

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

March 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

The Board of Education's Regular Meeting was held on Thursday, February 16, 2023, 5:30 p.m. at Waterbury Arts Magnet School, 16 South Elm Street, Waterbury, Connecticut.

PRESENT: Mayor Neil M. O'Leary (left at 6:30 p.m.), President Sweeney, Commissioners Brown, Hernandez, Ireland, Nardozi, Navarro (arrived at 5:35 p.m.), Orso, Serrano-Adorno, and Van Stone (left at 6:47 p.m.).

ABSENT: Commissioner O'Brien.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Verna Ruffin, Director of Security & School Safety Daniel Barry, Chief Financial Officer Doreen Biolo, Attorney Joseph Britton, Chief Academic Officer Janet Frenis, Assistant Superintendent Jade Gopie, Assistant Superintendent Joseph Johnson, Assistant Superintendent Juan Mendoza, Director of Pupil Services Miguel Pabón, Deputy Superintendent Darren Schwartz, 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 of Wilby High School.

1. SILENT PRAYER

President Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with a moment of silence led by Dr. Ruffin.

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

- *George Haddad – Waterbury educator for 56 years, first retiring as head of the mathematics department at Wilby High School, and then as an Adult Education teacher, passed away on February 14, 2023.*
- *Mary Dimando – former preschool teacher at Merriman and Maloney Schools, passed away on February 22, 2023.*
- *George Turley Jr. – retired teacher at West Side Middle School, passed away on March 2, 2023.*
- *Helen Pagano – Mother of former Board of Education President and Commissioner Charles (Chuck) Pagano, passed away on March 8, 2023.*
- *Lila Ciarlo – former Certified Nurses Aid teacher at Adult Education, passed away on March 10, 2023.*

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Present.

CLERK: Vice President Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Ireland.

IRELAND: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Nardozzi.

NARDOZZI: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Navarro (arrived at 5:35 p.m.). Commissioner O'Brien (absent). Commissioner Orso.

ORSO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Serrano-Adorno.

SERRANO-ADORNO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Van Stone.

VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Honorable Mayor O'Leary

O'LEARY: Here.

SWEENEY: Sorry, I skipped the Pledge.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file communications as listed:

- a) Copy of communication dated February 7, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Melina Rodriguez for the position of Assistant Director of Pupil Services.
- b) Copy of communication dated February 7, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Kenneth Butler, Jr. for the position of Paraprofessional II.
- c) Copy of communication dated February 8, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Louis Bruscano for the position of Mason Foreperson.

- d) Copy of communication dated February 10, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Jennilee Quito-Guadalupe for the position of Paraprofessional II.
- e) Copy of communication dated February 13, 2023 to Susan Cote regarding offer of employment for the position of Office Aide.
- f) Copy of communication dated February 14, 2023 from Civil Service to Janet Frenis regarding employment as Chief Academic Officer.
- g) Copy of communications dated February 15, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Sherl Knight, Ines Quinones Ortiz, and Adrijana Redzepi for the position of Food Service Helper.
- h) Copy of communication dated February 15, 2023 from Civil Service to Augustus Bailey, Jenny Jones, Samira Tiganj, Stacey Yorker, and Yvonne Smith regarding acceptance of offer of employment for the position of Food Service Worker.
- i) Copy of communication dated February 15, 2023 from Civil Service to Michael McCormack regarding acceptance of offer of Temporary Maintainer I.
- j) Email communication dated February 17, 2023 from CABA regarding Policy Highlights.
- k) Email communication dated February 21, 2023 from Dariluz Bermudez regarding Board of Education member.
- l) Email communication dated February 23, 2023 from Dariluz Bermudez regarding Board of Education member.
- m) Copy of communications dated February 23, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Zachariah Lewis for the position of Carpenter, Ciara Pedraza for the position of Cook, and Eileen Lopes for the position of Attendance Counselor.
- n) Copy of communication dated February 24, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Jose Torres for the position of Carpenter, Maria Cronin for the position of Food Service Helper, Chaileen Rodriguez-Perez for the position of Food Service Helper, Leeana Rodriguez for the position of Food Service Helper, Suzan Dennis-Strickland for the position of Food Service Helper, and Ivette Campos for the position of Food Service Helper.
- o) Copy of communications dated March 1, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Jose Velzaco, William Yarmala, Todd Piascik, and Jared Collette for the position of Maintainer II.
- p) Copy of communication dated March 3, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Sabrina White for the position of Administrative Associate I.
- q) Email communication dated March 3, 2023 from CABA regarding Policy Highlights.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2023 Workshop, January 5, 2023 Special Meeting, January 19, 2023 Regular Meeting, February 2, 2023 Workshop, February 2, 2023 Special Meeting, and February 16, 2023 Regular Meeting.

6. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business at 5:34 p.m. to allow the public to address the Board.

Sarah Ellani, 9 Highland Avenue – Wilby High School student spoke concerning the Eid Holiday and feels Muslims students are overlooked and underrepresented despite being 1/5 of the population in the schools. It is time to take responsibility for the religious bias in the district.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 5:38 p.m.

7. 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 5:38 p.m. for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

PRESENT: President Sweeney, Commissioners Brown, Hernandez, Ireland, Nardozzi, Navarro, Orso, Serrano-Adorno, and Van Stone.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor O’Leary (left at 6:30 p.m.) and Dr. Ruffin.

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 6:36 p.m. with no votes taken.

Commissioner Van Stone left at 6:47 p.m.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Dr. Ruffin presented a video from students wishing the Board a Happy Commissioner’s Appreciation Month and thanking them for their service. In honor of Board of Education Appreciation Month, Wilby High School’s Culinary students prepared refreshments for the Board prior to the meeting, students from Waterbury Arts Magnet School provided musical entertainment, and students from Chase Elementary and Rotella Magnet School provided appreciation messages and artwork.*
- *Mr. Mendoza introduced Mr. Geen Thazhampallath the new Provisional Director of Personnel & Talent Management.*
- *Dr. Ruffin introduced Janet Frenis as the new Chief Academic Officer.*
- *Waterbury hosted State Representatives Butler, Currey (Education Committee Chair), and Napoli. The visit was to highlight the need for continued educational funding. The representatives visited North End and Wilby High Schools*

witnessing the new renovations, learning spaces, and opportunities for students and heard directly from the students.

- *Ms. Dena Mortenson, Supervisor of Reading/English Language Arts PreK-5, presented an update on curriculum and new reading legislation.*
- *Waterbury Career Boys Basketball team made Division III State Finals.*

9. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

There were no President's Comments.

10. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S COMMENTS

Wilby High School student Gianni Bonval, grade 12, commented on the following items:

- Juniors will be taking the SATs next week.
- The Drumline marched in the Irish parade on March 4.
- Annual Blood Drive will be held on March 2.
- Upcoming play "Aladdin" will take place on May 5 and 6.
- Wilby hosted a visit of three state representatives.
- Winter sports ended with the Boys Basketball team playing in the State Tournament.
- JROTC conducted an award ceremony for cadets.
- The culinary program does many catering events in and off school grounds and is planning to start a laundromat ran by students for students.

Gianni recognized principals Dr. Michelle Baker and Mr. Joseph Bengal and the entire Wilby administration and staff for all the hard work and effort.

11. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

- 11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the appointment of Ryan Sullivan as Principal, Tinker Elementary School, effective immediately.**

Mr. Sullivan spoke about the autographed book the Commissioners received. The book, "Mario Changes His Behavior", was authored by Tinker student Marquis Ramnon.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas: Commissioners Brown, Hernandez, Ireland, Nardozzi, Navarro, Orso, Serrano-Adorno, and President Sweeney.

12. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

President Sweeney proceeded to read the Consent Calendar items 12.1 through 12.6.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Ireland and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 12.1 through 12.6, as read and listed:

- 12.1 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve a Professional Services Agreement with Critical Response Group, Inc., to provide Collaborative Response Graphics/Digital School Mapping, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel's office.
- 12.2 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve Amendment Three (3) to the Professional Services Agreement with Connecticut Communications, LLC, for Mitel Voice Over IP Solution, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel's office.
- 12.3 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve an Agreement with Crown Castle Fiber, LLC, through June 30, 2028, to provide Wide Area Network services, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel's office.
- 12.4 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve the following transfers for fiscal year 2022/2023 totaling \$1,200,00.00:

FROM:

Accounting Unit	Account	Description	Amount
87512501	511102	Reading - Teachers	(\$300,000)
86210001	511102	Crosby - Teachers	(\$300,000)

TO:

87510302	533000	Curriculum Instruction - Professional Services	\$600,000
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Transfer is needed to cover cost of substitute teacher placements from our outside vendor ESS.

