

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

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

ABSENT: Commissioners Nardozzi, O'Brien, and Van Stone.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Verna Ruffin, Director of Security & School Safety Daniel Barry, Chief Financial Officer Doreen Biolo, Assistant Superintendent Jade Gopie, Assistant Superintendent Joseph Johnson, Interim Project Manager Rosh Maghfour, Assistant Superintendent Juan Mendoza, Director of Communications Belen Michelis, Director of Pupil Services Miguel Pabón, Director of Equity and Inclusion Lara White, and Supervisor of Management, Information, and Technology Will Zhuta.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Eric Arifi and Grace Henderson of Waterbury Arts Magnet School

1. SILENT PRAYER

President Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:31 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:

- *Kenneth Killer: Retired biology teacher at Wilby High School, passed away on January 21, 2023.*
- *Louise Bradley: Former teacher in Waterbury Public Schools, passed away on January 27, 2023.*
- *Mahadevi Augustin: Kindergarten student at Bucks Hill Elementary School, passed away on January 28, 2023.*
- *Peter Jurzynski: Former substitute teacher at Kennedy and Crosby High Schools, passed away on January 29, 2023.*
- *Theresa Nardozzi: Retired secretary for the Department of Education, and mother-in-law of Board Commissioner Amanda Nardozzi, passed away on February 13, 2023.*
- *Kyle Patrick: Crosby High School student, passed away on February 13, 2023.*

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Ireland.

IRELAND: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Nardozzi (absent). Commissioner Navarro.

NAVARRO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner O'Brien (absent). Commissioner Orso.

ORSO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Serrano-Adorno.

SERRANO-ADORNO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Van Stone (absent). President Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

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 January 6, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Crystal Betancourt for the position of Paraprofessional I.
- b) Email communication dated January 20, 2023 from CABA regarding Policy Highlights.
- c) Email communication dated January 26, 2023 from Tony Wilusz regarding editorial in Republican American.
- d) Copy of communications dated January 18, 2023 from Civil Service to Eddie Cabrera, Jr. offering temporary and at will employment for the position of Temporary Maintainer I and to Sharon Pereira offering temporary and at will employment for the position of Career & Technical Education Skills Specialist.
- e) Copy of communications dated January 18, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Melissa Rodriguez and Ana Mateo for the position of Paraprofessional I and Lisa Antidormi for the position of Administrative Associate I.
- f) Copy of communication dated January 19, 2023 from Civil Service to Stephen Groppi regarding employment for the position of Food Service Worker.

- g) Copy of communication dated January 25, 2023 from Civil Service to Stacey Muniz regarding temporary and at will employment for the position of Career & Technical Education Skills Specialist.
- h) Copy of communication dated January 25, 2023 from Civil Service to Natalie Gonzalez regarding transfer to the position of Temporary Maintainer I.
- i) Copy of communication dated January 26, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Crystal Gordon for the position of Paraprofessional II.
- j) Copy of communication dated January 27, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Andrew Capp for the position of Administrative Associate I.
- k) Copy of communication dated February 1, 2023 from Civil Service to Eugenie Tortice-Davis regarding transfer to the position of Food Service Worker.
- l) Copy of communication dated February 2, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Louis Brusino for the position of Mason Foreperson.
- m) Copy of communication dated February 3, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Vincent Duncan for the position of Plumber.

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 December 1, 2022 Workshop, December 1, 2022 Special Meeting, and December 15, 2022 Rescheduled Regular Meeting.

6. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

There were no public speakers.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ruffin shared a PowerPoint presentation which included the following information:

- Dr. Ruffin attended a Legislative Summit sponsored by the Waterbury Chamber. Speaker of the House Matthew Ritter and Attorney General William Tong spoke on the following topics:
 - Economic Development
 - Transportation
 - Energy and Environmental Taxes & Spending
 - Health
 - Human Services
 - Workforce Development
 - Funding of Educational Cost Sharing
- There were 39 Superintendent Student Award Recipients. All week the Superintendent and Senior Cabinet members visited schools to honor the recipients.
- All schools and Central Office will be closed February 20 and February 21 in observance of President's Day and Lincoln's Birthday.
- Spotlight video of Waterbury Public Schools being submitted to CABE.

8. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Sweeney asked the Commissioners to let the Clerk know if they would like to attend CABA's Day on the Hill on March 8.

9. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S COMMENTS

Waterbury Arts Magnet School students Eric Arifi, grade 12, and Grace Henderson, grade 11, jointly commented on the following school items:

- FAFSA nights are occurring to encourage more students to apply.
- Varsity Tutors has proven to be a very helpful resource for the student body.
- Several clubs have been added for academic support including an English/Math/Science Club afterschool and a 530 Math/SAT Prep Club.
- There was a very successful rose sale for DECA for Valentine's Day.
- Our first main stage production was in December at the Palace of *Anything Goes*. The student directed *She Kills Monsters* will take place on the Apron Stage and *Footloose the Musical* taking place at the Palace Theater.
- The Chorus is participating in the City-wide Showcase performing as backup singers and featured soloists from WAMS.
- A Black History Month performance is scheduled for February 28.
- A new UConn medical science class will start next year alongside our current medical terminology class.
- Voice for Change held an event with the first activity being a hula-hoop event for students and staff.
- WAMS has received an increase number of applicants for various reasons including advertising on billboards, business, and commercials on Channel 3 news.
- One of our school's dance students won an honor roll award from CCSU.
- Two WAMS scholars received a certificate from Congresswoman Jahana Hayes for GLI Program.
- There's been an increase in attendance rate in both middle and high schools through different initiatives including pizza and ice cream parties to promote attendance.
- If a student is out for no more than three days during the period of February 1 to the end of the school year, their parent will receive an award through Parent Liaison money for wireless air buds.
- A new sign has been put in at the front of the school with 53 new lights and an increase in cameras. Intercoms have been shorting out and quickly repairs.
- The performance spaces are all going to receive new lighting renovations soon.
- MBC (Mastery Based Credit) – we would like to see a choice offered so students can choose if they would like to create a project or compose a portfolio.
- In order to decrease hallway traffic and to improve the rate of students getting to class in time we feel the unit directional systems as was done in COVID may be a beneficial solution.

10. 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 5:48 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, Navarro, Orso, and Serrano-Adorno.

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Ruffin, Juan Mendoza (entered at 6:03 p.m.), and Attorney Joseph Britton.

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 6:48 p.m. with no votes taken.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to add item #14.8, Amendment Two (2) to the Agreement with Sarracco Mechanical Services, Inc. for mechanical upgrades at three high schools, to the agenda.

11. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Alison Finley as Supervisor of Special Education effective immediately.

11.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Navarro, it was voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Alice Heintz as Supervisor of Special Education effective immediately.

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 an Assignment and Assumption Agreement between Edgenuity, Inc. and Imagine Learning, LLC., 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 to apply for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant Program.

- 12.3 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve an Agreement with Ben Bronz Academy to provide educational services to students with disabilities in accordance with their Individual Education Program (IEP), 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 an Agreement with Yale University, on behalf of its Cedarhurst School, to provide educational services to students with disabilities in accordance with their Individual Education Program (IEP), subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel's Office.
- 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
Human Resources K. Medina	Wilby aud., café, classrooms: Friday, March 17, 2:00-6:00pm for set-up and Saturday, March 18, 7:00am-4:00pm for Police Exam
V. Demirali	Sprague gym: Wed., February 15, 4:30-6:30pm (Literacy Family Night) Sprague gym: Friday, March 17, 3:30-8:00pm (STEM Family Night)
M. Rocco	W. Cross gym: Friday, February 10, 5:30-9:30pm (Ties & Tiaras Dance) W. Cross gym: Friday, March 3, 5:30-9:30pm (Snow Flake Dance) W. Cross gym: Friday, March 24, 5:30-8:00pm (set-up for Craft Fair) W. Cross gym: Saturday, March 25, 7:00am-9:30pm (Spring Craft Fair)
J. Franceskino	Career Academy café: Thursday, February 2, 4:30-8:00pm (Karaoke Night Fundraiser/students only)
L. Martin	Rotella Community Room: March 28-April 6, all day (Book Fair)
Park & Rec. J. Egan	West Side MS pool & one classroom: February 18-March 14 for the training of lifeguard certification (see attached schedule)
*J. Begnal	Wilby gym: Thursday, March 2, 7:00am-2:00pm (American Red Cross Book Drive)
*J. O'Toole	Career Academy: Friday, February 24, 4:00-8:00pm (Pasta Dinner Fundraiser)
*K. Punter	Career Academy: Wednesday, February 22, 5:00-8:00pm (Black History Month event for parents)
*L. Richard	Career Academy gym: Thursday, March 9, 7:30am-2:00pm (Red Cross Blood Drive)

