

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, February 11, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

(For the February 19, 2008 Board Meeting - MINUTES ATTACHED)

COMMITTEE MEETING

The Board of Education Committee meetings were held on Monday, February 11, 2008 at Tinker School, Waterbury, Connecticut, starting at 5:33 p.m.

PRESENT: President Hayes, Commissioners D'Angelo, Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, Laccone (left at 6:42 p.m. and returned at 7:18 p.m.), 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 (6:00 p.m.), and School Inspector Herbert Greengas.

Reports were submitted to the various committees of the Board and discussed. The Board went into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. to discuss site selection or lease or sale or purchase of real estate and returned at 7:09 p.m. Present were all Commissioners, Dr. Snead, Paul Guidone,

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee meetings adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 19, 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 6:35 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: Present.

CLERK: President Hayes.

HAYES: Here.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

1. Copy of communication dated February 5, 2008 from Patricia Frageau to Donna Vignali regarding implementation of survey.
2. Communication dated February 7, 2008 from Attorney Janis M. Small, Corporation Counsel's office, regarding Board of Education Retreat.
3. Copy of communication dated February 8, 2008 from Civil Service certifying Jeffrey Laperriere for the position of Administrative Support Specialist I.
4. Copy of communications dated February 8, 2008 from Civil Service certifying Sandra Thomas for the position of Paraprofessional and Connie Funderburg-Blackstock for the position of Attendance Counselor.

HAYES: All in favor, opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, with Commissioner Laccone "abstaining", it was voted to approve the minutes of October 29, November 19, November 26, and December 1, 2007.

HAYES: Motion has been made and seconded? Any discussion? Hearing none – 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 6:39 p.m.

Alderman Arthur J. Denze, 56 Phyllis Avenue, had the following comments: Good evening – Dr. Snead, Mr. President, Honorable Commissioners. Just a notation, I hope I can keep this within three minutes but I would hope you would grant me if I need another minute or so just to get through all of the information that I have, that I want to put forth. My name is Arthur J. Denze, Sr.; I live at 56 Phyllis Avenue here in Waterbury. Last week I got a call on a Thursday concerning some teachers and their illness. Their illness, I don't want to go into a full explanation but when they were off from school the problem went away. After checking with the doctor they said they were fine. After the school closed for whether a break or whatever, their illness went away. When they began school again that particular illness came back again. That prompted my visit to Tinker School up on Highland Avenue. As I know now I probably should have informed someone but I didn't. So I went up there and I investigated approximately four rooms in Tinker School. The first one that I went into is the basement in the back, that's toward the playground/parking lot. First thing I noticed when I went in there the door, the entrance door, on the bottom three inches on both sides there's a steel frame around the door, all rusted out, completely rusted. Now that didn't rust in two years or three years, it had to be a number of years – four or five, it doesn't matter. The windows that were a concern from the teacher they were patched and painted and there was still mold and mildew around those windows. The drain plug which was approximately six months or so previous they had a sewage backup, and I was told that the people that went to clean that sewage backup they put it in containers and they went and threw it out in the parking lot, totally unacceptable. The back room kindergarten, the left side of the room, the Congress/Highland Avenue side, and the Congress Avenue side, all had bubbling, peeling paint, mold very visible and mildew. Just to backup a little bit on the first room, there was a radon test taken last year and there's no results from that radon test that was delivered. Get back to the second kindergarten, as I said the three side walls noticeable mildew, mold, and paint peeling. Now these situations are caused mainly by dampness and/or water leaking in. I noticed a dehumidifier in that room and I also noticed a cone shaped appliance in the corner that the teacher told me that when they put it there she was told not to touch it, that it's not working at the present time. The room on the far side of the basement, another kindergarten room, there's paper stuffed between the gap between the window and the wall. Second floor, no visible caulking around the windows. Two air cleaners purchased for one particular room...

CLERK: Time.

HAYES: Try to wrap it up please.

DENZE: Anyway, I invited the Health Department up to check the situations that I saw and he was a little bit surprised at the condition of the windows and some of the areas where the water is leaking in and especially when he was told, I told him about the sewage being thrown out into the parking lot. Now I didn't get the full report from the Health Department, that's forthcoming. Now I did get a call, well I didn't personally get a call but another colleague of mine was in the Principal's office, got a call from Dr. Snead and Paul Guidone, I guess they didn't like the idea of us going into the school. And personally I didn't like the statement that was made that we shouldn't be there. I think we should be allowed in any public building seeing that we're the Aldermen here in the City, elected officials. Now we talk about teachers, and there's a lot of good teachers that want to bring forward some good things but some of them are afraid to

speaking up because of intimidation or retaliation. To me that's a no, no. My point is six or seven years ago all those windows were replaced. I want to know who checked it when the job was completed. The city paid for it, who checked that job after it was completed? And the same thing with the re-pointing and the replacing of brick on the top of the building that I got schematics home that shows approximately five feet down from the top, all of this was supposed to be repaired. Who checked that out? Do we have inspectors for the school department and if so why isn't that documented that this was inspected and accepted by them? Totally unacceptable especially seeing that it's costing this, the taxpayers and exorbitant amount of money in this City, not only to live here but to take care of our schools. Do we need schools? Definitely. Are we going to have our new schools get in the same condition as these schools are presently after five or 10 years? This is something, I was really upset ladies and gentlemen, our children are there, our grandchildren are there breathing this air and we don't know the quality of it especially with some teachers being sick from that particular air. The respiratory problems especially - asthma and the whole nine yards, I don't have to go into medical details, - the kids are more susceptible. Maybe the adults could fend off a little bit more but the children; they're more susceptible to that in their future years in their health. I beg this Board, I'm asking you, something like this should never go this far and I hope you take action to rectify it all. And I'm gonna tell you, I'm gonna be checking. And I'm not the only one. I think it's a travesty to have our children go to those schools and live under those conditions. Little tikes, I don't have to tell you kindergarten, I kind of felt sorry for them, but they have to have a place to go. Please check this out and I certainly would like to see some results after you check this out. Thank you for the extra time.

HAYES: Just for those who don't normally come here, we don't respond or answer any questions at this point but we have done our work on this and that will be available for whoever would like to look at it. I don't agree with all the statements that were made but we have answers to those things.

Robert Atkins, 7 Fairview Avenue, had the following comments: I just want to say I'm a graduate of West Side Middle School; I attended Duggan School for about four years and was moved from Barnard to West Side. My brothers and sisters graduated from Crosby to Wilby and this is where when I went to school in Waterbury, when I went to school in Waterbury the teachers were in and the Board of Education business; I don't think it's the Board's job to get involved in FirstLight. I think FirstLight is not welcomed in this City, I think what they're doing is a travesty to this City and I think the Board of Education should stay out of that business. I think the citizens of Waterbury, especially the South End, do not want this plant in our area and it's too close to Duggan School. It's nice to see that Duggan School is going to get rebuilt again because many years when I was a kid we use to slide down that hill. And again I don't think it's the Board of Education's job to get involved with FirstLight. FirstLight is nothing but gonna harm this City; it's not going to do nothing, it's not going to provide any jobs, it's not gonna provide any students to our schools, provide any money to our educational department, provide any money to our tax dollars, it's gonna cost us money and no one wants it. And I'm asking the Board of Education to stay out of that business; you're in the school business, the education business, not in the power plant business and I don't care what they try to offer you we as the citizens of Waterbury do not want it and I guarantee we will not get it. Thank you.

HAYES: Thank you. Just for clarification, again there's some kind of statement made that we're involved with FirstLight, totally false.

Ivette Jessup, 330 Piedmont Street, had the following comments: I'm here as a resident of the South End and a concerned citizen also. I was at your meeting at Tinker and then I had to leave and I had an issue with that I heard you will agree to have the power plant address you but then when it came for Dr. Mark Mitchell to address you as an expert in respiratory issues especially asthma, you kind of had a little issue. Then at the end it was agreed upon. Even though I don't have any longer any children attending school here in the City of Waterbury, I have a lot of concern because you see all these children here tonight, all these children go through all the schools that are going to be surrounding this power plant that is going to be built on Washington Avenue. And I felt that you as people that were elected and supposed to be looking for the well being of our future generation okay that if you . . . and they already have a lot of x's against them to overcome and have a strive in life. And let me tell you as being also a minority, a Hispanic female, I also have, I overcame the x's and became a professional but you know what I have an illness and it's very hard when you have an illness that even though you try to succeed with everything else in life . . . boom, you get womped with a disease you can't overcome. And mines is rare, they don't know how it came, but . . . probably can be prevented if you really look into how this power plant being built and all these toxins are going to be spread in the air and they are going to be affected and their lives are going to be affected. So I feel that you should be considering ladies and gentlemen and instead of just writing it off and saying, well, this is not my problem because it is your problem, you are their role models and they're here today because they feel that people feel the South End they don't have nobody to speak up so they going to start speaking up for themselves and wanting to have a better life. But you know they're children supposedly and we adults are supposed to be looking for the wellbeing until they become adults themselves and take care of their lives. So I'm here tonight to tell you to think about it, how it is that you, maybe you don't live around the area but I have lived in the area, I have gone and all over the place and come back and raise my daughter in Waterbury, in the South End because I felt it was a proper nice place to have and live. Not just because they say it's, a lot of people thing, it's the garbage of the State and the garbage of the City of Waterbury. I don't think these young people here sitting in these chairs today are garbage or disposable, they are not, they are human beings like all of you here who deserve the right to strive and become somebody in the future. Well they need help right now because they are children. And if you don't provide that help you know what . . . well . . . a bunch of hypocrites. You made an oath to be elected because you really wanted to make something different as a Board member of Education of the City of Waterbury. Thank you.

