

**WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING*

Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

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

**PRESENT:** President Brown, Commissioners Awwad, Harvey, Hernandez, Serrano-Adorno, Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, and T. Van Stone.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner J. Van Stone.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Deputy Superintendent Robert Henry and Chief Academic Officer Darren Schwartz.

**1. SILENT PRAYER**

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

HENRY: In our moment of silence this evening let us remember Mr. James E. Pettit who passed away on April 24. He was a teacher for 35 years, first at Walsh elementary and subsequently he went on to finish his career at Kennedy High School, retiring in 1995. We ask us to please remember Mr. Pettit and recognize his service and dedication to the students of Waterbury this evening.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

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

**3. ROLL CALL**

CLERK: Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Serrano-Adorno.

SERRANO-ADORNO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner J. Van Stone (absent). Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Brown.

BROWN: Present. Thank you, we have a quorum.

#### **4. AWARD PRESENTATION**

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT: It is my great pleasure to recognize these two schools. These two schools happen to be magnet schools that have been awarded national certification by Magnet Schools of America Organization. And it's important to note that it's a very arduous process. I see some tired folks even now, it's a process that takes anywhere from six months to a year and they're required to actually go through five pillars, requirements, in which they have to demonstrate that they've been extremely successful at them. And so it is from that perspective that having achieved that particular status, we wanted to recognize them officially on behalf of the administration and School Board itself. It's a certification that lasts for four years and we must realize there are fewer than 200 schools nationwide that actually have achieved that and to have two of them right here in our midst is an extraordinary accomplishment.

*President Brown and Mr. Henry presented Principal Robin Henry of Rotella Magnet School and Principal Donna Cullen of Maloney Magnet School.*

*(applause)*

#### **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

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

1. Email communication dated March 2, 2018 from CABE regarding Policy Highlights.
2. Copy of communication dated March 12, 2018 from Civil Service certifying Maria Milo for the position of Teaching Vice Principal – Regan School.
3. Email communication dated March 13, 2018 from Margaret Caiazzo regarding arrival and dismissal changes.
4. Email communications dated March 16, 2018 and March 19, 2018 from CABE regarding Policy Highlights.
5. Email communication dated March 21, 2018 from Gia Lucenti regarding ABA Therapists.
6. Email communication dated March 21, 2018 from Simona Carter regarding BOE Budget.
7. Email communication dated March 22, 2018 from Diane Kuskowski regarding Attendance Counselor budget cuts.
8. Email communication dated March 22, 2018 from Barbara Carlson regarding ABA program.
9. Email communication dated March 25, 2018 from Mike Christiano regarding concerns.

10. Email communication dated March 27, 2018 from Stacey Irizarry regarding Education Budget Cuts/Attendance Counselors.
11. Email communication from Joan Cavalari regarding ABA Program.
12. ACES Governing Board update dated March 28, 2018
13. Email communication dated March 30, 2018 from CABE regarding Policy Highlights.
14. Email communication dated April 1, 2018 regarding ABA Program.
15. Email communication dated April 3, 2018 from Maggie Kennelly regarding letter from Behavior Therapist.
16. Email communication dated April 3, 2018 from Rachel DiLonardo regarding ABA program.
17. Invitation to the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Margaret M. Generali Foundation Awards.
18. Copy of communication dated April 10, 2018 from Civil Service to Christina Ortiz offering employment for the position of Lunch Aide.
19. Copy of notification of transfer dated April 10, 2018 from Civil Service to Bernice Walker from Lunch Aide to Office Aide.
20. Copy of communications dated April 10, 2018 from Civil Service to Alicia Turner offering employment for the position of Food Service Worker and Jasse Curry for the position of Paraprofessional.
21. Copy of communications dated April 16, 2018 from Civil Service certifying Valerie Graham and Jessica DeJesus-Roldan for the position of Food Service Worker.
22. Copy of communication dated April 17, 2018 from Civil Service certifying Timothy Brown for the position of Food Service Worker.
23. Copy of communication dated April 19, 2018 from Civil Service certifying Stella Abney for the position of Food Service Worker.

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

## **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2018 Workshop and March 15, 2018 Regular Meeting.**

Brown: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain. Motion carries. Thank you Madam Secretary.

## **7. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango 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 6:38 p.m.**

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain. All speakers are encouraged to submit prepared written statements to the Commissioners. Comments shall be limited

to a maximum of five minutes. The Chairman will disallow a speaker from continuing to speak if slanderous or defamatory remarks are made. There will be no responses this evening to any questions or concerns raised; they will be referred to the Administration for review and response.

**Joan Cavalari, 451 Meriden Road, had the following comments:** I am a Behavior Therapist and I've been employed with the City for nine years. I have worked at Generali School for those nine years. I'm here to ask you to please reconsider your plan to privatize the ABA Program. There are several reasons for that. The first one is that there will be 40 therapists that will be unemployed, they will be collecting unemployment which the City would have to pay for and I don't know . . . into your budget. Next you will have less qualified, less experienced people working with our students. ABA therapists are required to have a BS, bachelor's degree and many of us have a master's degree. We are also required to have one year experience working with people with autism before we are hired and we also do management guidelines, we do behavior guidelines, we put together program books based on the children's IEPs, we gather materials, and then we implement all of that. Behavior, our BTAs or registered behavior technicians as you wanted to hire only need to have a high school diploma. They have to complete 40 hours of training and then they need to be supervised by . . . They cannot do what we do, they cannot write management guidelines, they cannot do behavior guidelines because they don't have a Bachelors. State law requires people with Bachelors or higher to be able to do these things. So that's a very big disadvantage. The most important reason not to change this program is the children, our children, have a very difficult time with change and to take 40 therapists away from them at one time and then put all new faces to them would have devastating effects on them and their behaviors at school and at home. So it not only affects the children it's also going to affect their family. I fear summer school the first day, July 9, when these children are expecting to see all of their therapists that they worked with through the year and some have known us since their very first year at Generali starting in kindergarten. They get off the bus and not one person to they know. They see a sea of unfamiliar faces. I know from experience, I work with children, two of them have the tendency to bolt; I already know that, I'm already prepared. These people have no idea who these children are; they have no idea of what will happen. I do now there will be catastrophic, disastrous things that will happen that day, kids will be running in all directions. Kids will be screaming and they will be acting out aggressively because of their frustration. Because they don't understand what's going on. They can't express themselves like you and I. We can ask those questions – who are you, why are you here, where's my therapist? These children, most of them do not have that ability, so their actions are a reflection of their frustration. We as therapists try to work on their communication skills to have them be able to express some things in any which way of their communication, not all of them are verbal. Many of our children have very limited language, some of them use iPads, some of them use picture pecs, some of them use sign language. If you're unfamiliar with that then I'm afraid that you're gonna have very sad effects of what will happen. I'm asking you to please come spend one day, all of you, in any of our ABA programs and see what we do. That's the only way you're going to understand that keeping this program the way it is is the best choice for the children. You don't fix what isn't broken and this has worked for 14 years. Thank you.

