

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 30, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Vice President White, Commissioners D'Angelo, Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, O'Leary, Stango, Sweeney, and Theriault.

ABSENT: President Hayes and Commissioner Morales.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Snead, Assistant Superintendent Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, School Business Administrator Paul Mazzaccaro, Attorney Maurice Mosley, and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Vice President White called the meeting to order a 6:37 p.m. with a moment of silence and a prayer and Superintendent Snead led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner D'Angelo.

D'ANGELO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Here

CLERK: Commissioner Morales (absent). Commissioner O'Leary.

O'LEARY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner White.

WHITE: Here.

CLERK: President Hayes. (absent)

COMMUNICATIONS:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner D'Angelo, with Commissioner Theriault "abstaining", it was voted to receive and place on file the following communications:

1. Thank you note dated July 31, 2010 from the McKinney Family.
2. Copy of article entitled "Elected Officials' first Priority Must be their Constituents" from the August 1, 2010 Republican American submitted by Commissioner Theriault.
3. Copy of article entitled "Fiscal Tsunami Coming" from the August 1, 2010 Republican American submitted by Commissioner Theriault.
4. Communication received by Commissioner D'Angelo dated August 5, 2010 from Catherine Coviello regarding her daughter.
5. Copy of communication dated August 11, 2010 from Civil Service certifying Anastasios Saltourides for the position of Maintainer I.
6. Department of Education's Annual Report for 2009-2010 dated August 13, 2010 from Dr. Snead.
7. Copy of communication dated August 14, 2010 to President Hayes from Tom Ciarlo regarding his brother Corado "Babe" Ciarlo.
8. Copy of article entitled "School Board to get 5-year plan in 2010" from the August 13, 2010 Republican American submitted by Commissioner Theriault.
9. Copy of communication dated August 16, 2010 from Civil Service certifying David Cyr for the position of Maintainer I.
10. Copy of communication dated August 16, 2010 from Civil Service certifying Michael Theriault for the position of Elementary School Teaching Vice Principal.
11. Copy of communications dated August 18, 2010 from Civil Service certifying Eileen Kling, Rovena Muca, and Gregory Weaver for the position of Paraprofessional.
12. Copy of communication dated August 18, 2010 from Civil Service certifying Filomena Hudobenko for the position of Elementary School Supervising Vice Principal.
13. Copy of communication dated August 19, 2010 from Civil Service certifying Katherine Harris for the position of Library Page.
14. Competitive Grants Summary for 2009-2010 dated August 19, 2010 from Louise Allen Brown, Grant Writer.

15. Copy of communication dated August 19, 2010 from Civil Service certifying Carolyn Maggiore for the position of Paraprofessional.
16. Copy of communications dated August 20, 2010 from Civil Service certifying Syetta Chapman and Christine Geary for the position of ABA Therapist.
17. Copy of article entitled "This time, the window's real" from the August 21, 2010 Republican American submitted by Commissioner Theriault.
18. Communication dated August 21, 2010 from Jim Sanders.
19. Copy of communication dated August 23, 2010 from Civil Service certifying Gina Tirado for the position of Administrative Support Specialist I.
20. Communication dated August 24, 2010 from Waterbury Teachers Association regarding discussions on the Education Jobs Bill.

THERIAULT: Just for the record Madam Chair, I will not be voting on anything with my son's . . .

WHITE: I think you can vote to accept it. Any discussion? All in favor, opposed.

PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD:

Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo 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 6:43 p.m.

WHITE: 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.

Lisa Lessard, 905 Pearl Lake Road, had the following comments: First I want to say congratulations; today is the first school day. I was asked to start out on a positive note. Now to the reason why I came. Basically, in the Republican American newspaper, August 27, 2010, unfortunately, again, it was said school foreman arrested, plumber charged with falsifying sprinkler inspection records. Now, my question here is why again another school scandal? Okay, you, the local school board, are the per se bosses, quote, end of quote, of this local school department. For you are where the buck stops and lays. When you are the boss and the people working for you and with you are not doing their jobs properly or correctly, then, in turn, that means you the boss, yes the local school board, are not doing your jobs properly or correctly for you're not supervising those who work with you, for you period. My question is here, where is the accountability? Where is the overseement of all the department heads? Why does this keep continuously happening – not once, not twice, but over and over and over again? Why do we not have a zero tolerance policy? Maybe each and every school board member could come up with a zero tolerance policy. We are sick of it, being taxpayers,

being homeowners. We pay an awful lot in this City to have what needs to happen for our children within the schools. What happened here is a safety violation, not okay, no excuses, I'm done with excuses, the public is done with excuses. This is a new school year, let's start it out on this fresh spot. Believe it or not, you have something going to the voters in November, Civil Service. You want it to come in front of you, correct? Well, you know what, it can't come in front of you, the voters are going to say same old, same old, same thing is happening every time we turn around, why do we want the local school board be in charge of anything, especially picking someone like a new superintendent? Let's turn around and show the public you're gonna take action, you're gonna engage in the process, and you're gonna do for each and every child within the City cause they're the only ones that are hurting from the scandals. I mean, there's not one, there's not two, there's not three. I have stacks at home like this, no kidding, it's not okay. Basically, you want trust; you need to show us trust. The taxpayers are worthy of trust and you need to engage and take action, period, once and for all, enough is just that – enough. We the taxpayers are fed up and finally done. Congratulations on the new school year and now let's please, zero tolerance policy, will be what we're looking for. Thank you.

Athena Wagner, 1558 Highland Avenue, had the following comments: I just want to say that first I'd like to thank the Board for voting to name the school, once again, the new school after Jonathan Reed. I think it was long overdue, out of all the schools that we have we needed one named after an African American. So I just wanted to say thank you for that. Now when I come down here, things that I say, I pray that you don't take them personally because I come down here for business. It has nothing to do with anyone on a personal level. Waterbury, Connecticut has 22 out of 30, whatever the number is, 22, 19, I don't care, it's too many, low performing, failing public schools. The last CMT scores were at a minus 0.2% gain. That makes me wonder if that's the gain, then how low were the actual scores to begin with? This Board of Education is about to hire a new school superintendent and may be given the appearance of going to the process while already planning to hire someone who may be less than qualified. Given the fact that this person does not meet the job spec requirements that are currently in place, I cannot believe that this Board would entertain the notion of lowering the requirements for the position to suit that person while we are trying to raise the standard on a national level for true education reform. Inadequate and ineffective teachers are allowed to remain on the job for at least four years, that's what I was told. Whether it's true or not, I don't know. If that's the case, they're allowed to remain on the job for at least four years to fail every student that comes through that classroom every year that that teacher remains - why? There is a hiring process that seems not to be being adhered to or is it for appearance sake only? When you've already promised the position to someone that may be less than qualified or simply not the best qualified applicant. Who does this benefit - certainly not the students. That is no part of true education reform. Ask yourselves individually and collectively, why the resistance or reluctance to change to true education reform? If not one of your answers, if not one of you answer that it was for the best for the children then you're part of the problem. Thank you.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Snead read and distributed the following report:

I visited eighteen schools today to get a feel for how things were going on the first day of school. All eighteen indicated to me that it was a very good opening and more parents, especially fathers participated.

Of the eighteen, there were only two glitches; one at the Pre-K part of Sprague Elementary where three vehicles were parked on private property, and at Kingsbury School where some students were assigned to two buses, one bringing them to school and another returning home.