- 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
Sunshine Dance Center E. Summa	Kennedy auditorium: June 3, 9:00am-5:50pm and June 4, 2:00-5:30 pm (Dance Recital)
*Yeshiva K' Tana of Wtby. S. Metz	Rotella auditorium: March 18, 9:00-11:30pm (rehearsal) and March 19, 10:30am-3:30pm (play performance)

REQUESTING WAIVERS:

*AT 3 Leadership Academy A. Ireland	Crosby gym: April 23-June 25, 2023, 4:00-8:00pm (Basketball)	(\$2,100.)
* Neighb. Housing Serv. T. Pemberton	Reed gym: Thursday, March 9, 5:00-7:00pm (Community Meeting)	(\$126.)
*CT. Royalty T. Inabinett	West Side MS gym: February 11 and February 18, 2:00-7:00pm (Youth Basketball)	(\$2,100.)
*Hoops 4 Life D. Fryer	Wilby gym: June 17, 18, 24, 25, 9:00am-9:00pm (Basketball Games)	(\$4,368.)
*City Youth Theater S. Davis	Rotella auditorium.: April 17-20, 6:00-9:00pm and April 24-April 27, 6:00-9:30pm (rehearsals) and April 28 and April 29, 5:00-10:00pm And April 30, 12:00- 5:00pm (Play Performances)	(\$3,107.)

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

*Wtby. Ballers P. Lott	Waterbury Career Academy gym: March 13-June 6, Mon.-Thurs. (Basketball Practice-when gym is available)
---------------------------	---

13. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

14. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

14.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to approve to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to transmit the 2023-2024 Department of Education's budget request in the amount of \$158,375,000.00, to the Mayor.

14.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to approve Amendment One (1) to the Agreements with the following for Sub-Grantee Services under the School Readiness Program, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel's Office:

1. The Ark Child Development Center, Inc.
2. Catholic Charities, Inc.
3. Children's Community School
4. Children's Village, Inc.
5. Easter Seals Children's Academy and Children's Center
6. Center for Early Childhood Education at Naugatuck Valley Community College
7. New Opportunities Inc., Muriel Moore Child Development Center
8. TEAM Inc., Slocum School
9. Greater Waterbury YMCA

14.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to approve Amendment One (1) to the Professional Services Agreement with Torsh, Inc. for Online Comprehensive Professional Development Platform for School Readiness programs, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel's Office.

- 14.4 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, it was voted unanimously to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Area Cooperative Educational Services Corporation (ACES) for LEAP (Learner Engagement Attendance Program) Program Administration, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel’s Office.
- 14.5 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, it was voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Community Mental Health Affiliates (CMHA) to facilitate SMART Recovery Groups for high schools, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel’s Office.
- 14.6 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, it was voted unanimously to approve a Construction Contract with Bestech, Inc. of Connecticut for ACM Removal and Demolition of Boilers, heating Units, and Water Heater at International Dual Language School, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel’s Office.
- 14.7 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, it was voted unanimously to approve a Construction Contract with Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare, Inc. for removal and replacement of playscapes at nine schools, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel’s Office.
- 14.8 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, it was voted unanimously to approve Amendment Two (2) to the Agreement with Sarracco Mechanical Services, Inc. for mechanical upgrades at three high schools.

