

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Workshop/Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

(For the December 16, 2021 Board Meeting)

WORKSHOP/COMMITTEE MEETING

The Board of Education Committee meetings were held on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. In an effort to adhere to social distancing guidelines, the 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 Channel 96, Frontier Channel 6096), <https://youtu.be/lbQwV-Wy4KY> or listened to via teleconference by calling 1-203-590-9756.

The public was offered the opportunity to address the Board during the public portion of the meeting by calling 1-203-590-9756 between 5:00 and 5:15 p.m. and provide your name, address, and phone number. You will then need to participate via the above teleconference call information at 5:30 p.m. The Board President will call upon you to address the Board during the public speaking portion of the meeting.

PRESENT: President Sweeney, Commissioners Brown, Hernandez, Ireland, Nardozi, O'Brien, Orso, Serrano-Adorno, and Van Stone (left at 6:33 p.m.).

ABSENT: Commissioner Pagano.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Verna D. Ruffin, Chief Financial Officer Doreen Biolo, Chief Turnaround Officer Matthew Brown, Assistant Superintendent Noreen Buckley, Assistant Superintendent Jade Gopie, Assistant Superintendent Juan Mendoza, Director of Communications Belen Michelis, Director of Pupil Services Miguel Pabón, 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 and Technology Will Zhuta.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Dania Gray and Diana Sooknauth of Kennedy High School.

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

A.G.E.N.D.A

SILENT PRAYER

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Isa and Julio Alves of 83 Mildred Avenue, Waterbury, spoke regarding shortage of substitute teachers, paras, teachers, and special education teachers. She believes there is a crisis going on at Carrington. Students have been without a Math teacher for four months. ELA teacher and Science teacher are now out. She offered her assistance in anything she can do.

Latayna Murray of 28 Clematis Avenue, Waterbury, spoke regarding staff at Carrington. Her son has been without a Para. High concern with the staffing issue. Asked what interventions are going to take place to help our kids. She's willing to do anything to help get the kids what they need.

President Sweeney welcomed Commissioner Ireland and O'Brien. Congratulated reelected Commissioners – Tom Van Stone, Juanita Hernandez, and Melissa Serrano-Adorno. She also introduced students Dania Gray and Diana Sooknauth of Kennedy High School.

1. Committee on Finance/5 minutes ~ Request approval of an Agreement with Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, Inc., for music mentoring services at Waterbury Arts Magnet School – H. Maxson. (Darren Schwartz)
2. Committee on Finance/5 minutes ~ Request approval of an Agreement with Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, Inc., for band mentoring services for Waterbury Public Schools – H. Maxson. (Darren Schwartz)
3. Committee on Finance/5 minutes ~ Request approval to apply for the Connecticut State Department of Education Family Resource Center ESSER II Grant for Reed and Wilson Schools – L. Allen Brown, M. Bergin, D. Schwartz.
4. Committee on Finance/5 minutes ~ October 2021 Monthly Expenditure Report – D. Biolo.
5. Superintendent's Update/20 minutes ~ (no backup) – Dr. Ruffin.
 - a) Crisis Intervention Team for Youth Program – L. Ariola/State Street Principal, Lt. Kim Binnette/WPD, Lt. Mike Stokes/WPD. (Lara White, Nyree Toucet, Melinda Rodriguez)
 - b) ARP/ESSER Update – D. Biolo.

Commissioner Van Stone left at 6:33 p.m.

6. Committee on Policy & Legislation/5 minutes ~ Request approval of revised Individualized Education Program/Specialized Education Program Policy – 6159 – M. Pabon.
7. Committee on Policy & Legislation/5 minutes ~ Request approval of the following revised policies – D. Schwartz:

- a) Ages of Attendance – 5112.
 - b) Attendance Requirements for Course Credit or Promotion – 5113.
 - c) Attendance Requirements for Students Under 18 Years of Age with Respect to Truancy – 5113.2.
 - d) High School Grading/QPR – 6146.1.
8. Committee on Policy & Legislation/5 minutes ~ Request approval of proposed Rules and Regulations Appendix – A. Sweeney.
 9. Committee on Policy & Legislation/5 minutes ~ Request approval of proposed Board Member Handbook – A. Sweeney.
 10. Committee on Building & School Facilities/3 minutes ~ Use of school facilities by school organizations and/or City departments – W. Zhuta.
 11. Committee on Building & School Facilities/3 minutes ~ Use of school facilities by outside organizations and/or waiver requests – W. Zhuta.
 12. Superintendent’s Notification to the Board/5 minutes:
 - a. Athletic appointments:
 Arisian, Michael – WSMS Assistant Swim Coach, effective 12/01/21.
 - b. Appointments:
 DePaolo, Victoria – Instruction Tutor/Edgenuity, CHS.
 Neff, Michele – Instructional Tutor/Edgenuity, WCA.
 - c. Extended School Hours appointments:

School	Last name	First Name	Assignment
Driggs	Gomez	Bridgette	Admin M-W
	Abarzua	Lauren	Teacher
	Modeen	Brianne	Teacher
	Matsuyama	Hailey	Teacher
	Rodrigues	Nicole	Teacher
	Menzies	Jillian	Teacher
	Atkinson	Jennifer	Clerical
B.W. Tinker	Sagendorf	Jan	Sub. Administrator
	Gannon	Danielle	Teacher
	Corsano	Laura	Teacher
	Aresti	Rob	Teacher
	Acosta	Elisia	Teacher
	Brown	Edith	Sub. Teacher
	Mulhern	Jacqueline	Sub Teacher
	Ramos	Sharon	Paraprofessional

	Diaz	Mildred	Paraprofessional
	Eldredge	Sandy	Paraprofessional
	Giordano	Maureen	Paraprofessional

d. Resignations:

Bell, Nicholas – Tinker Grade 5, effective 11/24/21.
Caligan, Jean – WSMS ELA, effective 12/03/21.
Camacho, Reuel – NEMS Music, effective 11/22/21.
Condon-Santore, Zoe – DW Speech Language Pathologist, effective 12/23/21.
Durkin, Lynda – Kingsbury/Tinker ESL, effective 12/17/21.
Fort, Ashley – Reed Math/Science Grade 6, effective 12/02/21.
Greene, David – WMS ELA, effective 12/10/21.
Minty, Jessica – Rotella Special Education, effective 11/30/21.
Ortiz, Dannah – CHS Spanish, effective 11/30/21.
Robillard, Leigh – Kingsbury Speech Language Pathologist, effective 12/23/21.
Yapa, Kumudinie – WHS Math, effective 12/17/21.


e. Retirements:

Evans, Blythe – Tinker/Regan Social Worker, effective 12/23/21.
Hayes, George – WCA Social Worker, effective 01/14/22.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – the Board convened into Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee and returned at 7:19 p.m. with no votes taken.

Present in Executive Session: President Sweeney, Commissioners Brown, Hernandez, Ireland, Nardozi, O'Brien, Orso, and Serrano-Adorno. Also present was Dr. Ruffin, Mr. Mendoza, and Attorney Shaw.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:20 p.m.

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