

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, January 7, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

(For the January 14, 2008 Board Meeting - MINUTES ATTACHED)

COMMITTEE MEETING

The Board of Education Committee meetings were held on Monday, January 14, 2008 at Regan School, 2780 North Main Street, Waterbury, Connecticut, starting at 5:45 p.m.

PRESENT: President Hayes, Commissioners D'Angelo (6:20 – 8:53), Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, Laccone, Pinto, Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, and White.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Snead, Assistant Superintendents Cullinan (5:51) and Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, School Business Administrator Paul Mazzaccaro, Attorney Maurice Mosley (6:15), and School Inspector Herbert Greengas.

Reports were submitted to the various committees of the Board and discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee meetings adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 14, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Hayes, Commissioners D'Angelo, Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, Laccone, Pinto, Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, and White.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Snead, Assistant Superintendents Cullinan and Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, School Business Administrator Paul Mazzaccaro, Attorney Maurice Mosley, and School Inspector Herbert Greengas.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:55 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 Laccone.

LACCONE: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Pinto.

PINTO: 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.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

1. Copy of communication dated December 14, 2007 from Eileen Trainor regarding the December 7, 2007 ice storm.
2. Copy of revised communication dated December 20, 2007 from Civil Service certifying Richard Rinaldi for the position of Library Page.
3. Copy of communication dated December 24, 2007 from Civil Service certifying Keir Hansen for the position of Paraprofessional.
4. Copy of communication dated December 27, 2007 from Civil Service certifying Michelle Avalos for the position of Library page.
5. Communication dated December 31, 2007 from Craig A. Sullivan, Corporation Counsel regarding the Board of Educations' requests for opinion.
6. Copies of communications dated January 2, 2008 from Civil Service certifying Andrea Ellis and Dawn Rinaldi for the position of Paraprofessional and Gilbert Galarza, Jamie Young, Julio Sepulveda, and Donald Hall for the position of Maintainer I.
7. Copy of communication dated January 3, 2008 from Civil Service certifying Cathy Tsacoyeanes for the position of Elementary School Supervising Vice Principal.

8. Copy of communication dated January 8, 2008 from Barbara Carrington-Lawlor to Representative Noujaim regarding their Robotics Team.
9. Copy of communication dated January 10, 2008 from Jeanette Cruz regarding her daughter.

HAYES: Motion has been made and seconded to receive and place on file. All in favor, opposed, they are received and placed on file.

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 6:54 p.m.

Ruth Ann Barnett, 173 Wolcott Street, had the following comments: Thank you for allowing me to speak. This is my daughter Destiny, she is nine years old. I have photographs of Destiny. Destiny attends Walsh School, on January 2 she was on the bus coming home from school and because she would not get up to give another student her seat this is what happened to her. I have a seven year old also who was on the bus and because she tried to get her off of her sister she scratched her. Her scratches wasn't as severe as Destiny's. Upon speaking to Mrs. Chauncey, which is the Vice Principal of Walsh, she told me some things Thursday morning because I did go to the school with the police officer because Destiny is a special needs child, Najay is also and the little girl that accosted Destiny is also special needs so they're all three within the same ranking as far as I'm concerned. Mrs. Chauncey had to get my daughter out of the car Friday morning because she would not get out of the car, she won't catch the bus, and she's scared to go into the gym. I tried to speak to Mr. Brown on Thursday and he told Ms. Chauncey he didn't have time, for her to handle it. On Friday I finally caught him coming out of the office and I asked him what was going to happen to the little girl because I have to drive my daughters to school, I have to pick them up, I'm their mother, that's my responsibility, I don't mind that. What I mind, I have a copy of the bus policy, I have a copy of the bullying policy, and I have a copy of the suspension policy which all three tells me this child should have been suspended, it has not been done. I talked to Ms. Butler at the Board of Ed, she told me she talked to Mr. Brown, he said he has something in the works, nothing has come to fruition. I talked to Stephanie Wright who is the school psychologist, she meets me every morning to take my daughter into her office because she won't go into the cafeteria, which is the gym, she won't go anywhere unless she's with Ms. Wright or Ms. Hark, she is petrified. And nothing has been done. Friday when I asked Mr. Brown what was going to be done he told me he couldn't tell me anything. I said fine, if something is to be done I'll find out. He said he wanted to take my daughter and the other girl into the office, I told him I didn't think it was good for Destiny because she is scared. So he proceeded to tell me "I'm not gonna do nothing, I'm not gonna do nothing, I'm not gonna do nothing". So I had a PPT meeting on Wednesday which I initiated for them to get back on the special ed bus that they took them off of. The lady told me that she didn't think the paperwork would be granted because she was just denied. And I told her yes, it's gonna be