Maximo Torres, 29 West Liberty Street, had the following comments: Ms. Jessup interpreted for Mr. Torres. He says in the area close by where they plan to build this plant and the reason he's here tonight is because scariness this plant might bring and maybe the radiation that it might have. He has seen on TV and a lot of people have become ill. He says that after 10, 15 years later on they find they're sick because of all this contamination and radiation. He said all his kids go to the schools in that area. He said that putting the plant there like putting a gas plant right inside his bedroom. If that comes to explode what's going to happen, he's going to burn himself? He says that he's concerned that if that happens, the plant, has anybody ever considered there could be an explosion or something and that's very close to the City of Waterbury downtown

area. It's like putting garbage in front of your door. He feels that it's the main interest of the City of Waterbury also.

Antoinette D'Almedia, 177 Allen Street, had the following comments: I'd like to say something about Bob. What Bob was trying to tell you at the FirstLight meeting we had in New Britain they were kind of doing us a trade off, a trade off for a park and that's what he tried to present to you. FirstLight tried to give us a park and they were going to put this plant here. That's what he was really trying to tell you. I apologize for the late notice that I sent out. We had a lot of obstacles in the way since last Tuesday. We were trying to do the meeting at night and not on a Saturday and what happened was we were supposed to get Washington Park. When we tried to get Washington Park then they said there was going to be basketball being played there so it would be too much noise. So we didn't get Washington Park. Our next choice was South Congregational Church and we couldn't get that during the night also. So that's why it's on a Saturday. I apologize for that, I know it's 2:00 in the afternoon and it's very hard. The invitation did come out late because Friday when we got Thomaston Savings Bank then I had an obstacle because I had to send all these invitations out and then I had Sunday and Monday with no mail and then I really had a panic attack and that's when I asked Steve if he would just e-mail you so you at least have a little bit notice because I don't know if they all came out today. I come here before you if you possibly as a whole can write to the Siting Council and not support this plant. I'm really worried about this plant, it's too close to our children, I'm very concerned about the ammonia tanks. I know it was brought up at the Siting Council, I know that Dr. Mitchell didn't say that too much because he was focusing . . . but the ammonia tanks is going over a small bridge of Washington Street and that was one of the concerns too and what if there is an ammonia spill? That is more dangerous than the pollution that's coming out of the air. Maybe as individuals if you can't take it as a whole, if you just can write your concerns to the Siting Board that you're really not in favor of this but then if you're in favor that's your privilege too, the right before the Siting Board. But I come to you tonight because we don't have very much time, your letters have to be in by February 29 and that's why we're pushing this thing so fast. We're not trying to shove it down your throat, I know you don't have much time but this is the reason. I did talk to Dr. Mark Mitchell today and he did say, he sent me a bunch of e-mails but there's no time to even present it to you tonight. But if you have any concerns at all and if there's anything stopping you at all to the Siting Council he said to please give him an e-mail or a call and he will justify whatever you want, your concerns. You don't need to know this again, there are schools in the area, you all know this and I'm really worried about this plant. You're the Board of Education so I'm coming to you for the children but I'm also worried about the adults and all of us that have to breathe this air and you know that Phoenix Soil, we're all concerned about Phoenix Soil; this plant is still going to produce just as much air pollution as Phoenix Soil. So please, do whatever's right. Thank you.

HAYES: For point of interest, this Board is meeting from 9:00 in the morning until 2:00 in the afternoon on Saturday.

Monroe Webster, 25 Crown Street, had the following comments: I come before you as President of the NAACP, Chairman of the Greater Waterbury Red Cross, as well as Secretary for the Mt. Olive Senior Center. I viewed the film of the informational meeting that was held over this week, regarding FirstLight's desire to install a power plant in Waterbury. President Hayes your initial question as to FirstLight as to why Waterbury I

thought was right on point and after listening to FirstLight's description of the proposed project and its benefits my reaction was it sounds pretty good. We need to clean up our brownfield sites and surely we need additional tax revenue. I then listed to Dr. Mitchell, President of the Coalition of Environmental Justice and the picture changed dramatically. This plant will produce over 10% of the total pollutants currently being produced by all sources in Waterbury; this plant will operate at peak demand times which means this will be peak pollution times. I have to assume that if they are going to invest in the plant that this plant will also demand that the increases in this plant will also be increased. You're not going to put a plant in that you don't think you're going to continue to use and that you're going to continue to need in the future. My concern for locating this plant in Waterbury is one of health - my health, my family's health, the health of my community as well as the health of surrounding communities. It appears that the height of this stack is in direct proportion to the amount of pollutants already in our air and Waterbury is out of compliance for ozone. I listened to the list of 17 schools that were within a two mile radius of the plan and I can think of at least one more school that would be added to the list and that would be the Murial Moore Early Childhood Development Center which is about two miles away from the proposed site. The location of this plant is in and neighborhoods that can least afford to get ill. We're in a healthcare crisis now, we're asking for our hospitals to prepare now to care for our children who will not be able to pay for care for themselves later on. So yes President Hayes, I definitely implore you and I believe that it is pertinent that this Board go before the Siting Council and voice their concerns for this location. Thank you.

Elaine Denze, 56 Phyllis Avenue, had the following comments: I have a letter from the Board of Realtors that I would like to read to you - We have recently been made aware of the fact that through the Waterbury Generation Project a power peaking plant is being constructed on a parcel of land owned by Waterbury Generation, LLC. As we understood this Project was introduced to Waterbury in April of 2007 and that only one public hearing has been held since September 12, 2007, at which time it was expected that the approval process would take time before the implementation process started. Now, only five months later, we have been informed that the project is on a "fast track" and many of the ordinary approval processes will now be bypassed. After studying the proposal more thoroughly, we have several concerns over the impact of a project such as this would have on the community in which it is being built. First, the housing values in the area will be negatively impacted. The City of Waterbury has more than its share of environmental hazards that already have a negative impact to the real estate values. The ten (10) year term of the lease signed does not reflect the projections being represented in the application for tax abatement with the City of Waterbury...which talks about the facility having a 40-50 year life span. I do not see anything that assures the City that the company will not leave before the city actually generates the proposed \$100 - \$160 million in taxes. We also raise serious concerns for the public safety of the children attending school near the area and the many elderly and individuals who already suffer from asthma and other respiratory illnesses. We would hope that all proper steps be taken to be sure that the densely populated site selected is really in the best interest of the taxpayers of the City of Waterbury. Please feel free to contact me at gene.ferdocini@snet.net. Along with that Commissioners, I know that some of you were not even aware at the meeting that the owners came to you about last week I believe it was because I spoke to some of you and some said they knew nothing about what was going on here. I think it's very important that we're not schmoozed by this company to tell us that they're going to put a park for the children to play in. So we're going to have

a park, very poor air quality that the children are going to be breathing and then we're going to have dead children. That's absolutely ridiculous. How could they make that proposal to you the Board of Education and tell you that a park is the greatest thing that they're going to propose in place of your approving or mentioning to approve this generating plant? We hope that you will address a letter, we're sorry that you can't meet with us on Saturday at that informational meeting. We felt it was extremely important that we bring the Board of Ed, the State reps, senators, and the Board of Education in as well as the general public to make you aware of what is going on with this plant and the hazardous results that will come from it. Thank you very much.