**Rebecca Shaw, 456 Willow Street, had the following comments:** I've been a parent in this district for ten years. I've spoken before you once before and came again at other times to support others speaking to you. I felt a need to come again because of my concerns regarding parent involvement. During all of these years I hear repeatedly that the schools want more parent involvement. You want us to be partners with the school yet I don't see true evidence of this. Yes, there are PTO meetings and tons of family events but that does not make us true partners. True partners help work out problems together, they work together to make the experience better for our students. I want to address three concerns in this area. The first concern is the school environment. I recognize that I may only be speaking out of my experience at Bucks Hill Annex, Kingsbury Elementary School, and North End Middle School. But I believe my experience is not unique. I recognize that there's a need for greater security in light of events happening in the world but I also feel it's important to consider how some policies we make at the district or school level affect the environment. If we are making policies out of fear then the feeling at the school will be one of fear and distrust. At Kingsbury on the first day of schools parents are no longer allowed to visit the upper grade classrooms to meet their child's teacher. The first day of school is traditionally one of great anticipation and excitement for parents and children. Many parents take time off of work to take their children to school and meet their child's teacher on this special day. When policies like the one at Kingsbury are in place feelings of frustration and resentment are more likely to occur.

The second concern I'd like to address is one about how frustrating it is to parents like me that want to make a positive difference, to have our ideas be continually shot down. I have talked to three different principals at Kingsbury about the possibility of having kids there perform a play that I wrote about how Frederick Douglas learned how to read and write. I even trained with Shakesperience to make sure I could make the experience very educational. Each principal thought a play at the school level was a great idea, at least two of them read my script and all of them said they were willing to let it happen but then it felt like swimming in molasses to actually make it happen. It felt like they were saying yes on the one hand and no way on the other.

My third concern regards the many other issues that are happening in and around our schools. Some of the issues at Kingsbury are parking and pickup times, absenteeism, and only having one room as a cafeteria, auditorium, and gymnasium. There are many parents that are as concerned about these as the educators. However, a meeting where we are talked to about the problem of absenteeism is not high on our list of meetings to attend. On the other hand if we are engaged in a discussion about the problems and possible solutions you might be surprised at the results. I'm still not one for laying down complaints without possible solutions so my biggest recommendation is that you make more policies that encourage true parent/school partnering. What about a policy that parents should have access to teachers the morning of the first day of school? How about a policy that requires schools to sponsor an event that parents initiate and lead? Is there a policy that can be made that insures parents can be part of the discussions to find solutions for the problems at their school? I hope you will consider these concerns and strive to make Waterbury schools true partners with parents. And then I just want to add one more comment, I have been trained as a special educator and I have friends that have tried to work with your system with kids with autism. I want you to also consider the possibility that you have to send a whole lot

more students out of the district and I know that's really expensive for you so please consider their plea. Thank you.

**Richard Wood, Avalon Circle, had the following comments:** I hadn't planned on speaking until I heard the young lady go over her cheerful . . . The thing that I'm hearing from homeless parents is the problems with their children in the schools not being understood as to why their behavior is the way it is. If we cut loose our trained specialists who can supervise this type of individual in special ed whether they're autistic or have other problems we're gonna have a larger problem and a more expensive problem in the long run. I interviewed three parents today who are homeless. The grandmothers of course have the children like any one of us would have but the children are still basically homeless and when they go to the schools and if they have any problems at all they are not easily recognized cause the staff in the school has not to my knowledge been given any training in treating homeless children a little bit differently than those with two parents at home. And this is something that's increasing. Every week there's more and more homeless and these children of these parents can cause us an incredible amount of difficulties in the future. I taught a little bit years ago and I can tell you looking at some of these kids running around Willow Street I don't think I could get them to stay in their chairs never mind teach them anything. And our teachers, and we have a good cadre of great teachers, I know many of them were my clients for years so I was trained by teachers to recognize good talent. I think we're gonna have to think twice about this restructuring and going into privatizing the ABAs and so on. Try spending a day with them; I think that might be something you might want to consider. Seeing it first-hand might give you a different view point. However I also know as a taxpayer it's a budgetary item and money is short and it's gonna get shorter in the future. So when we say we want to do this are we coming up with the money? Well there is quite a bit of money floating around in the City; the Water Department for one is giving our money away. We could take that back and have it provide the funds for these teaching systems that you want to privatize. I do hope I didn't give you anything to worry about and give Thomas more grey hair but I do wish you luck. We do have a good Board. The one thing that the population in the city and the parents needs to recognize is that being on the Board of Education is not just a challenge, it's a commitment to excellence cause you all are responsible for the quality of education of our children. And from what I can see you're doing a good job with what you have to work with. Peace be with you.

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:54 p.m.**

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

## **8. DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Mr. Henry read and distributed the following report:*

Congratulations to our Board President Elizabeth Brown on being named United Way's Volunteer of the Year. She will be honored at the United Way of Greater Waterbury's 32nd annual dinner in May along with other nominees.

By way of an update, I'd like to indicate that the Coherence and Capacity Review of our District is being conducted. A team of five members visited our District during the weeks of April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>. They have conducted numerous interviews of Central Office and school administrators, talked with School Board members, conducted focus groups, and have begun analyzing information we have provided. There are a few more interviews and focus group sessions yet to be conducted. The visiting team will subsequently analyze all the evidence, identify trends and patterns, and prepare a report to be utilized in our long term District Improvement Strategic Planning.