All in all, it was a good first start.

Last week's Back-to-School Rally was well attended, with hundreds of parents and children coming out to Library Park to gather information, listen to music and enjoy the food.

Earlier in the day, I held my Back-to-School meeting for administrators. I emphasized the need for increased monitoring of student progress over the coming year.

Last week we had two ribbon cutting ceremonies. The first ceremony was held at the Bucks Hill School Annex for the new playground. The second was the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Gilmartin School. Those attending the events were very impressed by what they saw.

We are continuing to monitor the progress of Hurricane Earl. We receive regular updates from the National Weather Station which is indicating potential effects for Friday at this time.

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

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, Items 8.1 through 8.10, as listed:

- 8.1 With the approval of the Committee on Grants, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Professional Services Agreement, with the following agencies, for Sub-grantee Services under the School Readiness and Child Day Care Grant for grant years 2009-2011:
1. Catholic Charities
 2. Children's Center of Greater Waterbury Health Network
 3. Children's Center of Greater Wtby. Health Network-Family Resource Center
 4. Children's Community School
 5. Easter Seals/All Kid's Child Care Center
 6. Kid's Town, LLC

7. New Opportunities, Inc.
 8. NVCC Discovery School
 9. Rainbow Academy
 10. St. Mary's Hospital Child Development Center
 11. The Ark
 12. Waterbury Day Nursery Association
 13. Waterbury Youth Services
 14. YMCA Child Care-West Main Street
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- 8.2 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Gilbane Building Company for "Construction Manager at Risk/CMAR" services for the Waterbury Career Academy High School Project.
 - 8.3 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an agreement with KBE Building Corporation for "Construction Manager at Risk/CMAR" services for the New Carrington Pre-k through 8 School Project.
 - 8.4 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an agreement with Newfield Construction, Inc. for "Construction Manager at Risk/CMAR" services for the Wilby High School Science Suite Renovations Project.
 - 8.5 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Other Professional Services Contract with Atelier Ten USA, LLC for "Independent High Performance Building (LEED) Consultant Services" for the New Carrington Pre-k through 8 School Project and the Waterbury Career Academy High School Project.
 - 8.6 With the approval of the Committee on Schoolhouses, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Construction Contract with Epifano Builders, Inc. for kitchen renovations at Kennedy High School.
 - 8.7 With the approval of the Committee on Schoolhouses, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of Amendment #1 to the Construction Contract with Gold Seal Roofing & Sheetmetal, Inc. for the Driggs Elementary School Roof Replacement and Repairs – State Project #151-0281RR.
 - 8.8 With the approval of the Committee on Rules & Regulations, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the new policy entitled Hazardous Materials in Schools/Chemical Hygiene Plan.
 - 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.

WHITE: Any discussion? All in favor, opposed.

D'ANGELO: Make a motion that we add an item, number 9.1, a motion to schedule a special meeting on Monday, September 20, 2010 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of an Executive Session for Board self-evaluation. The said retreat will be presided by a member of the CABE staff. I'd like to make a motion to add that item as 9.1.

SWEENEY: **Second.**

WHITE: Discussion, no discussion on this, this is just to add. All in favor...

THERIAULT: Roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADD:

Yeas: Commissioners D'Angelo, Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, O'Leary, Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, and Vice President White – 9

WHITE: Motion to add passes.

D'ANGELO: Motion to schedule a special meeting on Monday, September 20, 2010, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of an Executive Session for Board self-evaluation. Said retreat will be resided by a member of the CABE staff. Respectfully submitted and so moved.

SWEENEY: **Second.**

WHITE: Discussion.

O'LEARY: I have no problem with it, I just looked at my calendar, I have a major conflict I'm not going to be able to move. Not a reason to change the date, I suppose. I'm just letting you know. I support the retreat, but I won't be able to be there.

WHITE: That was our no meeting, off night, so people may have made other plans. Is there any other discussion? When was this decided or is this just something that you decided?

D'ANGELO: If you will allow me, I'll amend the motion so the date could be fluid because I think it's important that as many people can be there. My reason, President White, is I think over the last, I don't think, I know, over the last two years that we have really had a lack of discussion about the evaluation of the Board about the vision of the Board, and those kind of things and I just think, I was talking to some of the Board members today, I just think it's high time that we do that. And one of the Board members had a suggestion to have a member of CABE oversee the process so it's done in a professional and non-threatening manner; so it doesn't turn into a shouting match and decorum is maintained and I think that was a good idea. That was the reason for...

WHITE: And I agree. I think that this is, it's a valid point and it's something that's needed. It's been asked for many times in the past and it would be good, but it would be good if everyone could be there.

D'ANGELO: So can I make a friendly **amendment to the motion that we say within the next 60 days and we'll pick a date at our next Workshop where everyone could be there. So I'll amend to from saying Monday, September 20, 2010 to reading within the next 60 days at a date and time to be determined at our next Workshop.**

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: **Second.**

WHITE: Is everyone in favor? Under discussion.

HARVEY: I'm in favor of it as well. My only concern is from our last retreat that if it's Executive Session, it's Executive Session, that whatever's discussed remains between us, not leaked to the newspaper. That's my only concern and that if we make an agreement in that Executive Session, that we follow it. And that would be my only concern.

WHITE: Thank you Commissioner Harvey. Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Thank you Madam Vice President.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: We're on the amendment.

WHITE: All in favor of the amendment, opposed. Now we can have discussion.

STANGO: Thank you again. I think it's very important if we have this, if you want to call it a retreat, that everyone has to be there because if one or two are not the whole issues that we have to discuss are not gonna be discussed fully. A retreat could be far reaching. And I know that Commissioner D'Angelo mentioned retreat for purposes of a self-board evaluation. I'm afraid it's gonna take a lot longer than two hours, that's the problem, because a retreat is much more far reaching than just a self-evaluation. A lot of issues come up to be discussed and I don't think two hours are going to do it. So I think it's gonna take a lot of planning to fit everyone's schedule and everyone's time block. But I think coming down the line, and you say 60 days, hopefully in 60 days it will be done, but I think it's important that we do, do it. But I do think that it's got to be done right and definitely has to be, I'm definitely in favor of having a CAGE person facilitate it. Thank you.

THERIAULT: I'm in favor of the retreat or the Board of Ed therapy, but I really think that our laundry should be aired in the open, in public. I don't like the idea of the Executive Session. I never have. I won't be attending that retreat. I don't go to them, I don't believe in them, I think that anything that you discuss should not be in Executive Session but be in front of the public. Let the public see how we function or how we're dysfunctional. I have no problem with saying anything I have to say as one speaker said, not taking it personally to any one member of this Board. I think there's a lot of room for improvement but I won't attend anything in Executive Session because if I have dirty laundry, I want to hang it out on the line so everybody could see it. That's

what they elected us for and that's what I think we should do. If they want to come to the meetings and listen to us, listen to our discourse, or listen to our cooperation, or listen to the ways we want to change this Board to make it more effective, fine. If you have it in public I'll be there. If you have it in Executive Session, I won't be there because, quite honestly, I feel it becomes a bully pulpit to chastise members for what one person might think is appropriate or inappropriate conduct. As far as I'm concerned, I always conduct myself appropriately. Maybe sometimes I have a little bit of passion and I get a little rambunctious, but it's all in the spirit of cooperation with this Board and all for the betterment of the students in the system. So that being said, you want to have the meeting in public, I'll be there. You don't have the meeting in public, I won't. Thank you.

