

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, May 5, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

(For the May 12, 2008 Board Meeting - MINUTES ATTACHED)

COMMITTEE MEETING

The Board of Education Committee Meetings were held on Monday, May 5, 2008 at Chase School, 40 Woodtick Road, Waterbury, Connecticut, starting at 5:34 p.m.

PRESENT: Vice President White, Commissioners D'Angelo (left at 7:35), Harvey, Laccone, Pinto, Stango, and Sweeney.

ABSENT: President Hayes, Commissioners Flaherty-Merritt, and Theriault.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Snead, Assistant Superintendents Cullinan (6:11 – 7:30) and Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, School Business Administrator Paul Mazzaccaro (left at 7:55), Attorney Maurice Mosley, and School Inspector Herbert Greengas (left at 6:30).

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee meetings adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 12, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Vice President White, Commissioners Harvey, Laccone, Stango, Sweeney, and Theriault.

ABSENT: President Hayes, Commissioners D'Angelo, Flaherty-Merritt, and Pinto.

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Vice President White 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 – absent. Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt. – absent. Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Here

CLERK: Commissioner Laccone.

LACCONE: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Pinto – absent. Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner White.

WHITE: Here.

CLERK: President Hayes – absent.

WHITE: Let it be known that the four Commissioners that are absent stated, called in and stated their excuses. Before, is there anyone who cares to speak? If not we'll go directly into the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

1. Communication dated April 28, 2008 from Lisa Lessard regarding her daughter.
2. Copy of communications dated April 30, 2008 from Civil Service certifying Patience Bonner and Marisa Blakeslee for the position of Supervising Vice Principal – Special Education.
3. Copy of communication dated May 1, 2008 from civil Service certifying Edwardo Vidal for the position of Maintainer I.
4. Communication dated May 8, 2008 from the Waterbury Prevention policy Board regarding their request for focus groups.
5. Communication dated May 6, 2008 from Attorney Malec regarding claim for damages.
6. Copy of communication dated May 6, 2008 from Civil Service certifying Jessica Morytko for the position of Administrative Support Specialist I.
7. Communication received May 6, 2008 from Lisa Lessard regarding her daughter.

WHITE: All in favor, opposed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: The weather sure did change up on us. I got a little nervous Mrs. Sweeney. I predicted no more snow days and she said "be careful". Hopefully the temperature won't get that low. This morning, State Comptroller Nancy Wyman, Mayor Michael Jarjura, and I, presented awards to the Waterbury Public School winners of the State's eighth annual "Little Known Black History Fact Essay Contest". As you know our students took 1st, 3rd, and 4th place statewide.

Tomorrow at 11:00 Pam Baim and other staff from Kingsbury School will be presenting at the 3rd Annual CT School Data Showcase at the Cromwell Crowne Plaza. The event is sponsored by the CT State Department of Education and CAS and runs Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. The presentation will tell the story of how Kingsbury School turned "Data Driven Decision Making" from a buzz-word into reality. Participants will learn about practical and specific strategies and structures that the school staff has collaboratively established including formative assessments, interactive data walls, and

data-focused team meetings to increase student achievement. It is an honor for Kingsbury to be chosen to present.

I recently visited Walsh School. It was refreshing and uplifting. The principal, Erik Brown, is one of our energetic and passionate administrators. Erik has immersed himself in the total operation of the school and his enthusiasm is infectious. Erik is comfortable now at the school and the atmosphere reflects this.

The students' discipline at the school has improved significantly. Our Department of Children and Families' initiative is helping with the atmosphere at the school and in the Walsh community.

Due to initiatives, like the Comer Project, DCF partnership, and various award ceremonies, the students, parents, and the community feel that they have a big stake in the school. Parents are overwhelmingly choosing to keep their children at Walsh. Teachers are choosing to remain at Walsh.

To address the achievement scores challenge, Erik is concentrating on Data Driven Decision making and formative assessments. Principal Brown meets once a week with the teachers to discuss literacy and math issues. The teachers have regular common planning time. Erik has also been stressing vocabulary and regular homework to enhance the students' vocabulary.

The new parent liaison, Rodney Parker, has been great. He knows the community well.

The painting has been great for the atmosphere of the building. The back of the building has been spruced up.

There are small amounts of graffiti on the playscape and in other areas that need to be removed. Herb is aware of this.

