

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

April 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

The Board of Education's Regular Meeting was held on Thursday, April 20, 2023, 5:30 p.m. at Waterbury Arts Magnet School, 16 South Elm Street, Waterbury, Connecticut.

PRESENT: President Sweeney, Commissioners Hernandez, Ireland, Nardozzi, Navarro, O'Brien, Orso, and Van Stone.

ABSENT: Commissioners Brown and Serrano-Adorno.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Verna Ruffin, Director of Security & School Safety Daniel Barry, Interim Chief Operating Officer Nicholas Albini, Chief Financial Officer Doreen Biolo, Attorney Joseph Britton, Chief Academic Officer Janet Frenis, Interim Facilities Manager Rosh Maghfour, Assistant Superintendent Juan Mendoza, Director of Communications Belen Michelis, 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: Mary Jane Vazquez of Waterbury Career Academy.

1. SILENT PRAYER

President Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:32 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:

- *Susan Perry: Former cafeteria lunch aide passed away on December 15, 2022.*
- *Frances Marcuse: Retired teacher in Waterbury Public Schools passed away on January 19, 2023.*
- *Benjamin Payton Jr.: Eleventh grade student at Crosby High School, passed away on March 28, 2023.*
- *Kevin Brown: Former maintainer for the Department of Education, passed away on April 16, 2023.*

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Brown (absent). Vice President Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Ireland.

IRELAND: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Nardozzi.

NARDOZZI: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Navarro.

NAVARRO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner O'Brien.

O'BRIEN: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Orso.

ORSO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Serrano-Adorno (absent). Commissioner Van Stone.

VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to add item #14.5, Amendment Two (2) to the Agreement with Utility Communications, to the agenda.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Upon a motion by Commissioner Nardozzi and duly seconded by Commissioner Navarro, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file communications as listed:

- a) Copy of Copy of communication dated March 16, 2023 from Tim Moynahan regarding free speech in the dock.
- b) Copy of communication dated March 8, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Gina Morton for the position of Executive Administrative Assistant.
- c) Copy of communications dated March 13, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Gelissa Gutierrez, Sherie Paris, and Jahneicessa Teasley for the position of Paraprofessional I.
- d) Copy of communication dated March 13, 2023 from Civil Service to Jacob Bigos regarding temporary and at will employment for the position of Career & Technical Education Skills Specialist.
- e) Copy of communication dated March 16, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Geen Thazhampallath for the position of Provisional Director of Personnel & Talent Management.

- f) Email communication dated March 17, 2023 from CABE regarding policy highlights.
- g) Copy of communication dated March 20, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Zachary Oyola for the position of Maintainer I and revised communication dated March 23, 2023.
- h) Copy of communications dated March 27, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Willie Henriquez (revised March 28, 2023), Brandon Hoffler, and Tobie Nelson, Jr. for the position of Maintainer I.
- i) Copy of communication dated March 28, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Nila Robinson for the position of Food Service Worker.
- j) Copy of communication dated March 29, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Annalisa DiNicola for the position of Administrative Associate I.
- k) Communication dated March 30, 2023 from Richard White regarding request to name Wendell Cross Media Center.
- l) Email communication dated March 30, 2023 from Tim Moynahan regarding who owns the universities.
- m) Email communication dated March 31, 2023 from CABE regarding policy highlights.
- n) Communication received March 2023 from Louise Allen Brown, Grant Writer, regarding 2021-2022 Grants Update Report.
- o) Copy of communications dated April 12, 2023 from Civil Service certifying Christine Vazquez Figueroa, Emy Lou Dana, Evelyn Almodovar, and Narmin Easa for the position of Food Service Worker.
- p) Email communication dated April 14, 2023 from CABE regarding policy highlights.

5. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

There were no public speakers.

6. 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 Schools 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.*

7. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

There were no President's Comments.