WHITE: Thank you Commissioner Theriault. Commissioner D'Angelo.

D'ANGELO: Just, and I obviously respect Commissioner Theriault, evaluations of public employees and even private employees are not normally done in open session and the only reason this Board, there's only certain reasons this Board could go into Executive Session and you guys know what they are, a board self-evaluation is one of those reasons. So I don't think, at least why I'm asking for this, I don't think we're necessarily going in there to air our dirty laundry, as John said, but I think we're going in there to evaluate how our Board is doing. So that's the reason it would be in Executive Session.

SWEENEY: I would like to suggest having a representative from CABE stop by ...

THERIAULT: As a referee?

SWEENEY: Stop by prior to the 60 days being up, prior to us setting that meeting and explain how they do this because they do this on a regular basis with boards across Connecticut.

WHITE: Yes, they did that once before, and we also had a court ruling that it was permissible to have it in Executive Session.

SWEENEY: I don't have a problem with Executive Session but I think it would be helpful to have CABE come and tell us just exactly how they facilitate these.

WHITE: So you would like them to come to the next Workshop?

SWEENEY: I would like them to come within the next couple of weeks at a Workshop.

WHITE: Thank you. Anything else?

SUPERINTENDENT: When I first came here, the very first session, your very first retreat on how to evaluate yourselves was conducted by CABE and it was done in public over at Kennedy High School in the library. First, you were trying to decide how to evaluate me and then you decided, well, we need to learn how to evaluate each other first, set our own goals, you brought CABE in to help do that.

WHITE: It wasn't in public. The discussion was in public but the self-evaluation. I believe Paul Guidone did our first retreat.

THERIAULT: Did we vote on this?

WHITE: We didn't vote. All in favor, opposed. The ayes have it, the motion passes. We will have one within the next 60 days. We'll contact CABA and hopefully it will be a successful thing.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo and duly seconded by Commissioner Stango, with Commissioner Theriault "abstaining", it was voted to receive and place on file items 10.1 through 10.10, Superintendent's Notification to the Board:

- 10.1 Athletic appointments, effective immediately:
Thompson, Roy – Assistant Football Coach, KHS.
- 10.2 Athletic resignations, effective immediately:
Baldwin, Stephen – Assistant Volleyball Coach, WHS.
Perugini, Loreen – Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach, WHS.
- 10.3 Appointments (Civil Service):
Hudobenko, Filomena – SVP, Generali School, effective 08/16/10.
Theriault, Michael – TVP, Wilson School, effective 08/25/10.
- 10.4 Grant funded appointments:
Chapman, Nicholas – Network Specialist, from 10 months per year to 12 months per year, effective 06/01/2010.
Murray, Mary K. – Instructional Tutor, RMS, 10 months per year, 18 hours per week @ \$30 per hour, no benefits.
Ireland, Lee – Pre-k Bus Driver, (ARRA funds) 10 months per year, 35 hours per week, SEIU position, salary and benefits governed by the SEIU agreement.
Manganaro, Charles – Pre-k Bus Driver, (ARRA funds) 10 months per year, 35 hours p/week, SEIU position, salary/benefits governed by the SEIU agreement.
Tyson-Wood, Wendy – Instructional Technology Assistant, Chase School, from part time (19 hours p/week) to full time (32 hours p/week), with benefits governed by the SEIU agreement, effective 08/25/10.
- 10.5 Enlightenment After School Program Appointments, 4 days per week for a total of 4.5 hours per week, salary according to individual's contract:
Veneziano, Ellen – Lead Teacher/Math Teacher.
Coelho, Dana – Literacy Teacher.
Davis, Lynette – Science Teacher.
Levesque, Melissa – Substitute Teacher.
- 10.6 21st Century Community Learning Center 2010/2011 Program Appointments/Cohort 5/Wallace Middle School:
Kenneth Sirois (to replace Cynthia Hammond).

10.7 Teacher new hires:

NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION	STEP		EFFECTIVE
Anderson, Catherine	Regan	Special Ed	6TH	2	8/25/2010
Bertando, Deanna	Wilby	Math	BA	1	8/25/2010
Carosella, Stephen	Chase	Gr. 5	MA	1	8/25/2010
Davino, Jenna	Walsh	Gr. 2	MA	1	8/25/2010
Dzinski, Mary Ann	Bucks Hill	Pre-k - Regular Ed	MA	1	8/25/2010
Guerrera, Tracy	Walsh	Gr. 5	BA	2	8/25/2010
Guglielmo, Michele	WSMS	Math	MA	1	8/25/2010
Kalnins, Siobhan	Maloney	Pre-k - Co-taught	MA	1	8/25/2010
Kuang, Qi Li	Wilby	Math	BA	1	8/25/2010
Levins, Lynn	NEMS	Vision	MA	1	8/25/2010
Nadeau, Jacqueline	NEMS	Gr. 6 Literacy	MA	1	8/25/2010
Naidorf, Jeffrey	Enlightenment	English/LA	MA+15	1	8/25/2010
O'Brien, Lindsay	Regan	Gr. 4	MA	1	8/25/2010
Racki, Raffaele	Rotella	Gr. 1	BA	2	8/25/2010
Sconziano, Jessica	Driggs	Gr. 4	MA	1	8/25/2010
White, Melissa A.	Walsh/Generali	Music	BA	1	8/25/2010
Wiener, Matthew A.	Enlightenment	English/LA	MA	1	8/25/2010
Wrobel, Fallon	WSMS	Literacy	MA	1	8/25/2010

10.8 Retirements:

Pellet, Michelle – Kindergarten Teacher, Sprague, effective 08/01/10.

10.9. Resignations:

Gizzi, Angela – Literacy Teacher, WSMS effective 08/03/10.

Lockwood, Katie – Language Arts, WSMS, effective 08/16/10.

Moreau, Danielle – Math Teacher, WHS, effective 08/04/10.

Naidorf, Jeffrey – English Teacher, Enlightenment, effective 08/05/10 (new hire who rescinded contract).

10.10 Adult Education appointments effective 08/31/10:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>HOURS/RATE</u>
Cocchiola, Mark	Substitute	As needed @ \$24.00 p/hour
Mattrella, Anne	Substitute	As needed @ \$24.00 p/hour
Tehan, Peter	Substitute	As needed @ \$30.00 p/hour

WHITE: All in favor.

THERIAULT: If that includes the promotion of my son. I want to recuse myself; I abstain.

WHITE: One abstention. Unfinished business.

THERIAULT: I do want to make a motion to add. I want to make a motion to add, because based upon the tremendous documentation that I did of the schools with 210 hours visiting 32 school buildings and now this latest fiasco with regard to the fire alarm system and the sprinkler system.

D'ANGELO: John, you have to read the motion first.

THERIAULT: I would like to make a motion to include a vote of no confidence as we send Mr. Greengas into the sunset.

D'ANGELO: Second.

WHITE: A motion to add.

THERIAULT: Roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADD:

Yeas: Commissioners D'Angelo, Stango, Sweeney, and Theriault – 4

Nays: Commissioners Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, O'Leary, and Vice President White – 4

CLERK: Four, four – motion fails.

THERIAULT: Too bad, I tried.

WHITE: The motion fails. Number 11, unfinished business of the preceding meeting only.

