

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ SHERIFF CALL/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 1, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

City Hall, Veterans Memorial Hall, 235 Grand Street, Waterbury, CT

PRESENT: Mayor O’Leary, Commissioners Brown, Harvey, Hernandez, Orso, Pagano, Stango, Sweeney, Jason Van Stone, and Tom Van Stone.

ABSENT: Commissioner Serrano-Adorno.

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Michael Dalton and Superintendent Dr. Verna Ruffin.

Mayor O’Leary called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

MAYOR: At this time I’ll call upon City Clerk Michael J. Dalton to administer the Oath of Office to the Board of Education elect – Elizabeth C. Brown, Rocco F. Orso, Charles E. Pagano, Ann M. Sweeney, and Jason Van Stone.

City Clerk Dalton proceeded to administer the Oath of Office to the following: Elizabeth C. Brown, Rocco F. Orso, Charles E. Pagano, Ann M. Sweeney, and Jason Van Stone.

ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Orso.

ORSO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Pagano.

PAGANO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Serrano-Adorno (absent). Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CITY CLERK: I'll now entertain a motion for a temporary president for the purpose of electing a permanent president of the Honorable Board. The Clerk recognizes Commissioner Sweeney for the purpose of a nomination.

SWEENEY: Honorable Mayor and members of this Board, it is my privilege **to place into nomination the name of Commissioner Charles Stango as Temporary President.**

PAGANO: **I second that nomination.**

CITY CLERK: We have a nomination and a second. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Any other nominations? Hearing no further nominations, may I have a motion to close the nominations for the position of temporary president of the Board?

BROWN: **I move to close the nominations.**

HARVEY: **I second that motion.**

CITY CLERK: Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Nominations are closed. May I have a motion to approve Commissioner Stango as Temporary President?

HARVEY: **Motion to approve.**

T. VAN STONE: **Second.**

CITY CLERK: Any discussion? All in favor, opposed. Motion carries. Commissioner Stango, please come forward and assume the role as Temporary President of the Board.

STANGO: Thank you Mr. Mayor, honorable members of the Board of Education. The matter now before this Board is the election of a permanent President of the Board of Education. The Chair recognizes Commissioner Harvey for the purpose of a nomination.

HARVEY: Thank you Mr. President. Honorable members of the Board of Education, it is indeed both an honor and a privilege **to place into nomination the name of Commissioner Charles Pagano, as President of the Waterbury Board of Education.**

STANGO: We have the nomination of Commissioner Pagano as President. Do I have a second? Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: **I second that nomination.**

STANGO: We have a nomination and we have a second. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

J. VAN STONE: **I move to close the nominations.**

BROWN: **Second.**

STANGO: Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Nominations are closed. The business before this Board is the election of Charles E. Pagano as President of the Board of Education. We will now have a roll call - Madam Clerk.

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Orso.

ORSO: Yes

CLERK: Commissioner Pagano.

PAGANO: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Yes.

STANGO: Motion carries. President Pagano please come forward and assume the Chair.

PAGANO: Thank you everyone especially my colleagues on the Board of Education. I thank you for your support, your trust, and I will be there for you going down the path forward. I just want you to know my definition of leadership is helping others do better. The kids and the rest of my team. Thank you very much.

The matter now before the Board is the election of a Vice President. The Chair recognizes Commissioner Brown for the purpose of that nomination.

BROWN: Mr. President, honorable members of the Board of Education, it is both an honor and a privilege **to place into nomination, my friend and colleague, the name of Commissioner Karen Harvey as Vice President.**

T. VAN STONE: **Second.**

PAGANO: We have a nomination and a second. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? May I have a motion to close nominations for Vice President?

ORSO: **I move to close the nominations.**

J. VAN STONE: **Second.**

PAGANO: Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Nominations are closed. We'll now have a roll call vote for the election of Commissioner Karen Harvey as Vice President. Madam Clerk.

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Orso.

ORSO: Yes

CLERK: Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: No.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Yes.

CLERK: President Pagano.

PAGANO: Yes.

CLERK: Eight/one; motion carries.

