

# **WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Monday, April 21, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

(For the April 28, 2008 Board Meeting - MINUTES ATTACHED)

## **COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Board of Education Committee meetings were held on Monday, April 21, 2008 at Waterbury Adult Education Tech Center, 173 Interstate Lane, Waterbury, Connecticut, starting at 5:44 p.m.

**PRESENT:** President Hayes, Commissioners D'Angelo (left at 7:54 p.m.), Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, Laccone, Pinto, Stango, Theriault, and White.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Sweeney.

**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.

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

**The Board went into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, performance, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee. All Commissioners were present along with Dr. Snead, Ron Frost, and Peter Abare-Brown. No votes were taken.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee meetings adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie A. Swain, Clerk  
*Board of Education*

## **WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### *MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING*

Monday, April 28, 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 6:37 p.m. with a moment of silence and a prayer and Superintendent Snead led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **ROLL CALL**

CLERK: Commissioner D'Angelo.

D'ANGELO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt – absent. Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Here

CLERK: Commissioner Laccone.

LACCONO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Pinto.

PINTO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner White.

WHITE: Here.

CLERK: President Hayes.

HAYES: Here.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

1. Communication dated March 22, 2008 from Inri Panajoti regarding his class field trip.
2. Copy of communication dated April 8, 2008 from Civil Service certifying Sean Allen as Maintainer I.
3. Copy of communication from Joe Gorman to Mr. Greengas commending the work performed on the Crosby Weight Training Center.
4. Communication received April 14, 2008 from Lisa Lessard regarding her child.
5. Communication dated April 22, 2008 from Director of Finance John Jedrzezyk regarding Capital Funds and Special Revenue Funds status reports for quarter ending March 31, 2008.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner D'Angelo, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of February 25, 2008 and March 3, 2008.**

HAYES: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none - all in favor, opposed, those minutes are approved.

**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 6:40 p.m.**

**Miguel DaRocha, 14 Lounsbury Avenue, had the following comments:** I'd like to thank everyone here for allowing me to speak. The Waterbury Republican recently wrote an article on the concept of a school within a school. In their article they mentioned Mr. Paul D'Angelo who believes that, or felt that, we could put a pilot program in place at the Wallace Middle School as early as 2009/2010. I'm here to tell the Board that I'm behind Mr. D'Angelo 100%. Some people believe that this program is elitist. I still remember the day when the world perceived all Americans as being elitist. If the current administration or current educators don't, or continue to ignore the problems we have in our education system this whole education system will self-destruct. We will never again have the opportunity to be the elite nation we once were. Why we would choose not to nurture our best students, these students are going to be our future representatives in a competitive world. I think that if we raise expectations,

okay, these people will set the academic and the work ethic for the rest of the world. I believe that, at the very least, start looking at programs that have proven themselves. Okay, and I think we need to take the participants of these programs and start getting info from them and finding out what to set this academic standard that everybody keeps referring to, I keep hearing everybody talk about academic standard, we need to get some standards, we need to get these groups going. My daughter currently attends Wallace Middle School and if something like this isn't put in place at the Wallace Middle School unfortunately I believe I will be taking my daughter out of the system. For that reason I'm asking everybody here please support the concept. It's a good concept. I believe all students have the potential to excel. If we demand, we have good kids today, if we stop lowering our standards and we start lowering our expectations I believe every single student can make it. I know that, I have a daughter that's currently doing that. Thank you very much.

**Chick Herrick, 141 Arden Road, had the following comments:** I apologize for not having a written report for you this was all at the last minute and I wanted to make sure I could get here. I spent 37 years teaching health, physical education, and science in another school system. I was told in college that all students, you should treat all students the same. It took me about three weeks to learn this can't be done with any kind of success at all. We have students, talking physical education; we had students who were physically fit and athletes. We had students who were in an everyday living program, some were autistic, some were bipolar, some were Down syndrome. The former group were either bored or dominated classes. The latter group spent most of their time trying to hide or look for a reason to miss class. We started an honors PE program where we challenged the athlete on a higher level. We ran a triathlon in the fall, we did rock climbing on rock climbing walls in winter, we did a decathlon in the spring. We raised their standards and they met it. The group from the everyday living class were also putting a schedule together, we found that their improvement in PE score was immense, they went way up, and we were able to raise their standards. The general group responded as well. Our PE scores started going higher and higher year by year. Our honors PE class got so popular that we actually had to turn away students. We had to set a rule that you can't be in this program for more than a year. My son is a licensed architect who also went to this high school. He was not a straight "A" student. He is now a licensed architect and has received architectural awards for designing and building schools. We forced him to take classes that were challenging. We raised his bar and he met the challenge. I'd like to see Waterbury do the same. Thank you.