As a reminder, the Superintendent's Student Awards will be presented this Thursday at 3:30 at Wilby High School.

On Saturday, the NAACP will be honoring Robyn Apicella as Educator of the Year and Linda Riddick Barron will receive a Community Service Award at the Annual Freedom Fund luncheon at the Courtyard Marriott at 1:00 p.m.

As you know, the adopted State budget for 08-09 did not include funding for Early Reading Success. The loss of the 2.5 million dollar grant, coupled with the 2.5 million dollar reduction in our budget request, has significant implications for next year's budget. Paul Guidone and I recently met with the Mayor on this issue and Paul has also had discussion with the City's Budget Director. A further update will be provided on this important matter over the next two weeks. On a positive note, the implementation of the suspension bill has been delayed to July of 2009. A legislative update from CAPSS is attached to my report. Staff will be reviewing each bill for effects on our operations.

I'd like to say, as you know I e-mailed each of you and asked that we remain calm in the mist of the storm because there are some pretty smart folks on the Mayor's staff and in our City that do a real good job in the area of finance and I have full faith that as they go through this process we will be able to overcome this situation. We may have to bite the bullet in some areas but I don't think that we're going to experience the severe problems that have occurred that you've seen in the newspaper reports in other cities. Yes we will have to bite the bullet. We will have to make some adjustments. But I'd like for us to kind of give the City's finance folks time to go through this process and bet/bed it out before we do something publically because I'm reluctant to have newspaper articles, television articles out there that will cause necessarily alarm within our community. I'd like for us to stay calm and focus.

WHITE: I think that's a great statement and I think everybody will do their best to keep that in mind.

LACCONE: Just so everybody understands attached is the CAPSS Legislative Update with a list of the bills that passed the Legislature. But just so everybody understands these aren't law until the Governor signs it and it looks like she's not going to sign a few of these in the coming weeks so we've got to keep an eye on which ones actually come off. That's all.

WHITE: Is there a deadline on when the bills have to be signed?

GUIDONE: There's not an absolute deadline usually they're signed by July 1 but in past years there's been time that that period has gone beyond that date.

LACCONE: There's not a timeframe that in 30 days if she doesn't sign them they become law anyhow?

GUIDONE: There is but then they may go back for override votes and things of that sort.

WHITE: We will go to the consent calendar. The items on the consent calendar appear before you, 8.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Do those still stand on the consent calendar?

THERIAULT: I'd like to remove 8.4 for discussion. I'll entertain a motion.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve items 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, and 8.5 through 8.9, as listed:

- 8.1 With the approval of the Committee on Grants, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the submittal of the 2008 – 2010 Connecticut State Department of Education IDEA Grant.

- 8.2 With the approval of the Committee on Grants, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the submission of the Connecticut State Department of Education 2008 – 2013 Carl D. Perkins Grant.
- 8.3 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the K through 5 Science Curriculum.
- 8.5 With the approval of the Committee on Rules & Regulations, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of revisions to the Field Trip Policy (#6030).
- 8.6 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities by school organizations and/or City departments, as listed.
- 8.7 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to A. Giampetruzzi, WAMS 12th grade, and 10 chaperones to take 110 students to Agawam, MA on May 27, 2008 to visit Six Flags.
- 8.8 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to F. Silva, Washington School, and 6 chaperones to take 54 students to Boston, MA on June 4, 2008 to visit the Museum of Science.
- 8.9 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to L. Capolupo, KHS 12th grade, and 11 chaperones to take 120 students to Agawam, MA on May 30, 2008 to visit Six Flags.

WHITE: All in favor, opposed.

9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

- 8.4 Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve a Construction Contract with J. A. Rosa Construction, LLC, to provide fire code improvements at Walsh School.**

WHITE: What is your question?

THERIAULT: I do have to apologize Madam Chairman because I was absent at the last Workshop Meeting and I wasn't available for some of the discussion with regard to this. I would assume that most of this is being taken care of by some sort of a grant or what portion of it is the City responsible for?

GUIDONE: As I mentioned at the Workshop this is the last school that was scheduled for fire code improvements under the 1998 bond fund authorized by the City. It is reimbursable by the State at approximately the same percentage as our school

construction programs for projects of this type there is often to be determined a few more ineligibles than with regular construction so the percentage of reimbursement ranges from about seventy to seventy-five percent, depending on the actual project.

