

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Mayor O'Leary (left at 7:08 p.m.), President Brown, Commissioners Harvey, Hernandez, Pagano, Serrano-Adorno, Stango, Sweeney, Jason Van Stone, and Tom Van Stone.

ABSENT: Commissioner Awwad.

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

1. SILENT PRAYER

President Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a moment of silence.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Hernandez led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Awwad (absent). Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Pagano.

PAGANO: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Serrano-Adorno.

SERRANO-ADORNO: Here.

CLERK: 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.

CLERK: President Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Mayor O'Leary

O'LEARY: Here.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file the following communications:

- a. Email communication from CAFE dated April 26, 2019 regarding Policy Highlights.
- b. Copy of communication dated April 29, 2019 from Civil Service certifying Ana Coelho for the position of Administrative Associate I.
- c. Copy of communication dated May 6, 2019 from Civil Service certifying Jerry Johnson for the position of Maintainer I.
- d. Email communication from CAFE dated May 10, 2019 regarding Policy Highlights.
- e. Copy of communications dated May 9, 2019 from Civil Service certifying Rustem Saliu and Robinson Gervacio Fernandez for the position of Maintainer I.
- f. Copy of communication dated May 9, 2019 from Civil Service to Rookmani Adolphus regarding offer of employment for position of Lunchroom Aide.
- g. Copy of communication dated May 9, 2019 from Civil Service to certifying Sarah Carpenter for the position of Teaching Vice Principal at NEMS.

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain. Motion carries. Thank you.

5. AWARD PRESENTATION

BROWN: It's my pleasure tonight to ask Jacob Adorno to the stand please. And Mr. Albini.

NICHOLAS ALBINI: Good evening. It is my pleasure this evening to be here with Jacob Adorno who is the recipient this year of the CAFE Student Leadership Award. And if you spent any time with Jacob you certainly walk away with a smile on your face. He's a true leader. He's our Senior Class President. He has a great attitude. He has always put everybody in a great frame of mind. He always has everybody else's wellbeing in his heart. So we are so proud to have him at Waterbury Career Academy. Unfortunately we are losing him this year, he's graduating, but he's going to make some other people very happy as he goes through life. Just remember, keep Waterbury in your thoughts as you go through life Jacob, we're Waterburians here. Thank you.

BROWN: And on behalf of CAFE.

(applause)

6. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to allow the public to address the Board at 6:32 p.m.

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain. Motion carries. First we'd like to hear from Mayor O'Leary.

Mayor O'Leary had the following comments: Good evening everyone – members of the Board, students. I wanted to come tonight to take about the Wendell Cross Project and I wanted to apologize to those folks who were disappointed I left early at the last meeting I had a family commitment that I had to honor. But I have a lot of information but I'm going to try to go through it really quickly. So the Board knows, the parents know, the project was approved by the Department of Administrative Services, we have Mr. Robert Ficeto from DAS here with us tonight and the Deputy Commissioner who is responsible for the approval. Oh, by the way, the school got approved today. And Deputy Commissioner Costa will be here as I mentioned in case there are any questions.

I can tell you this has been a more complicated process than most people would recognize and the reason is because we changed the scope of the project and we did so because it was in the best interest of the community and the City and the district which is most important, correct? So we had talked about another pre-k to eight school when it was being considered for construction and it was Carrington School which is in a neighborhood kind of similar to Wendell Cross and at the time it was Commissioner Jason Van Stone who brought up some concerns about two classes per grade and he was concerned that the school would fill up and be overcrowded quickly and he was exactly right. The decision was made to stay the course, we built the school, it's beautiful, it's magnificent but we've already outgrown it. So obviously we knew we were hiring a new school superintendent.

This summer Dr. Ruffin came in, when she heard about the scope of the project then toured the school and looked at the surrounding area and the number of children who are technically in the Wendell Cross district but are attending other schools because there is no room, she came up with a couple of things that were bothering here. One – she thought, you all know she thought we should add another grade, excuse me another class per grade. Two – she didn't like at all the fact that the plan was to do the construction while the children were on the site and quite frankly after listening to her concerns and this is someone who has vast experience in school construction projects, you know you think about what could happen and right away you just, it's easy to get your head around that. But we needed to work with the Department of Administrative Services who has brought a whole new level of scrutiny on school construction projects and it's understandably so. Most districts in Connecticut, as you know, their enrollment has been declining so it's odd to get a request to build a new school which has been approved for two classes per grade and then now we want to add. So we had to provide a lot of documentation, a lot of support, and you know I can't tell you how grateful I am to our friends at DAS because they were very accommodating, they continue to be accommodating, and quite honestly without their support I don't know that we would have been able to keep this project on time. So after Dr. Ruffin's arrival