PAGANO: Congratulations Vice President Karen Harvey. The matter now before this Board is the election of a Secretary. The chair recognizes Commissioner Juanita Hernandez for the purpose of the nomination.

HERNANDEZ: Mr. President, Honorable Members of the Board of Education, it is both an honor and a privilege to **place into nomination the name of Commissioner Ann Sweeney as Secretary.**

STANGO: **Second.**

PAGANO: We have a nomination and a second. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? May I have a motion close the nominations for Secretary.

BROWN: I move to close the nominations.

J. VAN STONE: **Second.**

PAGANO: Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Nominations are closed. We'll now have a roll call vote for the election of Commissioner Ann Sweeney as Secretary of this Board of Education. Madam Clerk.

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Yes.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Orso.

ORSO: Yes

CLERK: Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Yes.

CLERK: President Pagano.

PAGANO: Yes. Congratulations Secretary Sweeney. The business before this Board now is the adoption of the By-laws.

By-laws

Organization

- a) The Board of Education shall consist of the Mayor and ten elected members. Six members shall constitute a quorum. The Mayor is the Chairman Ex-Officio of the Board. The members of the Board shall elect, by majority vote, a President, Vice-President, and Secretary.
- b) The organizational meeting of the Board shall be held at such time as the Mayor may direct or on December 1st of each odd numbered year. The meeting shall be called to order by the Chairman. Before acting, the members shall be duly

sworn to the faithful performance of the duties of their office as prescribed by law. The Board shall proceed to elect by roll call by a majority of its members, present and absent, a President, Vice President, and Secretary.

- c) The Board may allow student representatives to the Board of Education consistent with Corporation Counsel's opinion of December 31, 2018 and Board policy.

Public Meetings

- a) All meetings of the Board of Education shall be open to the public with the exception of executive sessions (cf. 9320 – Meetings)
- b) All meetings of the Board shall be held at its office or at any other place designated by a majority vote of the Board.
- c) The Board shall hold its regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month. The President of the Board shall have the discretion to reschedule meetings under the above formula if conflicts arise.
- d) All meetings shall be held at 6:30 p.m. or at any other time designated by the majority vote of the Board. Committee meetings shall be held at 5:30 p.m., unless otherwise designated by the Chairman.
- e) Special meetings may be called and held whenever requested in writing by any three members. The written request shall contain a description of the matters to be considered, and shall be sent to the President of the Board with a copy to the Clerk of the Board. No business shall be transacted at such special meeting other than that specified in the call.
- f) Citizens are encouraged to submit prepared written statements to the Commissioners. Comments by an individual shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes. Commissioners believe that this will permit wider participation while also expediting the business of the meeting.
- g) Commissioners may respond to the concerns and/or comments of public speakers only with the permission of the Chair and **without debate**.
- h) Smoking will not be permitted in any room in which a meeting of the Board of Education is being conducted (cf. 1331 – Smoking in School Facilities).
- i) During meetings of the Board of Education, all cellphones or other electronic communication devices shall be turned off or changed to a silence mode.

Executive Sessions

The public may be excluded from meetings of the Board of Education which are declared to be executive sessions. Executive sessions may be held upon a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting taken at a public meeting for only one or more of the following reasons, and may not be held for any other reason:

1. Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer or employee, provided that such individual may require that discussion be held at an open meeting.
2. Strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation.
3. Matters concerning security strategy or the deployment of security personnel, or devices affecting public security.
4. Discussion of the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate by a political subdivision of the state when publicity regarding such site, lease, sale, purchase or construction would cause a likelihood of increased price until such time as all of the property has been acquired or all proceedings or transactions concerning same have been terminated or abandoned.
5. Discussion of any matter which would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein described in subsection (b) of section 1-19 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Construction of the Agenda

The Superintendent in cooperation with the President of the Board of Education shall prepare an agenda for each meeting. Any member of the Board of Education may call the Superintendent to request an item be placed on the agenda. Deadline for requests is 48 hours prior to the legally required public posting of the agenda. Finalization of the agenda lies with the Board President.