HARVEY: I just want to inform the public regarding, I think this was at the last meeting, regarding the breakfast at the high schools. There was a question on that, a recommendation that there be breakfast at the high schools. It was determined that there was one high school, Kennedy High School, that served breakfast, this was according to the President, and that Wilby and Crosby did not serve breakfast and that now all three high schools will have breakfast, and that's good. That's just to let the public know about that. But my question is, why did we have this at one high school and not the other two? So I'm just kind of throwing that out, if anyone knows the answer.

THERIAULT: The breakfast program is mandated at all the schools, every single one of them, unless somebody knows otherwise.

HARVEY: So the question is why was it not at Wilby and Crosby?

GUIDONE: I don't believe they are mandated. My understanding was that prior principals were concerned about logistics, the early start hour of the high schools and the ability to get students into the buildings, get some breakfast and get out. I reviewed the matter, as well as Dr. Snead, when it was brought up at the last meeting. I discussed it with the Wilby Principal; I think Dr. Snead discussed it with the Crosby Principal. I went over the matter with the Food Service Director who said it was certainly available and doable with quick State approval, which she was able to obtain. And as reported, all three, this building also did have breakfast. So WAMS and Kennedy did, the other two didn't. I think some of the reasons are historical and had to do with some concern with logistics but both were very responsive. I know the one I talked to was very responsive and quickly worked out details, logistics with the Food Service Director and I think the other did, also.

HARVEY: I just want to make sure that, in the future, if this program is disbanded, I'm just throwing it out there, that the Board of Education be notified of it before it's disbanded.

GUIDONE: For the record, with the inclusion of these two, all our schools - middle, high, and elementary, have a breakfast program or will have a breakfast program in place for this year.

SWEENEY: Paul, is it correct that at the elementary level under Title I breakfast is covered? We receive Title I monies for the breakfast program as well as the lunch program?

GUIDONE: All our money comes from the Federal government through the states for meal reimbursement. I don't know that there's a direct correlation regarding reimbursement rate being Title I or not. Our Title I funds that receive are based on in some cases, the number of children with free or reduced lunch in other matters but the reimbursement is not directly tied to Title I for food.

SWEENEY: Who's paying for the cost at the high school level?

GUIDONE: The Federal program money through the State through the regular reimbursement. It's not coming out of the Operating Budget. The Food Service Department has a stand-alone budget which is heavily reimbursed, not 100%, but heavily reimbursed through that program. All meals – breakfast, lunch, as well as other activities that, Food Service's budget, as I reported to you in the past, continues to operate in the black, has continued to operate in the black getting close to a point where we may need to use some fund balance, but it has had a significant budget surplus built up over the last several years.

SWEENEY: So if a high school student is receiving free or reduced lunch, they will get free or reduced breakfast?

GUIDONE: I'm pretty sure; I'll have to work out the details. I'm not sure of the actual details but it would make sense. I'll check out the details for you.

WHITE: Any other questions? Thank you Mr. Guidone. Is there any other unfinished business from the preceding meetings? If not, we'll go to number 12, other unfinished...

THERIAULT: Commissioner White, unfortunately I'd like to apologize to the Board for not being here at this most crucial Workshop at the last meeting. So with your indulgence, I don't know if you want to handle it as old business or new business, but I'd like to speak to the CMT scores at the appropriate time. So, I don't know where you want to put that as to old business or new business.

WHITE: Commissioner Theriault, could you repeat that please? It comes out very clear on the camera; it doesn't come out clear between these two posts.

THERIAULT: Yes, I said at the last meeting I was not here and I wanted to apologize to the Board for not being here and I would like to speak to the CMT scores. Whether you put it under old business or new business, I don't care, but I'd like to have the

opportunity to at least address what I saw on the TV over the weekend and that's about it. So I don't know where you want to put it, under old business or new business. Maybe it's probably new business because, in a sense, it was discussed at the Workshop but not at our last meeting.

WHITE: Wouldn't it be better discussed at a workshop?

THERIAULT: I think it's better discussed here, quite honestly.

WHITE: Do you have a statement to make on it?

THERIAULT: Yes, I do.

WHITE: Well then I think you can make your statement, but we won't go into a discussion on it. If it turns out there's something that has to be enlightened on, we can put it on a workshop. Quickly, please.

THERIAULT: Thoroughly is a better word. First of all, I have to agree with the speaker totally with regard to the tremendous number of failing schools. You can call them failing schools, schools in need of improvement; you can call them whatever, but when I watched this meeting the other night and saw this, I'm trying to be kind here, this presentation with rose-colored glasses, let me say that, incremental growth, incremental growth. Let me first start by addressing the District Improvement Plan where each school and the district has to improve in the course of a three year period, 15% or five percent a year. And I don't wish to embarrass any schools so I'm not going to use any particular school, so I don't embarrass the school or the principal. But there needs to be a lot of embarrassment down the line.

I took one school, in particular, that had a reading score of 23.6 and using the current mathematical calculations of five percent growth a year, next year that school would only have to achieve 1.18 percentage growth to achieve the five percent at the base level. So then I went further and I made a little algorithm, and by the way the State average for reading in grade four is 72.9. So, this particular school which is 23.6%, and that means approximately 76% of the kids are failing reading in that school. So the next year they'd have to accumulate 1.24 and so forth. Well to get to the quick, it would take this particular school achieving five percent growth a year, 20 years to get to proficiency. Twenty years. They'll be grandparents by then. This is ridiculous. We need to take these schools that have 23.6 percentage and we need to say to that school principal and those teachers, we want a 10% growth next year or we are going to send in the educational SWAT team. We need to take these schools back and we need to help these principals help these teachers and help these kids. And I don't care whether it's three, I don't care whether it's five, take the five lowest schools and put some resources and muscle. These kids are going down the tubes, this is ridiculous. We are failing these kids as much as the kids are failing themselves. We need to put some muscle into this, absolutely ridiculous.

Now listen to a couple of these scores. I won't give you all the scores. I kind of factored out anything that was below 20. Okay, now I'm gonna mention some schools. If I embarrass them, so be it. Let's take grade three, Bunker Hill. Grade three, Bunker Hill – now the score for the State level is 72.3, this school had 38.2. They're 35 percentage

points below proficiency. I'm not gonna read those figures each time but I'm just gonna give you the figures that these schools are below in proficiency. Also, writing, Bunker Hill is behind 26.5% in writing. Bucks Hill – behind 29.9% in mathematics, behind 44.2% in reading, behind 43.8% in writing – wow. Okay, let's take another school here. That other school that I read with the 35, 35 percent was Barnard School behind in reading 35%. Okay then we get over to Bunker Hill – Bunker Hill is behind 23.9% in reading. Now we get over to Chase – Chase School is 27.1% behind in writing. Now we get over to Brooklyn – 29.9% below in mathematics, 33.8% below in reading. I know this is tedious, I know this is boring. The public needs to hear this. You need to hear it. I'm really ashamed that I couldn't be here the other night, I had a previous engagement and I had to be out of the State. And this is something that I planned almost a year ago. So now we get to Kingsbury. Kingsbury in grade three 20.9% behind in proficiency, reading 27.2% behind, writing 29.6% behind – dismal scores, dismal.

WHITE: Commissioner, if I may interrupt you. What, we heard these scores the other night so...

THERIAULT: I don't think so. I watched the tape; I didn't hear any of these scores.