John Theriault, 40 Brackenridge Drive, had the following comments: Good evening, I'm a retired school administrator and standing member of the Board and naturally this evening I'm speaking for myself. Honorable Board, ladies and gentlemen, Central Office staff, I come before you this evening because I would like to continue naming the schools and their approximate location. The other evening I came before the Board and was not permitted my full recitation even though I am a standing Board member. For whatever reason I still don't know. The elementary schools that are within two miles, there are 23 of them, and there are two more beyond and there's one hospital. Duggan is $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile, Brooklyn is $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile, Barnard is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, Maloney is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, State Street is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, Washington School is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, St. Francis is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, Tinker is 1 mile, Hopeville is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, Gilmartin is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, Wendell Cross is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, Sacred Heart is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, Waterbury Arts Magnet School and middle school and high school is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, Kennedy is 1 mile, West Side is 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles, Holy Cross is two miles, Chase Collegiate is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, University of Connecticut is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, Naugatuck Valley Community College is 2 miles, Children's Community School is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, St. Mary's School is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, St. Anne's School is $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile, St. Mary's Hospital is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, and Muriel Moore Early Childhood Center is about 2 miles. That being said, I have included this in your packet, you probably seen this before, but there are many, many schools and institutions within a short cluster, a very, very short cluster of this power plant. Also I included some documentation with regard from the General Assembly about the Board of Education's responsibility with regard to air quality and you can read that at your own edification. And there's also some information in there regarding ammonia, two articles regarding ammonia. And if you really are interested in the topic you can go to the NAACP page and take a look at what they have to say about pollution with regard to people of color. And the last time I checked Hispanic people were people of color and deserve the same rights and the same privileges as everybody else and not to have a disproportionate amount of contamination within their community, etc. I thought it was a disgrace that we, and I include myself, didn't have a password to a computer to let the gentleman present his slides. Eighteen-thousand students, million dollars of budget, and we don't have the password to the computer so that this gentleman can present his slides. I copied his slides and I'll give them to you. That's about all I have to say, I would request that this Board consider entertaining a motion at the end of this meeting to take a position statement with regard to the power plant and send it to FirstLight. Our statement with regard to suspension made an impact on the legislature and I think our statement saying that we do not want this power plant in our community will have full face impact on that Siting Committee. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Lawrence DePillo, 11 Steuben Street, had the following comments: I'm here this evening to discuss this FirstLight power plant and there's many issues, there's many

issues regarding why this plant is bad for the citizens of the City of Waterbury. But I want tonight to talk about the Education Department and why it's important for this Board of Education to send a letter to the Siting Council asking that they reject the proposal to fast-track this plant and what is the fast-tracking of this plant all about? The Siting Council has two proposals before it – proposal "A" and Proposal "B". Proposal "A" is what FirstLight . . . wants and that's to say we're going to fast-track this. What does fast-track mean? It means that this plant does not go before the Wetlands Board. It means that this plant does not go before the Zoning Board. This plant does not go before the Planning Commission. And this plant is not subject to any rules and regulations in the City of Waterbury and all boards and commissions are made mute. It literally says you have no home rule and no say whatsoever as to where this plant will be built and how this plant will operate. The other alternative "B" is that the Siting Council is asked not to approve the fast-tracking of this plant. That does not stop this plant from putting forward its application to come to Waterbury. What it does stop is the Siting Council from taking away from the City of Waterbury home rule. It means it will have to go through Wetlands; it will have to go through Planning, it will have to go through Zoning, it will have to go through the Building Inspector's Department and meet the codes in the City of Waterbury. That's the two proposals before the Siting Council. And I don't believe it's unreasonable to ask this Board to send a letter asking the Siting council not to take away Waterbury's home rule. And to give the citizens of Waterbury the same rights that every other citizen has regarding a power plant coming to its city. Now why should you do this? I was at both FirstLight hearings and I'm gonna tell you right now, what they told the Siting Council was absolutely incorrect. They said the closest school to their proposed plant was more than half a mile away and that is not true. We find out that Duggan is going to be within a quarter mile. We find out that St. Josephs which we lease and have a number of grade school children within a quarter mile of this plant. There's many things they didn't tell you, they didn't tell you that they're going to have to bring a high pressured gas line into that plant right across the sidewalk and right into their facility. They didn't include that as part of their application, you know why, cause the Siting Council cannot fast-track gas transmission lines. And what is that transmission line going to operate at - 475 PSI. Do you know what the normal gas pressure in the City of Waterbury is - about 5PSI. Four hundred and seventy five PSI and it's going to come from somewhere from a Yankee Gas operation to that plant not knowing where, not knowing how close, it could come right down the road by St. Patrick's Church and right past Duggan School. They have not said where it's going to be. But I can tell you right now, if a 475 PSI gas line ever went you're going to have a big hole in the ground and possibly a lot of dead children. That's your concern; you're the Board of Education. You should demand to know where that gas line is going to be. High tension lines going from their plant down to Baldwin Street. Again, no specific route saying how close those lines are going to be to any of the schools. You are the Board of Education, you need to be concerned about electromagnetic interference and the potential cancer causes that have been debated about that EMF for many years. And it seems that the latest data is showing there's a correlation between higher cancer rates and electromagnetic interference. You need to be concerned. And what about that sidewalk, what about the buses crossing that area? Four hundred seventy-five PSI; they're gonna increase it on their site to 970 PSI. Their operations are going to be five feet away from the sidewalk. They were going to put a chain link fence with barbed wire on top but after all of the hullabaloo that was made about that now they're going to build an eight to ten foot wall with barbed wire on top. Isn't that going to be a terrific site? We're going to pull out of Railroad Hill Street, we're

going to look at a giant wall and I'm sure there's never going to be any graffiti on it, it's just gonna be another beautiful site in the City of Waterbury. Look at other power plants where they're put, they're put away from schools, they're put away from populations. They have distance lines so you have to drive into them, there's security. This is a plant that's being shoehorned into the South End because they were convinced that they were dealing with people that couldn't defend themselves and this was going to be a quick profit engine for them. They don't even own the property that this plant is being located on. So I ask this Board please put a letter together to the Siting Council. It doesn't have to be elaborate, you were never informed about this plant, please tell them don't fast-track it, give you the same rights as a Board to look at this as every Board should have. Thank you.

Victoria Encarnacion, 633 South Main Street, had the following comments: I'll make this quick because I was actually doing a dance practice here and all the kids were in my dance group. They all currently go to school in the area. My nine year old nephew also goes to these schools and I don't think it's right and you as a Board of Education are supposed to be protecting our kids. You guys can decide when schools can either be delayed or cancelled because of weather why should our kids have to go through this. What if something was to explode, what happens to them then? As a matter of fact I went to Maloney School, West Side and I graduated from Kennedy High School, Mr. Snead handed me my diploma and that's the least that I would expect is for you guys to be concerned because right now I feel like I'm looking at blank faces and if it was the other way around, God forbid . . . ammonia like they were saying spills into the streets what happens to my nine year old nephew walking to his bus? So I'm just going to leave it like that for now because these kids have to go to school tomorrow and thank you.

Alexa Encarnacion, 633 South Main Street, had the following comments: You just heard from my sister. As far as what goes on with this plan a lot of us had absolutely no idea, this is the first I ever heard of it. This is the first time I even heard the name of whatever corporation or company that wants to bring a power plant here. Not only do we have to think about our children's safety on their way to the school bus, into the schools and on their way back home off the school bus into the neighborhoods where we live and back into the safety of our homes but now we have to worry about the fact that somebody is proposing to add more pollution and more danger into the neighborhoods. Like somebody said earlier, they thought that we weren't able to speak for ourselves and defend ourselves. If we were given the opportunity to the language barrier would not be an issue because for any other purposes under the sun they send home leaflets with all the children in Spanish and in English and I think the least they could have done for the people of the community, children that are being affected by it, any of those schools, was to give us a heads up as to what was going on. Ignorance is widespread here and as far as I'm concerned as long as we educate the people who it's going to be affecting then we're being given the ability to defend ourselves in front of our children. Now my son, again, I'm a single mother, I have two smaller children, I have to worry about cavities and colds and keeping up with their physicals, I don't want to have to worry about the air quality. I don't want to have to worry about whether or not something is going to leak into the water, whether or not something is going to burst, rupture or explode, that's not the life I want to live for my kids, that's not what I want for them. The times are changing and I do understand that maybe somebody might be interested in defending this power plant but there's a lot of people that have no idea of

it. We have power in numbers and hopefully the next meeting we do have based on whatever it is concerning the South End, we'll come back and we'll come back stronger. Again, we live in that community, we're providing something for the kids to have an outlet with, these are all these kids here in our dance group, all these kids frequent that area. They live nearby, they go to the schools that are going to be affected, and I'm pretty sure that their parents have no idea that this is being proposed. So when we go home part of their assignment tonight is to inform their parents as to what is going on concerning their safety. I am y child's advocate and if I send my child to school with an inexplicable bruise or mark, I'm being questioned so I'm not going to allow anybody else or give anybody else that power to harm my child because everybody here pays taxes and all we want is to live a simple and healthful life with our kids. We don't want to be at risk. There's nobody else that's going to be at risk in the outskirts of Waterbury except for us and it's not fair. So again, like I said, thank you for giving me the opportunity to come up here and defend myself, defend my community and my kids. Next time we will be here with the power of numbers.

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 7:20 p.m.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: It's always good to have community input and especially see students being involved in the democratic process. Let's give the students a big hand. As an aside, please apologize to your husband, I didn't mean for him to think that I was putting him out in a negative way. I just wanted the process and protocol for visitors to be followed. We'll be more than happy to take anybody on a tour of our facilities, especially elected officials, as long as we know about it ahead of time. When folks show up unexpected and the principal doesn't know about it it's a bit unsettling. Especially with the Health Inspector in tow. We will be more than happy to set up an official tour.