and reviewing the project we did approach DAS in the late fall and expressed her concerns. At that time we were advised by DAS to go out and look for swing space or start to look for swing space in the event that they agreed to change the scope of the project. I did call directly to the Archdiocese and learned that Saint Mary's School was unavailable. I did call and find out that Saint Josephs was available and there was no mention of Saint Peter and Paul at that time folks because at that time there was no talk of St. Peter and Paul closing. Then fast forward to March 12, I got a call from the Archdiocese in the evening and said that tomorrow morning we're going to announce the closure of Saint Peter and Paul School. And, you know, first I was said, right, another Catholic grammar school is closing and then that evening I was thinking about if there would be any opportunity for Saint Peter and Paul to be used for swing space and I called the Archdiocese the very next day and I spoke to them and said look, the last day of school is June 15, there is no possible way that we're going to be able to accommodate your swing space, Saint Josephs is the best option. So we got an access agreement to Saint Josephs, in the meantime we had the building analyzed by our School Inspector's Office and others. In the meantime we had a number of different specialists go in the school and it has been empty for a long time, valid point, but the school basically was in good shape. Now you might recall that we've used this school in the past for swing space when we built Duggan School. So, at the end of the day you know we announced on May 2 that we were going to use St. Joes, I found out on May 13, excuse me, I found out on March 13 that the school was unavailable. The one mistake I made is I should have gone directly to the Parish Priest, Father Lavorgna. So I have done a lot of business with the Archdiocese and I've always dealt with the Archbishop's office so I didn't mean to slight Father Lavorgna I apologized to him, today's his birthday by the way. And you know Father Lavorgna wrote a letter today and he absolutely agreed with the Archdiocese that there was no way St. Peter and Paul could have been used for swing space for this project at least in the first year.

So here we are and through our dear friends at DAS who made several visits to the site – both their architectural team and their building committee team, we walked through Wendell Cross, we walked around Wendell Cross, we went everywhere you could go in Wendell Cross, and today we got the approval. This is really good news folks. This is a big, beautiful project. I can understand the parental concerns, anybody would be concerned, there's no, I don't have an issue with that. But what I will say is that there was a neighborhood school that had been closed for many, many years that we opened and is thriving and beautiful and that's Saint Lucy's. Saint Lucy's School and the PAL around it transformed that entire neighborhood, I mean it really did and our vision, long term is for this school to transform Brooklyn which has been neglected for a long, long time. They don't even have a park, they don't have anywhere for kids to really recreate. They don't have any social service centers, they don't have the South End Rec Center, they don't have PAL, they don't have the North End Rec Center, they don't have anything. They have Duggan School but it's limited access as we all know and so we thought and we still do that this is a good site.

The safety concerns, listen to me, they're valid in the sense that there are people on the sexual assault registry, there's more people in Brooklyn on the registry than surrounding Wendell Cross. There's a couple of reasons for that folks. One is because the population around Saint Josephs is much different than the population surrounding Saint Peter and Paul. In East Mountain, 2,200 people live within a quarter of a mile radius of East Mountain neighborhood school, Wendell Cross School, excuse me. In

East Mountain 2,200 people live around that school but in Brooklyn 3,900 live around a quarter mile radius of that school. Thirty-nine hundred people in a completely different socioeconomic demographic quite frankly. And so while we recognize that there are more people on the registry we also recognize there's different housing in the Brooklyn neighborhood but at the end of the day we will provide the necessary safety and security for those children every day and every evening that they're there. We will, we will do that. And at the end of the day those children will be in a school that's refurbished, remodeled, it certainly won't be nearly as nice as the school that they're moving into in two years but the opportunity to learn will be probably better than what they have in their existing building at Wendell Cross.