FROM:

Accounting Unit	Account	Description	Amount
88510001	511102	Special Education - Teachers	(\$200,000)
88510002	511108	Special Ed - School Psychologists	(\$400,000)

TO:

88510001	556055	Special Education - Tuition Outside	\$480,000
88510001	556056	Special Education - Purchased Service	\$120,000

*Transfer is needed to cover cost of Special Ed Tuition for Special Ed students being placed in outside facilities.
 Special Education costs for outside services*

TOTAL \$1,200,000 (\$1,200,000)

- 12.5 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
Robotics Event	Wilby/North End Complex: March 10, 2:00pm – 9:00pm and
V. Balsamo	March 11 th & 12 th 8:00am – 10:00pm

L. Richard	Career Academy: Tues., June 20, 7:30am – 4:00pm (State of CT. CNA testing)
Talent Show R. Pastore	Career Academy: Wed., April 19, 2:00pm – 4:00pm (rehearsal) and Thurs., April 20, 2:00pm – 9:30pm (show)
D. Foster	State St. café: Mon., March 20, 3:00pm-4:00pm (Family Engagement Workshop) (snow date: 3/27/23)
M. Bergin	Sprague gym: Wed., April 19, 5:30pm – 7:00pm (Family Night)
*J. Tulley	Crosby aud.: Thurs., June 1, 4:00pm – 8:09pm (Wallace M/S Spring Concert)
*Blue Collar Union L. Calo	Kennedy aud.: Sunday, March 26, 10:00am – 4:00pm (membership meeting and contract vote)
*T. Grabowski	Maloney café: Wed., March 22, 4:00pm – 8:00pm (Family Book Bingo) (snow date: March 29)
*B. Sojdaens	Career Academy café: Tues., March 28, 5:00pm – 7:00pm (college planning night)
*R. Perez	Career Academy café: Friday, March 31, 5:00pm – 8:00pm (Karaoke Night)
*K. Punter	Career Academy café: Thurs., March 16, 5:00pm – 8:00pm (SEL event for parents)
*Adult Education A. Musto	Kennedy rooms: Mar. 13 thru June 8, 5:30pm – 9:30pm (Spring Enrichment Program)
*M. McAlinden	Enlightenment aud.: April 24 thru June, 3:00pm – 5:00pm Mondays & Wednesdays (Shakesperience Program)
*Park Dept. J. Egan	Kennedy gym: Saturday, March 18, 11:00am – 6:00pm (basketball games)
*Dept. of Transportation B. Cadwell	Maloney café: Thursday, March 23, 5:30pm – 8:00pm (public information meeting - removal of Exit 21, New Mix project)

12.6 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
Devonshire Condo Assoc. D. Hail	Kennedy library: Tues., April 4, 5:30pm – 7:30pm (condo members meeting)

REQUESTING WAIVERS:

P.A.L.	Crosby gym: Sat., March 11, 12:00-11:00pm – Wrestling Event	(\$2,016.)
G. Amatruda	(CANCELLED AT CROSBY)	(\$2,016.)
Chabad of Waterbury J. Eisenbach	Kingsbury café: Sunday, March 26, 10:30am – 3:00pm (children’s craft activity)	(\$ 462.)

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

Boy Scouts A Marchetti	Crosby pool: March 20 and 27, 7:00pm – 9:25pm (safety requirements)
CT. Rebound D. Parker	Wilby gym 3/20 – 6/29/23 Mon., Tues., Thurs. 6-9:00pm (basketball practice)

*Smyrna Assembly Of Yahshua's Disciples of CT. N. Owens	KHS aux. gym & rm.: 3/15/23 – 6/29/23, Wednesdays. 6-8:00pm (youth program/mentoring)
*Brooklyn Neighb Assoc. F. Perrella	Duggan rm.: Meetings, 6:00pm – 7:30pm, 2 nd Thurs. each month Mar. to June, 2023 and Sept. 2023 – June, 2024
Girl Scouts of CT. D. Dzicek	West Side M/S parking lot: Saturday, April 1, 7am – 11:30pm (cookie distribution)
*Spec. Olympics, CT. C. Manforte	Crosby track: Thursdays, April 6 to June 6, 5:30pm – 7:00pm (Wtby. Special Olympics track practice)

13. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

14. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- 14.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with Community Mental Health Affiliates (CMHA), at no cost, for implementation of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) and/or Bounce Back (BB), subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel's office.

15. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- 15.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve to apply for the U.S. Department of Energy "Renew America's Schools Grant".

Allen Sabins and Rob Klee of CSW Energy addressed the Board regarding the above grant application.

- 15.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve a Construction Contract with J. A. Rosa, LLC for six auditorium upgrades/improvements at the following: Crosby High School, Kennedy High School, Rotella Magnet School, Waterbury Arts Magnet School, West Side Middle School, and Wilby High School.
- 15.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve an Agreement with United Staging and Rigging, LLC for rental of staging equipment for Waterbury Arts Magnet School's production of *Footloose*.
- 15.4 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve a Construction Contract with All State Construction, Inc. for HVAC

Upgrades/Replacements at Gilmartin and Duggan Elementary Schools, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel's Office.

16. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Navarro and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 16.1 through 16.6, Superintendent's Notification to the Board as listed:

16.1 Athletic appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Eff.</u>
Hartsoe, Kelsey	Head Softball Coach/KHS	03/13/23

16.2 Grant funded appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>FT/PT</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Union</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Eff.</u>
Brown, Aisha	Beh. Counselor Crosby	FT	\$23.72/hr	UPSEU 69	SIG 5 CHS 21-23	02/09/23
Cintron, Cameron	Adult Ed Maintenance	PT	\$15.54/hr	NON BOE	Ad Ed Prov 22-23	02/16/23
Frank, Richard	Adult Ed Certified Instructor	PT	\$33/hr	NON BOE	Ad Ed Prov 22-23	02/23/23
Jannetto, Joseph	Adult Education Security	PT	\$20/hr	NON BOE	Ad Ed Prov 22-23	02/27/23
Sidella, Judith	Tutor/Children's Community School	PT	\$33/hr	NON BOE	Title I/A 21- 23	02/27/23
Simms, Marcia	Classroom Assistant Rotella	FT	\$14/hr	UPSEU 68	Title I/A 22- 24	02/09/23

16.3 After-school Programs appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>
Rivera, Michael	ARP ESSER	Carrington	Administrator Sub
Brown, Charlene	ARP ESSER	Duggan	Teacher
D'Alessio, Jennifer	ARP ESSER	Duggan	Administrator Sub
Finkenzeller, Frances	ARP ESSER	Duggan	Teacher
Hart, Richard	ARP ESSER	Duggan	Teacher
Carter, Sa-Queen	SDE	Wallace	Teacher
Garcia, Sharyn	SDE	Wallace	Teacher
Cusack, Tara	21st Century	Walsh	Administrator Sub
Demirs, Emily	Commissioner's Network	WMS	Teacher
Kumar, Usha	Commissioner's Network	WMS	Teacher
Thayer, Aaron	Commissioner's Network	WMS	Teacher

16.4 Miscellaneous appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Program</u>
Caruso, Anthony	KHS	Mastery Based Learning Panel
Crane, Monique	WAMS	530 Club Teacher

16.5 Resignations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Arons, Emily	Bunker Hill Social Worker	03/10/23
Cavilla, Emilia	Wilson Grade 4	03/17/23
McKusick, Kirstin	Bucks Hill Special Education	03/07/23
Montes De Oca, Delmaliz	Bucks Hill Social Worker	03/17/23

16.6 Retirements:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
April, Deborah	Enlightenment Special Education	06/30/23
Blake, Zita	Driggs Grade 2	06/30/23
Cavanaugh, Karen	Carrington Reading	06/30/23
Hammond, Cynthia	WMS Vice Principal	07/31/23
Kuncas, Justine	Driggs Grade 5	06/30/23

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

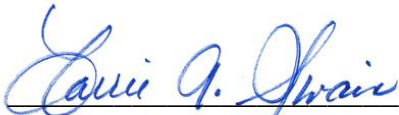
Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to convene into Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee and discussion concerning self-evaluation as referenced in Section 1-200(6)(A) of the Freedom of Information Act.

PRESENT: President Sweeney, Commissioners Brown, Hernandez, Ireland, Nardozzi, Navarro, Orso, and Serrano-Adorno.

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 8:23 p.m. with no votes taken.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno and duly seconded by Commissioner Navarro, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education