Last week was a short week for students: we held a Professional Development Day on Monday, there was a holiday on Tuesday, and there was no school due to the weather on Wednesday. Monday was a very productive day in terms of professional development. A large percentage of all teachers attended. We also offered a question-and-answer session on the CommPACT schools program for principals that same day. Gene Chasin was on hand to answer questions about operations and the application process. We have at least one school, thus far, who is interested in pursuing this.

Nancy Vaughan attended a meeting at SKYE Cable XIII this morning with representatives from AT&T's U-Verse, an internet based alternative to cable or satellite TV. AT&T has committed to transmitting community access programming as part of its U-verse offerings. Special equipment will be needed for this, but will be handled out of SKYE Cable XIII. AT&T will be collecting fees for community access programming support from its U-verse customers and will be providing this money to SKYE to help offset the cost of this conversion equipment. There was also some discussion on what school districts will need to do in order to meet the federal requirement that all systems broadcast in digital beginning in February of next year. More information is needed

about this issue, but the state legislature is creating a fund from user fees that will enable school districts to apply for money to assist with upgrading broadcast equipment.

Visit to Waterbury Arts Magnet School: Last week I visited Waterbury Arts Magnet School. Immediately I noticed an improvement in implementation of the dress code among the students.

I also received positive feedback from several staff relative to enforcement of policies, rules and regulations.

Mrs. McGrath has several plans she is working on to address needs in the curriculum such as the "Encore Period" and assistance to students who may be "falling through the cracks".

A badly needed camera / buzzer system has been established at the front doors and provides assistance to the front office staff identifying visitors.

Observations by the Principal relative to building maintenance have been forwarded to the School Inspectors office.

I do believe that Mrs. Beth McGrath is doing an outstanding job as the interim Principal of WAMS.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: Thank you Dr. Snead, just briefly under my comments, I'm sorry that Alderman Denze had to leave because I was going to ask him for support, something that's on our agenda tonight is to request approval of a capitol budget. We have people who come and talk about the condition of the schools and at the same time talk about cutting our budget 10% and expecting everything to get done. But I would like everybody to know that I do have a new chairman of the Schoolhouse Committee who hopefully will be having regularly scheduled meetings. There's been a lapse for a couple of years where no meetings were held. So we now have an opportunity, we're going to look at these closer but the dollars are going to be necessary for us to get that, we don't have the monies coming from the Oversight Board, Office of Policy and Management, that allowed us to make so many repairs that we have made. So again I'd like to have some support for this Board of Education's proposed budget for a capitol budget because again we've received criticism since I've been on this Board about not doing enough for the buildings but we don't have the monies to take care of it so what we're hoping to do again with the capitol budget is to make replacements before the roofs are falling in or the windows have cracks in them. Even though in this case the windows are 12 years old, I know there was some reference to them being six or seven years old, and we did address, I'd like everybody to know, that we did address through the School Inspector's office how something like that could have happened. We were told that there are consultants that are hired to do this on our behalf and we made it clear, many of us who were at that meeting, that we would not want any of those people to come back as, or engineering consultants, to approve any future projects for us and we are going to try to address the issues at Tinker School that we can until the summer when those things will be taken care of. We have Mr. Magnotta. What happened with the Agenda is that Commissioner White made it clear to us that this was when Mr. Magnotta was going to be available and while it didn't get put on the Agenda there was an understanding, I believe, that he was coming this evening by

invitation of Vice President White and that he was going to be able to make a presentation to us.

Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business at 7:28 p.m. to allow Mr. Magnotta to address the Board.

HAYES: All in favor, opposed.

WHITE: Mr. Magnotta is from the Office of Magnet Schools and because many of our Commissioners have had information that wasn't correct we submitted questions to Mr. Magnotta and he will answer them, give the information on the magnet schools, and also maybe explain to us about the new legislation pending.

HAYES: Is there going to be questioning or...

WHITE: No, he had the questions in advance and he will just speak from those questions.

HAYES: I heard a question raised so I want to make it clear so I don't know if you want to repeat it again. The question was asked whether this was going to be confrontational. It came from that corner, I think it was Commissioner Theriault; he didn't address it through me, so I'm assuming it was him who said it.

WHITE: No, this is not confrontational, this is information. I cannot give Mr. Magnotta's full title because it has been changed from when I first met him.

William Magnotta, Connecticut State Department of Education: I never really actually had an official title, as you say its magnet schools. I have a list of 17 questions that were forwarded to me; I'll just run through them

Are Waterbury taxpayers paying for the education of out of town students?

MAGNOTTA: They are not. As long as Waterbury supports its own students in magnet schools to the extent it supports students in all the schools, the amount of grant funds they receive from the State are sufficient to support not only out of district students but the other kinds of things that are needed in the magnet school.

How long are we required to keep it a magnet school?

MAGNOTTA: The magnet school construction grant in affect pretty much says it will be a magnet school for as long as the school exists. If you want to look at it maybe the use for life of a typical magnet school building is about 25 years, so somewhere in that kind of range.

Why do we not charge tuition to the sending school districts?

MAGNOTTA: Because if you support your own kids you don't need tuition. It's as simple as that.

Who pays for the transportation costs?

MAGNOTTA: Well the case in Waterbury all the out of district students are transported by their home districts or the parents and Waterbury pays nothing to bring those

students in from out of district which is unlike the other two cities, Hartford and New Haven, that actually pay to bring all those kids in and subsidize it substantially actually.

Does the sending district get a grant?

MAGNOTTA: No, the sending district does not get any money.

How are special education students from out of town served? Who pays for the service?

MAGNOTTA: The students that are identified as having special needs within your school programs are covered to the extent of your per pupil cost like any other student. Once the per pupil cost is exceeded then that excess cost can be billed back to the home district where the student resides. That home district is responsible for holding the PPT and developing the IEP for that student and therefore the responsibility of paying for the student should be well known by them as they were responsible for helping set up the program. In reality most of the time the home district just says to the school do whatever you need to do and send us the bill. But they certainly do have that legal responsibility under State Statute.

Can a student be rejected if he is special education?

MAGNOTTA: Absolutely not; everyone has full and equal access to magnet schools.

Are magnets required to adhere to racial balance?

MAGNOTTA: Magnet schools have particular state laws they have to adhere to. Very simply a magnet school has to maintain a minority, majority or vice versa percentage of at least 75/25. And that's all that says in State Statutes.

How can this be achieved using a lottery?

MAGNOTTA: Well obviously in magnet schools we set up geographic representation and the school's designed to bring together the districts that will provide the diverse population necessary in the school to provide the racial balance the State law is looking for.

How is the amount of the magnet grant determined?

MAGNOTTA: This year for the first time the magnet grant for host communities has changed. Before it was a sliding scale so depending on how many host community students were in the magnet the amount of money that was assigned for Waterbury students fluctuated up and down. Now it's a very straight flat percentage; every Waterbury student gets \$3,000; every student from out of district this year got \$6,016 which will increase up to about \$8,100 by the year 2010/2011, Waterbury will stay at \$3,000 but the out of district students will continue to grow by about \$700 a year over a four year period.

Can a town not in the magnet agreement become a sending town?

MAGNOTTA: This year for the first time you were able to advertise vacant seats to non-participating districts. In the past you had some non-participating seats that districts applied to and were able to come in as long as their district was okay with that. We no longer need the district permission, it's down to what we're calling a parent choice so that after you satisfy your partnering districts if you still have some empty seats you can fill those seats from anywhere the parents want to apply from. Of course they're going to be responsible for providing the transportation

Do siblings have a better chance of acceptance?

MAGNOTTA: Looking at the sibling policies that we approved for the three Waterbury Magnet Schools there is some preference given, there's no guarantee, but siblings do have a better chance of getting in than most students do.

Has the original concept of the magnet school changed?

MAGNOTTA: Magnet schools under state law have to serve three purposes – one is to create a diverse student population; second is to operate the school full time or part time depending on the type of school you have, and the third is to develop a unique program that's capable of attracting the population that you're looking for. So those purposes are very simple. The only things that have changed over the years are some of the reimbursement percentages, some of the reimbursement amounts all have gone up in terms of the annual funding. Magnet school construction funding certainly for the three Waterbury magnets was 100%, it's now 95% for new magnets coming on Board. Aside from that nothing has really changed in terms of what we're looking for in terms of magnet schools

Have the rules changed that govern magnet schools?

MAGNOTTA: They have not. It's the same as it always has been.

If so, how does this affect Waterbury?

MAGNOTTA: Waterbury has had some pretty solid partners in its three magnet schools over the years that would probably fill at least 95% or so of the seats every year and have been very solid partners, local superintendents or representatives have been on the governing committees and very active, probably more so than any other city that I've seen in the State.

Can a school become a magnet school without drawing from suburban districts?

MAGNOTTA: Not an interdistrict magnet school eligible for state funds. But there are what are called intradistrict, magnet schools within the district, not eligible for particular state money but certainly you can create some unique programs within your district attracting students from across the district and there are some federal start up funds that you can apply for that come out every three years that could potentially help you develop those kind of schools if you're interested.

