

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

In an effort to adhere to social distancing guidelines, this meeting was held without normal in-person public access. However, the meeting was broadcasted live on the City of Waterbury's Government Access Channel (Comcast 96, Frontier 6096), streamed live at <https://youtu.be/yK5sf9lfewo> or listened or listened to via teleconference by calling 1-203-590-9756.

PRESENT: Mayor Neil O'Leary, President Sweeney, Commissioners Brown (left at 7:56 p.m.), Hernandez, Ireland, Nardozzi, O'Brien, Orso, Pagano, Serrano-Adorno, and Van Stone.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Verna 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: Gianni Bonval and Tenly Dessalines of Wilby High School.

1. SILENT PRAYER

President Sweeney called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with a moment of silence.

SUPERINTENDENT: In our moment of silence this evening let us remember former members of the Waterbury Public Schools education community who have passed away:

- *James (Jimmy) Mann: Custodian in the Waterbury School System, passed away on January 18, 2022.*
- *Michael J. Kenney, Jr.: Teacher who began his career at Sprague School, passed away on February 2, 2022.*
- *Suzanne Wiezbicki: Teacher in the Waterbury School System for 31 years, passed away on February 6, 2022.*

- *Doris Noles: Math Teacher in the City's Adult Education Program, passed away on February 6, 2022.*
- *Isabelle L. Griffin.: Retired as the Secretary at Duggan School in 1995, passed away on February 9, 2022.*
- *Dorothy Murnane: Worked as a Teacher at Chase School, passed away on February 12, 2022.*
- *Kathleen Giancarli: Employed by the City of Waterbury as an Administrative Assistant, working at Chase, the downtown offices, WAMS and finally at NEMS; passed away on February 9, 2022.*

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner O'Brien led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Ireland.

IRELAND: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Nardozzi

NARDOZZI: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner O'Brien.

O'BRIEN: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Orso.

ORSO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Pagano.

PAGANO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Serrano-Adorno.

SERRANO-ADORNO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Van Stone.

VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to add agenda item #11.3, Agreement with University of Connecticut, to the agenda.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to move item #13.1 up on the Agenda prior to Agenda item #9.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Upon a motion by Commissioner Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file communications as read/listed.

- a) Copy of communication dated December 2, 2021 from Civil Service certifying John Bracken, Jr. for the position of Supervisor of Custodial Services.
- b) Copy of communications dated December 6, 2021 from Civil Service certifying Rosalie Jiminez for the position of Paraprofessional; Lisa Corey for the position of Food Service Coordinator; Kyren Kee for the position of Maintainer I; and Michael Florida for the position of Cook.
- c) Copy of communication dated December 7, 2021 from Civil Service certifying Chazala Zafar for the position of Paraprofessional.
- d) Communication dated January 4, 2022 from Doreen Biolo transmitting the City's Comprehensive Financial Report, State & Federal Single Audits Reports and Audit Communication Letter.
- e) Copy of communication dated January 14, 2022 from Civil Service certifying Sandra Pruden for the position of Paraprofessional.
- f) Copy of communication dated January 18, 2022 from Civil Service certifying Theeonion Cooper for the position of Maintainer II.
- g) Copy of communication dated January 20, 2022 from Civil Service certifying Gisela Bello-Martinez for the position of Paraprofessional.
- h) Communication dated January 20, 2022 from Louise Allen Brown, Grant Writer, regarding Interdistrict Cooperative Grant projects.
- i) Email communication dated January 21, 2022 from CABA regarding Policy Highlights.
- j) Email communication dated January 28, 2022 from Tim Moynahan regarding fallen NYPD Detective.
- k) Email communication dated February 1, 2022 from Tim Moynahan regarding guardians and hero going home.
- l) Copy of communication dated December 22, 2022 from New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. regarding Waterbury Arts Magnet School's final version of the Decennial Accreditation Report.
- m) Copy of communication dated January 26, 2022 from Civil Service certifying Dwayne Clements, Sr., Devin Blocker, and Griffin Samal for the position of Maintainer I and Glendalis Carrero for the position of Administrative Associate II.
- n) Copy of communication dated January 28, 2022 from Civil Service to Joanne Mancini regarding offer of employment for the position of Food Service worker.