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S COMMENTS

Waterbury Career Academy student Mary Jane Vazquez, grade 12, commented on the following items:

- Health Academy highlights:
 - HOSA Club hosted a spring blood drive with the Red Cross.
 - Nursing assistant students are finishing their required clinical hours at Abbott Terrace to prepare for the CNA state exam in June.
 - Eleventh grade health/science students have completed the AHA CPR and First Aid Certification.
 - Seventy-two students attended the W.I.S.H. Fest with one of our students serving as a panelist.
 - UConn EMT-B students all earned their Stop the Bleed certification.
 - Juniors attended an introduction to medical laboratory of science at the lab at UConn Health Center in Farmington.
- Education and Training Academy highlights:
 - Nineteen students are participating in clinical experiences at Wilson Elementary and WCA PreK Program.
 - Nine students are in an internship at State Street.
 - Connecticut EdRising Competition and was asked to attend the National EdRising Conference in Florida.
- IT and Engineering Academy highlights:
 - IT CIS2 classes are preparing for the Cisco Networking Fundamentals Industry certification exam.
 - Post University's Management dual enrollment classes completed their Shark Tank project pitching their ideas to a panel of teachers who judge the presentation.
- Manufacturing Academy highlights:
 - Students working at Cly-Del doing manufacturing apprenticeship.
 - Working to get more apprenticeship opportunities.
 - working on shop projects such as lathe puzzles and making a gumball machine.

- Boys Basketball Team made history as they won Division III State Championship and have been asked to go to the Capitol next week.
- Band students, drumline and chorus performed at the UConn parade and the District-wide Arts Showcase at the Palace Theater.
- Currently hosting a talent show where students will showcase their singing, dancing, and theatrical talents.
- Fifty-five students have earned the Seal of Biliteracy.
- Seventy-two point eight percent of students have completed the FAFSA.
- AP government students attended a law making symposium at the State Capitol.
- Black History month was celebrated in February.
- Women's History month was recognized in March.
- Students rallied together to sell bracelets in honor of Mr. Flammia, Assistant Principal, who has cancer.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to convene into Executive Session at 5:56 p.m. for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

PRESENT: President Sweeney, Commissioners Hernandez, Ireland, Nardozzi, Navarro, O'Brien, Orso, and Van Stone.

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Ruffin, Joseph Britton, and Juan Mendoza.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Nardozzi, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:06 p.m. with no votes taken.

10. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

10.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Brittany Dunn as Principal, Bunker Hill School, effective June 1, 2023.

10.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Kristen Gaudiosi as Principal, Generali School, effective immediately.

11. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

President Sweeney proceeded to read the Consent Calendar items 11.1 through 11.9.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner O'Brien, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 11.1 through 11.9, as read and listed:

- 11.1 The Committee of the Whole moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve Waterbury Arts Magnet School Operations Plan dated March 2, 2023.
- 11.2 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve the CSDE Supplemental Grant Application for Adult Education, Cooperating Entity/Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury as submitted by Jessica Reho, Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers.
- 11.3 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve an Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with Post University for Academic Partnership – High School Academy at Post University, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel’s office.
- 11.4 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve to apply for the Connecticut State Department of Education "School Mental Health Specialists Grant Program".
- 11.5 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve to apply for the Connecticut State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, "School Security Grant Program – Round 6".
- 11.6 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve an Agreement with 4 You, LLC for floor replacement at Walsh School, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel’s office.
- 11.7 The Committee on Finance moves that the Waterbury Board of Education approve the 2022-2024 Consolidated Two-Year Federal Grant application.
- 11.8 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
J. Begnal	Rotella aud.: May 1 – 3, 5:00 – 8:00pm (rehearsals) and May 5, 4:00 – 9:00 pm and May 6, 11:00am – 4:00pm (rehearsals and performances of Wilby class play)
L. Martin	Rotella Community rm.: Thurs., May 11, 9am – 1pm (Parent Liaison meeting)
C. Hagan	WSMS theater arts rm.: Thurs., May 4, 5:00 – 8:00 pm (Spring Concert)
A. Jorge	Wallace Library: Wed., June 7, 12:30 – 5:15pm (teachers meeting regarding professional development)
T. Wsack	Walsh gym: Tues., April 18, 5:30 – 7:00 pm (Family Night)
S. Carter	Wallace café: March 30, 4:00 – 6:00 pm (Family Paint Night) and April 29, 11:00am – 1:00pm (Zumba for mental Health)