Our congratulations to Tiahna Pulliam, a Crosby High School student who has earned All State in the Class L Girls' basketball division. Tiahna is the only student selected from the Waterbury Public Schools.

Twenty-four Waterbury Public Schools teachers had their Donors Choose projects funded in full recently, through the generosity of Ripple, a San Francisco-based technology company that donated \$29 million to DonorsChoose.org, funding every single classroom project request across the U.S. requested at that time. Here in Waterbury, 28 projects were funded, totaling \$19,856. Donors Choose allows those who would like to support education on a classroom level to donate funds to projects that interest them.

Three Waterbury Public Schools teachers have been awarded grants for summer projects through Fund for Teachers. Alison Kirchberger (Hopeville) and Doreen Lawson (Wilby) will travel to Czech Republic to study storytelling and memoir writing, while Matthew Weiner (Enlightenment) will travel to Thailand to study meditation in a Buddhist monastery. The national Fund for Teachers granted awards to 487 teachers this year, with 149 of those teachers being from Connecticut. The Dalio Foundation funds the Connecticut projects.

We have several district-wide events occurring in the next few weeks. On Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be honoring fifty-one students from throughout the district during our annual Superintendent's Student Recognition Awards. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Kennedy High School. This year, we will be honoring all of the students on the same evening.

The following week on May 18<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating parents and community leaders during the Family and Community Leadership Conference. This full-day event begins with registration and breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at Naugatuck Valley Community College. Ann Pratt, Director of Organizing at Connecticut Citizen Action Group, will provide the keynote speech. Participants will have the opportunity to attend two workshops from among the eight workshops offered. The awards ceremony begins at 12:15 p.m. in the college's main theater.

The District-Wide Talent Showcase better known as "Celebrating Community Through the Arts", is scheduled for Monday, May 21, 2018 at the Palace Theater. Doors will open at 5 p.m. In addition to student musical talent acts from the Music and Theater Arts Department, student art from the Art Department will be exhibited in the Orchestra (Lower Outer) Lobby and Talented and Gifted student's end of year projects will be on display in the Grand Foyer, the perch area above the Grand Foyer and, if necessary, the upper Mezzanine Lobby. The showcase will begin at 6:30 p.m. Nineteen schools will be participating and there are 27 acts in total with students ranging from 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>

grade. Tom Chute is onboard as our Master of Ceremony, along with Dr. Michelle Baker and Ray Santovasi as emcees.

Leadership Greater Waterbury is hosting a Waterbury Youth Quiz Bowl on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the AOH Club in Waterbury. Eight high school teams will be participating. The winner will receive a trophy and \$500. Second place is \$250.

I have been asked to serve as the guest speaker at this year's Greater Waterbury Educational Leadership event at NVCC on Monday, April 30th. I understand this is an annual event that showcases and strengthens the partnership between the college and area educators.

On Friday, May 11, 2018, students in K-8 Waterbury Public Schools will be allowed to wear their favorite colored shirt for Waterbury Kids Marathon Day, for example, Yankees, Mets, Frozen, UConn. All proceeds donated will support the Waterbury Kids Marathon to be held on May 31, 2018 at Library Park. The rain date for the event is June 5, 2018.

Our district recently raised \$2,683.92 for Muscular Dystrophy.

*Mr. Henry read and distributed the following "addendum" to his Superintendent's Announcements:*

This is to inform the Board of Education that I will be referring for investigation to the City's Corporation Counsel's Office and the Board of Education's Human Resources Office the apparent dual role of Commissioner John Theriault as a Board of Education Member and that of a Substitute Teacher receiving compensation for services rendered to our students. I believe this to be a violation of Section 10-232 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

And this concludes the Deputy Superintendent's Report.

THERIAULT: Point of order. Through the Chair, point of order.

BROWN: Yes, Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: That's a misstatement. I am not a substitute teacher. I work for the Homebound Office dealing with kids that are infirm and sick. I work two hours a day. I worked in this capacity before I came on this Board and there are other individuals that have capacities in the education department through the Board of Aldermen and others. So I wish to clarify that.

BROWN: Thank you Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: I am not a substitute teacher.

BROWN: Okay, duly noted.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President, through you, before I go into my question, while we're doing congrats, there is also 37 of our teachers on tonight's Agenda that achieved an advanced degree. I would also like to make note of that well. I usually do when I see that so congratulations to those individuals who have spent

time, their own time, becoming better for our benefit. So I just wanted to throw that out there.

Thank you Mr. Henry for taking my question. Before I ask the question I just want to give a little past history. Based on the fact that a couple of weeks ago we heard that we were considering, although I'm not sure it's consider, without out vote, to swap the buildings for the State Street School and Enlightenment. Many folks know that the lease we have on State Street has been something I've contested for many years. I have shown numerous business cases that say it's a bad deal for this Board to pay that bill. With that, I've always been told that the current St. Lucy's building is the perfect location for the State Street population. Now all of a sudden it's not, that we want to swap. So if we have based a business case decision on the fact that this is the perfect building for this population why would we ever consider changing that? And part of that argument was not only is it the perfect building but what we would do to the students by moving them, and that included when I brought to this Board using this same money to either redo Wallace, which was my number one option, also based on the fact that it had the tremendous medical facilities that could be offered to these students, the change for these students would be detrimental. So we continue to pay this money on this lease based on the fact that we would be detrimental to this population but now we're gonna move them to another facility and oh, by the way, we're gonna upset the population at Enlightenment by moving them which was also told to us to be a perfect facility for that population. So in a non-voting decision to this Board we're gonna move all these students that have such sensitive needs that we could not make a business decision. I am absolutely against this change. We don't get a vote but I have a voice. I really think we need to reconsider the decision that was shown to this Board a few weeks ago that we're just gonna make this decision to swap these two schools. If I really had a choice we would be in a non-rented building, non-leased building, one we own for these students. So Mr. Henry, why are we making this decision at this time?