WHITE: Either that or they were passed out. I'm sure that we know what the scores are.

THERIAULT: The individual scores?

WHITE: Do you have a point on this, then could you just get to it? We have the idea now.

THERIAULT: I'm coming to a point; I'm nearly there. Bear with me while I walk down the yellow brick road. Sprague School, grade three reading, off 34.6%. Walsh School, we really need to help those kids at Walsh as every school that has these figures, listen to this – off 26.1% in math, off 31% in reading, off 34.6% in writing. Washington School – off 32.8% in reading, off 32.4% in writing. Gilmartin School – it's gonna be interesting to see what's going to happen at Gilmartin if our theory that a better school environment improves test scores then they'll have a long way to improve. Listen to this figure – the State score was 83.6; Gilmartin's score was 27.3. I could guess and make a better score than that. I could just take the test and go down and guess and get a better score than that. They are down 56.3% from the proficiency level. And I could go on and on and on and on and on because I have them all highlighted and I could keep you here another 20 minutes. And the scores at the high school are just as dismal – 31%, 54%. Listen to this, another one had 54% in grade five at Walsh. I mean, and I could go on and on. These test scores are not incremental progress. We're at the top of the bottom of the heap. I think even Hartford might have beaten us this last time. I mean this is not incremental progress. My mother, as smart as she is, my mother always said to me this whenever I expounded too much, and she's probably right and she's probably listening to me right now. And if I expounded too much and didn't say exactly the truth, she would say to me you're full of bologna and that's what I say about these test scores. They're full of bologna. And whoever's presenting this stuff from the State, with all due respect to Dr. Sequeira and Dr. Snead, it's not that our staff is not trying hard, and Commissioner D'Angelo's request that the well performing schools that did well need to go to those schools and help them out, I think just the opposite. I think those principals

in the poor performing schools once a week need to go to those schools that are doing well and find out what they're doing right. Because if Hopeville can do it, any school in the City could do it. So, let me come to my conclusion and say we need to have a plan. We need to have an action plan where we are going to help five failing schools, the worse failing schools and have some initiative, some muscle, some punch. If it requires bucks, let's use the stimulus money; let's use any resource we have to help these kids because we are failing them as much as they are failing us.

In closing let me congratulate the schools that are doing the job. Let me congratulate West Side Middle School that has met AYP, AYP is like the academy award for doing a good job. Wilson, North End, Wallace, Kingsbury, Bunker Hill, WAMS, Maloney, Rotella, Wendell Cross. You know our magnet schools outperform the State averages in terms of proficiency every year and 70% of those kids are from Waterbury. You know Hopeville School was recognized a couple of years ago as being one of the five outstanding schools in the State. If Hopeville can do it and Kingsbury can do it, every school, we need to hold their feet to the fire and make sure that every school does it. And stop this nonsense about incremental growth; this is not growth, this is a disservice to our students, this is an absolute disservice to every single student that is failing. When we talk about diagnostic prescriptive education, we are not taking our own medicine. If we're going to help these kids, you got to help them and do the boiler plate with the schools that are doing well and make the other schools do it, take those principals out of the building, we have vice principals all around here, take them out of the schools, send them to the good schools, and let them take a little bit from each school and develop an action plan and meet with the Superintendent weekly to devise that plan. This is absolutely ridiculous. I couldn't believe it the other night. You know, I have a leather chair, I think there's a burn mark in the chair from my blood pressure going up over it. I watched this tape and I was just absolutely disgusted. And, nothing personal as the speaker said, you know this is all professionalism here, nothing personal, there's nothing personal about the people. We have a responsibility here to help the kids; I happen to be an educator and a teacher for 32 years, maybe a little bit ahead of the curve. Mr. Stango over here also a tremendous educator. Coleen Flaherty-Merritt, also an educator. Other people here with tons and tons of experience, you know I'm right, you all know that I'm right. We need to stop this nonsense. I think Commissioner D'Angelo's initial initiative, you know meeting with people from the private sector and starting this ad-hoc committee was a good idea, it kind of fizzled a little bit. But I think we need to do it from within, I think our Central Office people need to do it and you need to take the bull by the horns, you need to improve these scores because if we don't, they're gonna come right back at us, they're not gonna get any jobs, not gonna get any education, no vocational training. I mean how could a kid get to third grade and he can't read, can't spell? You know, and I agree with Commissioner D'Angelo, you know if the one thing we need to do is to get them to read, let's get them to read. Now we're all concerned about the writing scores fell because we didn't have enough initiative or enough push on the writing scores. It's my idea that you have emphasis on all those subjects – math, reading, writing, and science, all the time. You don't slack off on one to give more to another. So that's my statement. And all of the things that I heard with regard to remediation I agree with, but quite honestly, I heard them all before and I'm sick of the rhetoric. I'm sick of the rhetoric and every year I hear test scores are going to improve, test scores are going to improve, and every year they don't improve. So, I'm not listening to any more rhetoric. I want action, I want a plan, and I want it now. And I want it to start this year. And by this time next year I want to

see not five percent of the base, I want to see a 10% increase in each of those schools that's failing. And if they're not doing it, then we need to devise some plans to reconstitute the school ourselves, and not wait for the State to do it. The Superintendent has the power to move people around. We got to put somebody in that building that can cut the mustard, put them in there. If somebody's not cutting the mustard in that school, eject them out, put somebody in there. And I mean teachers and I mean staff. We know who our good teachers are and we know who our bad ones are. And we know who our good principals are; we know who our bad ones are. But a bad principal doesn't necessarily mean they're a bad principal because they're getting bad test scores, it means they're not getting the help that we should be giving. And all those five schools should be identified and we should have an action plan, we should have a news release, and this is what we're going to do. Thank you very much Commissioner White for your indulgence. I know I went a little bit longer if I read all the scores. I'm just absolutely disgusted. I'm so ashamed, you know that we're not really doing enough to helping our kids and yet we make a presentation that everything's hunky dory. Thanks Mom for giving me all these words of wisdom.

WHITE: Thank you very much for your opinion. Is there anything else?

D'ANGELO: I'll take a much shorter version. I want to agree with John in a lot of areas and I know John has a fire under him right now and a passion and quite frankly, to steal a line from Neil, quite frankly I wish more of us had it. And it's not a shot against any Board members cause I think many of us do. I know Neil does, I know I do, and I know other's do. But here's what bothers me and it continues to burn at me is we are so afraid as a Board, and we are so afraid as a Central Office, to find the answers to the problems. And the reason I say we're afraid, you know all we hear from Central Office and from our Board President is we want input from people. The people that can tell us what programs we have in place that aren't working are the teachers and they're the administrators. And every time that this Board has an opportunity to hear from those groups, we shut them out and we say no. And the latest one was the guidance; I have a group of guidance teachers come to this Board and they want to tell us what's wrong with the guidance department and what they would do fix it. When I ask the Board leader, the answer was no, it will be covered next week at our workshop under high school and middle school test scores. Now I don't even know what that means, it will be covered under high school and middle school test scores, we're gonna cover guidance. We need an hour with those people at a workshop to talk about the problems – what's broke and how to fix it. How we're gonna cover it in a dog and pony show about test scores that, quite frankly, it's an insult when they come and they sit and they tell us about elementary test scores and middle school, it's an insult to this Board. We need to find what the problems are and what's not working. And you know who knows it, the teachers and the administrators. That's the information we need, that's the information we need to get and that's the information we need to react to. And when I made the comment at the last Workshop that we need to get some of these principals from the failing schools into the Kingsbury's and into the Chase's and into the Hopeville's and the other schools that are doing well, it was poo, pooped, it was almost laughed at. It's said, it's the truth; we need to get the principal from Walsh School and the principal from Sprague School into these other buildings to see what's going on, not more dog and pony shows. But we're so afraid to do that. We're sending kids from the middle school, and this is an email I left months ago, we're sending kids from the middle school into the high school and we're putting them in Algebra I and Algebra II classes, kids that don't