D. Ferreira	Walsh gym: Tues., March 28, 5:30 – 7:00 pm (Family Night)
Q. Brown-Coles	WAMS atrium: Sat., April 15, 11:30 am – 4:30 pm (Kindergarten registration fair)
K. Nizzardo	WAMS classrooms: Wed., June 21, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm (MFA summer institute)
Silas Bronson Lib. M. Tierney	Wilby baseball field: Wed., May 17, 3:00 – 6:00 pm (promote the library on game day)
*V. Demirali	Sprague gym: Wed., April 19, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, (Family Fitness Night) Sprague gym: Thurs., June 1, 3:30 – 8:00 pm. (STEM Family Night)

11.9 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
Bags Foundation, CT.	Kennedy gym: Tuesday, April 4, 5:00 – 9:30 pm
N. Reddick	(high school all-star basketball games)

REQUESTING WAIVERS:

Grandville Academy	Reed café & kitchen: Sat., April 29, 9:00am – 1:00 pm	
Maurice Mosley	(seminar)	(\$420.)
A. Ireland	Crosby gym & café June 19 – 23, 9am – 4pm	(\$3,360.)
	Rotella gym: June 19 – 23, 11am – 2pm (Basketball development program)	(\$1,680.)
*Be A Baller Not a Bully D. Zimmerman	Wilby gym & café: July 24 – 28 and July 31 – Aug. 4 7am – 5pm (summer basketball camp)	(\$9,240.)
*Hoops 4 Life D. Fryer	West Side gym: Saturdays, April 22 – June 10 10:00am – 2:00pm (basketball program)	(\$1,680.)

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

CT. Royalty T. Inabinett	Wilby gym: March 24 – June 2, Wednesday & Fridays 6:00 – 9:00pm (youth basketball practice)
Special Olympics J. Stack	Wilby pool: March 28 – May 30, Tuesdays, 5:00 – 8:00 pm (Wtby. Spec. Olympics swim practice)
PAL Of. M. Macary	Kennedy aux. gym: March 27 – July 14, Mon., Tues., Fri. 6:00 – 9:00 pm (basketball practice for travel team)
*Wtby. Bridge to Success: A. Brooks	Reed School Parking Lot: Wed., April 12, 2:00 – 5:00pm (pop-up Food Pantry)
*Gilmartin Community Club Ruth Barry	Gilmartin café: Tues., May 2, 7:00 – 9:00 pm (community club meeting)
*Hoops 4 Life D. Fryer	West Side gym: Apr. 17 – June 6, Mon, Tues, Wed., 5:30 – 9:00 pm Reed gym: Apr. 17 – June 9, Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri., 5:30 – 9:00 pm

12. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

13. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- 13.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Community Health Center, Inc. for Health Literacy, at no cost, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel's office.

14. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- 14.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to approve Amendment One (1) to the College Board Agreement (CB-00034112) with College Board to provide SpringBoard High School English Language Arts Curriculum including print and online instructional materials and professional learning, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel's office.
- 14.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to approve Amendment One (1) to the College Board Agreement (CB-00034126) with College Board to provide SpringBoard Secondary Math Curriculum including print and online instructional materials and professional learning, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel's office.
- 14.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Orso and duly seconded by Commissioner O'Brien, it was voted unanimously to approve an Agreement with Waterbury Youth Services, Inc. to provide Truancy Prevention Services, 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 O'Brien, it was voted unanimously to approve a Letter of Agreement with Diversified Events, LLC, to provide transportation and accommodations for Kennedy High School students to perform in the National Independence Day Parade, 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 O'Brien, it was voted unanimously to approve Amendment Two (2) to the Contract with Utility Communications, Inc. for school security video surveillance and access control system expansions and upgrades, subject to any non-substantive changes approved by the Corporation Counsel's office.

15. COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES

- 15.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner O'Brien and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, with Commissioner Van Stone voting "no", it was voted to deny WTA Grievance 2022-23-02 heard by the Committee on April 4, 2023.

15.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner O'Brien and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, with Commissioner Van Stone voting "no", it was voted to deny WTA Grievance 2022-23-04 heard by the Committee on April 4, 2023.

15.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner O'Brien and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, it was voted unanimously to refer back to the Superintendent's Level for further negotiations WTA Grievance 2022-23-06 heard by the Committee on April 4, 2023.

15.4 Upon a motion by Commissioner O'Brien and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, it was voted unanimously to deny WTA Grievance 2022-23-07 heard by the Committee on April 4, 2023.