**Shafiela Deen, 43 Robbin Street, had the following comments:** I'd like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to speak here tonight. I'm a very concerned parent and resident of Waterbury. I feel our educational system here is in dire need of improvement. I have two children who attend the Waterbury schools. Both of my kids were attending gifted programs in Brooklyn, New York before I came to Waterbury. I was very disappointed that a similar opportunity was not available not only for my children but also for other children who could benefit from such program here in Waterbury. I would like to address my concerns and make a proposal. I am requesting that the city of Waterbury provide a gifted program that would be available for all levels from elementary through high school. I'm also calling on the City of Waterbury and the Board of Education to support this community project through development and funding. The system to test students to determine eligibility both academically and socially to

attend such a program needs to be developed. A program such as this would be beneficial to all students in our schools who excel academically. Much of the emphasis in our schools today focuses on special need students, students with behavior is not up to standard. It's imperative that we don't forget the gifted children and their needs. Our school system seems to spend much of their time in three main areas – behavior, special education, and teaching to the CMT's. This leaves little or no time to develop or challenge the minds of our gifted students, population. This makes a gifted program the utmost important to service the needs of this population. By developing a program that starts from elementary level and continues through middle school and high school the gifted child would be nurtured and develop their full potential by offering such a program the gifted student can start to identify at an early age and continue to grow and excel in a consistent program throughout the school year. There are two excellent programs already available in the Waterbury Schools – the SOAR and ACE, they are limited to high school level and only for a few numbers that can be attended. Thank you very much.

**Linda Spells, 61B Gilyard Drive had the following comments:** Good evening everybody. I am here tonight to propose that when it comes to in-house suspensions that the schools have children stay in school as the State Department of Education suggests. However, we also make our children responsible citizens while doing so. We should have the children work within the schools to help make our schools better for all. We need to make a collaboration between students and the schools they are in and in the process making the students responsible for community service for a better educational environment for all. I assure you in-house suspensions will be lowered and our children would take pride in what they had accomplished and possible work towards bettering themselves because they are helping the education and community to a brighter and broader future. I feel we could collaborate with the Waterbury Police Department with this. It would be a successful venture for all our students within this community as a whole. And I really think this would work because we can get the kids that are trouble, we can get them something to do. And I know there's not a lot of funding in, to get the teachers in, special teachers for in-house, but if we work with the Waterbury Police Department, the churches, we can have a better Waterbury for all involved. Thank you very much for listening.

**Kevin Brennan, 10 Fiske Street, had the following comments:** I'm Kevin Brennan the Principal of Carrington School. I come to support your proposal for renovation and expansion of Carrington School. And I come to speak for the children and their families who attend Carrington School. And before anyone thinks that it might be sort of a subset in a relatively rural area of Waterbury, the State Department statistics show that of all the schools in Waterbury Carrington School most closely reflects the population of Waterbury as a whole with less than one half of one percent variance from racial and ethnic proportions. I speak because of a need not just because of I want it or for any other reason. Let me just give you a couple of examples. The library/media center doesn't have enough room for a sufficient number of volumes for the students of books; it doesn't have enough room so that one can put a projector in there and see and have the students see without obstruction, something on a screen, and more. There's room for maybe, we have four computers in a corner and technically speaking one should have the library media center next to the library which fortunately we have coming now. But more to the point, our physical education facility is virtually nil. We have a so called cafeteria, gymnasium, and it does all three functions of being the dining room and being