That's the list of questions. Now the new legislation, there are only a couple of things and I pretty much mentioned them already. Number one, the reimbursement percentages have changed so there's more operating money in the magnet school program now. The parent choice legislation which will allow you to fill all your seats to capacity which you never had any problem doing in Waterbury anyway. And the third will have to deal with the ECS formula and whether or not we end up . . . I know your Superintendent is well aware of the committee that's working to make some changes. Legislation was passed for magnet schools, it was passed at the very 11th hour of the last session, there are several technical amendments that need to be made because some things were actually literally forgotten about or not considered or the impact of some things were not considered. There's nothing taking effect either this year or next year that will affect Waterbury financially. However we do expect that during this year's legislative session we will see some technical amendments to some of the legislation that was written and we're hoping that that will be favorable to the continuation of our urban magnet programs.

SWEENEY: I just want to clarify something in regards to the out of district in relation to transportation and grants. Is it not true that out of district can apply for and in fact in Waterbury the out of districts almost all, without exception, apply for and receive a transportation grant to pay for the transportation for their students from their district into Waterbury?

MAGNOTTA: That's correct.

SWEENEY: And it is a grant. I separate it from an educational grant, I understand that we don't get, out of districts do not get grant money per se for education but they do receive and are eligible for a transportation grant.

MAGNOTTA: And in most cases, it's a per pupil grant of \$1,300 which in most cases doesn't quite cover the cost of transportation so although they're receiving partial reimbursement, most of them it is costing them something to send the kids here even though there is no tuition.

WHITE: Are there any other questions? If the legislation does change would you please come back and address us but at a workshop session so there can be some give and take.

MAGNOTTA: Sure.

WHITE: And thank you for coming down tonight. And again, we apologize for having you wait but I'm sure it was interesting for you.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business.

WHITE: All in favor, opposed.

REPORTS

1. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

1.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Pinto and duly seconded by Commissioner D'Angelo, it was voted unanimously to approve the Department of Education's fiscal year 2009-2013 Capital Budget.

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

2. COMMITTEE ON TEXTBOOKS & COURSES OF STUDY

2.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt and duly seconded by Commissioner D'Angelo, it was voted unanimously to approve of the Grades 6 through 12 Theater Curriculum.

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

3. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

3.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner White, it was voted unanimously to approve an additional position of Youth Development Coordinator for Wilson Family Resource Center.

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

3.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner White, it was voted unanimously to approve of the job specifications for and the additional position of Family Resource Center Aide for Chase Family Resource Center.

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

4. COMMITTEE ON BUILDING

4.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve to purchase nine (9) properties from the owners for the described amounts as detailed in the attached communication from O & G Industries, Inc. for the development of the New Elementary School No. 1 - Duggan School Project in the form of the Contract presented, subject to any changes of terms as prescribed by the Corporation Counsel.

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

5. COMMITTEE ON RULES & REGULATIONS

5.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner D'Angelo, it was voted unanimously to approve the following revisions to the Bylaws of the Board, #9010, as listed:

- 1. The Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee shall become a “Standing Committee”.**
- 2. The Committee on Textbooks & Courses of Study shall be renamed the “Curriculum Committee”.**

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

6. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

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

HAYES: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion?
Commissioner Laccone.

LACCONE: Due to the fact that I am the President of the Blue Collar Union who is asking for a waiver of one of the schools I will be abstaining. I just wanted to inform the Board that this is a contractual obligation pursuant to the Interest Arbitration Award between the City and Blue Collar Union.

HAYES: Thank you. Does anyone else have discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passes with one abstention.

- 6.2 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. Is there any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passed unanimously.

- 6.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously that the request of the Greater Waterbury Parochial Basketball League for a waiver of custodial fees for their use of Crosby High School in the approximate amount of \$252.00 be approved and a waiver of custodial fees for their use of Kennedy High School in the approximate amount of \$1,260 be approved.**

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

- 6.4 Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously that permission be granted to C. Paolino, KHS, and three chaperones to take 40 students to New York, NY on April 2, 2008 to visit Little Italy.**

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

- 6.5 Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously that permission be**

granted to L. Galanti, Kingsbury School, and seven chaperones to take 27 students to Boston, MA on May 16, 2008 to visit the Freedom Trail.

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

6.6 Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner D'Angelo, it was voted unanimously that permission be granted to R. Haxhi, WAMS, and seven chaperones to take 71 students to Agawam, MA to perform at Six Flags.

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

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

D'ANGELO: I'd like to make a motion to receive and place on file Superintendent's Notification, 7.1 through 7.7.

SWEENEY: Second.

HAYES: Motion has been made and seconded. Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Is that a motion that you made Paul?

D'ANGELO: I made a motion to receive and place on file.

HARVEY: Okay, I have an issue with 7.7.

HAYES: I think we have someone here to answer any questions that might be needed to be answered regarding item 7.7. Would you like to get the motion 7.1 through 7.6 to get those out of the way and then we'll, or do you want to just address this individually?

HARVEY: I'm okay Mr. President with 7.1 through 7.6 if you want to do that.

D'ANGELO: I'll amend my motion to read 7.1 through 7.6.

SWEENEY: Second.

7.1. Athletic appointments effective immediately:
Scialla, Marlana – Assistant Softball Coach, KHS.

7.2. Grant funded appointments/stipends:
DaSilva, Susie – Administrative oversight of Family Resource Center, \$2,500 annual stipend.
Irizarry, Angelina – from substitute to permanent Pre-k Classroom Aide, ECEP, salary and benefits according to SEIU contract, effective 02/28/08.
Picocchi, Celia – Administrative oversight of Family Resource Center, \$2,500 annual stipend.

- 7.3 Grant funded resignations:
Morales, C. Irene – Paraprofessional, Early Childhood Education Program, effective 02/28/08.
- 7.4 Extended School Hours appointments, maximum of 6 hours per week, salary according to individual's contract, funded by the ESH Grant:
Walsh School – Jessica Rinaldi, Teacher Ken Yaffe, Substitute
- 7.5 Resignations:
Feero, Blanche S. – WSMS teacher, effective 02/01/08.
Ferrare, Amy – KHS Business, effective 01/25/08.
Mirto, David – CHS Business, effective 02/08/08.
Murphy, Kristine – Bucks Hill teacher, effective 12/21/07.
Perusse, Joe – KHS Special Education, effective 02/19/08.
- 7.6 Retirements:
Stango, Rosanne M. – Maloney Magnet School, Kindergarten, effective 06/30/08.
Valentino, Sharon C. – NEMS Gifted/FOCUS, effective 06/30/08.

HAYES: All in favor, opposed.

STANGO: I will be abstaining on 7.6.

HAYES: Thank you. Since this is coming under notification I think we might need a motion to discuss item 7.7, that would be in order.

D'ANGELO: Before we discuss it I need to make a motion that we receive and place on file item 7.7.

SWEENEY: Second.

- 7.7 Adult Education appointments effective 2/20/08:
Booker, Cicero – ESL/GED Classroom Aide, 12 hours p/wk @ \$21.50 per hour.
Zappone, John – Resource Room Aide – AM, 20 hours p/wk @ \$21.50 per hour.
Zappone, John – Resource Room Aide – PM., 15 hours p/wk @ \$21.50 per hour.

MURRAY: I'm here to answer any questions you may have on that particular item.

HARVEY: I know we discussed this earlier, last week, and the question that has, that I have received calls on is regarding the appointment of Alderman Booker as an aide and some of the questions I received were cynical however my point here is to just question you on the process and, that's number one, on the process. And number two Alderman Booker is an Alderman and just want to know, let's start with the process first and then I'll see what questions come from that.

MURRAY: The process was pretty simple. Alderman Booker came to the Personnel Department wanting to know if there was any kind of job that he might qualify for. I told him I would source around and right after he left my office I spoke to Mr. Tony Musto who's the principal of Adult Ed and he informed me that he had at that time two positions that he was looking to fill. In fact he had already filled one of those two

positions which are what they call ADE assistants, Adult Basic Education assistants. So at that time I asked him if he would be willing to talk to Mr. Booker about the other opening he had and he said sure. I sent him to talk to Mr. Booker, Mr. Booker interviewed with him then he sent Mr. Booker back to me to fill out paperwork so that we had an actual application, resume and other papers that we need in case he was to be offered the position. And then at that time I explained the process that we'd have to bring his name to the Board at a Workshop and then they would have to vote on it and then he can start as long as they voted in the affirmative. And that's pretty much it.

HARVEY: How many other candidates did you have for this particular position?

MURRAY: He was the only applicant for that position and the other young man was the only applicant for the other position. Those of you who have been on the Board for a while, and I was on this Board for a while, so I trust that you remember, as a past practice we have never posted Adult Education positions.

HARVEY: All right, then let me ask you since you have been on the Board for awhile, what ethics are, surround an elected official being employed by the City of Waterbury during their current position?