THERIAULT: What will our cost be of the total amount?

GUIDONE: The reimbursement rate is the same as our existing reimbursement rate for school construction which is about 22%. However, these projects, these code upgrades often have more ineligible costs once the work is done then the regular school construction, so it normally comes out, and it varies from project to project, but somewhere the State pays between 70 and 75% and obviously the City pays between 25 to 30%.

THERIAULT: What does that boil down to in terms of the actual dollar figure?

GUIDONE: I don't have the actual.

WHITE: I believe last week it was given to us.

GUIDONE: The contract is about half a million in round figures, correct? My recollection is the contract was a round figure of about half a million so 25%, give or take 100,000.

THERIAULT: My final statement on this issue is is this is one more example of being proactive and taking care of something before it's broken down and not waiting for it to be fixed and not waiting for a knee-jerk reaction. Walsh school is really direly in need of updates in codes and so forth. They've had their own problems with regard to mold over the years and once again very dilapidated conditions in terms of maintenance. Not on the part of the principal or the maintenance staff at the school, the custodians themselves but in terms of our properly maintaining that school. It has been dreadful. So I'm glad to see this is actually being done. Thank you.

WHITE: I'll take that as a positive comment. I do think this is part of the whole fire upgrade, fire code upgrading project?

THERIAULT: You can go half way with it and come back with it.

GUIDONE: It's both fire and building code and we now have addressed every one of our schools with the exception of the Enlightenment School which will be undergoing a full renovation as part of the school construction program.

STANGO: I just located the amount here - it's \$510,420, total compensation.

GUIDONE: It will be about \$100,000 of local dollars and the remainder from the State.

WHITE: All in favor, opposed, so moved.

10. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- 10.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to request a legal opinion from Corporation Counsel regarding the rights of the Board of Education to limit the topics/content of public speakers including but not limited to the following concerns: vague comments or complaints against employees and discussion of matters involving the Board of Education currently under litigation.**

WHITE: Discussion?

THERIAULT: I kind of watched this very concerningly because I am extremely concerned about limiting people's opportunity for free speech. I am also acutely aware of remarks that are made with regard to individuals that are almost defamatory and I don't think that we should allow individuals to get up and attack us personally. But if they do want to attack our performance as Board members or any one of us in terms of a professional capacity I have no problem with it providing they stick with the rules, but stick to the topic and make it germane with regard to the particular topic at hand. When one starts attacking individual Board members or individuals under our employment and start talking about their character and their personal lives I think that that should immediately be stopped and I don't think there's any room for that kind of slanderous activity at the Board. So I think we need to go forward very trepidatiously and very carefully and cover all the bases and make sure we give everyone due process but at the same time don't expose this Board or members that the Board employees to any slanderous words or activities.

WHITE: Thank you. All in favor, opposed.

11. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

- 11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve of the job specifications for and position of School Readiness and Child Daycare Grant Program Coordinator.**

WHITE: Discussion?

THERIAULT: Is this a new job?

WHITE: This is a job that was done I believe by ACES and it should not have been it should have gone another process.

CULLINAN: This is not a new job, this job has been in existence for the past 11 years, it's a School Readiness Coordinator. It did come under ACES as part of their, they had the fiscal responsibility to administer the grant. We are now separating the fiscal responsibility separate from personnel. This person would come under the City of Waterbury, Board of Education. Many of the services as the Readiness Program has

grown in the City, many of the services that are required need to be vetted out through a RESC – ACES, CREC, ED Connections, so it's a conflict of interest for the Readiness Coordinator to actually work for one of the RESC's when that's who we'd need to hire to come in and do some of the professional development that's required for NEASC accreditations or the ECERS Training which all of our preschool classes now have to be certified in. So it was just a conflict to have that person to work for a vendor.

WHITE: Any other questions? All in favor, opposed.

12. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

12.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Laccone, it was voted unanimously to remove item 12.1 from the agenda.

WHITE: All in favor, opposed.

SWEENEY: It has become apparent after vetting through with Adult Ed exactly what occurred here that it looks like a simple clerical error on paperwork that will take care of itself through the efforts of Senator Hartley so we're going to await that process, let that work before we decide that we need help from the Board. The Board stands ready to help if that's necessary.