the gym and being the auditorium. For example in the winter time or at some time when the weather is inclement and there's a physical education class scheduled, at times the children are reduced to, or have been in the past, I must say the physical education program has been substantially improved under Mr. Gorman, at times we have had children playing roly polly in the hallway because that's where they play, that's where they have their physical education which essentially means kids on either side of a hallway rolling a ball back and forth. The dining room is limited of course; it's the standard warm up your food type of place. The auditorium has a stage that pulls out and is too small, I went to the performances, I know I saw some of the Commissioners over at the performance at Rotella the other night and the difference between rich and poor is vast and we're not on the right side of that one for sure. We had a presentation the other night; we have virtually no lighting in there as well for performances, lights flicker on and off. I took photographs of the children performing and most of them are all blurry because the camera had to go so slow to get enough light that the figures were blurred. The classrooms themselves have no ventilation in the so called portable side. I understand, thank you Commissioner Theriault for visiting today, that section was put up in 1972 and because there was no ventilation system there was air conditioning but the air conditioners don't work that well either. So in other words you get no ventilation in the winter other than the air if the doors are open but of course that's cold air coming in and such. It's electric heated and all that stuff. Aside from no water being in any of those classrooms on that side, additionally the rest rooms for the children and the adults on the portable side of the building are rudimentary at best. They have one pipe going out from that section of the building and if that pipe is clogged the bathrooms flood. When the bathrooms flood the water goes into the classroom so there are some issues there. I'm tempering somewhat my remarks because of the context. We have the electrical system is inadequate, the ventilation is inadequate, the technology is inadequate. We too have mold and it would be great if we could fix that school up, renovate it and expand it because it is a programmatic difference for the children, the children are able to accomplish, it's not for nothing, the building that we're standing in now is the way it is so that the students here will be able to accomplish what is expected of them and that's what we need as Carrington School, is a bilingual center we take children from probably three quarters of this City because we have transportation due to the bilingual program being situated at Carrington and we need help in that respect, the children need help, the families need help, and we appreciate your good consideration on the matter. Thank you.

**Linn Asplund, 167 Madison Street, had the following comments:** It's been a while since I've been here, I talked to Mr. D'Angelo last week sometime. We have situations at a particular school where a staff member went up to a parent and was yelling "I hate you", so on and so forth and this person's child goes to the same school and has told their child not to play with this parent's child that she yelled at. Another thing too, I don't know how well Mrs. Ann Begley is doing but I hope she's doing well. If the President of the teacher's union looked more into the labor situation, she had made comments that the principals are the enemies. Now if a teacher goes up against a principal which in turn would be the boss of the teacher who in turn has a boss over them, which would be like a regular company, if a teacher goes up against the principal that's insubordination, terms of termination right then and there. So I think this President should look into her laws a little bit on labor and also the Labor Department also says a company or business may run it as they see fit to keep it going. So I would advise this President to look a little more into her labor laws before she gets these teachers fired. And another

thing which I think would be appreciated for the grammar school children and I'm very pleased to tell you that my granddaughter has made very well, I would say the top, for Starbase which is the community college, a program, and she also got a letter that she had gotten 100% on the test and it is very rare for a child to do that. And also she has been picked as the number one, by her class, or her teacher matter of fact, to be in the Olympics of the Mind. So she was the first choice out of her classroom. But what I'd like from the Board members here, I have noticed in the past that you honor the middle school children and you honor the high school, the grammar school kids I feel should be honored too for their achievements. I mean it's only right, they are going to our schools so at least, even though they are little tykes, they should get something too. Thank you.

