

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Workshop/Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

(For the March 17, 2022 Board Meeting)

WORKSHOP/COMMITTEE MEETING

The Board of Education Committee meetings were held on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Waterbury Arts Magnet School, 16 South Elm Street, Waterbury, Connecticut.

PRESENT: President Sweeney, Commissioners Brown, Hernandez, Ireland, O'Brien, Orso, Serrano-Adorno (5:41 p.m.), and Van Stone.

ABSENT: Commissioners Nardozzi and Pagano.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Verna D. Ruffin, Chief Financial Officer Doreen Biolo, Chief Turnaround Officer Matthew Brown, Assistant Superintendent Jade Gopie, Assistant Superintendent Joseph Johnson, Interim Chief Operating Officer Rosh Maghfour, Assistant Superintendent Juan Mendoza, Director of Communications Belen Michelis, Director of Pupil Services Miguel Pabón, Interim Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer Darren Schwartz, Attorney Tara Shaw, Director of College and Career Readiness Nyree Toucet, Director of Equity and Inclusion Lara White, and Supervisor of Management, Information and Technology Will Zhuta.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Fatima Aly and Mary Jane Vazquez of Waterbury Career Academy.

President Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and informed the Board that Commissioners Nardozzi and Pagano would not be available tonight.

Reports were submitted to the various committees of the Board and discussed, as per the following agenda.

AGENDA

SILENT PRAYER

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Danielle Serrano – spoke about mental and social behavior changes in students due to masks. She doesn't require them in her karate school, they take precautions. Parents do not need a Board of Education telling them their children have to wear masks.

Jessica Moran – her children go to Country Garden which is following Waterbury protocol. Stated the CDC no longer requires masks in most locations. Asked the Board to vote to end the mandate.

Amber Staff – believes the Board should move forward with optional mask requirements for students and staff. Her daughter is a kindergarten student.

Selena Hussain – her parents are immigrants and came here for freedom and education for their children. She switched her sixth grade student to a private school in Southington where she doesn't have to wear a mask. Talked about the mental health of children. Asked that the mask mandate be lifted.

Ollie Gray – he stated the COVID-19 emergency is over. There's no reasons for students or staff to be masked. He's concerned about the physical and emotional health of the children.

1. Committee of the Whole/10 minutes ~ Presentation: Connecticut Junior Republic's (CJR) Success Always Follows Education (SAFE) Program – J. Gopie, Ana Flamengo/CJR Director of Community Programs, and Daniel Rezende/CJR President.
2. Committee of the Whole/10 minutes ~ Presentation: Connecticut Junior Republic's (CJR) Wellness Center – J. Gopie, Jennifer Grant/CJR Director of Behavioral Health, Ana Flamengo/CJR Director of Community Programs, and Daniel Rezende/CJR President.
3. Committee on Finance/5 minutes ~ Request approval of a Professional Services Agreement with the following to provide Material Testing On-call Services:
 - a) *Tri State Materials Testing Lab, LLC*, – R. Maghfour, WDC.
 - b) *Test-Con Incorporated* – R. Maghfour, WDC.
 - c) *Independent Material Testing Laboratories, Inc.* – R. Maghfour, WDC.
 - d) *Special Testing Laboratories, Inc.* – R. Maghfour, WDC.
4. Committee of the Whole/15 minutes ~ Update: Commissioner's Network Schools – M. Baker, V. Balsamo, M. Brown, J. Gilmore, P. McCasland. (R. Johnston)
5. Superintendent's Update ~ Dr. Ruffin.

RECESSED AT 6:58 P.M. FOR SPECIAL MEETING AND RETURNED AT 7:23 P.M.