Now I know many of the Commissioners visited Saint Joes today and I think maybe yesterday and I didn't hear anyone expressing any concerns about the condition of the school and the quality of the school. But there was a letter that was written to all of you concerning the possibility of mold and so the Board of Public Health in Waterbury, Mr. William Quinn and Tom Solury did a thorough inspection of the property and wrote a letter to you, President Brown, stating that the Department of Public Health, William Quinn and I, Thomas Solury, performed an environmental evaluation of Saint Joseph's School located at 29 John Street on Thursday, May 16, 2019. I actually would have had them go in earlier but I just saw the letter that was written today concerning the mold. During our initial walkthrough of the property we found no detectable visual indoor mold growth. There was no odor of mold nor mildew detected inside the premises. We also found no visual conditions favorable for mold growth during our canvassing of the premises. So I didn't really think about the mold issue because I've been in this school and I didn't see mold in the school. We did have mold at St. Lucy's, that was a whole different ballgame up there, and of course we remediated it quickly. But the school itself I can't say enough things about our School Inspector's Office, our electricians for the city, our carpenters for the city, they've been working in the school and they've been really working hard, our painters, to get the school ready and to get the school done. We have a lease that is before you tonight that is negotiated with the Archdiocese. We're asking you to approve it. It gives us full access to the school and the convent and it also gives us full access to the parking areas around the schools. I know there's been a lot of questions and I know there's been a lot of concerns, and I get it, I absolutely get it. As Police Chief in this town obviously I know people's number one concern with their children is always going to be neighborhoods and crime. But I need to tell you that those concerns, the statistics do not support those concerns. You know they're actually is, I know this and it may be surprising to those who say otherwise, but the data collected and has been reviewed does not show significantly more crime in the Brooklyn Neighborhood of Saint Joseph's School then Wendell Cross School itself. In a couple of areas Wendell Cross School has just a little bit more crime in the area of stolen cars and one other category. So I just want to put your minds at ease. I want to let you know that the city is extraordinary committed. We continue to work very closely; we will continue to work very closely with DAS.

This has been an arduous project but at the end of the day we're doing it right. We don't want to build a building that we're going to outgrow. We don't want to build a building that will be inadequate before we turn the key and open the door. And so this is why it's been a little bit of an anxiety driven experience for some but you know it really will be a showcase in the City of Waterbury and most importantly it will serve the needs of the children in the entire district. Thank you.

BROWN: Commissioners. Any questions? Commissioner Adorno.

SERRANO-ADORNO: Probably not a question, maybe more of a statement. I myself visited with Mr. Clark the site today. As a mom raising four boys in this city I do understand their concerns about safety. But I do want the public and the parents to know that I personally in the walkthrough Mr. Clark did address all my questions and concerns. I even made some suggestions because I'm a mom and working with the students. I feel comfortable and to be honest, and just for the parents, maybe for their self-awareness, it is a temporary move. I know accepting any kind of change is difficult to adapt to but it is temporary and I do want to thank Dr. Ruffin for even seeing the bigger picture of the Wendell Cross and creating it into up to a grade eight. I think that would be very helpful. So I hope they kind of see the bigger picture and what's the really wellbeing of our students. Obviously everybody is concerned here on the Board and for you as well, is their safety and I don't have any doubt that that's going to be addressed and I know that I was told eventually when it's done maybe the parents could take a tour so they can see. But I do see the bigger picture and I think that we're in good hands so as a mom I just kind of want to maybe let them know that. I think it's going to be for the greater good of our students.

BROWN: Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Mayor, when we talk about safety and you're ensuring safety of the children there, I know we can't talk about what actual things that are going to be happening but I'm wondering if any thought was given to providing an SRO in that school much like we do at the middle schools and high schools because of the situation, at least to begin with.

MAYOR O'LEARY: Absolutely. You know the city is committed to a very prominent and high police presence in that school Commissioner Stango when we first open. The Police Chief will access it weekly and there will be significant police presence at that school to address the parent's concerns.

STANGO: Thank you.

MAYOR O'LEARY: Thank you.

Richard Wood had the following comments: Good evening everyone. I thought I'd comment on the recent program we had in our school system. We have a competition with the Gettysburg Address amongst the students and it was last week, over the past couple of months, but last week we had a finale at Rotella School and I thought I might comment on the fact that Ms. Henry who is the principal exceeded what needed to be done. She made sure the program ran correctly. She filled in the blanks where some of our volunteers weren't aware of which happens, I mean it's part of the thing. But I'd like to see more schools involved next year. This year we had 11 schools – Walsh, Wilson, Wendell Cross, Sprague, Rotella, Regan, Maloney, Hopeville, Gilmartin, Generali, and Chase. The thing is is that Gettysburg Address represents a teaching mechanism for democracy because we have to start replacing ourselves with people who understand the basics of democracy and the fact that we are a republic and the different things that go into being a democracy means we have to fill these seats behind me. There's very few people who have a vested interest here to support what you're about to do tonight.

