi	Banach, Jaclyn
Enlightenment	Veneziano, Ellen	Levesque, Melissa
State Street	Luciano, Nancy	Carvill, Teresa
District-wide		Valletta, Marnie

- 11.7 Teacher new hires:

Dicarlo, Amy – KHS Special Ed, 6th year/1, effective 01/03/12.

Foulds, Theresa – Gilmartin/Duggan Tech Ed, 6th+15/1, eff. 12/20/11.

- 11.8 Teacher transfers:

Teacher	From	To	Effective
Bosco, Carla	Walsh K	Duggan K	9/12/11
Crespo, Julissa	Sprague Bilingual Literacy	Chase Bilingual Basic Skills	8/20/12
Giorgi, Jessica	WSMS/NEMS School Psychologist (temp)	WSMS/NEMS School Psychologist (perm)	8/25/11
Haller, Cheryl	Hopeville	Tinker Gr. 3	10/3/11
Lopriore, Marnie	NEMS Gr 7 Math (temp)	NEMS Gr 7 Math (perm)	8/25/11
Mendoza-Overton, Evelyn	W. Cross Gr 3	W. Cross Gr 5	8/25/11
Moffo, Laurie	Sprague Early Childhood	Chase Literacy Facilitator	1/3/12
Morotto, Suzan	Driggs DI	Walsh DI	9/26/11
Mroz, Heather	CHS English (temp)	CHS English (perm)	8/25/11
Northrop, Martina	W. Cross Gr 2	W. Cross Gr 3	8/25/11
Portanova, Andrea	W. Cross Gr 5	W. Cross Gr 2	8/25/11
Pyles, Kathleen	NEMS Gr 6 Math (temp)	NEMS Gr 6 Math (perm)	8/25/11
Rupe, Michele	Bucks Hill PreK	Duggan PreK	8/25/11
Smith, Richard	Hopeville	Hopeville Title 1 Literacy	10/11/11
Stango, Melissa	WMS Literacy 6-8	WMS LA Gr 7	1/3/12
Thompson, Karlyn	KHS Social Studies (temp)	KHS Social Studies (perm)	8/25/11
White, Nancy	Tinker Resource	Enlightenment Special Ed	8/20/12
Williamson, Deborah	Wilson Gr 1	Maloney Gr 1	8/20/12

- 11.9 Retirements:

Montes, Pedro – Carrington Bilingual grade 3, effective 06/30/12.

- 11.10 Resignations:

Hyde, Sandee – Bucks Hill Reading, effective 01/01/12.

11.11 Leave of absence requests:

Dey, Peter – Gilmartin grade 6 Reading/Language Arts, Active Military Duty for approximately 12 – 18 months, effective January 3, 2012.

11.12 Adult Education appointments effective 01/20/12:

Borok, Lawrence – Meditation (Enrichment), as needed @ \$24.00 p/hour.

Cantito, Ralph – App-It-Teasers (Enrichment), 3 hrs p/wk @ \$31.00 p/hour.

Dougherty, Jay – Computers for Seniors (Enrichment), 2 hrs p/wk @ \$24.00 p/hour.

Dunn, Deborah – Substitute, as needed @ \$31.00 p/hour.

Harjula, Jill – Spanish I & II (Enrichment), 4 hrs p/wk @ \$24.00 p/hour.

Lomartra, James – Substitute (Tech Center), as needed @ \$31.00 p/hour.

Stanco, Michael – Resource/Attendance Room Aide, 25 hrs p/wk @ \$21.50 p/hour.

STANGO: All in favor, all opposed, motion carries. Item #12 – any Unfinished Business from the Proceeding Meeting only? Okay, Item #13 – Other Unfinished, New, or Miscellaneous Business? Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: I just wanted to make everyone aware that the CABA Day on the Hill will be March 14 this year. We will have a Legislative meeting on February 6, I have just set that with the Clerk of the Board and this will be one of the items on the agenda, among other things. I have already spoken with our Social Studies Supervisor Mike Harris and he is in the works of gathering some students to come to the Day on the Hill. Mr. Guidone, Mike's a little worried we may need two buses this year. So any of the Commissioners that have free time that day could come up to the Capitol, spend the day with us. There is a presentation by the Governor, by some of the Education Committee legislators, then a march to the Capitol with CABA to attend some of the committee meetings that may be taking place at the Capitol that day. Students also get a tour of the Capitol as well. It has been, the last couple of years there have been a few more students every year. Last year we had a rather large group. We heard many compliments from people at the Capitol how impressed they were with our Waterbury students, we're very proud of them, and hope to be proud again of them this year. But you are all welcome to attend and we would love to have you come along and help us chaperone what looks like possibly a large group of students.