- o) Copy of communication dated January 31, 2022 from Civil Service certifying John Quiles-Soto, Samuel Awumey, Joshua Machado, and Robert Copes for the position of Maintainer I and Yailene Cruz for the position of Paraprofessional.
- p) Copy of communications dated February 1, 2022 from Civil Service to Stephanie Melendez and Maria Cronin regarding offer of employment for the position of Food Service Worker.
- q) Email communication dated February 2, 2022 from Tim Moynahan regarding back the blue and the super bowl; go viral.
- r) Email communication dated February 8, 2022 from Daniele Serrano regarding mask choice in school.
- s) Email communication dated February 15, 2022 from Tim Moynahan regarding old debate over the ought and the is.

5. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business at 6:37 p.m. to allow the public to address the Board.

Tracy DiGiovancarlo, 149 Woodbine Street, thanked the Board and teachers during these times. Stated the masks need to get off the kids, we're doing more harm than good. They're coming home with headaches and respiratory infections.

Kylee Heyward, 1298 Straights Turnpike, Middlebury, she pulled her child from the school and the mask mandate is holding her back from putting her back in. Wants the kids to be unmasked.

Monica Collette, 62 Lawlor Street, former student and current member of R.A.C.E. Need adequate counselors in schools. Behaviors students are being arrested for need to be mediated.

Makylia Barrett, 2810 East Main Street, spoke against using funds to purchase a weapon detection system. Member of R.A.C.C.E. Asked when we were going to stop criminalizing students. Police in schools are overusing and abusing their power.

Jocelyn, Pineda, 21 Mansfield Avenue, former student and current members of R.A.C.C.E. Spoke against the implementation of the weapon detection system. Spoke about police being called and arrests. She feels the school system has neglected their needs. Asked for more counselors and social workers in the schools.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:51 p.m.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ruffin presented a PowerPoint with an update on the following:

- Introduced Dr. Joseph Johnson as the new Assistant Superintendent.
- Maloney Magnet School is the recipient of the 2022 National Magnet School of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America Award.
- 2022 Superintendent Award's recipients.
- Message of appreciation to the Commissioners and Waterbury Community during her time of grief.

7. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

There were no President's Comments.

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' COMMENTS

Tenly Dessalines of Wilby High School commented on the following:

- Her school has just finished the Commissioner's Network Mid-year Audit and has made growth in nine out of 14 indicators and proficiency in three categories
- Staff has utilized a series of eight student group sessions.
- They're working with students to complete FAFSA.
- The Leap Program has visited over 170 homes of students who have not consistently been attending school.
- There will be a Spring production of "Fractured Fairy Tales", an original play written by the Drama Class.
- The Robotics Team, Project W-#8889, will have their first Robotics Competition in March.
- Wilby's Marching Band will perform at the Waterbury St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Gianni Bonval of Wilby High School commented on the following:

- The Varsity Basketball team won 38-35 against Kaynor.
- In December Wilby recognized over 30 students for academic excellence.
- For the Student Narrative, Wilby has decided to speak about voices for change. Students are struggling with their emotions and figuring out what they want to do with their lives and how to resolve conflict. Wilby's proposal is to address these challenges.

13. COMMITTEE ON POLICY & LEGISLATIONS

- 13.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez it was voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to approve the revised Use of Face Masks/Covers – Policy C-01.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas: Commissioners Brown, Hernandez, Ireland, Nardozzi, O'Brien, Orso, Pagano, Serrano-Adorno, Van Stone, and President Sweeney.

Dr. Ruffin shared a PowerPoint presentation on COVID Metrics & Survey Data which included information from the Thought Exchange Survey presented by Mr. Schwartz and local COVID-19 Metrics presented by Aisling McGuckin, Director of Public Health.

Commissioner Brown left at 7:56 p.m.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

SWEENEY: Does anyone wish to remove an item from the Consent Calendar?

