

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, August 1, 2019 at 7:15 p.m.

Waterbury Arts Magnet School, 16 South Elm Street, Waterbury, Connecticut

PRESENT: Vice President Harvey, Commissioners Awwad, Stango, Sweeney, J. Van Stone, and Tom Van Stone.

ABSENT: President Brown and Commissioners Hernandez, Pagano, and Serrano-Adorno.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Verna D. Ruffin, Deputy Superintendent Greg Rodriguez, Director of Special Education Melissa Baldwin, Chief Financial Officer Doreen Biolo, Chief Operating Officer William Clark, and Assistant Superintendent Janice Epperson.

SILENT PRAYER

Vice President Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. with a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Vice President Harvey led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

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

STANGO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner J. Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Brown (absent).

PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD – there were no public speakers.

1. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

1.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve of the appointment of Lauren E. LaVecchia as House Principal, West Side Middle School, effective immediately.

HARVEY: Discussion?

SUPERINTENDENT: Yes, thank you Commissioner. I very strongly recommend Ms. LaVecchia. She has come to us very prepared to take on the leadership role a house principal in one of our Turnaround Schools. She brings with her a lot of experience working with students on a multitude of great levels. She brings teaching and learning experience to the district as well as experience with careers and career pathways. She is a breath of fresh air and I think will be an excellent team player as the school takes on the responsibility of writing a very extensive grant for the Commissioner's Network as West Side Middle School is a school in Turnaround.

HARVEY: Thank you Dr. Ruffin. Any other discussion? All those in favor. We'll do a roll call.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Commissioners Awwad, Harvey, Stango, Sweeney, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone – 6

(applause)

LaVECCHIA: Thank you Dr. Ruffin, Commissioners, for this opportunity. I'm really very excited to join the family at West Side and get working with the team in place there and I can't wait till join the Waterbury community.

(applause)

1.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve of the appointment of Sharell N. Herbert as House Principal, North End Middle School, effective immediately.

HARVEY: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion?

SUPERINTENDENT: Thank you Commissioner. I highly recommend Ms. Sharell N. Herbert as the Assistant Principal at North End, House Principal at North End Middle School. Ms. Herbert comes to us very well prepared, she is a Waterburian and she has had an extensive opportunity to grow here in the City and brings a strong contribution to teaching and learning, curriculum and instruction. She is a team player and I think she

certainly will be an outstanding asset at North End Middle School as that too is a school in Turnaround.

HARVEY: Thank you Dr. Ruffin. Can we have a roll call please.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Commissioners Awwad, Harvey, Stango, Sweeney, J. Van Stone,
and T. Van Stone – 6

(applause)

HERBERT: Good evening. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each of the Commissioners on the Board, Dr. Ruffin, and the Central Office leadership team for this opportunity to be a part of the leadership team in the Waterbury Public School District. Additionally, I'd like to thank my wonderful family who had my back all the way, my wonderful . . . that are here as well, as well as friends who have come to support me this evening. So thank you all very much. As a student in the Waterbury Public School District I had strong teachers and strong mentors who fostered my confidence and encouraged me to reach my fullest potential. As a House Principal at North End, I will provide support to our teachers as an instructional leader and will collaborate with my administrators in the school to ensure that we will achieve the learning goals to support our students academically, socially, and emotionally. I will work diligently to provide the type of educational development that will encourage our students to be life-long learners. Thank you again for your confidence you have shown in my ability and making me a part of this wonderful district. Thank you very much.

(applause)

1.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve of the appointment of Dr. Julia Trevino as Vice Principal, Crosby High School, effective immediately.

HARVEY: Discussion.

SUPERINTENDENT: Thank you Commissioner. I highly recommend Dr. Julia Trevino. She comes to us very highly prepared with a multitude of experiences in dual language, in working with ELL, in working with teaching and learning and teacher supports and curriculum and instruction and she is a strong supporter and advocate for all children. I'm very impressed and also just as very small point of recognition, Dr. Trevino also had some background in Texas and she, like I, got here to Connecticut as soon as we could. So I'd like to highly recommend her for the position of Assistant Principal at Crosby High School.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Commissioners Awwad, Harvey, Stango, Sweeney, J. Van Stone,
and T. Van Stone – 6

(applause)

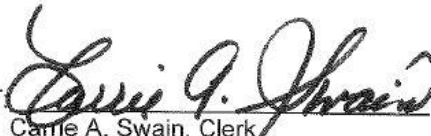
TREVINO: Thank you Dr. Ruffin and Commissioners. I feel very honored and very nervous, very happy, and I will give 100% to offer a high quality education to every student in my new building. I'm very happy. Thank you.

(applause)

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Awwad and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST


Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education