know 11 x 12, some of these kids aren't ready for basic math and they're going in Algebra I and Algebra II and the principal at the high school says that's what we're told to do by the Math Coordinator. And when you ask the Math Coordinator, well that's what the State wants. I don't believe for a second that the State wants kids in Algebra II that can't do basic multiplications, I just don't believe, I think it's a boldface lie. And this Board doesn't call anyone on the carpet for it. And I'm just as guilty as anyone else so I'm not pointing any fingers. We need to stop, as John would say, the tail from wagging the dog because that's exactly what's going on. And maybe we're not serious about fixing it or maybe some of us think well, Dr. Snead and Dr. Sequeira and Anne Marie will fix it and if they don't, we'll hold them accountable. It's been 12 years, they're not fixing it, and it's not a shot against them, they're not fixing it. But we're not holding them accountable either. I would like to have, and this is the last time I'm gonna say it, instead of workshops where we talk about, go through the last 10 agendas, they're online, we talk about grants, and motion to approve, and breakfast for the kids, and whether we're gonna pay for it or not, when do we talk about test scores? When do we tell Dr. Snead "Doc, we want it fixed, and we want it fixed in three months because if we go another year, we leave another generation of kids behind". And I'm sorry I'm passionate about it, because the saddest part is we know how to fix it, our teachers know how to teach kids how to read, they know how to do it. We're bogging them down with so much crap, whether it's from the Federal level or the State level or even from this Board, we're bogging them down and we're not allowing them to do their jobs and when we do want to tell us that, no, we can't hear it from them.

WHITE: Thank you Commissioner D'Angelo, there's much truth in what you've said. I think all of us have within ourselves thought all of these things and everybody is frustrated. And maybe now that it's out, maybe we will come together and do something about it. And you're right when you say they're bogged down with so many things to do. If teachers were allowed, just teach, it would be a much better world. Okay, I'm not going to say anything else.

THERIAULT: Just one last comment and I will be brief. Even though it is not necessarily the fault of the principals of these failing schools, we need to put more pressure and give more resources to these five failing schools. But we need to hold them accountable and we need to make demands of them and they need to produce. And I really mean a 10% increase. I'm talking about a 10% increase of the base; I'm talking about 10% of 100%. If it's 26% this year, it needs to be 36% next year. And how they get to that point, I don't know, maybe through the resources and the help that they have. So we give them a couple of years to do it and if they don't do it, we don't wait for the State to constitute, we constitute the school, we do it, the Superintendent does it. And he says you're out of here, you're going someplace else and I'm putting somebody in there that's gonna do the job. I'm not saying we fire them, I'm not saying we do anything like that, we don't have the power to fire people, it's not merit pay, not yet. But we're certainly coming to that when you see these dismal scores. There's just got to be a better way, there's got to be a better wheel. And there's got to be something that we could do to just, just to take the five failing schools and, can I tell you something, just the concentration on those five failing schools will actually . . . into the other schools and it will really help everyone because the word will spread.

WHITE: We're having a discussion and that's not what this is for. You're correct in what you're saying but now it's becoming repetitious. We have the information, we

have everything that we can to think about it, to think about, and we can bring it to another discussion. Even if we do it when we do the self-evaluation, this is part of the self-evaluation.

THERIAULT: It needs to be repeated and it needs to be repetitive.

O'LEARY: I'd like to talk about the sheet that I passed out. I'm gonna need some help from Paul Guidone on this. Just to let you all know, I started getting some phone calls late last week from some parents of parochial school children and also one priest, the pastor of St. Francis School. Again, I always tell you guys this, I'm kind of new here so I'm just trying to learn my way around, but I did a little research, and this all has to do with transportation issues, I am the Chairman of Transportation until I turn it over to that kid from the North End, but I did some, I called the schools and got some numbers, I just want to share with you for minute. I don't mean to go on and on, I promise it will be brief. There's about 1,500 kids who attend Catholic schools in Waterbury who are residents of Waterbury. One thousand-eighteen in the pre-k to eight and a combined 528 at Sacred Heart and Holy Cross. What I was interested in from the phone calls is that the parents were complaining that there was some miscommunication, believe it or not, on some meetings that were held at the end of last year's school year. In particular these are parents of children from St. Francis School. Now as you can see, and we've all been reading in the papers, St. Francis is really on life support and I'm a big believer that every time a Catholic school closes in this town, it's a tremendous loss to the City for a couple of reasons – one, it's an enormous impact on the public school system and two, it just breaks my heart to see another institution closing, a learning institution. But nonetheless, there was a meeting at the end of the school year, I know Paul Guidone was not at it, but it was a meeting between the priest at St. Francis and some City officials and somehow out of that meeting, Father Pace thought that the City had committed to providing transportation to his school across city from every zip code. So St. Francis put out a mailer and advertised across city transportation and they had a bunch of kids, families, sign up. And, unfortunately, Father Pace was in a panic last week and I think continues to be in today because when he brought it to the City's attention, when he saw the school bus routes, I guess when they came out in the paper, I guess he realized that the agreement that he thought was in place wasn't in place. So I did talk to the people who he met with, with the City, and, of course, I talked to Father Pace, and then I did a little bit of homework. And I just, kind of interesting points here. If you look over at St. Mary's School, there's 305 students and they get bussed from all over the City, every zip code, every place in the City, St. Mary's students get picked up from. St. Peter and Paul, 200 students, they're across city as well. Although this year, this particular year, there was a problem with about 25 or 30 children, but Mr. Guidone's office was able to work that out it seems as recently as today. But again, they're across city. If you go to Blessed Sacrament, by the way, St. Mary's School they have 16 buses in the morning and 13 in the afternoon and St. Peter and Paul has eight buses in the morning and eight buses in the evening and they're again, cross-city. But if you go up to Blessed Sacrament, Blessed Sacrament has buses, they have six in the morning and six in the afternoon, but they're not cross-city, they have to be confined to a certain, I don't know and Paul will help me out with this in a minute, confined to a certain zip code or maybe a radius. And Our Lady of Mt. Carmel has 220 children and they're not cross-city either, that's really predominantly a neighborhood school, they don't have a lot of buses over at Mt. Carmel, I guess they don't have the need, they have five buses in the morning and five in the afternoon. And the point I'm trying to get to here is the school

that is suffering the most, and the school that is on its last breath, and the school that is in the most need, we're only providing four buses to and that's been the way it is. And there's no real explanation that I can figure out as to why, but I do know that I did talk to the administrators at each one of these five schools that I just mentioned, today, and each of them has, they're not complaining at all but each of them said that if St. Francis was provided the same transportation that they have been provided that St. Francis would be in a much better place. So I guess, I don't know if you guys were all aware of this stuff, but I just learned it all today. So with that, I'd like to ask Mr. Guidone, maybe he could give us some explanation about where we are and talk about how maybe we could help out St. Francis.