granted. She called me Friday and it was granted but my thing is my daughter is scared and this little girl is free to catch the bus and do everything she wants to do. Meanwhile, nothing has happened to her and I want to know why. I don't understand why when all of these papers tell me that by right she should have been suspended off of the bus and suspended from school.

HAYES: Thank you, I'm sure Dr. Snead is taking notes and he'll follow-up. Thank you and I hope your daughter's okay.

Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:58 p.m.

HAYES: All in favor, opposed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: I attended a CAUS meeting, CAUS is short for Connecticut Association of Urban Schools, I attended a meeting on Wednesday, January 9th and discussed with other Urban Superintendents and the Legislature's Education Committee Co-chair Senator Gaffey and Representative Fleischmann the following.

1. How to adjust and amend the proposed 2009 Funding for Magnet Schools so as to prevent it being punitive.
2. Developing New Approaches to measuring Student Achievement (see attached).
3. ECS Funding.
4. Restoring Early Reading Success Funding.

I visited Sprague School on Thursday, January 10, 2008 in the afternoon. The hallways were clean, orderly, and quiet. The staff and students were courteous and polite. Ms. Perreault, the principal, has a good rapport with staff and students.

An appointment of a full time Supervising Vice- Principal brought enthusiastic praise from Ms. Perrault. Since Sprague has only one full time secretary, a data entry person is needed on staff. A literary facilitator started last Thursday January 3, 2008 for two days a week. The facilitator will model and coach the teachers.

Ms. Perreault believed the Cambridge personnel that visited the school had a few erroneous perceptions of the school.

There was a water leak on the 2nd floor that may have sparked other issues. Our maintenance staff corrected the problem on Friday.

On Friday, I met with the same group of Superintendents and State Education Commissioner Mark McQuillan and Deputy Commissioner George Coleman. At this meeting we discussed the:

1. On-going accountability measures including the Cambridge Assessments.
2. Restructuring Options:

- a. CommPACT Schools
- b. Charters
- c. Comer Schools, etc.
3. ECS Set aside
4. Early Reading Success Grant

Today I hosted a planning meeting for CommPACT Schools. The productive meeting was attended by senior staff, Board of Education members, and the Presidents of SAW and WTA unions. Expressions of interests from our schools will be requested by February 1. I will keep you informed of progress on this initiative.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: Under my comments I just wanted to briefly touch on the meeting we had with the Brooklyn Neighborhood Association last week, it went very well, they seemed to be enthused and happy about the progress of the Duggan School Project and we had just told them we would again make ourselves available as the project moves forward. With regard to the meeting you had Dr. Snead with the State Education Commissioner, you said there's discussion but maybe if you can give us a little bit more, maybe in a memo or whatever about what the issues are, if there's anything we can do to get involved with it through our Legislative Committee. I know the Early Reading Success grant when we went up last year, one of our first trips up there, there was concern, and it's something I think we've seen that these urban school districts, some of these programs are in all of them and then when most of them don't work they eliminate all of them as opposed to discriminating and saying look the Early Reading Success is working in Waterbury, we should continue to fund it. If it's not working in Hartford, that's not our problem but that's what we were told by Fleischmann – we heard it's not doing good. I remember we had Dr. Sequeira prepare some information so I think when we have these urban school district things I think since we're usually at the top of a lot of the achievement levels, that we should just point out to them that they should support what's working in a particular school district regardless whether its urban or suburban. And that's all I would ask when you do have an opportunity to meet with those people. I don't know if they ever consider coming into Waterbury, get a little taste of what Waterbury's thinking but it would be nice if they ever do get out we can invite them to one of our meetings or a special night just to meet with them, maybe they can hear our concerns prior to going forward. Like I said we have opened up with our legislators and have ongoing communication with them so they can represent us there but if he wants to come into town we'd love to meet with him.