D'ANGELO: Mr. Chairman, just a point of order, and I don't mean to be rude, with all due respect Commissioner, in light of the answers we just received to some of the questions I think this should either be handled in executive session or referred to the Personnel Committee. At least me as a Commissioner I'm surprised, almost shocked at some of the answers we just received to the questions that you asked. And I don't think it's appropriate for Alderman Booker's sake or for Mr. Murray's sake to continue this in public session.

HARVEY: Mr. President, if that is indeed the case I think we have to vote on it because there is a motion before the floor. But I really think that we need to look at, and this is nothing against Alderman Booker, nothing at all, but just as a new member of the Board I had some questions around the ethical aspects around hiring an elected official to a City position. Nothing to do with this . . .

D'ANGELO: Mr. President, through you, several years ago we changed the process and methodology just for anyone who doesn't know, the Superintendent's Notification to the Board is just that, he is, or she, whoever the case is, is notifying the Board that these people were hired, resigned, transferred, whatever. It's already a done deal. All we're doing is receiving and placing on file. So we can't, if we wanted to, stop any of these Superintendent Notification's to the Board. But I do agree with you that in light of some of the things we're learning we need to discuss it.

HARVEY: Mr. President, then what are we voting on then?

HAYES: Just for clarification, our practice has been with Dr. Snead that these come in front of us at a Workshop and if anyone has any issues with them he's willing to have them explained. The questions weren't asked until after the meeting. Initially I asked the same question, he said everything was done properly. And like I said the issue came up today. As the meetings being run right now, Superintendent's Notification is a motion to receive and place on file, there shouldn't even be any discussion. So that's

where I thought we wanted to do this and maybe we separate this one out. Just by this vote the only thing we can do I guess is not receive it but it doesn't change anything because this has already been done. Like I said, Dr. Snead does listen to us, sometimes he does agree with us, sometimes he doesn't but he does have the power that's why it comes simply as a notification. And quite honestly this was put in as a result of, I spent four years on the Ethic's Board and there were a lot of questions raised that wanted to take this out of the hands of Board members, the political people and that's ironic that now we're discussing the hiring of an elected official. But that is the way the process has been.

HARVEY: Okay.

HAYES: So the motion on the floor is to receive and place on file item 7.7. There was a second. **All in favor, opposed.**

HARVEY: Aye.

HAYES: Motion has been received and placed on file with Commissioner Harvey's no vote on item 7.7. Next we have New Business? Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: I'm not sure President Hayes if you want to take FirstLight under New Business or old.

HAYES: Well it's new business for us because it was never any of our business. So I would think it would come under New Business.

THERIAULT: Well hopefully we're going to make it your business. With all due respect to the Board, I think you're very familiar with the situation by now and I suspect that as the Emperor of Japan said after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hirohito I think was his name but someone more skilled in history can correct me. I fear we have woken the sleeping giant and I would say that to this Board including myself with regard to the Hispanic community. I fear that we have woken the sleeping giant and you're gonna see just how powerful the Hispanic community can become and I will be the first one to march with them and to help them. So in order to test the Board's resolve and not chastise the Board, including myself, I would test the Board's resolve . . . **I make a motion that the Board of Education send a position statement similar to the position statement that we made on the magnet school and the suspension law to the sitting council indicating that we are not in favor of the location of the FirstLight power plant to be located at 725 Bank Street and delineate the reasons as to why this plant would be inappropriate for the south end.**

HARVEY: **So moved.**

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. Under discussion, Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: In listening to remarks tonight one thing sticks in my mind from the workshop from last Monday that is a remark by Dr. Mitchell in response to the question "can the DEP consider that there are schools in the area when reaching a decision to grant or deny a permit?". He said, "the DEP cannot consider how many schools or people for that matter or live in the area". He said he would like to change the law but for now,

that's the way it stands. So we may ask, why bother with this, it makes no difference, we have no say, it's . . . However in my opinion I answer to a higher calling than that of the DEP. I answer to standing by my oath as a member of the Board of Education. An oath to protect the rights of all students in Waterbury to provide for them a good and decent education in a clean, safe, and healthy environment. Whether it be two schools as FirstLight stated or 17 schools or one school with 17 students, if one child's in jeopardy then I must speak out. FirstLight presented its case, quite a compelling case. Sounds like only pluses for Waterbury. Economic stimulus, standby power when needed, property cleaned up and added to our tax rolls. They report that they are good enough to be one of only four selected by the DEP where 23 have applied in the state. They say the power plant will be the cleanest in Connecticut. But the question remains - is it clean enough? Some say no, the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice say pollutants forced into our City's air will double, health issues will increase, and the population, especially the children and the elderly will be at risk. What is a citizen to do? The plant is after all sited in an industrial zone. The smoke stack will certainly be high. I am sure people of my generation can remember growing up, hanging out, walking to school, and part time jobs all in the shadows of the smoke stacks of our past industrial life, Did they meet today's standards, probably not. Furthermore if we listen to the reports and perspectives for future development in our City we learn that at least two or three other new power plants of some type are on the fast track for Waterbury. Perhaps Waterbury's new nickname will become the power city, would this be a bad thing? On one hand these plants all seem quite plausible. They could help Waterbury in the long run in building a tax base and ironically cleanup sites. On the other hand, what is at stake, what are the costs? At the expense of the health of our children I would hope that this would not happen. Legally the least this Board can do is say to the DEP and the siding council or whoever else has a say in the matter to hold on, step back a moment and like they used to say back in the days when those fast-track trains were crisscrossing across the streets in Waterbury – stop, look and listen. At least listen to our concerns. The law says we can voice our issues and I feel we should. It may not help but at least they know we are aware and we are concerned. Thank you.

HARVEY: I don't have a speech prepared like Commissioner Stango but I will just simply say this – I read in the paper last week from a Commissioner that stated that we should leave this for the Board of Aldermen and I wish I could have called the Republican-American to tell them that not every Commissioner feels that way. After hearing the responses or actually the speeches from the parents tonight, but I didn't even have to hear those speeches, it is a common perception, and actually fact, that when it comes to placing plants in particular cities generally we look towards urban areas and the South End I truly believe that FirstLight believed that no one would speak up about it. I believe the Board of Education should send a letter, a position letter similar to what Commissioner Theriault, the examples he gave, stating that we do not want the power plant in the City of Waterbury at all due to the looking out for the health of our students and looking out for the health of our citizens. So I will vote yes and I hope that we have a roll call vote on this so that we can see which, the Commissioners that vote against and the Commissioners that are voting for. Thank you.

D'ANGELO: Just a question for a point of clarification. If it's approved who would write the letter would be my first question. Number two, would this Board have a chance as we did with the legislative letter to review it before it goes in the mail. Those are the two questions I have.

HAYES: I think the date that we were told was the 29th and that would mean that we would have to have this presented at our Workshop and then voted on prior to the meeting. I don't know, we have people who don't like to do that.

HARVEY: We can do that, we've done that before.

HAYES: I just wanted to make sure Commissioner Stango and Commissioner Sweeney understand that. So we would be able to have a letter put together. I don't know, I'd be willing to, either the Health and Safety Committee or the Legislative Committee, no longer ad-hoc, because there is part of that that is going to be going to the legislature so. Whatever...

WHITE: Just a general letter from all of us, we all have the same concerns and I think it was brought home more tonight with the children being here.

HAYES: Assuming that it's going to be approved. I just want to make sure that they knew what they were approving.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: That brings me to what I was going to say. I was going to say that this should be done at the Health and Safety, committee level. I think that if we try to all write this letter in the short amount of time that we have we're never going to be able to get it done. If you have a smaller group of people who can be concise and get this done they can meet possibly prior to the workshop and present it at the workshop and be able to read it in a timely fashion.

LACCONE: Unless I'm missing something and I spoke specifically to Larry DePillo who's probably the utmost expert on this whole situation. The only issue currently in front of the DEP is whether this is fast-tracked or not. It's not whether it's going to be here, it's not whether it's a good idea, it's whether it's fast-tracked or not. I asked him specifically and he said "absolutely". So why are we tailoring an issue? For one we have a ten minute conversation on both sides which we're not, any of us are knowledgeable enough to form an opinion on whether it's good or not. I agree, it should not be fast-tracked and I think everybody here should agree to that. We should go through the process and during that process we'll have time to acclimate ourselves with the issue. But I think the letter should be specifically that it should be not fast-tracked and not necessarily we approve or disapprove.

HAYES: Well again, I think if it's not fast-tracked, just to add to this, it's not going to come to us necessarily for approval, it has to go through . . .

LACCONE: It goes through all local boards, I agree, but that is where in the process we can intervene and have a say.

HAYES: I agree with that. Commissioner Theriault. So I think at this point we've got two different ideas but I think, from my opinion, what makes the most sense is that we make the motion to request that this not be fast-tracked, that it does go through all the proper channels and all the local boards for approval.

THERIAULT: With all due respect President Hayes, I don't think that you should enter into the debate. According to Robert's Rules of Order you should recluse yourself if you are going to enter into this debate. And I will hold you to that policy. If you want to speak on the topic you can recluse yourself for the remainder of this topic.