Posting of the Agenda

At least 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting, the agenda shall be posted in the Office of the Board of Education and in the Office of City Clerk and shall be filed in the Superintendent's Office.

Duties of the Chairman

The Chairman shall call the Board to order at the **appointed hour**, or as soon as a quorum is present. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to assure that all proceedings are in compliance with the laws enacted by the General Assembly, these rules and regulations and, otherwise, parliamentary usage.

Duties of the President

- a) In the absence of the Chairman, the Board President shall preside at all Board meetings.
- b) The President shall appoint liaison positions as appropriate.
- c) The President shall appoint ad-hoc committees as needed.
- d) The President or his/her designee will conduct orientation/training for all new Board members.

Duties of the Vice President

In the absence of Chairman and the President, the Vice President shall preside at the Board meeting.

Duties of the Secretary

- a) Review and report minutes to the Board.
- b) In the absence of the Chairman, President, and Vice President, the Secretary shall preside at the Board meeting.

Order of Business

- a) Business shall proceed in the following order, unless the Board otherwise directs:
 1. Silent Prayer
 2. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
 3. Minutes of previous meeting
 4. Communications
 5. Public addresses the Board
 6. Superintendent's Report
 7. President's Comments
 8. Consent Calendar
 9. Committee reports
 10. Unfinished business of preceding meeting only
 11. Other unfinished, new, and miscellaneous business
 12. Adjournment
- b) The yeas and nays shall be taken and recorded by the Clerk of the Board whenever called for by any member of the Board.

Standing Committees

- a) The President shall appoint the following standing committees, each consisting of a minimum of three members to serve two calendar years or less, the member first named to be chairperson, who will appoint a vice-chairperson:
 - 1) The Committee on Policy and Legislation
 - 2) The Committee on Curriculum
 - 3) The Committee on School Personnel
 - 4) The Committee on Building and School Facilities
 - 6) The Committee on Finance
 - 7) The Committee on Grievances

At least one member of each committee shall be a member of the minority party.

- b) The President shall call committees together when requested to do so by the respective Chairperson, but in case the Chairperson refuses or neglects, then, at the request of the remaining members of the Committee, he shall call a meeting of the Committee, and a majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- c) Every report shall be signed by a majority of the Committee. A minority report in writing may be presented.
- d) All Committee actions are subject to the approval of the Board.
- e) The Board will allow electronic participation of members of Standing Committees and Ad-hoc Committees in accordance with Board Policy #9005 "Electronic Participation".

Committee on Policy and Legislation

- a) The Committee on Policy and Legislation shall review all recommended additions, revisions or deletions of Policy, as referred by the Superintendent of Schools, pertaining to operation and functions of the School District. The Committee will maintain open communication with State and Federal officials regarding the district's needs and how they may be affected by proposed, pending, and/or enacted state and federal legislation.
- b) The Committee shall have general authority over the by-laws of the Board.

- c) The Committee will keep the Board abreast of any legislation that could impact the district.
- d) The Committee shall report to the Committee of the Whole prior to Board action. Approval of the full Board is required for all communications of positions on legislative issues on the Board's behalf.
- e) The Committee shall ensure alignment of Policy to Local, State, and Federal Enactments.
- f) The Committee shall evaluate the effectiveness of current standing committees bi-annually in October of the even years.

Committee on Curriculum

- a) All proposals to add to or change the course of study or the textbooks used in the school system shall be referred to and reported upon by this Committee prior to the action by the Board. In reporting upon any such proposals, the Committee shall give due consideration to the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools and the consultative groups acting under the provisions of School Board Policy.
- b) All requisitions for books, supplies and the like shall be presented to this Committee and/or its duly appointed representatives for approval.
- c) Proposals for special regulations or changes to regulations regarding instruction in the school system shall be submitted to the Committee for transmittal to the Board.
- d) Proposals for overnight field trips and/or to destinations outside the State of Connecticut shall be submitted to the Committee for transmittal to the Board.