I can see Mr. Stango has another grey hair listening to our great Mayor given us the facts of life regarding the new school but it sounds like a good deal and a fair setup to these children and taking care of our children is our first priority besides being voters. The key element here is that we have to show respect for our children by planning for their future. We have to look beyond next year, look ahead the next 10 years. Most of us will be around I think. I haven't called Rome lately so they haven't given me any final figures. But I thought you might like to know that the Gettysburg Address went down well, the winner was superb. Nice young lady with all the theatrics that go into the Gettysburg Address. The thing is that when Abe made that speech he had no idea the lasting impression he was gonna have on millions of people. He didn't even realize the value of his speech and yet it's now something that we comment on, we have competitions and we use it as an example of how well do you know America because we have to go back to the fact we have to replace ourselves with people who know our history. By the way the . . . I think is here and I planted 10 apple seeds last month and I think you might want to figure out where they're going to be and what's gonna happen with the results. You can do the research on it and have some fun with it but I plan utilizing those 10 apple seeds very thoroughly. I already went down to the Home Depot and I bought a tent because things occur and February comes and you can't just sleep in a sleeping bag which by the way we have too many homeless wandering the streets, we have to take some action on that. That's a story for another time. I'll bring that up to the Board of Aldermen. Peace be with you . . . , until next week, next month.

Amari Brantley, 175 Rumford Street, had the following comments: I'm the President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Waterbury Youth Council. Tonight I'm here to speak on the issue about school arrests and officers in the schools. Now I would just like to bring up one fact. Our dear Mayor, he spoke on how, or everyone here spoke on they would like safety, right, so can we talk about safety in future. Can we talk about the safety of our children's future. Now we talk about putting police officers already in our new schools. Now when we have this, do you guys, I believe, and my organization believes that people at the age 15 should not have their record be ruined in 15 years so a mistake that you make at 15 years old in high schools when you are immature could affect your entire future so how could we make it safer for our society when we would like to make it or we would like to put police officers in our schools now.

Now I would like to address myself to our poster that some people from my Youth Council made. The name of our poster is Programs Not Prisons. So we have five key issues that we would like to see put or some options that we could see put into school systems. We would like to see trained security guards not officers so we could look at other surrounding areas and we look at the City of Bridgeport. The City of Bridgeport has actually took in officers outside of the schools, outside of high schools especially, and they put security guards and we've seen that their rates have actually gone down, the statistics have gone down. Now another fact is that we would like to see peer assessment. So instead of being arrested or, a part of our program would be peer assessment where they could go in front of our peers that look like them and are part of their community and we can talk about it that way. And we would also like to focus on future first. So we would like for everyone to take in the fact of our futures as I spoke about before. We would like to think about what would not just happen now but what would happen in 15 years, what will happen in 20 years, what will happen in 25 years due to how we would like to keep it safe now. Now I would also like to bring up

mentors. Mentors would be a huge part of this program or program being ran just so that we could see community members being a part of our youth and students' lives. We would also like to bring up behavior specialists. We believe more behavior specialists need to be put into schools to help fix problems instead of more officers. Now I would like to pass it on to my partner Brandon Pittman.

Brandon Pittman had the following comments: I am the Entertainment Chair for the Waterbury NAACP and I would like to say that I agree with Amari about not having police officers in schools but having trained security guards in our schools in that a kid shouldn't be arrested by a police officer and have their career ruined and be in the system and just have a behavior specialist talk to them and programs over . . . go to a program and should talk about how they feel and stuff and work on their anger instead of just being put into the system and thrown in a cell or a detention institution.

BRANTLEY: Now I would like to say thank you to the Board for listening to us and I would just like to bring one other fact up. We here of the diversionary program that is being put in place right now. Although we do believe a program should be put in place right now we would just like to ask that we halt this program and bring it up on our next agenda to have more community members involved when making such programs just as this. And we do actually have Chief Fernando Spagnolo and another Waterbury Public School member coming to our meeting to help further explain this diversionary program so that we have an all-around view on how the Waterbury Public School System feels about this. Now thank you to everyone.

PITTMAN: I think that parents and youth like students should have a seat at the table with the Board of Education to have a say on the decisions that are being made.

BRANTLEY: Thank you. Have a wonderful night.

BROWN: Thank you. Great presentation.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:58 p.m.

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain. Motion carries.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business and move Item 12 prior to Item 9.

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain. Motion carries.