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT: So Mr. Van Stone, Commissioner Van Stone, obviously I do not have all of the history that you just outlined. In terms of what was before us is a recommendation that having analyzed it with some of those kind of details it was considered to be the kind of swap, in terms of the buildings, that would allow for improvement at both ends of the equation. When we talked about the facilities I guess at Church Street and the fact that it will serve that population of youngsters that were coming better as well as retaining a number of the Enlightenment students who will remain there at the current site, it seemed that it was a better setting for them while I also understand, given where the current Enlightenment folks are gonna go, that that facility having analyzed it by our folks responsible for that that they will have access to all of the services and more because of the association with PAL and those kind of services. So it's from that perspective that it appeared to be sound and we'd move forward recognizing that it was a win/win from many perspectives. So that's why the decision was made, recommendation.

BROWN: And if I may, I think...

T. VAN STONE: Well if I may follow-up while I have the floor, the argument you just gave for Enlightenment going to that facility was also part of the argument why we needed State Street School to stay there. So either something has changed or for the last five years I've been lied to. So I really think we need to reconsider this decision

because something has obviously changed dramatically in the last few weeks compared to what this Board has been told for the last five years.

BROWN: Thank you and I would say several members of the Board have voiced some concerns and questions so I think we need to revisit this and hold another meeting and hopefully get the answers that Commissioners want and I will be asking for a meeting to delve into this, to have another, I would be glad to do that.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President, thank you Mr. Henry. I know you came into this that's why I prefaced with the history. I certainly could give you more history, there's more to it just than what I stated. Thank you both.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT: I'm certain.

BROWN: Any other comments?

## **9. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

BROWN: I have the honor tonight of, it's Administrative Secretaries appreciation and because we were not there yesterday I would like to thank Carrie for all her hard work and here's some flowers to show our appreciation.

I just have a comment that I really appreciate the public speaking tonight we would like you to know that these discussions are ongoing, decisions are not final as far as the ABAs and I personally agree with you that we should not privatize and I'm on record for saying that as well as other members here. So we will be looking into that. No decisions are final. Would anybody like to remove anything from the Consent Calendar?

*President Brown proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, items 10.1 through 10.4.*

## **10. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Stango, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 10.1 through 10.4, as listed:**

- 10.1 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Deputy Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Lighttower Fiber Networks II, LLC, for a five year period, to provide Wide Area Telephone and Network Services for various schools and administrative buildings.
- 10.2 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Deputy Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the 2018-2020 Connecticut State Department of Education's Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Entitlement Grant.
- 10.3 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities and Grounds, the Deputy Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities, at no charge, by the following school organizations and/or City departments:

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES</b>
A. Edwards	Tinker gym & café: Thurs., Mar. 29, 5:30-8:00 pm (Science Night)
M. Rocco	W. Cross gym: Fri., April 6, 5 - 9 pm ((Movie/Pancake Night)
R. Augelli	Washington gym: Mon., April 2, 5:00 - 6:30 pm (Spec. Olympics tennis mtg.)
M. Case	WAMS recital hall: Mon., May 21, 2:30 - 4:30 pm (Make-up artist Presentation)
M. Neff	Career Academy café: Tues., Apr. 3, (discussion about Wtby. Forensic Unit)
D. Melendez	Chase café: Wed., May 9, 5:30 - 7:30 pm (Family Math Night)
C. Damore	Wilson gym: Thurs., Apr. 26 (Science workshop for parents & students)
Adult Educ.	Kennedy aud.: Fri., June 15 and Mon., June 18, 5 – 7 pm (rehearsals) and
A. Musto	Tues., June 19, 5 – 8 pm (Adult Education Graduation)
M. Case	WAMS recital hall: Thurs., May 24, 2 - 9 pm (Senior Orchestra Recital)
L. Richard	Career Academy café: Thurs., May 3, 4 – 9 pm (Super Seniors Supper)
A. Carroll	Reed café: Thurs., Apr. 26, 5:00 - 6:00 pm (Bingo Night)
*Human Res.	Wilby Aud.: Tues, April 24, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. (Firefighter Study Guide In-service)
C. Lamb	WHS & NEMS Café: Sat., May 19, 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Firefighter Written Exam)
*P. Poulter	Regan Room: Thursday, April 26, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Family Science Night)
*M. Rocco	W. Cross Gym: Thurs., May 24, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. (School Gov. Council Meeting)
*K. Yamashita-Iverson	Maloney Gym & Cafe: Friday, May 4, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Multicultural Night)
*T. St. Pierre	Duggan Gym/Café: Thursday, April 26, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. (Parent Involvement Night)
	Duggan Gym/Café: Friday, June 15, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Parent Involv. Cookout)

- 10.4 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities and Grounds, the Deputy Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities by outside organizations subject to fees and insurance as required:

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES</b>
Woodbury Ballet	Kennedy aud.: Wed., June 13, 5 – 9 pm (rehearsal) and June 16, 6 – 10 pm
R. Errica	(recital performance)
*S. Carmody	CHS Auditorium: Monday, May 14, 2:30 – 9:00 p.m.
CT Democrats	(5 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District Convention)

**REQUESTING WAIVERS:**

Wtby. Parochial League	Kennedy & Career Academy gyms: April 7, 8 am – 6 pm	
John Egan	Kennedy gym: April 8, 10 am – 6 pm	
	(New England parochial league tournament)	(\$2,604)
*Neighb. Hous. Services	Reed Gym: Sunday, April 15, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.	
K. Taylor	(Youth Exercise Activity)	(\$168)

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

P.A.L.	Wilby track: 4/2 - 6/11/18, Mondays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm (practice)
Ofc. C. Amatruda	
Wtby. Ballers	Carrington gym: April 9 to June 7, Mon., Wed., Thurs., 6:00 - 8:00 pm
T. Lott	(basketball practice)
Hillside Neighb. Assoc.	Driggs gym: Wed., April 18, 7 – 9 pm
Michael Batista, Pres.	(neighborhood meeting)
Neighb. Hous.Services	Reed café: April 11 & 23 <sup>rd</sup> and May 2 & 16
E. Cooper	6:00 - 8:00 pm (neighborhood program)
*Waterbury Ballers	Chase Gym: 4/10 thru 6/13/18, Tuesday & Wednesday, 6:00- 9:00 p.m.
T. Lott	(Basketball Program)
*Waterbury Patriots	Generali Gym: Monday & Wednesday, April 16 and 18
T. Trabinette	3:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Cheerleading Clinic)

Crosby Gym: Thursday, May 24, 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.  
(Fundraiser Basketball Game)

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

**11. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

*There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.*

**12. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

**12.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve the job specifications for, and new position of, Grant Facilitator – Carl D. Perkins Grant, as attached.**

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

**12.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve that the Deputy Superintendent of Schools be authorized to notify teachers of the non-renewal of their employment contracts in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151.**

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

AWWAD: So before I read this, why isn't this on Consent?