**Lisa Lessard, 538 Sylvan Avenue, had the following comments:** I'm here tonight to basically, the reason why I'm here tonight is to hopefully move forward on a better note towards a collaboration between the Board of Education, the Special Education Department and myself with my daughter's special education anything. I wasn't going to speak tonight so I didn't send anything over in accordance to but I will be sending something after, I'm going to try to keep it short and sweet and straight to the point and there's not a lot that basically he public should know about because I'm trying to make that collaboration to move forward and I'm hoping you will do as well. Ms. Roberta Abell, Supervisor of Special needs is still to this very date, as of last PPT of March 31, 2008, not following proper provisions within IEP/PPT and accordance to making sure my daughter gets what she needs. It is not okay, I am standing here, my heart is pounding, I am shaking, I do now have a chair/liaison that I'm very grateful for, Mr. Mosley, in helping with such. But it is not okay with me, this family is done with Ms. Roberta Abell and her ignorance and her arrogances when it comes to my daughter's special education anything – her IEP, IEHP's, health plan, and 504 plans period. I'm sorry I'm standing her shaking, this is unbelievable, it's gone on way too long for way too hard and I am sorry but we cannot deal with this anymore for any circumstance. And I need all of you to basically read the faxes I do send because I'm not gonna come up here every time and explain it to you and tell you what's going on but I will tell you I was on the phone with the US Department of Education, today, out of Boston, three federal attorneys who said the resolution pages that were signed need to be followed and it's not the choice of certain people to figure out what they're gonna follow and how they're gonna follow, it needs to be followed the way it's stipulated. And they will be calling in accordance to tomorrow to talk to hopefully getting what needs to happen. Because right now with Ms. Roberta Abell involved, why would you keep somebody that did wrong for my child the last four years in accordance to doing the same wrong in the future? There needs to be a new start, a new fresh start and basically my daughter is in a new school doing great with a new nurse that knows what to do, when to do it, how to do it, because she cares to make sure it gets done. It is up to Waterbury city to make sure they were implementing it, it is up to the school to make sure they implement . . . process of my daughter's education the last four years . . . to move forward I need to have a new supervisor involved in my daughter's special education period so she can get a better and brighter future. She's going to sixth grade doing first grade work all because of the negligence of what had happened and it's not okay with me. She's not mentally challenged or mentally retarded, if IEP with provisions put forth correctly she would have done what she needed to do and got the education she needed. The new schools says she's highly motivated and highly educated to make sure she can get what she needs to get but she's trying to play catch-up and for this little girl, she's been through hell and back and it's not okay with this family. Thank you, God bless, I know

the time is up. You let the principal talk a little bit longer because of who he was, but thank you and I'm hoping this goes forward better than it has in the last four years because so far it has not gone well.

**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 7:05 p.m.**

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** This past Saturday I attended the NAACP Youth Storm at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School and the 2nd Annual Community Day Block Party at Walsh School.

Tomorrow, the Crosby basketball team is traveling to Hartford for a tour of the Capital. They will then be introduced to the House and Senate where they will be given recognition as the State Champions.

Crosby High School's Honor Society Induction will be held this Wednesday at 7 pm at Crosby.

I recently visited Generali School. The staff and students worked very hard and are optimistic about the results of the Mastery Tests. The math and reading feedback has been good thus far. The math coach meets twice a month with the staff. The student transfer rate is not as bad as other schools and the rate is a factor in improving test scores.

Parent participation is a positive. Generali sponsored a family Science Fair and a Family night that was well attended.

There is common planning time done weekly. Formative assessment and data driven decision making is on-going.

Summer school is working well because regular Generali students attend. The staff during the summer concentrates on the high deficient and the gold band children (close to proficiency).

A recent highlight is that an autistic child worked his way out of the autism program into the regular education program.

Progress has been made with the Odd Fellows Hall to address the long standing safety concern for morning drop off and afternoon pick up. The adjacent lot has been made available for this purpose.

The stairways and hallways need painting. Herb Greengas has arranged the painting for this summer.

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:** I have no additional comments, we'll move to the consent calendar. Is there anyone that wants to have anything removed?



SWEENEY: Mr. President, I want to remove item 9.10.

HAYES: Anyone else?

THERIAULT: Just point of clarification President Hayes, the individual building programs are not on the consent calendar are they?

HAYES: No.

THERIAULT: Okay, so we're going to handle those individually.

## **9. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo and duly seconded by Commissioner White, it was voted unanimously to approve items 9.1 through 9.9 and items 9.11 through 9.15, as listed:**

- 9.1 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to submit an application of intent for Waterbury Public Schools to participate in a Cooperative Swim Team.
- 9.2 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval for Waterbury Public Schools to participate in the College Connections Program with Asnuntuck Community College, in conjunction with the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, for the 2008/2009 school year subject to the availability of funding.
- 9.3 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval for the Waterbury Public Schools to participate in the Summer Internship in Manufacturing Technology program in conjunction with the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board.
- 9.4 With the approval of the Committee on Grants, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the Leever Foundation Grant for Year Two Funding for the Leever Algebra project.
- 9.5 With the approval of the Committee on Schoolhouses, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Construction Contract with Gar-San Corporation to provide masonry and structural repairs at Tinker School.
- 9.6 With the approval of the Committee on Food Service, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Construction Contract with J. A. Rosa Construction, LLC, to provide kitchen renovations at Walsh School.
- 9.7 With the approval of the Committee on Food Service, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Construction Contract with American Millwork and Lumber, LLC, to provide kitchen renovations at Kingsbury School.