12. COMMITTEE ON BUILDING AND SCHOOL FACILITIES

12.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve a Lease Agreement with Saint Blaise Parish Corporation for property located on John Street, Waterbury, Connecticut, known as St. Joseph's School and gymnasium, two buildings formerly used as its Convent, and a residential structure.

BROWN: Discussion? Commissioner Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President and I'd like to thank the Mayor for his points earlier in this. When we had wrapped up the public meeting last week obviously there was a lot of consternation there and it was hard not to feel the issues that the parents are bringing forward and I think all of us as human beings and many of us as parents understood that. It was something that I was grappling with frankly all weekend. After having the opportunity to tour the school and having a long conversation with the Mayor today, many of those reservations were taken care of. Seeing that, keeping an eye on the big picture that at the end of the day the East Mountain community is going to have a school that they have been long asking for and in my opinion a better one that was on the table a year ago. It is a huge opportunity for that neighborhood and while I agree moving kids from school to school isn't always the easiest I think the solution that we have found here at Saint Joes which as I walked through it was in far better shape than I would have imagined and much better shape than the last time I was in the building. The group working on that between our staff and some of the city staff right now is doing everything they can to make sure that as those kids come into that school this next school year they are going to be greeted with all the opportunities they need to learn, they will be in a safe environment which is something we clearly heard last week, and it will be something none of us will ever take our eyes off of for their time at Saint Joes. So with that I'll be supporting item 12 today and I can't tell you how forward I am looking to eventually opening up that new school up on Hamilton Avenue. Thank you Madam President.

BROWN: I want to acknowledge our guest from the State Department of Administrative Services and thank you so much for working with the City of Waterbury and we're very excited about the project so thank you very much.

MAYOR: Madam President. May I call up the Deputy Commissioner to say a few words.

KONSTANTINOS DIAMANTIS: I am the Director of the Office of School Construction Grants and Review. I have been working with your city certainly on this project since it was originally placed on the priority list back in 2016. As the community knows I am one who likes to proceed forward on projects. Even our department has evolved in the course of the last five years. What you may thought the Office of School Construction and Grants was when you've done prior projects it's changed since then. We are very much hands-on, we are very much involved in the process that goes on. We request a great deal of information and I will concur with the comments made by a member of the Board who suggested that this project is better than the original one. Now granted we didn't get to see a great deal of it other than what was proposed and we always are looking for new information when a project is delayed. One of the things we look at constantly is enrollment numbers, right sizing the school, type of programs being offered, what the benefit is to the neighborhood, to the community, consolidation efforts that are made, if students are being sent to other school districts other than their own neighborhoods, bring them back, the impact of that. Special ed students coming back to their home districts and to their home schools and preparing space for that. Your project cannot proceed without the Department of Emergency Services and Public Safety doing a review on safety. You may note in the past all you had to do was a sign-

off that you have in fact taken into consideration the security infrastructure program that we initiated and that you've taken it into consideration. That's not enough. Your application will go before them as well. They will review it, make recommendations on security that they think are important, they will be included in your project and we will pay for them as we are now. So we will ensure that safety is the utmost protection. The other part of the application requires the Department of Public Health to also sign off to ensure there are no water issues in the school; not just yours but throughout the State of Connecticut, that is another piece that we take into account and we work with you on that because we'd like to ensure good drinking water, potable water within the school district as well. So all of the concerns you have of course are concerns of ours and to be very frank I look at it that if I'm about an 80% investor I have a great deal of investment in this project that I would like to see it also be one of the best. And each one of our projects become better than the one before it. So working together we will do that. We have some work to do in the few months, between now and October. And I'm sure we'll be successful in doing that. We have a great staff, Bob Ficeto is here with us tonight who assisted in moving the application process along and making sure the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted. We have an outstanding architectural team who will work with your architects, who will work with your consulting staff, and myself, to ensure that we move the project forward. So any concerns you have, we are accessible, feel free to call us. I have visited the site often and I am very familiar with the project. So whatever I can do to assist and move the project along I will. The one thing the Mayor knows is I do not like is escalation cost so the project will continue to move forward. If you have any questions I'll be happy to answer them otherwise we'll see each other as the project moves forward.

BROWN: Thank you very much. All in favor, opposed. Motion carries. Thank you. Going back to Superintendent's Announcements.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ruffin read and distributed the following announcements:

Applications for our new Academic Academies will be made available online on our website starting on May 24, 2019. At a recent meeting for parents of students entering grades 4 through 8, families expressed real interest in our plans for these academies.