BROWN: It did not go to Workshop.

AWWAD: Thank you, that's all I needed to know.

**13. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**13.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Awwad and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve the acceptance of a State & Federally Funded Grant Contract between the Department of Economic and Community Development and Rotella School, as attached.**

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

**14. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, with Commissioner Theriault recusing himself on item #14.3, to receive and place on file items 14.1 through 14.14 as listed:

**14.1 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:  
Ciochetti, Angela – H.R. Associate, \$16.26 p/hour, non-union with benefits governed by UPSEU #69, funded by Title II Part A.**

Joseph, Renee – Assistant Talent Recruiter, \$23.08 p/hour, non-union with benefits governed by UPSEU #69, funded by Alliance Grant.  
Marofsky, Etienne – H.R. Generalist, \$50,000 annually, non-union with benefits governed by the UPSEU #69, funded by Title II Part A.  
White, Andrea – Prevention Specialist, \$18.14 p/hour, non-union with benefits governed by UPSEU #69, funded by Priority Schools Grant.

14.2 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Program Recreation Specialist appointments, part-time, \$12.00 p/hour, non-union and without benefits:

Patricia Alonso (sub)	Annette Goncalves	Edward Larose
Robert Lewis	Sabrina Martinez	Davon Robinson
Massiel Romero	James Santiago	Jeffrey Smith
Shaniqua Thomas	Husseihaan Villanueva	

14.3 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School program appointments, salary according to individual's contract:

Carrington School

Melissa Thompson – Site Admin.	Harley Gaafar – Teacher
Karen Renna – Site Admin. (Sub)	Patricia Theriault – Teacher
Kristen Gwiazdoski – Site Admin. (Sub)	Emily Wengertsman – Teacher (Sub)
Stephen Barone – Teacher (Sub)	Maura Kerns – Teacher (Sub)
Ashley Feliz – Teacher (Sub)	Scott McWhirt – Teacher (Sub)
Elisa D'Agostino – Teacher (Sub)	

Duggan School

Melissa DiGiovanni – Site Admin.	Kaitlyn Clough – Teacher
Patricia Frageau – Site Admin. (Sub)	Jennifer DiFronzo – Teacher
David Lucian – Teacher	Sarah Martin – Teacher (Sub)
Joseph Perrucci – Teacher (Sub)	

Gilmartin School

Amy Petruzzi – Site Admin.	Christine Taylor-Braxton – Teacher
Jennifer Dwyer – Site Admin. (Sub)	Sybil Wynne P. Jones – Teacher
Brenda Falcone – Teacher	Kathryn Iaiennaro – Teacher (Sub)
Jessica Sconziano – Teacher (Sub)	
Suzanne Newman – Teacher (Sub)	

Reed School

Diurca Tomasella – Site Admin.	Denise Griffin – Teacher
Juan Mendoza – Site Admin. (Sub)	Kimberly Rock – Teacher
Jonna McKirryher – Teacher	Susan D'Amato – Teacher (Sub)
Emily Phillips – Teacher (Sub)	Jessica Boratko – Teacher (Sub)
Jessica Boratko – Teacher (Sub)	

14.4 Robotics for 21<sup>st</sup> Century and SDE Programming

Charles Fareira – Teacher	Kathy Gaydosh – Teacher
Margaruite Pesce – Teacher	

14.5 Middle School STEM After-school Program appointments, CPEP, stipend salary funded by Title IV:

Ford, Marnie/Carrington	Carpenter, Ryan/NEMS
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Carpenter, Sarah/NEMS  
Perrucci, Joe/Duggan  
Kowalski, Erik/WMS  
Irizarry, Jorge/WSMS

Della Calce, Anthony/NEMS  
Gluz, Debra/WMS  
Gaafar, Harley/WSMS

14.6 Wilson Family Resource Center Books and Basketball Before School Program appointments, Monday through Thursday, 7 – 8 a.m., beginning 4/23/18, funded by Wilson FRC Grant:

Jessica Reho – Coordinator	Kelly Fengler – Teacher
Amy Densmore – Teacher	Rebecca James – Para
Donna Orsatti – Para	Linda Fitzgerald – Tutor
Tracy Trotman – Para Sub	

14.7 Wilson FRC Arts After School Program appointments, Tuesday through Thursday, 3 – 4:30 p.m., beginning 4/24/18, funded by Wilson FRC Grant:

Jessica Reho – Coordinator	Karyn Skinner – Teacher
Kelly Pinho – Teacher	Melissa Dojnia – Teacher (Wed.)
Tara Healey – Teacher Sub	Rebecca James – Para Sub

14.8 Reed FRC Books and Basketball Before School Program appointments, Monday through Thursday, 7 – 8 a.m., beginning 4/23/18, funded by Reed FRC Grant:

Melissa Steffero – Teacher/ Coordinator	
Patricia McKenna – Para	Debbie Price – Para
Zinnia Hensley – Para	Jenny Levin – Para Sub
Cindy Albizu – Teacher Sub	

14.9 Reed FRC Arts After School Program appointments, Monday through Thursday, 3 – 4:30 p.m., beginning 4/23/18, funded by Wilson FRC Grant:

Latasha Martinez – Building Sub	Cindy Albizu – Teacher
Zinnia Hensley – Para	Gina Farrington – Para
Debbie Price – Para	Tawanna Fisher – Para
Melissa Steffero – Teacher Sub	Jenny Levin – Para

14.10 Mayor’s Run Club Mentor appointments effective 03/23/18:

Benjamin, Krista	Cianfagna, Traci	Guerrera, Sara
Hart, Richard	Ouellette, Bernadette	Parks, Michele
Peschke, Marcy	Poulter, Dennis	Rotatori, Kayla
Rocco, Margaret	Wheeler, Kristen	