- 9.8 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the establishment of an Expendable Trust Fund for Wilson School as outlined in the attached.
- 9.9 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to the following for use of school facilities by school organizations and/or City departments.
- 9.11 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends the request of the Boy Scouts of American for a waiver of custodial fees in the approximate amount of \$1,110 for their use of Crosby High School be approved.
- 9.12 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to E. McGrath, WAMS, and three chaperones to take 32 high school seniors to Madrid/Barcelona, Spain from April 9 through April 19, 2009.
- 9.13 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to H. Maxen, WAMS, and four chaperones to take 42 students to New York, NY on May 21, 2008 to visit the Guggenheim Museum.
- 9.14 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to G. Tibbals, KHS, and four chaperones to take 50 students to Boston, MA on May 28, 2008 to visit the Boston Museum of Science.
- 9.15 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to B. Ayub, CHS, and three chaperones to take 20 students to New York, NY on May 30, 2008 to visit the Metropolitan Museum.

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

**10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 9.10 **Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney voting “no”, to approve the use of school facilities by outside organizations.**

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

SWEENEY: I have concerns and this isn't the first time, about the type of activities that we allow to use the school buildings and basically the concern is the wear and tear on our schools and staff and the more of these activities that take place in our schools the more wear and tear we have. This one and the recent beauty pageant that was listed are events that are traditionally held in other readily available venues in the City, area banquet facilities, convention centers, and theaters. So there's other places that these

could be held other than our schools and we can give our schools a break on wear and tear – both on the facilities themselves and the staff, the custodial staff that has to monitor and clean up after these events. I understand past practice that this has been done for this particular organization and organizations like it and for these type of events but past practice doesn't necessarily mean that it's the best practice. Charging fees does not change the fact that facilities wear faster with increased use. So I continue to bring this up, I don't mean to belabor the point tonight but I will continue to bring this up whenever I see it because I think we have the opportunity, the State Statute says that we "may" allow these uses. I would take that to mean that we may also disallow these uses. And I think that in this City that is so strapped and where we're constantly rerated for the type of maintenance in our schools, that we could cut our staff some slack by simply looking more closely at the type of events that we allow and events that would be served by other venues in this City and better served by other venues in this City, that maybe we should start saying no. Thank you.

HAYES: Anyone else. Hearing no further discussion - all in favor, opposed, motion passed eight in favor, on against.

SWEENEY: No.

## **11. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, with Commissioner Laccone and President Hayes voting "no", to approve the Committee on School Personnel's recommendation to uphold the Superintendent of School's decision to terminate the contract of employment with Mark Turner.**

HAYES: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none - all in favor, opposed, Commissioner Laccone and myself are no's – so it's seven in favor, two against – motion passes.

**11.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve to file a grant application for the purpose of carrying out the "Allied Health, Manufacturing, and Mechanical Arts Intra-district Magnet High School" project.**

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

**11.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve the formation of a Building Committee for the purpose of carrying out the "Allied Health, Manufacturing, and Mechanical Arts Intra-district Magnet High School" project. Such Committee shall consist of Mary White (Chair), Karen Harvey, Patrick Hayes, Stephen Laccone, and Ann Sweeney.**

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

**11.4 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, with Commissioner Theriault voting “no”, it was voted to the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the purpose of carrying out the “Allied Health, Manufacturing, and Mechanical Arts Intra-district Magnet High School” project.**