WHITE: Does that suffice? All in favor.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 13.1 through 13.7, as listed:

13.1 Athletic resignations:

Beshi, Medali – CHS Girl's volleyball, effective 02/28/08.

13.2 Grant funded appointments:

Daunis, Joan M. – Classroom Assistant, Maloney Magnet School, 10 months per year, 35 hours per week, SEIU position with benefits.

Martinez, Margarita – Bilingual Office Manager, 35 hours per week at \$14.85 per hour, SEIU positions with benefits.

13.3 Resignations:

Bergoderi, Concepcion – Classroom Aide, Adult Education, effective 04/21/08.

Cruz, Jose – WMS Prevention Specialist, effective 05/05/08.

O'Donnell, Lillian – Chase Special Education, effective 06/30/08.

Perella, Frank Jr. – Network Specialist, effective 04/22/08.

13.4 Adult Education appointments effective immediately:

Adebanjo, Olu – Substitute, as needed @\$24.00 per hour.

Sullivan, Joan – Substitute, as needed @ \$29.00 per hour.

13.5 **Adult Education resignations:**

Azzara, Patricia - English/Journalism teacher, Adult Education, effective 06/30/08.

Bergoderi, Concepcion – Classroom Aide, Adult Education, effective 04/21/08.

13.6 **Leave of absence requests:**

Nido, Eileen – Sprague School, requesting an unpaid child rearing leave from 04/22/08 through the end of the school year.

13.7 **Academic achievements effective March 1, 2008:**

Last Name	First Name	From	To	College
Altobelli	Maria	MA+15, Step 2	6 th , Step 2	SCSU
Baldwin	Stephen	MA, Step 5	MA+15, Step 5	SCSU
Begley	Tracy	BA+15, Step 3	MA, Step 3	CCSU
Beshi	Medali	6 th , Step 6	6 th + 15, Step 6	U of New England
Brunnock	Erin	MA+15, Step 5	6 th , Step 5	SCSU
Butkevich	Jaime	MA, Step 2	MA+15, Step 2	UB
Callahan	Michelle	MA+15, Step 2	6 th , Step 2	U of New England
Campagna	Amanda	BA, Step 2	BA+15, Step 2	Walden U
Colon	Josephine	BA+15, Step 5	MA, Step 5	U of Phoenix
Conway	Michael	MA+15, Step 12	6 th , Step 12	Walden U
Cordato	Lori-Ann	MA, Step 7	MA+15, Step 7	SCSU
Dawczyk	Wendie	6 th , Step 3	6 th +15, Step 3	UB
DeCarlo	AnnMarie	BA+15, Step 4	MA, Step 4	SCSU
DiDominzio	Michael	BA+15, Step 5	MA, Step 5	Walden U
DosSantos	Pedro	MA, Step 2	MA+15, Step 2	U of New England
Driscoll	Timothy	BA, Step 2	MA, Step 2	Walden U
Dwyer	Jennifer	MA, Step 2	MA+15, Step 2	SCSU
Gagain	Lenore	MA, Step 2	MA+15, Step 2	SCSU
Gagne, Grosso	Melissa	MA, Step 2	MA+15, Step 2	Walden U
Gaudiosi	Kristen	MA, Step 5	MA+15, Step 5	SCSU
Gumbulevich	Jeanette	BA+15, Step 4	MA, Step 4	CCSU
Hamel	Michael	BA, Step 2	BA+15, Step 2	Walden U
Ieronimo	Michael	MA, Step 12	MA+15, Step 12	CCSU
Jenkins	Keely	MA, Step 2	MA+15, Step 2	SCSU
Jurewicz	David	BA+15, Step 2	MA, Step 2	CCSU
Katz	Roger	BA+15, Step 5	MA, Step 5	CCSU
Keeley	Maureen	BA+15, Step 6	MA, Step 6	UB
Lockwood	Katie	BA, Step 1	BA+15, Step 1	UB
Lombardo	Allysa	MA+15, Step 2	6 th , Step 2	WCSU
Matthews	Steven	MA, Step 2	MA+15, Step 2	U of New England
May	Heather	BA, Step 2	BA+15, Step 2	UB