REPORTS

1. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- 1.1 **Upon a motion by White and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to accept and approve the Committee on School Personnel's recommendation to uphold the Superintendent of School's decision to terminate the contract of employment with Kimberly Gaites.**

HAYES: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passed unanimously.

2. COMMITTEE ON GRANTS

- 2.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve to apply for and/or participate in the CT Judicial Branch Waterbury Juvenile Review Board Grant.**

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passed unanimously.

3. COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

- 3.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Pinto and duly seconded by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt, it was voted, with Commissioner Theriault “abstaining”, to approve an agreement with All-Star Transportation, LLC, to provide transportation services for Waterbury public and out-of-district schools for children with special needs, for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011.**

HAYES: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, Commissioner Theriault has abstained, everyone else is in favor. Motion passes.

- 3.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Pinto and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, with Commissioner Theriault “abstaining”, to approve an agreement with All-Star Transportation, LLC, to provide transportation services for students to and from the Worth Program, for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011.**

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passed with an abstention from Commissioner Theriault.

- 3.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Pinto and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, with Commissioner Theriault “abstaining”, to approve an agreement with All-Star Transportation, LLC, to provide transportation services for students to the Southington Vocational Agriculture Program, for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011.**

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passes with one abstention from Commissioner Theriault.

- 3.4 Upon a motion by Commissioner Pinto and duly seconded by Commissioner White, it was voted, with Commissioner Theriault “abstaining”, to approve an agreement with All-Star Transportation, LLC, to provide transportation services for students for the Young Parent Program, for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011.**

HAYES: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, nine in favor, one abstention, motion passes.

4. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- 4.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve the use of school facilities by school organizations and/or City departments, as listed.**

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passed unanimously.

- 4.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the use of school facilities by outside organizations with fees as outlined in their attached Use of Building Permit and subject to the receipt of all necessary deposits, insurance information, and/or lifeguard/CPR certifications, as listed.**

HAYES: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passed unanimously.

- 4.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner Pinto, it was voted unanimously that the request of the Republican-American for a waiver of custodial fees for their use of Kennedy High School in the approximate amount of \$1,200 for building usage fees, \$432.00 for custodial fees, and \$245.00 for electrical fees be approved.**

HAYES: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passed unanimously.

- 4.4 Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously that the request of the Waterbury Patriots for a waiver of custodial fees for their use of Crosby High School in the approximate amount of \$324 be approved.**

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve items 4.5 through 4.9, as listed:

- 4.5 J. Porzio, WMS/FOCUS, S. Valentino, NEMS/FOCUS, P. Monks, WSMS/FOCUS, and three chaperones to take 50 students to Lyndhurst, NJ on April 30, 2008 to attend a medieval times dinner and tournament.
- 4.6 P. Forcucci, CHS and five chaperones to take 36 students to NY, New York to attend a Broadway play.
- 4.7 T. Boatright, KHS DECA, and four chaperones to take 13 students to Orlando, FL from February 6 – 10, 2008 to attend the 2008 Sports & Entertainment Conference.
- 4.8 R. Crane, CHS, and three chaperones to take 40 students to Rhode Island on January 12, 2008 to attend a track meet at the University of Rhode Island.
- 4.9 R. Haxhi, WHS, and four chaperones to take 48 students to New York, NY on January 30, 2008 to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

HAYES: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passed unanimously.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner D'Angelo, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 5.1 through 5.9, as listed:

- 5.1 Athletic resignations effective immediately:
Cammilletti, Nicole – JV Softball Coach, KHS.
Stango, Michael – Freshman Baseball Coach, KHS.
- 5.2 Athletic appointments effective immediately:
Santovasi, Ray – Assistant Swim Coach, NEMS.
- 5.3 Grant funded appointments:
Abu Hamed, Hoda – Classroom Assistant, Chase School, 10 months per year, 35 hours per week @ \$7.65 per hour, benefits governed by the SEIU Contract.
Matos, Jacqueline – Bilingual Coordinator/Staff Developer, Bilingual/ESL Department, salary according to WTA Contract, effective immediately.
- 5.4 Grant funded resignations:
Bertram, Isabel – Office Manager, Bilingual/ESL, effective 01/01/08.