HAYES: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none - all in favor – under discussion, Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Having followed this very, very closely and having been sort of a byproduct in my early educational years of being an industrial engineer for Pratt and Whitney and having some background in machining trades, I concur 1,000% with the need for this program. I’m a bit trepidatious here because we’re talking about a high school of 800 kids and if one were to believe what is read in the newspaper and I do, that many of these programs go for wanting of students for whatever reason. I’m a bit trepidatious to put this great amount of money, probably 36 million dollars, into a school that might not be populated completely with the number of kids. The allied health area is a wonderful area that could be a tremendous asset as well as manufacturing and the mechanical arts. As you know many Board members here, I have expressed my opinion with regard to the location of such a high school. I’m really, really, not in favor of that particular location and I think we could do much better. I’m a bit indecisive here knowing that it is important that we provide our students with alternative vocational education and we also need to beef up our vocational education within our high schools and our middle schools and get back to the middle school process the way it was intended including guidance counselors in each of the houses and including vocational training at the middle school as well as the high school. It just seems to me the high school program and I don’t know because I haven’t visited recently but I will go and visit, has become sort of a place for the kids to go and hang out. And I hope that’s not the case because I know how some tremendously, tremendously great teachers, including Commissioner Stango over here, and they never hung around your classroom Mr. Stango, they did a great job in the unified arts area. So I don’t mean to diminish any of the teachers or any of the students that are going there but I am concerned about filling the spots and I am concerned about the location. Thank you.

HAYES: Any further discussion whether we should approve the preparation of schematic drawings? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed.

THERIAULT: No.

D’ANGELO: Just for clarity, that was for the drawings?

HAYES: Yes.

**11.5 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner D’Angelo, it was voted unanimously to approve to file a grant application for the purpose of carrying out the “Wilby High School Science Suite Alteration/Renovations” project.**

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

**11.6 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the formation of a Building Committee for the purpose of carrying out the “Wilby High School Science Suite Alteration/Renovations” project. Such Committee shall consist of Mary White (Chair), Karen Harvey, Patrick Hayes, Stephen Laccone, and Ann Sweeney.**

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

**11.7 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner D’Angelo, it was voted unanimously to approve the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the purpose of carrying out the “Wilby High School Science Suite Alteration/Renovations” project.**

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

**11.8 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve to file a grant application for the purpose of carrying out the “Carrington Elementary Pre-k - 8 Renovation/Expansion” project.**

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Today I had the opportunity to tour Carrington School and to say I was embarrassed is an understatement. If you want to talk about mold and air quality and lack of circulation and a tremendously dedicated staff and principal that are operating under very adverse circumstances, I give them accolades all over the place. But this school and these portables were built approximately, I think we determined about 36 years ago, really did not have to come to the disrepair they are in if they were taken care of properly. As we know many of our buildings have come under disrepair because they weren’t properly maintained over the past 30 years. And this is the case at that school. While there are no leaks, I don’t say no leaks, there are some leaks in the portables, but there are some major leaks within the main building which still have not been addressed and taken care of. And I will be quite descriptive in terms of the things I saw unlike the Principal who held back. To have a lavatory next to a classroom and have the urine seeping from the floors into the classroom next door to me is incognizable. And I don’t know why with all of the building materials that we have that that couldn’t have been stopped immediately and a pipe that constantly clogs and the toilet overflows and the backyard roots coming up through the blacktop, a beautiful nature trail, teachers are trying hard. The main proper of the building is actually very intact and sound but the windows don’t open, the roof leaks, the building is made out of concrete, it’s really not falling apart but you can see it’s in tremendous disrepair. The building years ago needed a gym type situation and this cafeitorium situation as we

have seen at Gilmartin is very, very outmoded. The school itself is very diverse in terms of its population, I apologize to the way I alluded to it before as being a school kind of nestled in Bunker Hill because it's on the contrary – it's an inner-city school nestled in Bunker Hill and there are many, many diverse populations of students which were wonderful students to interact with, they were great kids. I don't like the location because I don't like the location in terms of its being on the cusp of the City just like I didn't like the Gilmartin location but I understand we own the land and we must do something about those portables that have become in terrible disrepair. When you walk into the lavatories and you see entire walls rusted out right through the metal and the paint chipped and no tiles on the floor and you walk down the hallways and you see 30, 40, 50 tiles missing because they don't make those tiles anymore.

HAYES: I just wanted to mention there's a Schoolhouse Committee on Wednesday.