The Fifth annual Family and Community Leadership Conference, sponsored by the Waterbury Title I District Parent Advisory Council, Naugatuck Valley Community College, GEAR Up, CommPACT and Waterbury Hospital was held recently. We had great attendance by our engaged parents and community members who were able to attend their choice of several workshops before the afternoon keynote address by Anthony Gay and the subsequent awards ceremony.

Several Waterbury Public Schools students made it to the finals of the State of Connecticut Kids Court Jr. Competition 2019. The topic this year was on bullying. The final competition was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at the state Capitol. Students were competing for monetary prizes and medals as well as recognition by the state government for their accomplishments. The event is sponsored by the CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. Alina Munoz and Dazzling Gonzalez both made it to the finals and represented Regan Elementary School. Diomar Bristol and Elysha De La Rosa also made it to the finals and represented Walsh Elementary School. Ms. De

La Rosa placed second in her grade level. Congratulations to all our students, they worked very hard on their essays and presentations!

Wallace Middle School Talented and Gifted students participated in a program called The Stock Market Game sponsored by the Sifma Foundation. Two Waterbury student teams were top finishers placing 1st and 2nd in the Middle School division of the approximately 150 teams who participated. The top finishers were all 8th graders; 1st place went to Arbianna Asipi and Ester Dulo, also known as the "ARBI N ESI" Team. The 2nd place team consisted of Jordyn Lavoie and Jaylene Rivera, playing under the name "J&J" Team." Wallace had other teams place 5th, 7th, and 14th.

Two of our high schools participated in the Assess Phase of the 2019 Girls Go CyberStart Program, with Waterbury Career Academy (WCA) capturing first place among eligible high schools in Connecticut, based upon the number of students registered and engaged, and Crosby High School placing third. Waterbury Career Academy will receive a \$1,000 gift card and 50 additional licenses for any WCA students, regardless of gender, to participate in the CyberStart Game Phase that is currently underway. Top performing students in the Game Phase will be eligible to receive \$500 scholarships, cybersecurity training from SANS, and may be invited to participate in the national Capture the Flag competition in early June. Crosby High School will receive a \$500 gift card.

The coordinator of the 2019 CT Girls Go CyberStart Program, Jason N. Rosa, who is also the Chief Information Security Officer of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection is a 1991 graduate of Kennedy High School!

Waterbury Arts Magnet School received recognition as a 2019 College Success Award winner. The school is one of only 1,722 high schools throughout the country and one of forty-one in Connecticut to receive this recognition.

Four students from Waterbury Public Schools received \$1,000 scholarships from the Waterbury Chapter of UNICO National. The students are: Isabella Gaspard, Kennedy High School; William Mahoney, Kennedy High School; Gillian Petrarca, Waterbury Arts Magnet; and Jialian Stolfi, Waterbury Arts Magnet.

Congratulations to our fine educators who were awarded grants toward furthering literacy projects in their school from the Margaret M. Generali Foundation!

Chase Taylor, a nineteen-year-old Waterbury Public Schools transition program student, was named a Connecticut Arts Hero after the publication of two books: *The Letter Critters* and *The Letter Critter Biographies*.

Our district-wide Talent Showcase, "Celebrating Community Through the Arts," will be held at the Palace Theater on Monday, May 20th. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., with the show beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please call the Box Office for tickets!

On Wednesday, May 22, our district will honor 51 students from all of our schools in the annual Superintendent's Student Recognition Awards. The program begins at 6:00 p.m. at Kennedy High School.

Generali School's annual Memorial Day Commemoration will be held on Friday, May 24, 2019 (rain date May 29, 2019). The ceremony begins at 9:00 a.m. The Grade 5

students and teachers will gather in front of the school then proceed to East Farms Cemetery. This service commemorates the lives of 24 soldiers who are buried at this site from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War and World War I. Special recognition will be given to the two unknown French soldiers who marched with General Rochambeau on his journey to meet General George Washington in 1781.

On Wednesday, May 29, our district will celebrate Waterbury Public Schools educators of excellence at a ceremony at Crosby High School beginning at 4:30 p.m. We will be honoring teachers from each of our campuses, along with three paraprofessionals, one Administrator of the Year, and a Non-Academic Support Person of the Year, as well announcing our selection of Waterbury Teacher of the Year.

Kennedy High School is having their annual Community Day on Saturday, May 18th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Crosby High School's Annual Community Day is Saturday, June 1, from 12:00 p.m. until to 3:00 p.m. at Crosby High School. There are a great chances for the community to come together to gain access to community providers as well as a chance to have some fun!