STANGO: Thank you Commissioner Sweeney. Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: I just wanted to report on, we did vote tonight on the Consent Calendar to request approval of the resolution or the property acquisition for the Waterbury Career Academy. I just want to let everyone know that we did have a presentation this evening that was videotaped, you might look for that, but we are going to have a meeting in the community as soon as we schedule it. We want to make sure that we let everyone be fully informed of just what the status is of that whole project right now. Thank you.

STANGO: Thank you Commissioner Hayes. Any others? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Just a few things. First, the Walsh School tour, we have a storm that's pending for Saturday so we're gonna cancel it and reschedule it for the next Saturday. And I hope this will give everyone time. I think we only had two Commissioners that were available for the tour so hopefully this will give everyone enough time to perhaps clear their calendar. Anticipate that the tour should take no more than 30 to 45 minutes so I think it's important, Superintendent you are excused from it, I just would hope that more Commissioners would come out. We also, I think Commissioner Van Stone recommended that we get the Aldermen to come along too. So I have solicited Alderman Hadley to assist me with that so, hopefully, we can bring all this together.

Next, it's been awhile since I've heard an update on what's happening at Hopeville School. You know, being out and about, the public has asked me what's going on with the students, what plans do we have, etc. So I would hope that maybe the next Workshop, if we could get some kind of update on what's going on so that the public doesn't think we're just forgetting about the students.

And lastly, I'd like to publically thank the Superintendent for coming out and speaking at the Young Civic Learners graduation ceremony and also speaking with the concerned clergy. It speaks volumes to the community when you come out to where they are and know that there's a lot of mending that's needed right now in the community but that meeting that you had, particularly with the concerned clergy, I think has put some, a little band aid on it at least. So I think if we continue with that it will help mend some wounds. So I want to, again, thank you personally for doing that.

SUPERINTENDENT: You're very welcome.

STANGO: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Through the Chair, I just wanted to ask Superintendent and President Stango to give an update on the Mayor's anti-blight initiative that we've been going to the meetings and I think the roll of the school is gonna be a good one. So if you want to just tell people about it.

STANGO: I was at that meeting along with Paul Guidone and Superintendent and Vice President Harvey, that was last Friday, and there was quite a number of people in attendance. It was held in Veterans' Memorial Hall and there were many chairs set up and the chairs were filled. We had representatives from the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Health Department, Public Works Department, many more departments, WDC was there, and everybody took the Mayor's charge seriously and actually prepared a plan going forward to improve the blighted areas in the Walsh neighborhood. The Superintendent gave a report, Mr. Guidone gave a report, and there reports by Police and Fire and Health, also, amongst others. Also a very interesting report was given by the State Prosecutor in charge of housing violations. And she has vowed to get involved and pick up the pace in doing whatever she can do from her department also. The Mayor said a few things, actually very few things because everyone else did all the talking, but the Mayor did ask Vice President Harvey and Mr. James Monroe to step up with the neighborhood and get them involved and convince them to take ownership of their neighborhood to really sell them on the idea of keeping up their end and keeping up their property and the Mayor also asked Commissioner Brown and myself to look into curriculums that are available in the Waterbury School

District that have already taken place to alleviate blight and recycling. There was also a presentation, remarks by Neighborhood Council President Josh Angeles and that's what spurred the Mayor to inquire, do we have anything in place and, I think, Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt might be aware of those curriculum wise in recycling. Also I think that the Waterbury Beautification committee is also going to step up. They have some things in place that they used to bring to schools in talking about keeping Waterbury beautiful and kept clean. That's what I remember. I actually wrote all these things down but I don't have them with me. Superintendent, you were there and you gave a report.

SUPERINTENDENT: I feel that, just very generically, I prefer to report out in a more strategic way, the next workshop we can certainly add that on, but basically from a district's perspective we talked globally, we talked short-term and we took long-term goals. I know Mr. Guidone prepared a document with regards to short term and long term maintenance and capital repairs to the Walsh School. And how, we also talked about, and I'm not prepared this evening to talk about the vision of Walsh School, but I also cautioned the community members there that we need to have a, see where Walsh fits in in that quadrant of the City and how it fits into the whole matrix and the whole school system that we don't want to have an . . . continue to conduct and we continue to build pre-k/eight schools, magnet schools, we really need to have a thorough plan with regards to Walsh Elementary. As I'm looking at the whole vision for the district, some of that will become more available to the Commissioners in the weeks to come. I asked them to look into the global picture and that's what we're looking at from this perspective. I have had some conversations with community members as to a facility needs with regards to that area of the City, what would be certainly a plus to the community in that part of the City and I have some ideas that I'm not prepared to share this evening but I have had some detailed conversations with Mr. Guidone and some community members that I think would be a great idea for that area. But with regards to the infrastructure within the school and programmatically, I need to look at the whole picture and allow Principal Brown to complete his work with regards to closing the achievement gap and student achievement and then we will go from there. Probably in weeks to come I'll be able to unveil the whole picture for you.