McAloon	Jennifer	BA+15, Step 3	MA, Step 3	UB
Miller	Terri	MA+15, Step 4	MA, Step 4	UB
Osiecki	Erin	BA+15, Step 2	MA, Step 2	Walden U
Perez	Aurea	MA, Step 5,	MA+15, Step 5	U of New England
Pesce	Margaruite	MA+15, Step 2	6 th , Step 2	UB
Pinho	Kelly	MA+15, Step 5	6 th , Step 5	UB
Quinlan	Stacey	MA, Step 2	MA+15, Step2	UB
Radner	Feigie	MA, Step 6	6 th , Step 6	Nova Southeastern U.
Rossi	Jaison	BA+15, Step 2	MA, Step 2	CCSU
Santovasi	Monica	BA+15, Step 9	MA, Step 9	U of New England
Setton-Colon	Marcela	MA, Step 3	MA+15, Step 3	Touro College *
Sirois	Kenneth	BA, Step 2	BA+15, Step 2	UB
Standish	Alexander	MA+15, Step 4	6 th , Step 4	CCSU
Stewart	Susan	MA, Step 2	MA+15, Step 2	U of New England
Tasimi	Donika	MA+15, Step 7	6 th , Step 7	U of New England
Tenney,	Jodiann	MA+15, Step 5	6 th , Step 5	SCSU
Warhola	Gayle	MA+15, Step 7	6 th , Step 7	SCSU
Wirth	Cheryl	6 th , Step 6	6 th +15, Step 6	NVCC without precedent
Zuraitis	Jeanette	MA, Step 3	MA+15, Step 3	SCSU

WHITE: All in favor, opposed. Anything under New Business?

SWEENEY: There was an e-mail communication today to the Board from Commissioner D'Angelo on an issue that I have brought up on and off since prior to last year and that issue being the responsibility for the negotiation of the terms of Dr. Snead's evaluation and the scheduling of that evaluation. Dr. Snead's contract quite clearly states that "the Board shall evaluate the performance of the Superintendent annually in accordance with guidelines and criteria mutually determined and agreed to by the Board and the Superintendent". That language indicates to me that the indication is the Committee of the Whole. President Hayes is not here tonight but I would request that he schedule and facilitate the discussion of the guidelines and criteria with Dr. Snead and the Committee of the Whole and that he schedule and facilitate the evaluation of the Superintendent. I think it's time to do that properly and within the guidelines of the Superintendent's contract.

HARVEY: Just to clarify, normally the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools is done by the Committee, the Board of Education, all Board members. The Personnel Committee, however, is the one that develops the procedure, presents it to the Board of Education members and every single Board member is responsible for giving their input. So I have trouble understanding where it is felt there are limitations on that but this has been done prior to my time on the Board that the Personnel Committee would meet, bring back to the Board members when we would discuss it, in fact it was appointed by the President of the Board that the Personnel Committee will do that. And it is brought before the Board members and they decide and have input on the evaluation of the Superintendent.

SWEENEY: Again, the Superintendent's contract specifically states that the "Superintendent annually, in accordance with guidelines and criteria that are mutually agreed to by the Board and the Superintendent". This is the piece that in the past has not been adhered to; the terms of that evaluation should be negotiated with this full Board and Dr. Snead. And that has not been done. It may be past practice but it is not what is specified in the contract and it is not what has been done and just because past practice has been otherwise doesn't mean that it has been done properly. I'm requesting it be done in accordance with the Superintendent's contract.

HARVEY: Just one last comment on that, I think President Hayes has discussed this with the Superintendent and the Superintendent has had input, has always had input on how he feels he would be evaluation. In fact in particular, particularly last year it was discussed with Dr. Snead. So I would like to refer that to President Hayes and get his opinion of it so we can move forward on this.

SWEENEY: My problem with that is that the full Board has not been part of that negotiation. Dr. Snead has had input but the full Board did not have input on the criteria and I am requesting that that conversation take place.

WHITE: It really is not up for debate at this time, it's under New Business, it was a suggestion, and we will bring it, we'll let it go the proper way

HARVEY: I disagree.

WHITE: It really is not up for debate at this time. It is under New Business. It was a suggestion and we will bring it to, we'll let it go the proper way. Is there anything else under New Business? Under Old Business?

HARVEY: I know that we talked about this a couple of weeks ago, there was an issue involving the condition of Tinker School. I know that the Schoolhouse Committee did meet, I have not heard, I don't know if we get a report or an update on what the, what happened at that meeting, but it would be, I would like to get some kind of report on what, where we stand with Tinker and the condition.