THERIAULT: It just, if they don't make the tiles anymore then replace all of the tiles. I've spoken to some of the teachers there and Mr. Brennan and Mr. Brennan was completely cordial and completely cooperative and not the least bit negative, can I say that, very, very cooperative and very, very understanding. It is not he that is really complaining, it is me. Some of the teachers are very concerned in the main part of the building with the leaks that have been taking place, about the mold and about the air quality keeping in mind that this area of the building, none of the windows open, none, portables, none of the areas open. The water drains off the roof, where does it go? Underneath the building. Its' just unbelievable, why would you have the water going underneath the building when you could pipe it out, no drains piping it out. I mean I could just go on and on, I was just in total disgust and I'm not blaming you, I'm blaming us, I'm one of the ten. Being the doubting Thomas, coming back to you saying it's you, it's us. And this is one more example of not walking through the building, not taking the building reports, not taking care of business, for the past 30 years. And if you want to get into personalities you have to get into personalities, you have to blame the person that is responsible for this job and that is the building inspector. And how often have I said we don't have the proper amount of maintenance people. I've been told by some people now we have as many as 20. That's a start. It's not nearly the 80 or 90 that Hartford, Bridgeport, or New Haven have to take care of their buildings. It's not like down in Derby where you have buildings that are almost 125 to 130 years old that you can eat off the floor. This is just one building. And I'm going to go back there with the video camera and I'm going to videotape the building and I'll put it on the end of the Board meeting so all of you can see it and the public can see it. Because I'm a caveat emptor kind of guy, I believe that the public should beware and the buyer should beware and the buyer is the public out here, they're the ones that pay our salary. So I know Mr. D'Angelo, Commissioner D'Angelo has gone on many visits and I know, I won't speak for him, but I suspect he's also in awe over the maintenance problems that have not been properly taken care of over the years. And now that he is Chairman of the committee, the Schoolhouse Committee, I know he's the proper man to get the job done and the proper man to make the people accountable and I'm sure he will. So that is just my first report and as I go to the other schools I will give you another report about the schools and if I find one that's good as Dr. Snead has said you know you go to Barnard, it's a great school, so when I find that I'll report that too. I'm not trying to be entirely negative. But I'll vote for this reluctantly because we need to get started with these buildings and we don't need to spin our wheels any longer. We own the land, we can get started. Those portables need to come down. I'm not sure about the other part of

the building if we could do something with that aspect of the building but we need to do something and provide something for our inner-city children so that they can once again be in an educational institution that isn't a part of this magnificent edifice. You could fit all of Washington School into this atrium. I'm sure as we go forward we're not going to build atriums as an edifice at the expense and space needs of the students. Thank you very much for your indulgence.

HAYES: Any further discussion? Hearing none - all in favor, opposed, motion passes unanimously.

**11.9 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the formation of a Building Committee for the purpose of carrying out the "Carrington Elementary Pre-k - 8 Renovation/Expansion" project. Such Committee shall consist of Mary White (Chair), Karen Harvey, Patrick Hayes, Stephen Laccone, and Ann Sweeney.**

HAYES: Motion made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion passes unanimously.

**11.10 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the purpose of carrying out the "Carrington Elementary Pre-k - 8 Renovation/Expansion" project.**

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

## **12. COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES**

**12.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to deny WTA grievance 07-08-21.**

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

**12.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously that WTA grievance 07-08-27 be sustained at the Superintendent's Level.**

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

## **13. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 13.1 through 13.2, as listed:**

**13.1 Retirements:**

Mirakian, Carol E. – Hopeville PE, effective 06/30/08.

**13.2 Resignations:**

Altobelli, Maria – Tinker Special Education, effective 04/21/08.

Berry, Rebecca – Enlightenment Literacy Teacher, effective 06/30/08.

Berson, Marlene – Bucks Hill grade 5, effective 06/30/08.

Dauphinais, Katherine – Bucks Hill Kindergarten, effective 06/30/08.

Mclvor, Peter – Washington/Generali Music, effective 06/30/08.

Ryder-Galasso, Aleta – Bunker Hill grade 2, effective 06/30/08.

Tafuto, Denise – WSMS Language Arts, effective 04/11/08.

HAYES: Motion made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, it's received and placed on file.