President Sweeney proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 9.1 through 9.8 and 9.12 through 9.13.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Nardozzi, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.8, as listed:

- 9.1 The Committee of the Whole moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve a Temporary Limited Property Access and Use Agreement with Mohegan Basketball Club, LLC, for Wendell Cross Elementary School, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Office of the Corporation Counsel.
- 9.2 The Committee of the Whole moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve a Memorandum of Understanding with State Education Resource Center (SERC), at no cost, to support programming for racial equity in education, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Office of the Corporation Counsel.
- 9.3 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve a Professional Services Agreement with Legends of Learning, Inc. for a five-year Legends of Learning Game Based Learning Platform Subscription, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Office of the Corporation Counsel.
- 9.4 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve Amendment One (#1) to the Agreement with The National Center of Education and the Economy (NCEE), subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Office of the Corporation Counsel.
- 9.5 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve a Professional Services Agreement with Digital Theatre (US) LLC for an eight-year Digital Theatre+ Subscription, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Office of the Corporation Counsel.

- 9.6 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve a Professional Services Agreement with The Art of Education University, LLC for seven-year Subscription Art Curriculum Program, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Office of the Corporation Counsel.
- 9.7 The Committee on Building & School Facilities moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve the use of school facilities, at no charge, by the following school organizations and/or City departments:

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES
Park & Rec.	Kennedy pool: March 26 & 27, 10:00am to 8:00pm
V. Cuevas	Kennedy pool, May 21, 1:00pm to 8:00pm (Lifeguard Training sessions)
*Tax Dept. N. Olson	Kennedy aud.: 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, 5/26, 5:00 – 8:00 pm (Tax auctions)
*M. Bergin	Sprague gym: Friday, March 4, 8:00am – 12:30 pm (CPR/First Aid for preschool staff)
*M. Pogodziński	Wallace media ctr.: Friday, February 18, 3:00pm – 7:00pm (CPR/First Aid for school staff & administrators)
*Mayor's Office D. LePore	Kennedy aud.: Monday, March 14, 5:00-8:00 pm (Eversource meeting/public)
*S. Smyth	Crosby aud.: Friday, March 11, 9am – 12pm and Saturday, March 12, 12:30pm – 4:00pm for performances of Moana, Jr.
*J. Begnal	Wilby aud.: Thursday, February 17, 9:00 – 10:00 am (Police presentation to P.E. classes)

- 9.8 The Committee on Building & School Facilities moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve the use of school facilities by groups and organizations subject to fees and insurance as required:

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES
Berkshire League A McNeil	Kennedy pool: Sat., March 5, 11:00am to 5:00pm (swim championship)
*Sunshine Dance Ctr. E. Summa	Kennedy aud., café, music room: June 4 and 5, 10:00am – 5:30pm (Dance Recital)

REQUESTING WAIVERS:

Chabad Yeshiva Rabbi Eisenbach	Kingsbury café: Sunday, April 3, 10:30am to 2:30pm (Synagogue craft activity)	(\$210.)
Wtby. P.A.L.	Career Academy gym: Sat., March 26, 7:30am to 5:00pm	(\$441.)
Ofc. T. Lott	Reed gym: Sat., March 26, 7:30am to 5:00pm (gym use in conjunction with Special Olympics)	(\$441.)
*Wtby. Knights C. Jones	Wilson gym: Feb. 26 & 27 and March 5 & 6, 7:45am to 4:00pm (football evaluations/workouts)	(\$966.)

GROUPS NOT SUBJECT TO FEES OR WAIVER DUE TO TIME OF USE OR PREVIOUS WAIVER:

Madre Latina, Inc. Yoellie Iglesias	Reed café: Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 pm, 1/25 thru 4/19/22 (after school program)
Waterbury Ballers P. Lott	Career Academy gym: 3/1/22 – 6/30/22, 5:00-7:30 pm (basketball program)
*CT. Rebound	Wilby gym: Mondays & Fridays, 6:00-8:30 pm, 3/18/22-6/24/22

D. Parker (basketball program) (gym use when available per A.D.)

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

11. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- 11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Orso, it was voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with State Education Resource Center (SERC), at no cost, for Alternative School Pilot Program, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Office of the Corporation Counsel.
- 11.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Dr. Patricia Frageau as an Impartial Hearing Officer (Board) for expulsion hearings per Connecticut General Statutes 10-233d.
- 11.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve an Agreement with the University of Connecticut (UConn), at no cost, for the Collegiate Awareness and Preparation Program (ConnCAP).

12. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- 12.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve Amendment Two (2) to the Professional Services Agreement with Dr. Kweku Sam for School Medical Advisor services as required by Connecticut General Statutes, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Office of the Corporation Counsel.
- 12.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve a Construction Contract with M. J. Daly, LLC for school chiller replacement at Maloney School, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Office of the Corporation Counsel.
- 12.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Nardozzi, it was voted unanimously to approve a Construction Contract with M. J. Daly, LLC for boiler replacement at Kingsbury School, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Office of the Corporation Counsel.
- 12.4 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez it was voted unanimously to approve a Construction Contract with Creative Recreation, LLC for playground equipment and installation at International School, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Office of the Corporation Counsel.

- 12.5 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez it was voted unanimously to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Area Cooperative Education Services (ACES) for Early Childhood Educational Consulting Services, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Office of the Corporation Counsel.
- 12.6 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez it was voted unanimously to approve to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to transmit the 2022-2023 Department of Education's budget request in the amount of \$158,375,000.00, to the Mayor.
- 12.7 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez it was voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with Dr. Patricia Frageau to provide Impartial Hearing Officer services.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to convene into executive session at 8:10 p.m. for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

Present: President Sweeney, Commissioners Hernandez, Ireland, Nardoizzi, O'Brien, Orso, Pagano, Serrano-Adorno, and Van Stone. Also present was Dr. Ruffin, Mayor O'Leary, and Attorney Shaw.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 8:36 p.m. with no votes taken.

15. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

- 15.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Orso, it was voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Hannah S. Sam, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, as PreK-8 Principal, Reed School, effective March 7, 2022.
- 15.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Stephanie B. Carpentieri, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, as Elementary School Principal, Sprague School, effective immediately.
- 15.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Brittany J. Dunn, as recommended by the Superintendent

of Schools, as Elementary Vice Principal, Bucks Hill School, effective immediately.

- 15.4 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Sonja Selenica, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, as Elementary Vice Principal, Chase School, effective March 7, 2022.
- 15.5 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Raymond J. Irrera, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, as Elementary Vice Principal, Sprague School, effective immediately.
- 15.6 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Peter Flammia, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, as High School Vice Principal, Waterbury Career Academy, effective immediately.

16. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Nardozi and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 16.1 through 16.4, Superintendent's Notification to the Board, as listed:

16.1 Extended School Hours appointments:

<i>School</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
Bucks Hill	Alvarado, Stephanie	Para
Bucks Hill	Brunelli, Teri	Secretary
Driggs	Connolly, Mauralee	Sub. Teacher
International	Tucker, Alexis	Para

16.2 Wallace Middle School Commissioner Network "We Are Wallace" appointments: Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Team:

Haley Grabowski Debra Rosado Lianne Torres Kyle Ungar

16.3 Resignations:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Effective</i>
Acosta, Elisia	Tinker Grade 5	02/06/22
Aguirre-Galan, Ashley	CHS Special Education	03/10/22
Corbo, Sarah	WSMS ELA	02/28/22
Cornacchio, Mark	CHS Social Studies	01/21/22
Farella, Michelle	Regan/Washington	02/11/22
Gemmell, Sherrie	NEMS ELA	02/28/22
Hidri, Erjona	WSMS Computer	02/25/22
Lawson, Stephanie	Driggs/Reed School Psychologist	02/18/22 (correction)

Lins, Alexandra	WHS Social Studies	02/08/22
Manka, Michelle	Districtwide SLP	03/07/22
Marcal, Kekky	Gilmartin Grade 4	02/11/22
Murphy, Jessica	Reed ELA Grade 6	01/28/22
Peters, Courtney	Duggan ELA	02/14/22
Pineda, Jessica	Hopeville Bilingual Grade 1	02/17/22
Prisco, Teresa	State Street Special Ed	02/10/22
Schultz, Olivia (Keefe)	Carrington Grade 4	02/11/22
Sickles, Meghan	W. Cross Kindergarten	02/18/22
Singley, Paul	WHS ELA	02/04/22
Spellman, Adriana	Wilson Special Education	01/28/22
Woodward, Karen	Rotella Grade 1	12/10/21

16.4 Retirements:

Barbieri, Nikki – Generali Grade 2, effective 06/30/22.

Zuraitis, Jeanette – WHS Special Education, effective 06/30/22.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Pagano and duly seconded by Commissioner Orso, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:57 p.m.

ATTEST:



Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education

This meeting in its entirety may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yK5sf9lfewo>