WHITE: I was just notified that the Schoolhouse Committee was sent an e-mail, it went out later this afternoon, but anything that you would like information on will be so noted and we will get that. Any other Old Business? Yes, Commissioner.

THERIAULT: Just a couple of things here. I probably should have brought this up under item 13.2 but I can handle it okay under New Business with regard to the benefits of people who are working 35 hours or more. I know it comes at a certain point in time when they work over 30 or 31 hours, I don't know exactly what the magic number is.

WHITE: Which number are you addressing?

THERIAULT: Item 13.2, Grant funded appointments. And these are 35 hours with benefits. I'm concerned about the benefit portion of it because I want to know who's picking up those benefits. I know the grant is paying for the hourly rate but the benefits

do they come under our privity and eventually we're going to have to be accountable for down the road some point when these benefits are actually delineated, we're going to be responsible for all the benefits of all the people. So I'm becoming concerned if these benefits are paid for by the grant or are paid for by the Board of Ed.

WHITE: To the best of my knowledge the benefits are set by the contract under which the grant's people work but the benefits are part of the package that comes through the operating grant. Am I correct?

GUIDONE: Mary, you're correct, the level of benefits are set generally by union contracts or going by one of the union contracts as it is in this particular case. A general answer to Commissioner Theriault's question is usually grants pay for the fringe benefits, whatever costs there are. Those grants are actually paid by our accounts over to the City's account for grant funded employees. In almost every case, I won't say everyone. In this particular matter, this is an unusual type program; the amount that can be used for administration under this grant is capped by the State. My guess in this particular case is that that will cover the salary of the individual but not likely the benefit cost, in this particular case. But in general the grants pay for the benefits for employees under a grant.

THERIAULT: I think that in effect my point. These benefits as we go forward, these medical benefits are generally very, very cost prohibitive and we must be very careful about assuming the benefit packages of people in the Grant's Department. I know that these jobs are important but I just want to make the Board aware of this because eventually every single employee is going to be put in terms of breaking down of costs and medical benefits, is gonna be put right back in our lap.

Enough said about that. My next point would be with regard to the opinion on the Corporation Counsel. I too had asked at a meeting two weeks ago regarding an opinion on the Mayor's veto, it seems as though our rules and regulations and the actual charter language seems to have a little bit of a conflicting interpretation and I know our attorney can't give us an interpretation, so to speak, but at least if our attorney can look at it and come back with some clarification not necessarily a legal opinion whether or not we should proceed to the Corporation Counsel for a legal opinion I would be satisfied with that. So maybe Attorney Mosley, through the Chair, could look up this language in the Charter regarding the mayor's veto and the override – one says seven votes, the other says six, so I'd like some clarification on that and not necessarily a legal opinion but just have him look at it and if there is a conflict there then we could go forward and ask for a legal opinion of Corporation Counsel.

WHITE: We can take that under advisement but I believe it was a motion of the full Board that stated we would get any decisions from the Corporation Counsel.

THERIAULT: Then through the Chair I would request that that opinion be done.

WHITE: But we will look into it. Attorney Mosley.

GUIDONE: I think we could comply with Commissioner Theriault's request do some research and then inform the Board. If the Board then wants to pursue a formal legal opinion they need to do that by vote.

THERIAULT: I don't want to monopolize the time; does anyone else have anything under New Business through the Chair? My last point is with regard to the job specification on the Early Childhood Grant and the reallocation of that job from ACES to our own job specs and our own employee of the Board of Ed. I also think that we need to look at the job that we're paying Mr. Augelli \$30,000 for and see whether or not that is copasetic with the same conflict of interest that one might look at. I understand, one can incorporate and get the job, I still have some concerns on how that job was ascertained, so to speak, delved out, and I'd like somebody to look at it a little bit more and see whether or not we should be doing that ourselves or whether ACES should be doing that entirely. It just seems to me a little incongruous for ACES to be spending \$30,000 on a job and we're giving \$30,000 on a job over a job that was bid out and it was said you can get the job if you hire our man. So that's my point.

WHITE: Commissioner, not to interrupt you, are you a member of the ACES Board?

THERIAULT: Yes I am.

WHITE: Could you to satisfy your curiosity and the curiosity you peaked for everyone else, maybe they have the contract.