14.11 Teacher hires:

<u>Name</u>		<u>Assignment</u>		<u>Effective</u>
Olaoye	Abioye	WAMS	Math	03/08/18
Rodriguez	Lynette	Wallace	Math	03/08/18

14.12 Academic Achievements effective 03/01/18:

<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>U</b>
Argenta	Taryn	6TH/6	6TH+15/6	U of Bridgeport
Awwad	David	MA/4	6th+15/4	U of Bridgeport; Andrews U

Brown	Cara	MA/3	6TH+15/3	Central
Byrnes	Kristina	BA/3	BA+15/3	Grand Canyon U
Caligan	Jean	MA/5	6TH/5	U of Bridgeport
Campbell	Stuart	MA/3	MA+15/3	Central
Costa	John	BA+15/6	MA/6	U of Saint Joseph
Cyr	Gilman	6TH/12	6TH+15/12	U of New Haven; SCSU; Andrews U
D'Aniello	Kara	6TH/7	6TH+15/7	Loyola Marymount U
Danaher	Kevin	BA+15/8	MA/8	Andrews U; Dominican U
Denu	Reese	BA/3	BA+15/3	Sacred Heart U
Dudek	Caitlyn	MA/4	MA+15/4	U of New England
Ferrazzi	Carly	MA/7	MA+15/7	U of Saint Joseph
Filakovsky	Jenna	BA/2	BA+15/2	SCSU
Fitzpatrick	Karlyn	MA+15/5	6TH+15/5	U of Bridgeport/SCSU/Sacred Heart U
Gilligan	Amanda	MA/7	MA+15/7	SCSU
Gonzalez Casanova	Ilea	BA+15/5	MA+15/5	U of Saint Joseph
Gregoire	Carmela	BA+15/6	MA/6	American College of Education
Grendzinski	Kelsey	MA/3	MA+15/3	SCSU
Hubeny	Carolyn	MA/2	MA+15/2	U of Bridgeport/SCSU
Maldonado	Joanne	MA+15/3	6TH/3	Capella
McLaren	Ashley	MA/6	6TH/6	Loyola Marymount U
Miller	Jamie	6TH/9	6TH+15/9	U of Bridgeport
Moscaritolo	Ashley	MA+15/6	6 <sup>TH</sup> /6	Loyola Marymount U
Munro	Cara	MA/7	MA+15/7	SCSU /U of New Orleans
Natoli	Jane	6TH/5	6TH+15/5	SCSU
Pelosi	Jenna	MA+15/4	6th+15/4	U of Bridgeport
Pierresaint	Courtney	MA/4	MA+15/4	Loyola Marymount U
Rinaldi	Heather	MA/4	MA+15/4	U of Bridgeport/Loyola Marymount U
Rizzo	Lisa	MA+15/4	6TH/4	SCSU
Stokes	Laura	MA/4	MA+15/4	U of Bridgeport
Swanson	Lisa	MA/4	MA+15/4	Augustana U/U of Bridgeport
Vance	Bridgette	BA+15/3	MA/3	U of Saint Joseph
Wiener	Matthew	MA+15/6	6TH/6	SCSU
Wrobel	Fallon	MA/6	6 <sup>TH</sup> /6	Quinnipiac

14.13 Retirements:

Acevedo-Gordils, Nancy – Bilingual Science, CHS, effective 06/30/18.  
 Bousaada, Doreen – Speech Language Pathologist, W. Cross, eff. 06/30/18.  
 Howard, Kathleen – Special Education, Maloney, effective 06/30/18.  
 Maley, Robert Jeffrey – KHS English, effective 06/30/18.

14.14 Resignations:

Cocuzzi, Matt – Grade 5, Wilson, effective 03/16/18.  
 Leone, Holly – Grade 5, Sprague, effective 03/28/18.  
 Natoli, Jane – WMS English/LA grade 7, effective 04/12/18.  
 Simon, Michael – ROTC USMC teacher, WHS, effective 06/30/18.

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor.

THERIAULT: I wish to recuse myself and abstain from item 14.3.

BROWN: Thank you. So noted. Any other? All in favor, opposed, abstain. Motion carries. Fifteen – Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting Only. Sixteen – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Commissioner Theriault. By the way thank you for this information. It's nice to have it in one spot.

THERIAULT: Well I would like to congratulate Mr. Henry, our Acting Superintendent, on his new fishing exhibition. Obviously he's going after big fish, he's going after people that rock the boat, make complaints, and he's sure being true to Waterbury politics – retaliation, retribution, and some other terms there. Intimidation was the word I was looking for. So true to Waterbury politics I've always held my cool with regard to Mr. Henry's remarks to me a couple of months ago where he had a secretary deliver a message to me that was less than flattering; full of intimidation, retribution, and intimidation and retaliation.

BROWN: Alright, point of order, this has nothing to do with the Agenda.

THERIAULT: Well he brings me up on charges for teaching and I can't respond.

BROWN: I'm sorry Commissioner Theriault, this is not acceptable. This is something that is out of order right now. We're talking about unfinished business and miscellaneous business. Issues of personnel and personality are to be dealt with through Corporation Council or other legal avenues. I appreciate your concern...

THERIAULT: Then I'll file a counter-complaint of retaliation regarding his remarks.

BROWN: Is there any other discussion tonight?

THERIAULT: Yes, plenty. Before I was on this Board this last time, during the four years that I wasn't on the Board, I was a part of the Century 21 Grant; I worked at Walsh School where I became very, very sick from the conditions at that school. I was paid by the federal government through the City and I couldn't work as a Board member and hold that job. So, because it's a violation of the Hatch Act. To my knowledge being a homebound teacher is not a violation of the Hatch Act because you're not paid by federal funds, you're paid by City funds. So that being said, I want to clarify that, I am not a substitute teacher, I have been a homebound teacher for about four or five years. I was on the homebound staff before I became a member of this Board this last time and there are other members on this Board that work in summer school programs that are paid by City funds but I noticed that their name wasn't added to the list. But that being said I look forward to my day and I'll be out, going out getting my lawyer because obviously I don't get a lawyer from Corporation Counsel only Mr. Henry does. So I'll go out and get my lawyer and we'll duke it out at the Ethics Board or the Corporation Counsel or whatever. But it seems like certain individuals in Central Office can make any disparaging remarks that they want but when it comes to backing them up and putting them in writing they won't do that. So they respond and they retaliate by dragging my name and my reputation.