Committee on School Personnel

- a) The Committee on School Personnel shall act as an advisory body to the Superintendent in the appointment and transfer of teachers and in all other matters concerning the teaching and administrative and supervisory corps.
- b) The Committee shall conduct studies from time to time, as may appear necessary, regarding the number of teaching and supervisory personnel required to achieve the goals of the system and the salaries and other benefits required to obtain and retain professional personnel of a high caliber. Such studies shall include consultation with the Superintendent and other interested standing committees. The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Superintendent for such use as he/she may require and for transmittal to the Board.
- c) The Committee shall develop methods by which teachers' performance shall be evaluated to determine whether such performance meets the standards developed by the Board so as to entitle the teacher to advancement on the salary schedule if not at the maximum of the applicable schedule.
- d) The Committee shall also develop methods by which the performance of supervisors and administrators shall be evaluated to determine whether such performance meets the standards established by the Board for the administrative or supervisory position to which they are assigned.
- e) The Committee shall be responsible for reporting to the Board the names of those teachers, supervisors and/or administrators who should no longer be employed by the Board on the ground that they have failed to meet the standards established by the Board for their particular position, and should not be advanced

to the next step in the applicable salary schedule because of their failure to meet the standards developed by the Board.

Committee on Building and School Facilities

- a) Subject to Board approval, the Committee on Building and School Facilities shall have general authority for the maintenance and operation of all buildings. The Committee shall report to the Board upon the desirability of constructing new buildings or enlarging pre-existing facilities. When so instructed by the Board, the Committee shall procure plans and specifications for additions or new facilities and submit them to the Board for its approval.
- b. The Committee shall coordinate the Board's operation of school buildings with other state and local authorities having an interest in the same, such as the Fire Department, the Health Department, the Plumbing Inspector, and the State Board of Education.
- b) The Committee shall supervise the appointment of all employees not otherwise provided for in these Policies, including such extra or part-time help as may be necessary, all in conformity with the Charter of the City of Waterbury, if applicable.
- c) The Committee shall exercise overall supervision of the school bus program. It shall consult with the administrative personnel who are assigned the responsibility of operating the program. The Committee shall conduct periodic studies of the effectiveness of the program and shall submit reports, recommendations, and proposals to the Board for its approval.
- d) The Committee shall present to the Board for its approval all requests for permission to use school buildings for all academic and/or non-academic purposes.

Committee on Finance

- a) The Committee on Finance shall serve the Superintendent in an advisory capacity in conjunction with the preparation of the annual education budget and the Superintendent's presentation of the budget to the Board of Aldermen.
- b) The Committee shall be responsible for reviewing all grants and grant-funded contracts or agreements submitted for Board of Education approval for submission to the State and/or other agency.
- c) The Committee shall be responsible for seeing that the lunch program is running as efficiently as possible, both monetarily and nutritionally, and that it meets State and Federal mandates in regard to the nutrition of the children in the Waterbury Public Schools.
- d) Financial reports of all school entertainment and athletic events shall be reported to the Department of Education's Chief Operating Officer in writing within thirty days of the event and said Officer may control the disposition of the same, provided, that the Athletic Association of each high school may submit an annual financial report at the end of the school year in June, in lieu of monthly reports.

Committee on Grievances

- a) The Committee on Grievances shall assist the Board in the Board's determination of grievances. All grievances shall be submitted to the Committee. The Committee, in conjunction with the President of the Board, shall schedule and hold the necessary hearings to comply with any collective bargaining

- agreement in effect between the Board and duly authorized representative of its employees or a group of its employees.
- b) The Clerk shall be responsible for the preparation and distribution of grievance forms.
 - c) Committee members are expected to be present during all grievance hearings.

Miscellaneous

Any procedures or provisions not covered by the Charter in the performance of this Board shall be governed by "The Scott, Foresman Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised".

SWEENEY: I move to adopt the By-laws of the Board of Education as presented.

BROWN: Second.


PAGANO: The motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Motion passes unanimously. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

BROWN: So moved.

T. VAN STONE: Second.

ADJOURNMENT at 3:09 p.m.

ATTEST


Carrie A. Swain, Clerk,
Board of Education