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 read and listed:

16.1 Athletic appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Aresti, Robert	Baseball Coach	WMS	04/03/23
Gray III, Ollie	Baseball Coach	NEMS	04/03/23
Sturdivant, Jason	Boys Tennis Coach	CHS	03/20/23

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>Effective</u>
Baglan, Brian	Network Specialist I (10 month)	FT	\$19/hr	UPSEU 69	Title II/A District 22-24	03/02/23
Beers, Rose	SPPT Nurse	PT	\$35/hr	NON BOE	ARP ESSER SPPT 22-24	03/16/23
Gatlin, Eric	Crossing Guard Tinker	PT	\$15/hr	SCG	General Fund	03/09/23
LeVasseur, Evelyn	Tutor (Certified) Carrington	PT	\$33/hr	NON BOE	Title I/A 22-24	03/02/23
Medina, Keytza	Tutor Bucks Hill	PT	\$25/hr	NON BOE	Title I/A 22-24	03/13/23
Miller, Terri	Tutor - Children's Community School	PT	\$33/hr	NON BOE	Title I/A 21-23	03/30/23
Santos, Arnaldo	Hall Monitor Wallace	PT	\$98/day	NON BOE	Title I/A 21-23	03/23/23
Scatena, Alexandra	Tutor Tinker	PT	\$25/hr	NON BOE	Title I/A 22-24	03/16/23
Villavicencio, Winifer	Birth to Three Transition Coord.	FT	\$22/hr	UPSEU 69	IDEA 611 P & NP 22-24	03/27/23
Warren, Samantha	Network Specialist II (promotion)	FT	\$27/hr	UPSEU 69	Priority Schools	03/09/23

16.3 After-school Programs appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>
Carter, Sa-Queen	21 st Century	Academic Academy	Teacher
De Santis, Paula	21 st Century	Walsh	Teacher
Gaynes, Stacey	21 st Century	Walsh	Teacher
Gluz, Debra	21 st Century	Academic Academy	Teacher
Montgomery, Asia	21 st Century	Walsh	Rec Specialist
Nguyen, Karena	SDE	Washington	Teacher
Perez, Oscar	SDE	Kingsbury	Rec Specialist
Poulin, Gina	21 st Century	Walsh	Teacher
Rendon, Miguel	21 st Century	Bucks Hill	Teacher
Soares, Elenice	21 st Century	West Side	Administrator Sub

16.4 Miscellaneous appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School/Program</u>
Dunn, Brittany	Elementary Summer School Program Coord.	Extended Academic (EAS) Support Elementary
Ferrare, Patricia	ESY Summer Program Coord.	Extended School Year (ESY)
Rosa, Jennifer	Middle School Summer School Program Coord.	Extended Academic Support (EAS) MS
Zappone, Evette	High School Summer School Program Coordinator	Extended Academic Support (EAS) HS
Aresti, Robert	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
Banks, Melissa	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
Bell, Teresa	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
Bleau, Lisa	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
DelGobbo, Leah	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
Dossantos, Shannon	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
Greene, Lucia	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
Lyons, Jean	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
Mulhern, Jacqueline	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
Parker, Marly	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
Pierresiant, Courtney	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
Rahman, Vareesha	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
Soares, Elenice	School Equity Leadership Team	DW
Sodano, Gina	School Equity Leadership Team	DW

16.5 Resignations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Hubeny, Carolyn	State Street Special Ed 6-8	03/16/23
Mayer, Samantha	Walsh Grade 4	06/30/23
Rosado, Debra	WMS SEL Counselor	04/17/23
Stella, Olivia	Wilson Grade 1	05/12/23

16.6 Retirements:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Barbosa, Elvira	Carrington Special Ed	06/30/23

Brophy, Melanie	Chase Grade 1	06/30/23
Peschel, Maryann	WSMS ELA Grade 6	06/30/23
Siperas, Caroline	NEMS Special Ed	06/30/23

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to convene into Executive Session at 6:31 p.m. for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

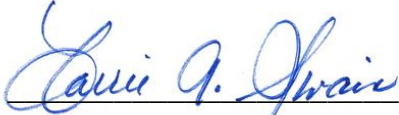
PRESENT: President Sweeney, Commissioners Brown, Hernandez, Ireland, Nardozzi, Navarro, Orso, and Van Stone.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Ireland, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 7:00 p.m. with no votes taken.

Commissioner Van Stone left at 7:00 p.m.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Orso, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education