- 5.5 Extended School Hours appointments, maximum of 6 hours per week, salary according to individual's contract, funded by the ESH Grant:
O'Leary, Amy – Teacher – Bucks Hill School (replacing Kristian Murphy)
Painter, Cynthia – Aide – Sprague School.
Palladino, Sandra – Clerical – Wilson School.
Solla, Anna – Clerical – Bucks Hill School.
- 5.6 TPTA appointments, maximum of 6 or 7 ½ (bus duty) hours per week, salary according to individual's contract, funded by the Early Reading Success Grant:
Chase School – Angela Bergin, Ronald Defazio, Pamela Weed – Substitutes
Barnard School – Jill Diorio, Cheryl Haller, and Melissa Steck - Substitutes
- 5.7 Resignations/terminations:
Amison-Loring – Bucks Hill Library Media Specialist, eff. 01/02/08.
Fritz, Cheryl – WHS Math, effective 12/21/07.
Hall, Dawn – Chase Special Education, effective 01/11/08.
LaBarba, Louis – CHS Science, effective 12/5/07.
Mello, Erin – Sprague School, effective 12/31/07.
Stango, Michelle – WMS Long-term Substitute, terminated eff. 12/19/07.
- 5.8 Academic Achievements:
Taylor-DiFederico, Sharon – from BA15 Step 2 to MA Step 2, effective 08/27/07.
- 5.9 Adult Education appointment effective 01/02/08:
McKeon, Roseann – P.M. Substitute/Instructor, as needed @ \$29.00 p/hr.

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. All in favor, opposed. New Business?

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: This is about the Textbooks & Courses of Study Committee. We'd like to have; this is opinion of myself and Dr. Snead, to have the Committee of Rules & Regs change the committee name to a Curriculum Committee. So when they meet, if they could talk about the possibility of changing the Textbooks & Courses of Study to Curriculum it would be more in line with what they really do.

D'ANGELO: Is it possible for us to schedule the Board Workshop for self-evaluation again whether its private or public, I really don't care, but I think we need to do that. Anyone have any feelings?

WHITE: I'm all for it.

D'ANGELO: Okay, that's two.

HAYES: How much time do we want to put aside? If we're going to do it as part of Workshop we're gonna have to put some time constraint on it or do you want to do it separately?

D'ANGELO: I think you need three hours somewhere.

WHITE: I think we have to decide whether we want to take the decisions that were given us and do it either privately or in executive session or publically.

D'ANGELO: Can we put it on the next workshop for discussion and come up with, we can settle three things at the workshop, we can settle whether it's gonna be executive session or not and when and where it's gonna be.

CLERK: The February 11 Workshop happens to be a no school day and you don't have a location set either because school is not in session on that date.

HAYES: Where should we hold it?

D'ANGELO: Under discussion, I think we should talk about it at a workshop and I don't mind having it on that date, that's fine, but I see it as it should only be that item on the agenda, number one. Because unless I'm wrong it's gonna take two or three hours, number one. Number two, I don't mind having it in public if we need to but my preference would be that it would be Dr. Snead and Paul if we need and that would be it. Obviously we can't turn people away, it would be a public meeting but the less...

HAYES: Why don't we put on our workshop discussion on how we're gonna go forward with it, determine how we're gonna do that and then schedule it after we vote on how to do it.

WHITE: As long as we get it done in this lifetime.

HARVEY: As long as we're on the discussed and just refresh my memory but I recall that we had CAFE, a CAFE facilitator at the last time, I was not on the Board but I recall that there was a, someone from CAFE that facilitated that process. So I don't know if that would be necessary, I would highly recommend it, but I'm just throwing that out for consideration.

HAYES: Thanks for bringing that up. Okay so the next workshop we'll discuss everything about it. If they can be available for February 11 I don't know that they would because it's not a school day. Do you guys think it's important? Do what you want to do.

WHITE: I think it's self-explanatory.