HAYES: Commissioner White is now acting as President.

THERIAULT: Okay, I think it's my turn at the podium.

HAYES: Actually, we all sit at the table, you go to the podium. If everybody else wants to go to the podium I guess you could do that.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: Point of order.

THERIAULT:... if that really bothers you. Does it seem like I have more power because I'm standing cause I don't, it's just my mouth and my intelligence that gives me the power. But let me say this, I totally disagree with bringing this to the Health and Safety Committee. I think that this Board has to have the chutzpah and the gumption to take a stand on this. We don't need to take this to committee and be indecisive with regard to a decision that we already know what it should be. I recognize other Commissioner's trepidation, my favorite word, in terms of going forward with this and stalling it and possibly changing the minds of other Board members with regard to a vote so they can have more time to work it. I'd like to have more time to work it too, in favor. But my point is this; I disagree that it should go to Committee. I think it should be discussed at the next workshop and a special meeting held to vote on it. We have special meetings for much less important things than this and I think the kids in our community and their health and safety are at stake and I would recommend a fast-track for our Commission and our Board of Education Committee to have a workshop and a vote on the motion. That's the way I feel. Now I'll sit down. You can take the podium now President Hayes.

HAYES: I'm not interested. Just make sure you've got the camera on me. You're running the meeting Vice-president.

WHITE: No, you can go back because I'm raising my hand.

HAYES: Commissioner White.

THERIAULT: She can't do that; she's running the meeting.

WHITE: I'm not, I advocated my position.

THERIAULT: It is for the remainder of the meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order; it can't go back and forth. He has to recluse himself for the remainder of the meeting which means you can't talk. The remainder of the issue.

WHITE: Does anyone have anymore comments on this?

HARVEY: I would like to make an amendment to the motion, Commissioner Theriault.

HAYES: What is the motion just for a point of clarification?

HARVEY: Will you read the motion again Commissioner Theriault; I would like to make . . .

THERIAULT: Now that you've relinquished power President Hayes, you can be one of us peons. I make a motion that the Board of Education send a position statement similar to the statement that was sent regarding the suspension plan . . .

HARVEY: I need some clarification.

THERIAULT: You asked me to read the motion.

HAYES: But you're saying similar to a suspension plan. That's what I need clarification on.

THERIAULT: Similar to the...

WHITE: Similar to the letter that we sent on the suspensions.

THERIAULT: Similar to the statement that we made...

HAYES: Through the Chair, clarification on what the motion is gonna include. We can't have a motion that says similar to something else.

WHITE: Commissioner Theriault, would you just state the motion itself.

THERIAULT: I make a motion that the Board of Ed send a position statement to the Siting Council indicating that we are not in favor of the location of the FirstLight power plant to be located at 725 Bank Street and delineate the reasons as to why this plant would be inappropriate for the South End Community. Is that clear?

HAYES: The delineation is where it all comes down to. Who's going to determine what we're going to delineate? We've got all . . .

THERIAULT: Through the Chair, delineate means reasons. We're going to state the reasons. If you'd like to change the motion to that. It's just English; it's just a little bigger word.

WHITE: I think there's enough information there that we can...

THERIAULT: sink your teeth into.

WHITE: Vote on this.

HAYES: I disagree that we can simply say we're gonna delineate and who's going to determine what's the truth or not. I think what we've heard is differing opinions. If we want to say that we don't agree with this that's fine. I think if you're going to try to fast-track this how are you going to determine all of the reasons that we all agree with? We may all have different reasons. So if we want to say we don't want it here, that's fine

with me. But if we have to fast-track this and we're gonna start making position statements, we have to make sure what those positions are. Because like I said the other one we were talking about we stated the reasons why, we stated the financial impact. I don't know how far we want to go with this.

WHITE: Why don't we hear from, there are other Commissioners now, Commissioner Sweeney and then D'Angelo and then Harvey.

SWEENEY: Let's see if I affect some small compromise here. We could draft a statement that simply states we are not in favor of FirstLight's plant at that address due to the safety and health concerns of the surrounding schools. I think that covers everything without going into the issue of exactly what those are and whether or not they have merit and whose right and whose wrong. I think it's very clear from everyone who has spoken so far to the issue from this Board that we do have concerns and those concerns are the health and safety of the children in the schools within that area. I think it's simple enough to make that simple statement. Does that cover what you want?

THERIAULT: Yes.

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

D'ANGELO: I agree.

HARVEY: Alright, I am proposing an amendment to the motion. The **amendment is to, let's see the Board of Education asks that the Siting Commission to not allow fast-tracking of this, of the FirstLight project.** And this amendment is to address, I think there's just still too much, too many questions that we have and I think the issue before us at this time is the fast-tracking of this project. So I think we need to address that first and then we can go onto the other.

LACCONO: **Second.**

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: Point of order Commissioner Theriault has to accept the amendment.

THERIAULT: I would only be in favor of that wording if my original motion failed.

WHITE: Then we will vote on that.

LACCONO: Point of order Mr. Chairman, according to Robert's Rules of Order an amendment was made and seconded, it must be voted on. Period.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: It has to be approved by the maker of the motion.

LACCONO: Absolutely not.

... have the attorney check it.

LACCONO: Not an amendment; that's a friendly amendment. This is an official amendment; it needs to be voted on.

WHITE: We're voting on the amendment to the original motion.

HARVEY: And do you want me to read the amendment?

WHITE: Please.

HARVEY: The amendment is that the Waterbury Board of Education asks the Siting Commission not to allow fast-tracking of FirstLight project. Respectfully submitted.

WHITE: All right, we heard the amendment. There was a second.

HAYES: Just under discussion. It sounds to me like we have opposing motions, not necessarily an amendment because as Commissioner Theriault said his motion asks for something different than what the amendment is so we're not really amending the motion.

WHITE: Perhaps we should begin...

THERIAULT: Point of order through the Chair, if this motion is voted on I would expect our attorney to review the playback because I still agree, with all due respect to Commissioner Laccone, every time I've attended a meeting of this Board its always been past practice with regard to if a motion changed the original person had to be in agreement with that motion.

LACCONE: Well with all due respect we don't always have done what is right in the past.

THERIAULT: Well maybe not but that's what I remember. So I'd certainly like our attorney to review this and determine sometime later on. If this is the way it's going to be from now on, fine, but I've never seen it this way.

LACCONE: It's the law.

HARVEY: It's authored to the amendment. I'm perfectly willing to first vote on the amendment, the original motion and then vote on the amendment.

D'ANGELO: So you're withdrawing your amendment.

HARVEY: **I'll withdraw it for now.**

LACCONE: **I'll withdraw the second.**

WHITE: Then we will now vote on the original motion.

HAYES: Is it what Commissioner Sweeney said?

WHITE: No, the original motion was presented by Commissioner Theriault. That's what we will be voting on. Do you want a roll call vote?

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS: Commissioners D'Angelo, Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, and White - 7
NAYS: Commissioner Laccone and President Hayes - 2

ABSTENTIONS: Commissioner Pinto – 1

WHITE: The motion passes.

(Clerk's note: Mayor Jarjura vetoed the above action of the Board.)

HAYES: May I please ask through the Chair how we're going to handle this now that we voted on it. Who's gonna put the pen to the paper on this thing, who's gonna decide what's right and what's not right.

WHITE: Yes.

THERIAULT: Being the maker of the motion I certainly would entertain the wording from Commissioner Sweeney even though the motion has passed we could actually word the statement in the terms I think mine is the motion hers is the means and the wording and I'm certainly more than agreeable to the wording that Commissioner Sweeney has presented.

WHITE: At the risk of...

HAYES: I would have voted in favor of that, that's where I tried to get it to but we didn't want to go there. I was against the motion that put us in the position we're gonna be experts and tell everybody what's wrong with the power plant. I think it's very clear that we're concerned about that. I can't vote in favor of a motion that's gonna allow this Board to tell people what's wrong with it as opposed to we're concerned about it. So if we change that then I don't know how you're going to go about changing my vote.

WHITE: Commissioner Hayes, I am the Chair, I will ask a question of Commissioner Theriault. Are you amenable to certain changes in that without, when we right the letter?

SWEENEY: Point of order. We cannot all, all we have voted on is we will write a position statement. So unless we make another motion to have a discussion about something we have nothing to discuss right now. So the wording and everything goes under once we actually start writing a position statement. Currently we have no discussion.

THERIAULT: Being the maker of the motion Commissioner I think delineation could just mean the statement; it doesn't necessary have to mean 25 bullet points.

HAYES: Point of order, it's already been voted, I voted against something because I thought it was something other than what it's ultimately gonna be. So I guess it will be coming in front of us again for action and I'll be able to address it at that point.

WHITE: Then we will bring it to the Workshop.

HAYES: Now I'll take over again. Is there any other New Business?