THERIAULT: I didn't mention his name, I said a Central Office person.

BROWN: Commissioner Theriault, I think this is inappropriate for, you've said your peace, it will go to the Corporation Counsel and the Ethics Board or whatever but this is not appropriate. It is not on the Agenda...

THERIAULT: So he can put it on the Agenda but I can't.

BROWN: I'm calling a recess everybody. (7:22 p.m.) I'm gonna call this meeting back to order (7:27 p.m.). I'm calling on Commissioner Melissa Serrano.

SERRANO-ADORNO: Thank you Madam President. I would just like to ask the Superintendent if he could please clarify the status of the ABA city employees please.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT: So we've had a number of folks helping us to continue, we have evolved from where we were and so between Mr. Schwartz and Ms. Baldwin they've had, I guess their lion's share of moving this forward so can you help shed some light for all of us please.

SCHWARTZ: So to be absolutely clear, in a conversation not only with Mayor O'Leary but obviously Mr. Henry and the Board of Education, moving forward with the current budget there will be no ABA Therapists that will lose their position; no one's losing their position, in the current budget year. So moving forward what the RFP is doing is exploring options if there is attrition but no ABA Therapist will lose employment with the Waterbury Public Schools.

BROWN: Thank you for that clarification. Commissioner Serrano.

SERRANO-ADORNO: So there was a lot of back and forth and a lot of confusion on my part and it was, as you guys already know, it was an emotional whole month for me having a child with autism it was really important for me to really get that information. So obviously I did get some backlash, I got a lot of repercussions because I had voted yes last month based on what we discussed we were voting on. So I didn't know the impact of what the vote really entailed so really moving forward I would like to request from the Superintendent and the Chair of the Committees that I would love to get the information ahead of time so that I have time to process it, dissect it, ask my questions, get my answers, moving forward. I don't want to compromise my integrity or my vote on something that I may not, you know being new to this budget process. So I do want to request that we have another budget meeting if possible to continue this discussion moving forward.

BROWN: Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: Yes, I was actually going to suggest that in light of that which was about a \$500,000 savings and other things that we thought would transpire and may not transpire in our budget assumptions that it would be necessary in the next ten days or so to look at that. My question also is at what point in the Education Budget before the Aldermen? Do we have that date yet?

SUPERINTENDENT: I believe it to be the 15<sup>th</sup>.

AWWAD: So I think we need to make sure that our budget committee convenes before the 15<sup>th</sup> and I will be sending out an email in the morning asking for convenient days for all of us as well as the administration so that we can work together to look at some alternative things in the budget to make sure that we come in with that number we projected and see what other cuts or changes we may have to make to make the budget balance.

BROWN: Thank you. I do know that there were two budgets that were JF'ed out of the Appropriations Committee a week ago Friday and the, one version I believe is the democratic version does restore funding to TEAM which is the mentoring program for new teachers, that was restored and I do believe that there was additional five or ten, maybe even 10 million dollars added to the ECS formula. So there might be more dollars. So I appreciate that, it's still a moving target, we're not quite sure where it's gonna end. One version holds no towns harmless and the other version cuts funding to some towns but not other towns. So there's a lot of negotiations taking place so I think we need to do that.

SERRANO-ADORNO: Thank you Madam President. I just really want to end by saying I'm really proud to be on this Board. You know being new there's still a lot to learn. I think your strength is your knowledge so I'm really eager to learn the entire process and I know it's not gonna be easy especially doing budget cuts. That's probably one of the most difficult decisions that we have to make. But I really want the constituents to know, I want to build a narrative where the Board of Ed can be transparent and communicate and give them the most accurate information possible and really gain the public's trust. And, again, it's a learning process for me so I appreciate the time and at the end of the day really all the negative comments that I got from that only really made me a stronger person and it's only gonna make me eager to continue to move forward. So it's just gonna make me even stronger. So thank you Darren and Superintendent Henry for clarifying that so that the public can understand, including myself, a better understanding of what it is that's going on and I appreciate the further discussion Commissioner Awwad. Thank you.

BROWN: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Thank you. And Commissioner Serrano, we all, I mean that's why we're on this Board, so understand that we all want that as Commissioners. I want to just take quickly some time to just thank the NAACP for the sessions that they held on Saturday, the sessions that they held on anti-bullying. Anti-bullying, or bullying, is not only a local issue but is also a national issue. From the two sessions that were held we found that there is a need for training particularly how we notice, what types of behaviors are there that can indicate that bullying is taking place in our children. We also need to provide training for our parents in regards to our policies. If it is suspected that there's bullying going on then there are procedures that should be followed and we, as a Board of Education, teachers, administrators, etc., need to insure that we are following those procedures. I had the opportunity to meet with the . . . special ed district council and they had suggestions in regards to, for example the forms appear on the website but where the form appears is different from where the policy appears, so we want to put the form and the policy together so that parents know that they can not only read the

policy but also have the form. And I also understand that the form is somewhat difficult, a little bit confusing, so we're going to be looking at that as well.

So I'd like to, Madam President, suggest that we put together a taskforce to look at this. Bullying is really, you know it's very emotional, we found that, Commissioner Tom Van Stone, Commissioner Serrano-Adorno, Commissioner Sweeney attended these sessions and we need to have more and we need to do more to educate our parents, etc. So I'm gonna put that as a suggestion.