HARVEY: If I could just add a few things, you did very well. Alderman Hadley was also present and the task was given to Alderman Hadley and myself and to Jim Monroe. Now as follow-up we have on Tuesday, January 24, a community meeting at Walsh School at 6:00. Again, January 24, on Tuesday, at 6:00 at Walsh School, will be a community meeting to discuss blight and to get going with, as the Mayor has asked us to do, start educating the neighborhood on different things.

STANGO: Thank you Vice President Harvey. Mr. Guidone, is there anything that we left out?

GUIDONE: No, I think actually did very well. I would only add that the Superintendent and I have had a discussion with the Principal and asked him to engage his school community and to continue to come up with their ideas to incorporate. Clearly we have an evolving plan by all City departments, it's very aggressive, very hopeful for everybody, it's exactly what everybody wanted to see. But I just wanted to mention that the school itself is getting together and providing some direct input, recommendations to the Superintendent and myself. I think that's due within the next day or two.

STANGO: Thank you Mr. Guidone. Just to wrap it up to, I was impressed with a couple of the departments who actually had binders prepared with short and long-term goals, color printed, to be handed out. I mean when the Mayor asked the departments to do that, the departments did step up and it's been serious business; everyone is picking up the slack. I think if anything is gonna move it's gonna move now. I think the Mayor is a very strong proponent of this and I think you will see things happen.

HAYES: Through you Mr. President to Vice President Harvey. Mr. Webster says that the meeting is scheduled for 6:30; I don't know if the time was changed, I just want to make sure everybody was aware of that. That is the same date as our Finance Committee Meeting.

STANGO: Andy then you could all go over there. Commissioner Van Stone.

VAN STONE: Commissioner Hayes stole my thunder a little bit. I just want to remind you all that we have a Finance Committee meeting that same day at 4:30. The reason we moved it a little bit earlier was because there is the meeting at Walsh plus there's also a meeting on the busing situation up at Chase at 6:00; I'm gonna have to run to that meeting as well. So Tuesday is gonna be a jam-packed day and I look forward to seeing most of you. And before Paul yelled at me again for not inviting you all to the Finance Committee, you're all welcome to show up, as well.

STANGO: Any other questions, comments?

HARVEY: There is a letter that was received and placed on file from concerned parents regarding the magnet schools and procedures there. Are we going to, President Stango, since you sit on the Committee, are we going to bring this concern to the Interdepartmental, or whatever the Committee is that you're sitting on, with magnet schools, are we gonna bring this to the...

STANGO: I think the letter you're referring to is something about New Haven magnet schools.

HARVEY: Yes, the letter said that they wanted to have Waterbury students go to New Haven. Are we going to respond to this or just simply receive and place on file?

STANGO: I will look at that letter again, review that letter, and I'm sure tomorrow Mr. Magnotta will be, I will . . . that by him.

HARVEY: Will we respond back to the parents?

STANGO: Sure, I will talk to the State representative in charge of that and I'll get to Paul on that and we'll move.

GUIDONE: I think the intent of that letter as I read it, we have a few students that go out to magnet schools, we're mostly a receiver rather than a sender, I think the nature of letter was asking some consideration of busing students from Waterbury to other locations specifically some in New Haven schools. So I think the nature of the request, and they did indicate that they want the Board to look at it and probably get some more

particulars, but the nature was the issue of busing students into other communities. You can talk to Bill Magnotta about it and we can have further discussions.

STANGO: Okay. Thank you. Any others?

HAYES: We did approve the job spec for the high school strength and conditioning coach. Are we looking to fill that position as soon as possible?

SUPERINTENDENT: That would be my intent, as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. into Executive Session for discussion pending claims/litigation AND Superintendent of Schools evaluation.

Present were President Stango, Commissioners Brown, D'Amelio, Flaherty-Merritt, Harkins, Harvey (left at 8:45), Hayes, Morales (left at 8:45), Sweeney, and Van Stone. Also present were Dr. Ouellette and Mr. Guidone (left at 7:53). The Executive Session ended at 8:50 p.m. with no votes taken.

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