

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, October 6, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Kingsbury School, 220 Columbia Boulevard, 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, and Attorney Maurice Mosley.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Hayes called the special meeting to order at 7:32 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: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Here

CLERK: Commissioner Laccone.

LACCONE: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Pinto.

PINTO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner White.

WHITE: Here.

CLERK: President Hayes.

HAYES: Here. Is there anyone here to address the Board?

1. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- 1.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner D'Angelo, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve for Waterbury Public Schools to participate in the evaluation of the Waterbury Police Activity League (PAL) as requested by the Connecticut Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity. Said evaluation shall be conducted by Central Connecticut State University's Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice.**

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

Sweeney: Just briefly because I made all my remarks at the workshop and no, I'm not convinced.

THERIAULT: I was silent at the Workshop; I wanted to hear what the other Commissioners had to say. And I'm not anti-PAL; certainly PAL is our friend and is going to do a lot of good for our kids. However, under normal circumstances with the questions that were raised I think this Board probably would have gone and sought a legal opinion or probably would have, if it weren't such a political issue, would have gone to table or postpone because there are still a lot of questions out there that haven't been answered. The legality of whether or not these questions can be asked, what is going to be done with the information, what security measures are going to be put in place, what is the accountability of the information, where's it gonna be stored and for how long and how is it gonna be disposed of later. Obviously this could be a yearly or semi-yearly kind of thing, I'm sorry but maybe every two years, sorry. I have a lot of questions, you know. When politics enters the City of Waterbury we end up having special meetings and pushing things through and with all due respect to all the people involved, the gentleman that spoke and the absolutely phenomenal job that PAL is doing, as Commission Sweeney said, I'm not anti-PAL, to be anti-PAL would be to be anti-American. So, but I think under the circumstances if this weren't such a political baby, like the books were, we would probably postpone it and say let's have our counsel research it, let's be on thick ice rather than thin ice and let's not put anything in the way like we did with the junior ATOM, ACES, and SOAR Program. Right, what did we say, we're not ready, we're not going to do it. But we seem to not be ready here but it seems like we're gonna do it anyways. So maybe you're gonna do it but I'm gonna vote against it probably because I don't think there's enough information and there's too many questions out there still being answered, not that I'm against PAL, I'm not. In fact if these questions were answered adequately at this meeting tonight I would be prepared to vote in favor of this because I think it's imperative that the Police Athletic League, the Board working in conjunction with them, get as much grant money as we can to the City of Waterbury through the State of Connecticut and the Federal Government to help all our children. This is an absolutely phenomenal opportunity but to go forward with it and not really know, to have this question mark in our minds as to whether or not we're doing this legally is a conundrum, President Hayes, a conundrum, a problem incapable of being solved at this point. So that is why I'm voting and thinking the way I'm thinking because I have some questions that have not, that have not been answered and I didn't really participate a lot in the discussion cause I didn't want to sway either one any way so I listened carefully to what everyone had to say, then I took

the information and I digested it and I analyzed it and this is what I came up with. So you're all Board members, you vote your own conscience, what you think is the right way to vote, and I will respect the outcome. Thank you.

HAYES: Anyone else? Hearing none, let's have a roll call.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Commissioners D'Angelo, Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, Laccone, Pinto, Stango, White, and President White - 8

Nays: Commissioners Sweeney and Theriault – 2

HAYES: Motion passes six to two.

2 . COMMITTEE ON RULES & REGULATIONS

2.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve the following Resolution, to wit:

Be it RESOLVED to rescind the Board of Education's Nepotism: Employment of Relatives Policy dated October 30, 2006 as it applies to staff members represented by the Waterbury Teachers Association. Be it further RESOLVED to direct the administration to enter into negotiations with the Waterbury Teachers Association over the proposed extension of the Board of Education's Nepotism: Employment of Relatives Policy dated October 30, 2006 to staff members represented by the Waterbury Teachers Association.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo and duly seconded by Commissioner White, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

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