GUIDONE: I'll give some, because I imagine some of this has some history that predates me but State law requires cities to provide to non-public schools the same type of transportation they provide to their own schools. My understanding is the City has generally applied that to that we bus within a district of a school; we don't bus across city as we're not a school of choice . . . bus within general district unless there's no seat for a particular child. Some exception was made with St. Mary's many years ago, I don't know how long ago, it was just described to me that many, many years ago they had provided some sort of city-wide pickup. Three years ago, I did attend a meeting with members of the Archdiocese, the Mayor's Office, asking to expand busing generally on a city-wide basis to all non-public schools. The Transportation Director and I said that that was not likely possible without a significant additional amount of money. However, there would be something we could do to significantly expand the service then provided to the elementary schools by changing routes, moving some boundaries to pick up pockets of students that were then enrolled in those schools. I think at the time we did add one bus to the entire system, three years ago. And while not completely satisfied, the principals of the buildings and the Archdiocese were pleased that we responded and to the system that was this big and made it bigger, although not perfect. I came to understand what you just described that perhaps earlier this year, prior to the year, that some promise had been made to expand the service city-wide of which no one from the Education Department was an attendee, of that I was aware of until the recent last days. When I became aware of that I attempted to do the same thing that we had done three years ago which was to get lists from particular schools of concern which happened to be to my understanding St. Francis and St. Peter and Paul, get lists of students who did not have service and to see where we can do the same thing we did last year by moving some stops and trying to get to some pockets without adding an additional bus and achieved almost 100% for St. Peters and I understand there's a subset at St. Francis . . . If it was a the matter of adding a bus which is approximately \$55,000 a year cost and solving that problem I would probably try to figure out a way to do it. I think that students to a particular school are just pocketed in different sections of the City that you just can't add a bus and expect it to make a run and get to the right location within an hour of being on the bus. What I have said is, I will continue to look at, I believe what you believe, I think that the non-public schools provide a service to our citizens, provide relief from our own district and that we're trying to reduce population so we've been as cooperative as we can, and also be fiscally responsible as we can as we're supposed to be, I think, to accommodate their requests. Once things settle down in the next day or two with busing I can take a relook at who's not being served of those schools and make a judgment as to whether any additional progress could be made or if so, what the cost is. That's the history as I understand it to be.

O'LEARY: And believe me, I understand that and none of these people, with the exception of Father Pace, and he's politely complaining, it's not like he's this is not an unpleasant conversation, this is I want to keep my school open, I have 60 kids if I could get the busing, I'll have 80. If I get cross-city busing next year, I'll have 100; we'll put the school back on track. Reality is, we spend how much per pupil to educate our kids in the City schools – 13?

GUIDONE: A little over 13.

O'LEARY: Thirteen thousand, the reality is that St. Francis, if we lose that school, there's 61 kids in there now, actually there's 80 if we can figure out this busing problem. If we lose that school, it would be safe to say, conservatively, a third of those children will come to the City school system, if not a half, and, quite frankly, it will cost us a heck of a lot more to absorb those children at \$13,000 a head then it will to figure out alternative transportation. I'm not suggesting that we go out and put more buses on the road, what I am saying is, and Paul, please, I would just love to have the people Durham, Jeff Hunter, who's a fine guy, and really just all of us sit in a room together and absolutely do whatever it takes to make it happen because it is that important, I think, to this district and to this City, especially to the people of St. Francis. So I don't know, I thought it was very interesting. Do you guys feel the same way?

WHITE: I think it's very interesting, but I also think it was a fallacy. I saw that ad in the paper and I wondered how they could state that they had city-wide busing. We don't have city-wide busing; if our children are out of district, their parents drive them to the particular school that they're going to, they're responsible for their own transportation. Am I correct Mr. Guidone? As far back as I can remember, St. Mary's was the only school that had almost city-wide busing and that was because it was, I forget the name that they call it, there's a specific adjective for a church that draws city-wide because that's what it did. The others were all parishes and it always was if you were within that parish, that district, the parish district, then if you required busing, you had it. But otherwise the only one that had city-wide busing was St. Mary's.

O'LEARY: But why would St. Mary's have city-wide busing and not the others?

WHITE: Well you know what Commissioner O'Leary, that was done like before my time on the Board and it was just the way it was. I don't know where it came from; you'd have to research as to how that happened. This has been the same, this is the way it's been as long as I've been on the Board, if you were within that particular church district, however you found that district, if you needed transportation, you got it to that particular place but that was all.

O'LEARY: Okay, well, the only thing is, I don't think it was a fallacy to Father Pace. Father Pace put the advertisement in the paper based on information that he was given from the officials that he met with. So I think it's unfair to say that it was a fallacy, it might not have been a fallacy, it certainly wasn't a fallacy to Father Pace, I can tell you that.

WHITE: Well it wasn't to him but somewhere it was miscommunicated. Unless it changed in between, but I was surprised when I saw that in the paper because I've never see that before, even St. Mary's doesn't put that in.

O'LEARY: I think that's why the people from the Archdiocese and Father Pace met with the City because they were on life support last year and they said if we can't get help, we're really probably gonna have to close and they claim they were given a promise. And, again, I really, these things happen, I suppose, it seems to be happening more and more, but you know, so now I would just ask the Board, everyone's opinion, if you're providing cross-city transportation to St. Mary's, you're providing cross-city transportation to St. Peter and Paul, Blessed Sacrament has said that they have turned away students, or not been able to accept students because they haven't been able to provide transportation, as well as, I did talk to Mr. Tavares at Mt. Carmel today who has turned away numerous families over the last several years because they've been out of the district or not been able to be included in the cross-city and you know it just seems amazing to me though, I'm not suggesting that we do cross-city but I am suggesting that we find a way to make it work. If it means to reorganize, you know under No Child Left Behind we've got buses flying all over the City now, going to different places, and you know it's not a big cost if you could do it, I'm not saying that, I'm saying that it may not be a big cost if we could get everybody in the room and talk about it. Now Paul Guidone was able to handle 20 of these situations today with St. Peter and Paul, which I think is remarkable, so I'm saying maybe we could try, try to help out here. I mean I think we have an obligation to these schools to help them stay open.

WHITE: I'm not negating that.

SWEENEY: . . . St. Peter and Paul, I'm not aware of they're going to cross-city busing, I am aware of the split of St. Peter and Paul to St. Peter and Paul and St. Leo, which is up near Crosby. And that is the split between, when that parish grew so big. But St. Peter and Paul has always been a district. You had to be within the parish in order to attend that school and you were bused within that district. That district has evolved and spread out and is now a part of St. Leo's but my understanding, I haven't lived in that parish in several years, but my understanding would be that St. Leo's and St. Peter and Paul's, the district school for those parishes would be St. Peter and Paul's, but that said, at one time you had a parish church and a parish school. Over the years, we have lost those parish schools. This last came up before Transportation Committee when St. Margaret's closed. And a request was made to do something for those students in St. Margaret's so that they could be, have transportation to other parochial schools within the City. And the compromise at that time was to ask the Archdiocese to look at those schools and to keep the students, at least, as close to the nearest school as possible, similar to what we do here, so that buses wouldn't be crisscrossing across the City. The situation with St. Mary's goes back a lot of years to when I was in elementary school and it was based upon, at that time, when busing was first given to parochial schools, it was based upon the fact that St. Mary's was in downtown and buses were coming by there anyways. So it was easy to do across. But that was the only one; back into the 70's that I even know of, that had across the city busing. But our request three years ago when St. Margaret's closed to the Archdiocese was to, at least to, try to keep them in schools as close as possible so that the buses could make reasonable rounds to pick them up. I don't see why that still can't be done, it might not be as comfortable for people, there may be somebody who want's their child in St. Francis who's quite a ways

out and maybe is closer to St. Mary's or Blessed Sacrament, I don't know. We were able to make that compromise before; I don't know why we can't sit down and do that again. This is a change, before the focus was St. Margaret's, the focus now has to be St. Francis, but I don't know why we can't make that compromise again.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: I'd just like to know, St. Francis Xavier is down the road from Maloney, we bus all over the City for Maloney, are there any empty spots on those buses we could pick those kids up at the same locations and drop them off right afterwards as a solution?