D'ANGELO: Under New Business. There's an item on our desk that we received in the Superintendent's packet dated February 14, 2008 concerning grievance 07-08-12. I'd like to see if next workshop if it's okay with President Hayes and Chairman Stango, that we have an executive session to discuss that memo with whoever needs to be involved.

STANGO: Sure. I can check out if we can do that legally. I think we can. However, be aware also that we're having a Grievance Committee meeting next Monday before the workshop to discuss another grievance but this can also be brought up for clarification.

HAYES: I guess do you want to have it as part of the Grievance Committee meeting or you want to have it on the agenda for an executive session?

STANGO: I think maybe we need an executive session.

HAYES: At the workshop.

STANGO: At the workshop.

HARVEY: If we have executive session it is my understanding we have to notify the person we will be discussing. So are we prepared to do that?

STANGO: Sure, that's the rule, that is the rule, make that communication available.

HAYES: So it's understood this executive session will be discussing a personnel matter and the person that's being discussed will be notified of that fact.

GUIDONE: I'm not sure of the actual issue you're referring to but that person being notified has a right to have the session in open session.

HAYES: That's right. If we invite someone to let them know they're going to be discussing a personnel matter they have a right to ask us to do it in public. We have to notify them of their rights. So we will add that to our workshop agenda next week. Anything else under New Business?

WHITE: There was a letter in our packet from the School Administrators of Waterbury and I would like it referred to the Personnel Committee to review the ramifications from some of the statements in there. A letter dealing with surveys that have been recently submitted to personnel in various schools that seemed to pinpoint things that are particular to that school. And also it states, the fear of this is that it will begin to usurp the evaluation process that the, that is the responsibility of the Superintendent.

HAYES: We also have a letter that was handed to us tonight that was dated February 15. I assume we should forward that as well. The Personnel Committee already has a scheduled meeting and would like to add this.

HARVEY: The SAW letter is what Mary is referring to. We will, Personnel Committee members, I will add this to the agenda just to get a feel of what the Committee feels. The meeting is scheduled the 21st, Superintendent's Office at 5:30 p.m.

HAYES: Any other New Business?

SWEENEY: Just a real quick request of Paul Guidone, the list of excused, unexcused and tardies that we get, I would like to ask, with apologies to Will Zhuta, for him to filter out the pre-k numbers because we cannot affect those pre-k numbers, we have no recourse over children in pre-k who take 100 days off a year. And I don't want to penalize those schools that have pre-k's in them with those numbers. It marginally affects their percentages. I still want to see those numbers because I want to see where those kids are trending and what we can do to convince them to come to school more often but I don't want to penalize those schools that have pre-k's with those numbers.

THERIAULT: With all due respect, I would like to leave the numbers where they are because I think that as we compare from year to year to year we need to compare apples to apples and if we suddenly filter out the absences for, I understand what you're saying but if we suddenly filter out the absences for those pre-k kids, I mean you can do it at the school, list the total absences and then put a parentheses on the side somehow like that but I'd like to be able to compare year to year to year what our absence is and if we filter those numbers out. I understand what you're trying to accomplish Commissioner Sweeney...

SWEENEY: We have also gotten, we have also gotten reports that actually give each grade at each level and the absences in each grade. So if we wanted to go back and do that we can do that but, and my request was not to do away with the pre-k numbers it was just to filter them out separately so it didn't impact the full impact on the school and their numbers.

STANGO: Under New Business the CAFE day on the Hill is Wednesday March 12 and you have received an invitation in your packet. One thing that I noticed last year when I attended, also Commissioner Sweeney and I and Commissioner White and Commissioner Hayes, was there were a lot of students in attendance. CAFE encourages student participation and various districts throughout the state have sent students as a good civics lesson, as a good current events lesson. I would like to try to bring that into action this year if we can. So I would like Dr. Snead, perhaps you can contact Mr. Nole, the Social Studies Supervisor, to see if we can get something in place to work, in fact maybe bring in two or three students from each high school, see if we can work on that.

HARVEY: I just wanted to point out to the Commissioners the invitation that we all received this evening from the Enlightenment School for their Black History Month Presentation, February 21 at 10:30. Featured at this presentation is, the guest speaker is Sam Beamon. Sam Beamon is a veteran, he has written a book, Homespun From the City of Waterbury, I don't know if the Commissioners have had an opportunity to read his book but it is very, very enlightening and in keeping with the Enlightenment School I would invite everyone to attend.

THERIAULT: Through the Chair, Mr. President, I have heard on two previous meetings the mention of the possibility of a high school in the future. Somewhere maybe on Highland Avenue or thereabouts. That being said, I think it might be time, I'm neither for or against this at this time but I think it might be time to start to come up with some statistical evidence and some information with regard to facility and so forth. We have just expanded Kennedy High School, the media center and so forth and I'm not saying I'm for, I'm not saying I'm opposed at this point I'm neutral until I get more information. But if we could have someone start to work on that so that we can get some information at a workshop and discuss this thoroughly. I know our numbers are very, very high at the middle schools and they're busting at the seams and that might be a little bit of a motivation here also. So not to be cantankerous but rather looking, seeking more information. Thank you.

HAYES: Just, I guess through Commissioner White as Chairman of the Building Committee, that's either on our next agenda. If not that one it's very soon, they are, Central Office staff and O & G have been working on something, they're going to be making a presentation to us. They have asked us if we have any input to forward it to them but we will be doing this I believe at the next Building Committee meeting, begin that discussion, and hear from them on the recommendation from them and hopefully they'll have those type of statistics and data to support whatever they're recommending.

STANGO: Thank you once again. As it has been my practice in the past to become part of the permanent record I would like to make note of retirements and publically thank two retiring teachers named in the Superintendent's Notification to the Board this evening. Sharon Valentino, teacher of the Gifted at North End Middle School and Rosanne Stango, kindergarten teacher at Maloney Magnet School. Both are retiring with at least 35 years of service to our district. Both these teachers are the type of professionals Waterbury will miss the most. The old fashioned loyal teacher, the teacher who was born in Waterbury, educated in Waterbury, spent their entire teaching career in Waterbury and still live in Waterbury. We thank them for their many years of service and wish them well in their retirement. Thank you.

HAYES: I guess under New Business I should just remind everybody that our retreat is Saturday from nine to two and we have invited, in case someone hadn't, I know we passed the word along, but we have invited Paul Guidone to be there to help us, he's going to bring a whistle, striped shirt, and hat.

THERIAULT: Just a point of clarification Mr. President, regarding the motion that was voted on earlier, I'm not quite clear if you are going to suggest during the workshop once the motion is made and we come up with the wording that we could vote on that so it can get to the steering council through a special meeting.

HAYES: The letter as its put together we'll vote on that.

THERIAULT: The last thing I have and I don't mean to take a lot of time on this and it's too bad, is Mr. Laccone still here, you might want to listen to this Mr. Laccone I'm afraid we're gonna be on the same page. Yes, it's hard to believe but I think so. With regard to the two gentlemen at the Intake Center and they are both good friends of mine, maybe they won't be good friends of mine after this but, I always say that. But they're doing a fantastic job but these jobs were posted, they were supposed to be filled,

they're still not filled. I asked for the amount of hours that they're supposed to be working and I'm told it's not just 15 hours, it may be a little bit more because someone's working more, someone's working less, and I'm not implying for a second that we don't get every single ounce of energy out of those guys, they're absolutely fantastic. But my point is this, Civil Service already determined these jobs were supposed to be posted and I don't think the intent was for these guys to go back and apply for the jobs again and get the jobs. As Commissioner Harvey implied before, you know we have people that are retired, we have certain, and I'm not saying they're doing anything unethical but it just seems to me we voted to replace them and then they're applying for the same job. So I think sooner or later this needs to be taken up and I know Commissioner Laccone had some thoughts on this and maybe some of the other Board members have thoughts on this. And as I say, these guys have done an absolutely phenomenal job in their career and they're doing an absolutely phenomenal job now. That's not my point. The point is that there are rules and regulations and procedures that have already been voted on by Civil Service that we're not following and we continue to ignore it. I can't call on you Mr. Laccone so they will have to.

HAYES: Just for clarification we did if you will ignore them for too long but I don't know that we can, I don't think we ever voted to get rid of them as much as we said to have those positions filled from Civil Service. That process was begun and we should be getting a report on that very soon from Paul. I do know that Mr. D'Agostino did apply; I don't think Mr. Larkin applied. So we'll be getting a report from Paul soon, maybe next week Paul, with the results of that.

GUIDONE: I thought I had already forwarded it out. You're correct that one of the gentlemen had applied to the Civil Service posting, took the test and the appointment is making its way through Civil Service.

HAYES: It's through Civil Service and one of them was Mr. D'Agostino who finished in the top three.

HARVEY: Dr. Sequeira, I want to publically thank you for compiling the information for Black History Month. You've done that every year I've been on the Board and I appreciate that and I commend the schools for their follow-through on the programs. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.

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

Resolutions signed by Mayor Michael J. Jarjura on February 22, 2008.