15. 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 15.1 through 15.6, Superintendent’s Notification to the Board, as read and listed:

15.1 Athletic appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Hart, Richard	Intramural Boys Basketball	Duggan	01/25/23
Neal, Cameron	Head Soccer	CHS	08/21/23
Poulter, Craig	Intramural Girls Basketball	Carrington	02/14/23
Salemme, Cassandra	Intramural Girls Basketball	Duggan	01/24/23
Sincuir, Silvia	Assistant Indoor Trach	WHS	01/26/23
Soeprasetyo, Preston	Assistant Baseball Coach	WHS	03/13/23

15.2 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>
Fuller, Diane	Certified Adult Ed Instructor	PT	\$33/hr	NON BOE	Adult Ed 22-23	01/30/23
Vixama, Marjorie	Hall Monitor Crosby	PT	\$98/day	NON BOE	General Fund	01/26/23

15.3 After-school Programs appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>
Garcia, Sharyn	21st Century	Academic Academy	Teacher
James, Joelizz	21st Century	Bucks Hill	Rec Specialist
Williams, Chelcey	21st Century	Regan	Teacher
Renna, Karen	ARP ESSER	Carrington	Site Administrator
Gwiazdoski, Kristen	ARP ESSER	Carrington	Administrator Sub
Doolan, Heidi	ARP ESSER	Carrington	Teacher
Kearns, Maura	ARP ESSER	Carrington	Teacher
Rosa, Marissa	ARP ESSER	Carrington	Teacher
Therault, Patricia	ARP ESSER	Carrington	Teacher
Salemme, Cassandra	ARP ESSER	Duggan	Site Administrator
Ferrare, Patricia	ARP ESSER	Duggan	Administrator Sub
DiGiovanni, Melissa	ARP ESSER	Duggan	Administrator Sub
DeFeo, Dawn	ARP ESSER	Duggan	Teacher
Lucian, David	ARP ESSER	Duggan	Teacher
Morales, Elizabeth	ARP ESSER	Duggan	Teacher
St. Pierre, Theodora	ARP ESSER	Duggan	Rec Specialist

15.4 Miscellaneous appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Program</u>
Caruso, Anthony	KHS	Mastery Based Learning Panel
Veneziano, Ellen	CHS	Edgenuity Site Coordinator
Wells, Traci	Enlightenment	Mastery Based Learning Panel Lead
Aresti, Robert	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Bajraktarevic, Zehra	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Caldarone, Paula	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Catricala, Julia	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
D'Alessio, Jennifer	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Dali-Parker, Suzanna	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
DiBella, Lee	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Doolan, Heidi	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Ferrare, Patricia	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Gonzalez Casanova, Ilea	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Grant, Nataine	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Johnson, Joshua	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Klesyk, Mary	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Mancinone, Taylor	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Mulhern, Jacqueline	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Norton, Dianna	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
O'Neill, Patrick	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Parker, Marlene	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Parker, Marly	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Pitcairn-Broughton, Dorothea	DW	School Equity Leadership Team

Rincon, Catalina	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Rivera, Michael	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Velez, Crystal	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Westerville, Jennifer	DW	School Equity Leadership Team
Williams, Chelcey	DW	School Equity Leadership Team

15.5 Resignations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Caplan, Ira	CHS Science	03/03/23
Gordon, Sonia	Enlightenment Math	02/28/23
Hilliard, Joshua	Reed ELA Grade 7	03/01/23
Kluszczewski, Maura	Tinker Grade K	02/24/23
Mayo, Colin	Driggs Music	03/03/23
McNamara, Hannah	Wilson Grade 3	01/27/23
Pannoni, Andrea	Carrington Special Education	01/27/23
Plasky, Jennifer	Wilby Agriculture	02/07/23
Saverino, Yesika	CHS Spanish	01/24/23
Zold, Kristine	Sprague Special Education	02/03/23

15.6 Retirements:

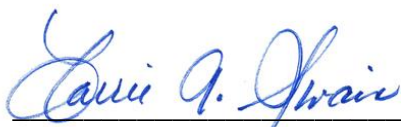
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Cancellaro, Carolyn	Carrington Special Ed/Resource	06/30/23
Hastings, Paula	Reed Special Education	06/30/23
Hersh, Donna	WMS ELA	02/23/23
Lawlor, Susan	State Street Special Ed	06/30/23
Murphy, Christopher	KHS ELA	02/28/23
Negron, Nicole	WMS Math Grade 8	06/30/23
Nonamaker, Rhonda	Generali Kindergarten	06/30/23
Stroud, Lori	WHS PE/Health	06/30/23
Riggi, Lori	Carrington Grade K	06/30/23

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Navarro, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:04 p.m.

ATTEST: 
 Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
 Board of Education