6. Committee on Finance/5 minutes ~ Request approval of Amendment One (#1) to the Professional Services Agreement with Connecticut Communications, LLC for Mitel Voice Over IP Solution – W. Zhuta.
7. Committee on Finance/5 minutes ~ Request approval of Amendment One (#1) to the Professional Services Agreement with Connecticut Behavioral Health, LLC for Registered Behavioral Technician Services – M. Pabón.
8. Committee on Finance/5 minutes:
 - a) ARP/ESSER Update – D. Biolo.
 - b) FYI: January 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report – D. Biolo.
9. Committee on School Personnel/10 minutes:
 - a) Proposed new position of Communications Specialist – Dr. Ruffin, J. Mendoza.
 - b) Proposed new position of Communications Assistant – Dr. Ruffin, J. Mendoza.
 - c) Request for two additional Vice Principal positions – Dr. Ruffin, J. Mendoza.
10. Committee on Building & School Facilities/3 minutes ~ Use of school facilities by school organizations and/or City departments – R. Maghfour.
11. Committee on Building & School Facilities/3 minutes ~ Use of school facilities by outside organizations and/or waiver requests – R. Maghfour.
12. Superintendent’s Notification to the Board/5 minutes:
 - a. Athletic appointments:
 Harris, Marquis – WHS Freshman Boys Basketball Coach, effective 12/22/21.
 Torres-Dozier, Bianca – KHS Assistant Outdoor Track Coach, effective 03/19/22.
 - b. Miscellaneous appointments effective immediately:
 Donofrio, Christi – teacher, CHS Academic Support Program.
 Donohue, Kelly – teacher, CHS Academic Support Program.
 Loh, Pam – Bilingual Coordinator, WHS Parent University.

c. Teacher hires:

<u>Name</u>		<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Berg	Roni	Math	Carrington	02/14/22
Brown	Harriet	Special Education	Maloney	01/03/22
Emini	Edona	Early Childhood	Driggs	01/31/22
HoldaVaccaro	Michelle	Reading/ELA	WSMS	02/03/22
King-Evans	Noshina	Special Education	WHS	01/31/22
Mahan	Jill	Science	CHS	01/13/22
Marin	Irma	Bilingual	Washington	01/20/22
McCarthy	Erica	Social Studies	WHS	10/29/21
Mecca	Kaylie	Elementary	Sprague	01/18/22
Montes	Jorge	Other	WHS	03/17/22
Mukherjee	Manidipa	Science	CHS	02/17/22
Murtaza	Saima	Science	Gilmartin	03/07/22

Pertab Purnawasi	Deowattie	Math	WCA	12/22/21
Pulie	Lisa	Social Studies	CHS	02/07/22
Ruel	Cynthia	Special Education	Maloney	01/03/22
Schaefer	Courtney	Special Education	Hopeville	01/19/22
Stetzer	Jessica	Reading/ELA	Carrington	01/24/22
Valencia	Brando	World Languages	CHS	01/31/22
Xhaferi	Manjola	Math	WAMS	02/14/22

d. Resignations:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Effective</i>
Alfano, Chelsea	Tinker Grade 5	03-11-22
Geanacopoulos, John	WHS Science	03-04-22
Zukowski, Diane	Reed Literacy Facilitator	02-18-22

e. Resignation rescissions:

Manka, Michelle – Districtwide SLP, rescinding resignation of 03/07.22.

f. Retirements:

Agudo, Edith – Chase Bilingual Reading, effective 06/30/22.

Arnson, Mary Lou – Generali Arts, effective 02/28/22.

Calo, JoAnn – WHS Social Studies, effective 06/30/22.

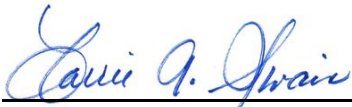
Hubbard, Medelise – PreK Special Education, effective 07/13/22.

Murphy, Christopher – KHS ELA, effective 06/30/22.

Pulit, Rossella – WHS Art, effective 06/30/22.

~~**EXECUTIVE SESSION** for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee~~

ADJOURNMENT at 7:56 p.m.

ATTEST: 

Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Waterbury Board of Education

This meeting in its entirety may be viewed at <https://youtu.be/tLMNbeTZcRk>