BROWN: Any questions for the Superintendent? We could be out every night this week. Vice President.

HARVEY: Excellent report. It was long, but there's a lot of stuff going on in the district. Two things. One is that Chase Taylor who is a graduate of Waterbury Career Academy and his two books. I know that there's a, they're trying to purchase those books to have them distributed for free to Title I parents so I know it's either Pat or Linda Riddick Barron, one of the two is trying to purchase those books, so that we can have them in the district. We're very proud of Chase.

Also, I just want to comment real quickly. The Parent and Community Leadership Conference was excellent but what I would like to see, Dr. Ruffin, is can we get the stats on how many enrolled and how many attended as well as to share what the feedback was from the conference.

8. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

BROWN: I just want to say happy Memorial Day. We won't see you at the end of the month and let's remember the reason we celebrate Memorial Day for all the brave men and women who fought for our country and remind us of the true meaning of democracy as we embrace our citizenship.

Would anybody like to remove anything from the Consent Calendar? See none.

President Brown proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.4.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.4, as listed:

- 9.1 The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the revised 2019/2020 School Year Calendar, as attached.
- 9.2 The Committee on Building & School Facilities recommends that the Waterbury Board of Education approve the acceptance of the Duggan School Project, State Project #151-0252, as complete.
- 9.3 The Committee on Building and School Facilities recommends 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
T. St. Pierre	Duggan gym: Fridays, 4/26 – 6/7/19, 2:15-3:15 pm (Fitness Fury) Duggan café: Monday, May 20, 4:30-6:30 pm (Middle School Dance)
M. A. Marold	Wilby aud.: Tues., June 4, 9:00–10:30 am (Links Organization & Wtby. Public Schools venue on human trafficking)
J. Frenis	Reed room 22: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & 6/5, 12, 3:00-5:00 pm (Math tutoring workshops for teachers)
D. Melendez	Chase gym: Wed., May 1, 5:00-7:00 pm (Family Literacy Night)
E. Remillard	Rotella café: Tuesday, May 7, 3:30-6:00 pm (CSCA union meeting – for part time café, office workers)
S. Petteway	Bucks Hill gym: Thurs., May 9, 5:30-7:00 pm (Family Science Night)
J. Morales	WAMS bus lane: Tues., May 21, 3:00-6:00 pm (Food Truck Festival)
J. Farrell	WAMS gym: Wed., June 5, 2:00-4:00 pm (NJHS Quidditch games activity)
A.M. Brites	Kennedy bldg: Friday, May 17, 5-10 pm and Saturday, May 18, 7 am – 4 pm (Community Day)
*R. Harmon	Wilby auditorium & café: Tues., May 21, 3:00-9:00 pm (Book Club)
*C. Garfman	Rotella café: Thurs., June 6, 4:00-5:30 pm (UPSEU ratification vote)
*A Edwards	Tinker gym: Thurs., June 6, 5:30-7:00 pm (Reading Night)
*Park & Rec.	Kennedy pool: May 25, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 1:00-8:00 pm
V. Cuevas	(lifeguard training certification course)
*F. Brown	WSMS aux. gym: Sat., June 1, 7:00 pm performance and Sun., June 2nd 6:00 pm performance
*E. Paolino	Walsh café, gym: Wed., June 5, 5:00-7:15 pm (Family Night)
*M. Spescha	WAMS apron stage: Fri., May 17, 4:00-6:30 pm (NHS ceremony)
*J. Reed	Career Academy café & classrooms: July 8 – 12, 8:30 am-3:30 pm (Computer app program for middle school students)
*C. Swain	WAMS atrium: Thurs., May 30, 6:00-9:30 pm (Special Bd. Of Ed. Mtg.)

- 9.4 The Committee on Building and School Facilities recommends the Waterbury Board of Education approve of the use of school facilities by outside organizations subject to fees and insurance as required:

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES
Wild About Dance Deanna Dewitt	Rotella aud., café, room: Saturday, May 4, 7:00 am - 8:00 pm (Dance competition)

REQUESTING WAIVERS:

*Clayton Memorial Church	Crosby track & bathroom access: Sat., July 20th	
Rev. D. Patterson	10:00 am – 1:00 pm (annual church walk)	(\$168.)
*Uplifting a Life	Reed café: Sun., May 12, 10 am-2 pm	

Erika Cooper (Mothers' Day Brunch) (\$210.)

