

## **WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### *MINUTES ~ SPECIAL MEETING*

Monday, January 11, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

Walsh School, 55 Dikeman Street, Waterbury, Connecticut

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent Sned, Assistant Superintendents Cullinan and Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, School Business Administrator Paul Mazzaccaro, Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold, and School Inspector Herbert Greengas.

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

President Hayes called the special meeting to order at 8:16 p.m. with a moment of silence and a prayer and Superintendent Sned led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **ROLL CALL**

CLERK: Commissioner D'Angelo.

D'ANGELO: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Morales.

MORALES: Present.

CLERK: 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.

HAYES: Here. We have everybody here.

**1. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**1.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the “Race to the Top” Memorandum of Understanding.**

HAYES: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion?

O’LEARY: I’m not going to rehash everything we just talked about but, I said during the Workshop I would vote on Dr. Snead’s recommendation, with reservation though, and the reservation is, is that I would hope that in the very, very near future we get explicit details here about what’s expected in this MOU and I would hope that they would collaborate with SAW and WTA, Members of the Board, and Central Office and then we can always decide, although we choose, we’re reluctant, but I would make it clear, Doctor, to those in the Commissioner’s Office on the State level, that we’re disappointed with the lack of information, specific information on these things. We do feel like we have a gun to our head, there’s no doubt about it, I think it’s impossible for us to say no to any monies that could improve our district, but on the other hand, I just don’t think it’s right the way this has gone down so far, and I’m hoping that with your message to them, that we will get the clarification to these areas that are so badly needed and then we can always collaborate with our partners to decide what is right for the district and if we decide it’s not right, I don’t think any of us will be shy about pulling the plug.

THERIAULT: As I have discussed with other Board members, it seems that we’re already doing about 90% of these things and as I have discussed at the Workshop with 175 million dollars being available should Connecticut be one of those states that might participate in this, there might be about 90 million dollars available and shared between all of the districts, I don’t know how much we would get, would we get eight or ten million dollars, or maybe less, any amount that we can get to improve our CMT and CAPT scores or instruction for improvement of our students would be money well spent. The caveat with half the money going to the State and possibly some of it being used for the Secondary Reform Act is another thing to consider, it’s something that also needs to be done somewhere down the road. Maybe it will be done sooner rather than later now. I, too, am concerned about the diligence with regard to the way this was forced down our throat and I would hope that in the future that the State gives us more time to prepare and more time to collaborate with the WTA and SAW and teachers with regard to this because I don’t feel they really got a fair shake with regard to the input on this. We did meet with them prior to some of the workshops and they did have an opportunity to speak but not to the in-depth way they should have been allowed to tonight. So I have concerns, but I’ll vote my conscience as Dr. Snead said.

HARVEY: Quickly, for me I was leaning towards voting no but then I thought about the students and that's the common denominator here. So, I will vote yes for this with reservation. But I think when we deliver this document to the State, we need to remind them that it's good to keep the lines of communication open, that we are partnering with them, so as a partner you don't ram things down someone's throat. So we should know in a timely fashion what the next move is. And also, we, we in Waterbury need to remember that collaboration is a good thing. So I think the collaboration with SAW and the WTA, we need to keep the lines of communication open with them as well. So I will vote yes for this, but I will watch very closely how we proceed with how the State is concerned. Thank you.

HAYES: Roll call on this please.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Yeas: President Hayes, Commissioners Harvey, Morales, O'Leary, Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, and White - 8

Nays: Commissioners D'Angelo and Flaherty-Merritt - 2

**MOTION PASSES 8 - 2**

***ADJOURNMENT***

**Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.**

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk  
*Board of Education*