HAYES: On February 11 we'll discuss how we'll go forward but we do want to get it going. The next workshop. Anything else under Old Business.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: A few months ago I brought forward for Rules and Regulations to meet to discuss changing the minimum grade requirement for summer school to a 50 average. It still hasn't been done and I would like to get that established well enough in advance so students know when they're finishing up their courses the second half of the year that a 40 average isn't going to cut it, they need a 50 average. If we're raising the

bar to a 65 as a passing grade in a course they should at least be able to get a 50 to be eligible for summer school.

HAYES: It hasn't been incorporated so I think we need to get that straightened out prior to. The rationale is that if a kid gets a 40 or less they shouldn't be able to go to school for a few weeks in the summer for half day and then pass when the rest of the kids are there all year.

WHITE: I think we had discussed that and factored it in.

SEQUEIRA: Something that needs to be brought to your attention, I do run the summer program and the thing is it's another opportunity for students to see if they can pass the course or not. Anything above that, and they get a pass or a fail, it's up to the students, and they pay for it, which means they're taking it upon themselves to try and see if they can pass. In the event that you make it any more difficult than that or raise the standard, and we will look into that Commissioner Flaherty, what you are doing is may increase the number of students who are not going to get their diploma in a timely manner. So my recommendation to you, to the Curriculum Committee, and to the Board, is that take a look at that carefully because it's another opportunity for a student to see if they can pass or not. They're not taking anything other than what they have failed; they're not taking a course that they need to take on a regular basis, so please take that into consideration. We will look into that and think about it because that's another area we're trying to help students out as much as possible.

HAYES: Thank you Dr. Sequeira. Without getting into a back and forth because we will discuss this, I strongly believe that if we allow kids who get a 40 or below to pass by going for a few weeks during the summer even though they paid for it that it's a disservice to the kids who come every day and it's going against our whole hope to get the kids to come to school every day as well. So I understand where you're coming from but I don't think it's our job to help kids pass. We need to make sure they understand what they're supposed to know. But we'll get that on our workshop agenda soon. And I'd like to add that I would like still further discussion on the gates. Somehow I missed that the other day but I want to have a clearer understanding of just what those gates are because honestly the presentation we got the other day, I think, gotten some feedback that, not my words, another song and dance where things are being presented to us that aren't truly happening and also the same thing with the gates, you don't get any formal points and it's difficult for us from our position when we hear things that are said, everybody says it's going fine, it's going fine, and then nobody steps up except behind the scenes to say that it's not happening. And that's what's happening with regard to the gates and also with this, all the initiatives we talked about last week. It may just be a handful of people but that's something that goes on, I think we have to address that because I don't think it's appropriate for us to get involved and second guess but there is one thing in particular that skipped by me the other night, I'd like to know just what the supervisors have to do, how much time they should be in the schools. I know I raised the issue about a particular supervisor not being in a particular school and I happened to be there one day when that particular supervisor was at that particular school, she told me, that particular supervisor told me they would be back and they haven't been back since. So regardless of all the reports and everything that I

have, I need to feel that we got a little more of a hands on with the supervisor's being in the school because I think it provides a sense of leadership for them and also an understanding from each of the schools that they're getting the same amount of attention. Anything else under Old Business?

THERIAULT: With regard to Dr. Snead's meeting with Dr. McQuillan, I happened to meet with Dr. McQuillan recently at the ACES Executive Board and I put a little buzz in his ear with regard to our dissatisfaction with the suspension bill. So anytime you have the opportunity to create a little bit more cognitive dissonance, in other words a little questioning in his mind, I already put a bee in him to kind of buzz around and he assured me that it was not his doing, it's something that he has to deal with. But it's something that many principals, many teachers, are becoming increasingly concerned with, even parents have said to me "how are we going to control our schools if we can't discipline them properly?". So this is something we really, I believe individually, needs to be repealed completely and redone very similar to the way the high school reform plan is being done right now so that you can go into areas, pockets of the State and you can get input from various opponents, special ed, regular ed, elementary, middle and high school, that's the way to do this. So if you will continue that Dr. Snead I will appreciate it.