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

Wtby. Knights Cheerleading Kingsbury gym: 5/6 – 7/5/19, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

S. Clements 5:45 – 8:00 pm (cheerleading practice)

*AI-3 Leadership Academy Wilson gym: Tues., Wed., Fri., 5/17 – 6/28/19

Julio Vazquez 6:00-9:00 pm (basketball practice)

Brown: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain. Motion carries.

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

11. COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES

11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve to DENY WTA Grievance 18-19-23 heard by the Committee on May 7, 2019.

BROWN: Discussion?

HARVEY: Can we get some details on this please.

HERNANDEZ: Department leadership position. The Grievant had assumed the responsibility of acting department chair since the departure of the previous chair as of January 2019. He has met the criteria of article 9, section 4 of the WTA CBA. The grievant had not received the contract stipend in according to article 9, section 2.

BROWN; All in favor, opposed, abstain. Motion carries.

11.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve to UPHOLD WTA Grievance 18-19-24 heard by the Committee on May 7, 2019. The remedy shall be that the written letter of discipline will be removed from the employee's file and further that the Certificate of Completions of Professional Development remain in the file.

BROWN: Discussion. Please summarize.

HERNANDEZ: The grievant had been issued a written letter without just cause in violation of rights outlines in accordance with article 29 1(a) of the 16/19 collective bargaining agreement between the union and the Board of Education.

BROWN: Thank you. All in favor, opposed, abstain. Motion carries. Thank you.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 13.1 through 13.4 as listed:

13.1 Maloney Magnet Schools Summer School appointments, salary per contract, subject to enrollment:

Administrator		Donna Cullen
Admin Sub		Ann Drewry, Stacey Gittings
Curriculum Support		Ann Drewry, Margaret Palomba
IT		Frank Vigliotti
Subs		Leah Grabowski
Secretary		Shanna Zawislak & Anna Perugini
Kindergarten	Math	Cherie Couture
	Technology	David Couture
1 st & 2 nd Grade	Reading	Siobhan Kalnins
	Reading	Jennifer Hibbs
	Math	Jason Dombrowski
	Reading	Marlene Madera
3 rd and 4 th Grade	Technology	Barbara Moulthrop
	Writing	Cristina Crespo
	Math/Science	Branden Strileckis
	Reading	Esther D'Esposito
	Writing	Andrew Dunn
	Technology	Erin Fogarty

13.2 Teacher new hires:

<u>Name</u>		<u>Position</u>		<u>Effective</u>
Torres Toledo	Maria	Bucks Hill	Special Ed. Gr. 1-5	2/4/2019
Gagne	Crystal	Driggs	Special Ed.	3/13/2019
Valentin	Crystal	Generali	Gr. 2	4/1/2019

13.3 Retirements:

Crudele, Joanna – Vice Principal, CHS, effective 06/30/19.
 Minutillo, Mary – Hopeville Kindergarten, effective 06/01/19.
 White, Sharlene – Pre-K Special Education, effective 06/30/19.

13.4 Resignations:

Fabian, Haley – Maloney Magnet School grade 2, **effective 06/30/19 (correction)**.
 Garcia, Katie – WCA Human Services, effective 06/30/19.
 Trainer, Timothy – WHS Biology, effective 04/26/19.

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain. Motion carries. Fourteen – Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting Only. Number 15 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Commissioner Adorno.

SERRANO-ADORNO: Thank you Madam President. I just want to mention that the Autism Speaks Walk is coming up for Waterbury on Saturday, June 1 at Library Park. We are celebrating our 10th year anniversary this year. My son Julian is here. So we're just encouraging, I know there's a lot of schools that participate, they volunteer, they create their own team. So I'm just encouraging everyone. A couple of the Commissioners have attended so I welcome you guys and I invite you guys to happily join my son's team or create our own, that would be great. If you could just make an

appearance it's greatly appreciated. It is open to the public, free, sensory friendly. It's Saturday, June 1 from nine to one at Library Park.

BROWN: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: I was told by my colleague that I said these grievances were on June 7, I apologize, it was May 7. For the record.

BROWN: Duly noted Commissioner.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to convene into executive session at 7:27 p.m. for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

PRESENT: President Brown, Commissioners Harvey, Hernandez, Serrano-Adorno, Pagano, Stango, Sweeney, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone. Also present was Dr. Ruffin and Dr. Rodríguez.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Stango, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 7:39 p.m. with no votes taken.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Tom Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:39 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education