Also, we are, we mentioned May 18, the Parent Convention. We have different workshops and I want to mention that the awards begin at 12:15 but the session, the convention begins at 8:00 a.m. There are places I think we have on the website you can register. Nancy? Is it right in front on the district page? The district information is they can register on the website. Also I have some enrollment forms if people need that. Parent and Community Engagement – What's in it for You? Now one of the workshops that I requested that be considered or be included is a special ed workshop which will introduce or clarify the different words that are used – PPT, IEP, and what exactly that is. We're finding that our parents will go in, something happens, parents go in and they have to go to a PPT or IEP and all these people are there and there's like this audience of folks, it's very intimidating and they don't, number one the parents don't know what to expect and then it's just really intimidating for them. So hopefully we can clarify things like this. In addition, and I know this is going against Mr. Henry and his wishes but I was contacted by SEPTO which is the special ed PTO which is the State level, a representative from there, and he would like to come and speak to parents and provide training, etc. Again, emphasizing the education and just making sure our parents are enlightened on what they need to know and also that they can advocate for their students. So I'm looking at hopefully setting up a meeting soon on that Mr. Henry and I may do that through the ad-hoc committee, I may just go ahead and do that. So look for that to occur. But I want to just make sure that the parents are aware that at this conference one of the workshops will deal with special ed. So please if you can make it, May 18, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Naugatuck Valley Community College. And awards begin at 12:15. Thank you very much.

BROWN: There's no executive session. Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: I certainly hope that in the future and in the past, we look at every single Board member here and look at anyone that has taken, if I'm gonna be held to a standard I want every other Board member to be held to the same standard including summer school or any other programs that the Board of Education sponsors. And my point is having had a City job does that mean you can't run for the Board of Education cause you are paid by the Board of Education? You're paid by the federal government . . . violation of Hatch Act, otherwise, we'll let this go through, and I would request through the Chair representation from Corporation Counsel regarding this also. I have as much right as any other person in Central Office and I would request legal counsel from the Corporation Counsel. That's all I have to say to that.

I know I'm normally the preacher of gloom and doom and after my tirade tonight I don't think I'm going to be Mr. congeniality soon, but I do fight for my rights and I do fight for my 49 years in education, 49 years, and I certainly won't be dragged through the mud by anyone at any time unless these allegations are substantial and founded which I

think they're not. But the Board, I passed some information out to you regarding graduation rates and the graduation rates and I kind of looked at it from the standpoint of the decline of graduation at our three main high schools - Crosby, Kennedy, and Wilby. You can see that the, just taking a quick look over there at Crosby you can see at one point in time in the years 2006 nearly 46% of our students were lost. It's funny that we do the kum ba yah for the nine percent increase in terms of the graduation rates but I don't remember before every looking, or the Board looking at the delirious graduation rates in the past. If you look at Kennedy for the year 2000, we lost 55% of the freshman class. I don't remember any big investigation as to why that was happening. This goes all the way back to 1997, that's a long time, 21 years. And by the way, I kept track of this data when I was on the Board, when I wasn't on the Board I kept track of it. But that's why maybe some people are angry with me because I am so fastidious with the information and the facts. I can understand that. But when we look at the recent, there is a reason to celebrate because with regard to Crosby last year we only lost 25% so that means we graduated about 75%. By the way, this information is based on the ED006s, the ED006s that I requested for six weeks and finally had to get them through a Freedom of Information commission request to the Corporation Counsel. So now you see why I'm not well liked. And then we go over to Kennedy, Kennedy had only lost 16% so they graduated 84% which is substantial. And then we go to Wilby who only lost, only, 28% of their students. So that's quite a bit of students isn't it? That's quite a bit of students. So 28%, 72% graduated if I did my math right. And then there's a couple of articles here about how graduation rates mean little from the Waterbury Republican-American, Chris Powell...

BROWN: Commissioner Theriault, could you please ask your statement or your question, I'm not sure what business you're referring to right now if you're quoting newspapers and opinions...

THERIAULT: It's both. If you don't want me...

BROWN: What is the specific business that you'd like us to hear tonight? If you're quoting, if you want us to look at graduation rates, we'd be glad to look at graduation rates but I don't feel it's appropriate to give us a tutorial on public opinion by newspaper people. So please if you want us to look, if your request is to have us look at your data and graduation rates, I think we would be glad to do that but I don't think it's appropriate...

THERIAULT: That's a good point because this is exactly why I speak from the podium up there, exactly why I go and I speak as a member of the public where I can't be shut down. Okay, I get your point. So, because you don't want to have the Republican American...

BROWN: I feel, we would love to have your opinion and your feedback but there's a point where it's just opinion and you're not asking the Board to deliberate anything specific or if it's part of the good of the whole, what you want for the school district, what you're really asking us, I mean giving us the data is great but what do you want us to do with the data. We have a strategic plan that we're working on. I think this continuous berating about scores without the context of what the district is trying to do about the scores and how we're working hard to move the district forward. I think it's a disservice to the students, to the hardworking staff. And I know you don't mean it to be that but I

think this continuous kind of negativity around scores, I don't see the purpose unless I'm missing something. I think your work is admirable and I know you care and you have worked in this district so long and I know you are a man of integrity John, I've known you for many years...

THERIAULT: I'm glad somebody thinks so.

BROWN: But I really think that we have to have a purpose for this discussion. I don't see a purpose right now, I just see, you know, some opinions, which is fine but what if I let every single Board member sit here for ten minutes and give us their opinion, it's not productive John, I don't think. But anyway, that said, if you could please summarize.

THERIAULT: I want to know where is that line and I notice you're giving your opinion right now.

BROWN: I'm giving a ruling.

THERIAULT: A ruling, oh.

BROWN: On the...

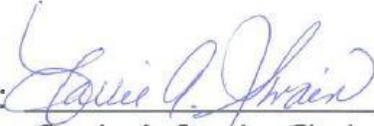
AWWAD: Point of order please. This is the Board of Education that sets an example for the students in the district and right now we are doing a poor job and I'm not gonna continue to sit here and be a part of it. So thank you very much and good night but this is not the way we should behave. This is on television, we have parents here, this is unacceptable. For you John, quite frankly, if you were in a classroom you'd of been sent to the principal's office sir. And I'm asking that we please end this meeting right now. Thank you. I'll move to adjourn.

THERIAULT: And I have many times... The last report, you asked me to get to the report, I'm getting back to the report, which was the enrollment, the last data is a piece of enrollment regarding...

AWWAD: There's a motion on the floor to adjourn.

## ***ADJOURNMENT***

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Awwad and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.**

ATTEST:   
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk  
*Board of Education*