STANGO: At the beginning of the meeting I was going to, before the prayer, I was going to comment on the passing of Mr. George Regan and now would be a fine time to do it also. Mr. Regan was a retired life-long educator for our school district and passed away last week. He spent most of his career at Crosby High School in the history department as a teacher and department chair. He also served as a Crosby vice principal and as the principal of Kennedy High School. Mr. Regan did hard work and he did it well. We will remember him fondly tonight. Thank you.

THERIAULT: I too was also a student of Mr. Regan and he's gonna be sorely, sorely missed. Unfortunately for me I developed rigor mortis in my right hand by writing the Declaration of Independence 60 times under his tutelage. But I did learn how to keep my mouth shut shortly after that and proceeded with my education. He's a fantastic guy who's going to be sorely, sorely missed. Also I'd like to just remark if I could go back to the retirement of Carol Mirakian who is a fellow colleague at Hopeville as a gym teacher and absolutely phenomenal person and teacher. Carol was always there, she was always giving 1,000% for the kids, I wish her well in her retirement and I don't know how she was able to do it all these years but this is one more example of the dynamic, intelligent, super teachers that we have and she's going to be absolutely sorely missed.

HAYES: Any new business?

LACCONE: Mr. President, a couple of months ago through an e-mail I inquired about getting a presentation for the guidance counselors for this Board. It's been a couple of months, I haven't heard a reply. Although now it's not timely in that the school year is almost up, I respectfully request to have one prior to the dismissal of school at the end of the year this way for next year we can sort of maybe standardize what they do and the practices.

WHITE: Actually he stole my, I too would like to have some, a presentation from the guidance departments, because I think there's a lot that we don't know that they should do, that they do do and that maybe they want to do and they can't. I think we need an



across the board presentation at all levels. And I too agree with Commissioner Laccone this is not a timely, but I would like it to be done during the summer. I know they have to work two weeks after school, or one week after and one week before.

HAYES: Why do we not think it's timely?

WHITE: Because at this point they're putting together, they're helping the children put together all of their applications.

HAYES: I think it's timely because we find out exactly what they're doing this time of year.

WHITE: That's fine.

HAYES: They can come to us and let us know how many they're working on or whatever.

WHITE: Well I would like to know are there competencies in the guidance? That's what I would like are copies of those competencies and see if our people are fulfilling everything. They probably are, it's just that we don't know that and we've been getting a lot of complaints.

HAYES: I was going to say that I heard a number of complaints as well.

GUIDONE: That's being prepared for the next Workshop.

HARVEY: I just want to thank Commissioner Stango for his detailed report that was included in our packet regarding his visit to Tinker School. You did that on your own, by yourself.

STANGO: This time I was. Usually I'm with Commissioner Sweeney but she was on vacation.

HARVEY: I just want to thank you Commissioner Stango for this very detailed report and you have given this report to the Chairperson of the Schoolhouse?

STANGO: By virtue of the packet, yes.

WHITE: We forgot the most important thing. Commissioner Coleen Flaherty-Merritt is absent because she had a baby boy on Saturday. Everybody is fine.

HAYES: She has to get back so we can work on a SOAR program at the middle schools. It's not timely for her.

THERIAULT: In the past we had a vote regarding the Mayor's veto and I contacted the Clerk of the Board to try to ascertain somewhat of a conflict of the City Charter and our rules and regulations. So through the Chair, can we get some sort of opinion, or if the Board members want to go forward, I guess we can't get the opinion from our Attorney unless we get the approval of Corporation Counsel or maybe we should just go to the corporation Counsel with it. There seems to be some conflict in terms of our actual

wording in terms of the number of votes needed for a mayoral override, a Board of Education override of a mayoral veto, versus our rules and regulations and maybe that can be addressed and looked at from a standpoint of whether or not its correct or whether or not our rules need to be changed or the wording needs to be changed. Thank you.

GUIDONE: If you recall in a recent response by Corporation Counsel he indicated that if a legal opinion was requested it needed to be requested by the Board by a vote. So obviously if you choose to do that, you will need to frame up what legal opinion you wanted and it would need to be done by a Board vote to the Corporation Counsel.

***ADJOURNMENT***

**Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner D'Angelo, it was voted unanimously to adjourn into executive session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, performance, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.**

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