THERIAULT: I have looked into it once Madam Chair but I'd be happy to look into it again at our next meeting.

WHITE: And our secretary has taken down the question.

THERIAULT: The previous description I was given by the Executive Director was this job was given out as a quick pro quo, in other words, we have work that has to be done, this contract should be bid, the individual ascertained his name in terms of an incorporation or LLC and was given the job on the basis of the City needs to work but the powers to be and politics at the time said we will give you the contract if you hire our man. That's what was told to me.

GUIDONE: As a point of clarification that arrangement is no longer in place, has not been for about a year now.

THERIAULT: So what is the arrangement currently, through the Chair? If the arrangement is not \$30,000 and \$30,000, what is the arrangement now and what are the terms of the contract.

WHITE: I don't know but I think what we could do is look into it and bring the information back so the whole Board knows it rather than speculate.

THERIAULT: I would appreciate that Madam Chair.

SWEENEY: Can we get an update on Walsh, the lot that we bought for parking, where that stands?

LACCONE: I just want to thank Mrs. Cullinan. Last week we had a presentation from the guidance counselors and herself in regards to the protocol for their job functions. I requested a meeting, it was set up, we had it this morning. I believe it was very productive; I want to thank her again for setting it up so fast. And a few changes will probably occur from that meeting and when and if they do I would hope that they come back to the Board and give us all an update on some of the changes and safeguards that are going to be in place going forward. I really want to thank Anne Marie for facilitating that meeting.

WHITE: Thank you for your comments. Anything else.

A MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: I really want to beg your forgiveness; I missed the public address portion of the meeting. I just ask to at least have my three minutes to address you.

PUBLIC ADDRESS THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business at 7:20 p.m. to allow the public to address the Board.

WHITE: All in favor. Let it be noted now that this does not set precedent.

Deanna Hill, 110 Ardmore Avenue, had the following comments: I come here today for my son David Hill and my daughter Zoey, I come here today to ask for your help on behalf of my son who is nine, David, he was beaten by another student last week in his classroom and now because of the inappropriate handling of the situation my son has become a victim not once but twice – first in the classroom where he should have been safe and second as he was kicked out of school today by the very person who should have protected him. In addition my innocent seven year old daughter has also been removed from the school as well. I stand here as an advocate for my son who deserves to feel safe at school. I stand here as a concerned mother whose only crime was to hold the principal responsible for doing her job. I came to complain to her as a result that my son was thrown out of school with only really a month left. My daughter is in the middle of being tested for early education, I'm sorry special education and this incident has been very traumatizing for both of them. On May 9.

WHITE: Excuse me, Mrs. Hill.

HILL: I'm sorry if I worded anything here inappropriately.

WHITE: No, what you've written here is very, very comprehensive. Rather than reading the whole thing would you like to just submit it and have the people get back to you.

HILL: I would with the addition of saying that I have called your office sir, Mr. Superintendent, and the Attorney that I spoke with told me finally, after pleading and pleading at about 5:00 this evening he said that I would receive an appointment with the principal of the school at Mr. Superintendent's office tomorrow at 3:30 but he did not guarantee me his attendance. So now that you're here and I can tell you in person.

WHITE: We will take this under advisement through the Superintendent's Office rather than put you through the whole thing of having to read it.

HILL: Thank you very much.

WHITE: I appreciate the statement in written form.

HILL: I very much appreciate you letting me speak after our time has passed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 7:23 p.m.

WHITE: Is there any other business to come before the Board?

THERIAULT: Just a point of clarification Madam Chair, my point of clarification is Mr. Guidone was going to explain something with regard to the job in question that I spoke about and maybe at the next meeting he could share his thoughts with us in writing in terms of what the new arrangement will be and then I will have the opportunity to speak to ACES and get a further clarification. They did give one written opinion, which I'm sure is on file and I'd like to know ultimately what the new arrangement was going to be just so I can clarify one half of it and we can clarify the other half. Thank you.

GUIDONE: That was my understanding to prepare a written report.

WHITE: Be advised Commissioner Theriault that we have notes of that and everything will be done accordingly. We have no meeting next week; next week is a free week. Once every three months we get a free Monday. A long weekend, so we'll work on something for the Workshop the following week. Is there anything else to come before the Board at this time?

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Laccone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

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