

## **WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING*

Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

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

**PRESENT:** President Stango, Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, Sweeney, J. Van Stone (6:41), and T. Van Stone.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent Kathleen Ouellette, Chief Academic Officer Anne Marie Cullinan, Chief Operating Officer & Chief of Staff Paul Guidone, and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

### **1. SILENT PRAYER**

President Stango called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with a moment of silence.

McENTEE: Thank you Mr. President. Tonight if we can remember my aunt, Mrs. Ann McEntee, who recently passed away. She was a teacher for 31 years in the Waterbury School System. She enjoyed working with young children and their families. She taught at Barnard for four years, Wilson for 12 years, Tinker for four years, and Bunker Hill for 11 years. And we'd also like to thank the faculty and staff and students of Bunker Hill for their beautiful tribute on Monday.

And if we can also remember my cousin who also passed away this week Mr. Francis Kennedy who retired from the Department of Education as an administrator and was previously a chemistry and physics teacher at Wilby, Sacred Heart, and in Guam where he began his teaching career of 48 years. Please remember them tonight in our prayers.

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

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

### **3. ROLL CALL**

CLERK: Commissioner Awwad

AWWAD: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner J. Van Stone (arrived at 6:41 p.m.). Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here. Commissioner Jason Van Stone is in route, he's probably on 84 somewhere.

#### **4. COMMUNICATIONS**

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

1. Notice of suit dated April 20, 2105 from Attorney Anthony A. Wallace regarding Angela Steck PPA for Deanna Ball.
2. Communication dated April 30, 2015 from Louise Allen Brown regarding Waterbury's participation in a Science Professional Development grant.
3. Copy of notice from the American Arbitration Association dated May 5, 2015 regarding hearing dates for SAW and Waterbury Board of Education – Erik Brown grievant.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none - all in favor, opposed, motion carries.

#### **5. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to allow the public to address the Board at 6:37 p.m.**

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries. All speakers are encouraged to submit prepared written statements to the Commissioners. Comments shall be limited to a maximum of five minutes. There will be no responses this evening to any questions or concerns raised; they will be referred to the Administration for review and response.

**Geraldo Reyes, Jr., 30 Madison Street, had the following comments:** Good evening Board, President Stango, Dr. Ouellette, and Commissioners. As always, thank you for your service. It's my pleasure to be able to present a letter of support for a multi-cultural center temporarily housed at 30-B Church Street. And I will be reading a letter that Mayor O'Leary asked me to read at this particular venue and I will submit this

to the Secretary in a second. It's dated May 6, 2015, Waterbury Board of Education, Chase Building, Waterbury, Connecticut. Dear President Stango and Honorable Members of the Board of Education, recently, Alderman Victor Lopez and Geraldo Reyes from my office appeared before you to request on behalf of the Hispanic Coalition of Waterbury the use of 30-B Church Street for a short period of time for a Cultural Arts Center. First of all, I want to apologize for the last-minute request. We had only learned just a few days prior that State funding was available for the program that would allow us to establish a Cultural Arts Center. I understand that some Board members questioned why Alderman Lopez and Mr. Reyes did not first approach the Board's Building Committee to request the use of 30-B Church Street for the program. Again, I apologize. This was one of those things that came up at the last minute so we had to act quickly. We are cognizant of your concerns and will address each one of them. Our Corporation Counsel's office is currently drafting an access agreement for the property and we will present it to this Board for approval later this evening. I am asking you to support this request because I believe this program could enrich so many of our school children. About 10 years ago, the Hispanic Coalition of Waterbury, through a State grant, ran a highly successful cultural-enrichment program that reached thousands of Waterbury students. Unfortunately, funding ran out for the program and it had to be discontinued. Alderman Lopez, which is the Executive Director of the Hispanic Coalition, recently learned the Coalition had been awarded a grant that will enable them to re-establish that program. The grant requires the use of a downtown space for the program. We felt the building at 30-B Church Street suited the needs of the Coalition which will only use a few first-floor rooms for six months. As Alderman Lopez and Mr. Reyes explained, the program would be run in conjunction with mentoring and tutoring programs for the Hispanic Coalition that are already in place. As you know, roughly half the students in our schools come from Hispanic or Latin cultures. I see this as a great learning opportunity for them and for every child in our schools.