WHITE: Are you talking picking up the parochial and public school kids at the same time?

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: Yes, at the same time.

O'LEARY: Exactly.

WHITE: I suggested that a long time ago and they told me...

SWEENEY: It was originally the way it worked...

GUIDONE: They're mostly not on the same tier as the other elementary schools; the parochials are on the last tier with only Rotella, maybe Maloney. That is the kind of stuff we could look at. I think, to get to your main question Chief, I think that we can, we're not talking about, at least, for the group at St. Francis that I'm aware of, we're not talking about hundreds of kids that don't have service, we've been able to narrow it down to a reasonable number, we could retake a look at that group and do what you said, get in a room, figure out this kid, this kid, which is what we already took a cut at, we can try it again or to see if there's another creative way by putting a small bus under our special ed contract and run a small bus, perhaps at some additional cost, to pick up pockets of stuff which I've been trying, also, to take a look at. We still might have an additional cost, it may be . . . to pick up 12 students or 20 students if we're short 18 students rather than run a 70 person bus. We can look at that. What I have hesitated at, both at the meeting three years ago and still today, is be able to make a blanket announcement that we could do across the city transportation for every school, I don't believe we could do that, I don't even know if I could put a number on that. Now other than tackle each of the issues as we have been doing. I think we made a big success on St. Peter's without adding cost. We've made progress on St. Francis and I'll go back and look at it again after the next day or two when it calms down a little bit and get a list from the principal and see where these particular students are pocketed. Please have gotten used to hearing the phrase zip code because if you're in a zip code you're gonna get picked up and zip codes could be pretty large, it really depends on where you live and where we can reasonably get to you (tape ended). I'll get together with Jeff tomorrow, we'll get together with, I wouldn't even mind setting up a meeting with that principal, myself, and getting an accurate list of students and see what we can do. I can't make a promise that we can solve it, I can make a promise that we can solve as much as we can and if there's a different way to do it and it's gonna have some cost, I can come back here and we can discuss that.

O'LEARY: Right, and it just seems, and again, this is all positive and I just want to emphasize. Commissioner Sweeney, just to let you know, cause I'm just learning it today, since you were a parishioner at St. Peter and Paul, it was over the last four years that they really started to expand and I'm sure it was through good communication with the folks at Durham and Central Office staff and Jeff Hunter, but over the last four years, they've increased their enrollment substantially from outside the district because they were able to work this out and I guess you know about that. My only suggestion is, I think it's great and by the way, your explanation for why St. Mary's, that makes perfect sense, it's downtown and I'm sure every bus around goes by downtown, so that makes good sense. But the point I'm just trying to make is we have a school here that is like on life support, big time, and I think we have an obligation here to try everything we can to save it. And I think if we could at least, I would feel morally okay if we did everything we could to get the transportation issue fixed and then leave it up to the school and the Archdiocese to do the rest. I would feel that we did our job.

STANGO: Just a question for Commissioner O'Leary since you did the research on this, you say that Blessed Sacrament is not across the city presently and neither is Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, do you think down the road they're gonna be across the city also, in your conversations with them?

O'LEARY: I did talk to the Principal, Mr. Tavares is the new Principal at Mt. Carmel, I called looking for Mrs. Brophy, but Mr. Tavares told me, he said Neil, I've turned away several families over the last year and I guess the second half of the last year. I didn't get the impression that they were looking for the cross-city service, but he did say in a perfect world, wow, we could definitely improve our enrollment and the same thing goes for Blessed Sacrament, Blessed Sacrament has kind of kept that district approach, as well. But I did talk to, I didn't talk to the new principal there, I couldn't get her on the phone, but I did talk to someone in the office and they said the same thing, every year we turn away families because we can't get them here. And yea, I do believe, Commissioner, that we would improve the enrollment in all of these schools if we were able to do that, but I know that is a monumental task.

STANGO: Just being a casual observer of the parochial setup, more and more parochial schools are going city-wide, they have to appeal to people, and outside the City, I'm talking about Middlebury, I'm talking about even Naugatuck, they come to Waterbury parochial schools. As I drive around in the morning, there's a lot of traffic of cars dropping off kids at these parochial schools, Mt. Carmel especially. So they're all not availing themselves to the buses, many of them are using their own family to drop them off.

O'LEARY: These numbers that you have are strictly City kids. Like for instance, the enrollment at Blessed Sacrament is not 232, there's 350, whatever they are, the overall enrollment, they just give you an idea of how many are coming from outside of Waterbury to Blessed Sacrament. Look at Holy Cross, 252 City residents, their enrollment is 850. Sacred Heart, their enrollment is triple what that number is, I'm sure. So there's an awful lot of people coming from out of town, there's no question about it, but, in the grammar schools as well, but you know I just, to me, I do believe it's something we could try to fix. I think it's gonna take a little bit of work, though, and I'd just like to make it a priority, if we could.

WHITE: Is this something that should be handled through the Transportation Committee, Mr. Guidone, or will it be handled through just...

GUIDONE: I think we need to let staff take a look at it and then we could bring it to, whatever our recommendations or findings are, certainly to the Committee. We need to have a Committee meeting relatively soon; anyway I mentioned to the Chair, we're in the process of preparing specifications for bid for next school year. Both our regular ed and special ed contracts are up next year, at the end of this school year, and we're gonna likely look for one vendor to provide all those services. We need to get it out to bid within the next month or two, so I was going to go over the specifications for the plans for that with the Transportation Committee. I'll try to tackle as much of this on a student-by-student basis right now as I can and look at a little broader solution for the Committee's discussion.

O'LEARY: Sure, and I appreciate that very much.

WHITE: Commissioner Theriault, did you pass out this last one from Tara Battistoni? Is this just for us to read over?

THERIAULT: Yes, I did. It's all of the schools that have met AYP and I didn't think that I should be criticizing schools for not making AYP and then not giving credit to schools that did. I would just like to make one last comment, Commissioner White. In the research that I did on the interactive site, I did use a filter in filtering free lunch and reduced lunch as opposed to looking at kids with full paid lunch. And I did notice a 15 to 20% disparity between the free lunch kids and the reduced lunch kids and the full paid kids indicating to me that one of the problems that we face here is poverty. Poverty is encroaching more and more on the ability of kids to get a good education because of the tremendous poverty that they're living under and that's something, somehow, we're gonna have to address, also including their educational needs, as well as the poverty level that they're coming from.

WHITE: Thank you. Is there any other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

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