HAYES: I think along those lines Commissioner Theriault, we're trying to work this possibly through our Legislative Committee and I have had discussions with President of WTA because we heard about a meeting they had had with our State Reps and I think it would be good for us all to get together and sort of have one Waterbury voice on this particular issue, if that's possible. I know Mrs. Cullinan is tracking it and she was going to let us know when any hearings were going on at the legislature. But I think that's something, Commissioner Sweeney, we should invite the WTA and SAW in for some feedback from them with regard to this in-house suspension and see how, you know they can tell us outside of what we believe what the other potential pitfalls are of that type of legislation being enforced here. I know Dr. Snead's position on it as well but we don't want to be in violation of anything without at least letting them know that prior to it being invoked that we're not in favor of it.

THERIAULT: Just for whatever it's worth also, through the Chair, it might be a good idea to get some input from our principals, not necessarily coming here individually and speaking their piece but maybe in writing and Dr. Snead could kind of summarize, put out some sort of a questionnaire to the principals and see how they're feeling about it. Those that don't have suspension such as a school like Barnard aren't going to become too concerned about it. But a school like West Side that is struggling and many of our middle schools and our high schools that are struggling are going to become increasingly concerned about this. Also our alternative or Enlightenment Program is also an area that needs to be monitored very, very closely and we need to analyze those suspensions, which we do, and I don't believe for the most part from what I can see principals are really abusing suspension. Of course the other option is to arrest all the students that get into fights and not discipline them accordingly. But that being said I'm giving you a solution to a problem rather than raising a question. Thank you.

HAYES: Like I said with Mrs. Cullinan it's still sort of under the Discipline Committee but we want to work through our Legislative Committee as well and I had just mentioned it to Donna but I hadn't mentioned it to Patty but that was my intention as well, teachers and administrators similar to the way we did it with our attendance policies and those type of things; have them have a voice in this and let us know what they want and then, like I said, even if it means all of us going up there on a particular day and voicing our opinions that might be a good idea.

SWEENEY: Just for the record, the Legislative Committee is working to put together a statement of position on the suspension policy and on the new ECS magnet school funding. Those will be presented to you at a workshop and then at a regular meeting so that it goes in one voice from this Board to our State Legislators how we feel about this and what we would like to see done. And that will be coming to the next workshop and next meeting.

HAYES: And my point was I agree with us doing that but I think we need to reach out as well to the administrators, even if they buy in with what we have so we can have them as signees along with us.

SUPERINTENDENT: I did talk to both Senator Gaffey and Representative Fleischmann about the mandated suspension legislation and I indicated to them that prior to their mandate we were already doing it on a volunteer basis in our middle schools. But now that it's mandated it takes the choice away from us and also the funding doesn't follow the mandate. I've said that if we're going to have appropriate in-school suspension that there ought to be funding so we have a regular certified teacher in the room who understands differentiated instruction. And so I pushed for them to do that. Also what he said to all of us, all of the Urban Superintendent Association members is that it does not prevent us from suspending a student out of school if that student is causing danger or disruption to the other students. That was his interpretation.

D'ANGELO: Just to touch on what Dr. Snead said and I just hope Dr. Snead, and it sound like he is, and Anne Marie Cullinan and Dr. Sequeira and others are sending a message to the principals that first of all this law doesn't go into effect this year, it goes into effect July 08, number one. Number two, the Board policy, that is the rules for the City of Waterbury still need to be followed and if they're not followed students that are disruptive or dangerous to themselves or others can, after July of 08, still be suspended. So there's a little misconception out there that our hands are tied. Maybe we need to use a little judgment and not suspend students so quickly but this in no way says we cannot suspend students out of school.

THERIAULT: I agree with Commissioner D'Angelo, it doesn't say that you can't suspend them but the implication is there, the implication is there and what's gonna happen is everything's gonna be handled with kid gloves and you're gonna have, the benchmark is going to be is it a dangerous situation? If it's not then you can't suspend him or maybe you can, I don't know. But all I know is this, in Waterbury alone this stands to cost us 800 thousand to one million dollars on in-house suspension rooms. I mean \$42,000 per room, not talking about even a certified teacher, we have trouble enough getting certified teachers, just getting a teacher that can go in there that's a qualified sub

that can maintain law and order, not so much in our elementary schools, I'm not too concerned about that, but I'm very concerned about these middle schools and high schools and we may have to expand those in-house suspension at the middle school and high school. So I'm very, very concerned and I did tell Commissioner McQuillan in Waterbury alone it's gonna cost us 800 to a million dollars and that's what it's gonna cost in every large city. And he was there speaking about unfunded mandates and I pointed out to him the very thing you were talking about President Hayes, this is one more example of an unfunded mandate. So I think all of the Board, it behooves us to be very, very cognoscente of this and stay on top of this and I know Commissioner Sweeney will through the Ad-hoc Legislative Committee and even though I'm not a member of that Committee I will still attend Committee as I do many other committees so I can hopefully have some input as we go forward. I'm very concerned about this and I think the time to move on this and the time to create a change in the mind of the legislatures and the powers to be through various representatives including union people is now. Thank you.

HAYES: You just brought to mind something, maybe we can add it to our Rules & Regs recommendations that we establish a standing Legislative Committee and remove the ad-hoc standing of it.

WHITE: Sure. Just one, the meeting that was today, the CommPACT meeting, will you be giving us a summary of what actually happened and who attended?

SUPERINTENDENT: Sure, I can tell you now. Commissioner Flaherty was there, Commissioner Sweeney, President Hayes, Commissioner Laccone. Also the two Presidents of the union – SAW and WTA, I had also both Assistant Superintendents and Ron Frost and our Chief Operating officer. We discussed how we would go about inviting and giving information to all the principals, and I'm going to do that in my meeting with the principals this week, and how Donna Vignali would give the same information to the teachers. I've asked both union presidents to have meetings with their executive boards to discuss it. I gave them the name and the phone number, they already knew it anyway, of the individual at UConn that's coordinating all of this and indicated he's willing to come down and meet to discuss it as well. I did emphasize that this is a bottom-up; this has to be a bottom-up recommendation. It has to come from the school and school community as opposed to us dictating or determining from this level which schools it's gonna be. We talked about the 90% buy-in of the school, community and staff and principal. We set a deadline of February 1 to receive some kind of requests from whichever school or schools decide they'd like to pursue this. Among the Central Office staff we're gonna put together an application support team that will assist whichever school or schools decide they want to go with this and then we'll bring it to the Curriculum Committee for discussion among Board of Ed Commissioners and then proceed.

WHITE: It isn't that I'm against this I just thought the public should also know a little bit more about what this is. And I think a little bit of information at a time is something to build on.

HAYES: I think what Dr. Snead told them was the way this works is that this comes from them, so there's nothing we're on top of.

SUPERINTENDENT: For the public who may be viewing this discussion about CommPACT schools, it's an opportunity for a school and its community to become somewhat autonomous and to be freed up from some of the restraints of the overall school system. That school would have to organize and develop a governance board, that governance board would not have the authority however to not follow policies of the elected Board of Education Commissioners but would act as a local board of education. Also it would allow that school and its community to appeal to the various unions for leeway in some of the contractual restraints. We at this level will have to be careful about not getting in the way of this because we're going to have to train ourselves to give up some authority and that might be a little difficult but that's what this process is all about. And we also have to make sure that whatever the recommendations occur at the local school level if they become a CommPACT school, whatever those recommendations are that they don't negatively impact us financially. So it's gonna be interesting to see how this all plays out but it does give a school and its community an opportunity to do some interesting things that they feel will help students achieve that are different from how we conduct business.

HAYES: Just one more thing I should have brought up under New Business but I'd like to get on our radar over the next month or so. I feel somewhat like we've been, we're working hard on the math and science supervisors but we really haven't had any reports from our Bilingual Supervisor or maybe the Art Supervisors; those type of people. Just some kind of report of what's going on. I know as far as the Bilingual, I know we have new leadership there and I'd like to just get some kind of report on maybe some of the kind of changes that might be happening.

SEQUEIRA: After our last meeting President Hayes I did ask the Supervisors to come and make a presentation this way you get a chance to hear what is happening, starting with the next workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:39 p.m.

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

Resolutions signed by Mayor Michael J. Jarjura on January 16, 2008