I am very proud of our City's cultural diversity, which will be on display at the May 16 event called The Gathering and I believe we all are richer because of this diversity. I want to thank Alderman Lopez for his efforts in securing the funds to re-establish this Cultural Arts Center and, once again, ask this Honorable Board for its support of this request. Thank you for your time and consideration. Signed sincerely Honorable Mayor of the City of Waterbury, Neil M. O'Leary.

I just want to finish up by saying he mentions The Gathering which I'd like to first of all on the Education side I really have to recognize this person, they've been working very, very hard all three years of The Gathering and I kind of call her a behind the scenes person but would publically like to acknowledge from the Education Department Mrs. Mary Ann Marold as one of the key integral parts of putting together the literature that we needed for the children. One of the main persons that's been tracking participation in the schools and every single question and every single item that I needed to get into the schools Mrs. Marold was there for me every step of the way. I'd like to acknowledge her publically and to give her a round of applause at this time.

*(applause)*

Having said that, I'd also like to advise the Board the 2013/14 Gathering event has been selected as the Main Street program project event of the year by the State of Connecticut and we'll be getting statewide recognition for that multi-cultural festival that

has taken place in 13/14 and will again take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month and it is my honor and pleasure to and privilege to announce that that Gathering event will have up to 80 countries participating in downtown Waterbury and to the best of my knowledge there's nothing like that in the State of Connecticut and that's a tribute to the diversity of the City of Waterbury and the can do attitude that Waterbury has. So it is with pride that I come here and tell you we have 80 countries participating and when it's all said and done every school will be in the parade. So thank you for your time, thank you for your service, and I will just ask for support as you weigh out the information for the Cultural Center. Thank you very much.

**Eduardo Rivera, 100 Mark Lane, had the following comments:** I represent the Hispanic Coalition and if it wasn't for the Hispanic Coalition I wouldn't be graduating on time, I'd be a fifth year senior, but since they helped me so much through my homework assignments I will graduate on time through my 2016 graduation. Other than that, if other kids in the program need help, the students and the staff will always help the students, all we got to do is ask.

**Erick Hernandez, 332 Baldwin Street, had the following comments:** I've been in the program for three years and I've really come far from it. I used to be a pain for them, I wasn't doing my assignments, I wasn't handing in things on time, and then they started this program for me, for students that needed help for school and I applied myself and I will graduate on time in 2015 and I'll start college this fall. Thank you for having me.

**Santa Perez, 47 Lynbrook Road, had the following comments:** I retired as a teacher this last June, I taught at Wallace Middle School for 28 years as a bilingual teacher but I really have been teaching 51 years and I miss it a lot. However, when I hear about students' culture gathering and things like that it touches my heart because my work was really getting students from all places together. Sometimes I had 15 students and each of them came from a different country in my classes Social Studies and it was beautiful how they shared with each other the cultures whether it was bringing food, drawing posters, doing all kinds of things. As a matter of fact, two years ago we had a Hispanic Heritage celebration at Wallace Middle School and we had parents from Syria, Egypt, Albania, that students were all participating and Mr. Rapuano was very surprised to see so many parents feeling so proud about their students. That's why I'm here tonight to support the petition about having this Cultural Center. These last two years I've been participating with the City's cultural gathering and I was surprised to see so many parents feel so proud about their students participating so that's what I would like to support and I think they really need a place where they can enjoy doing things that they know how to do because many, especially minority students, don't participate many times in sports and they have nowhere to go and as you know many of them don't even have their parents at home. So I think this would be a wonderful opportunity to engage our students, especially minorities, and when we say Hispanic I don't mean only Hispanic, other students can participate. So I was teaching in New York City for two years and their main issue was a cultural activity where all the countries, and this school was represented by 40 different nations at the United Nations and I was surprised to see how they shared their similarities and how they respected the differences because they were proud to see their students participating. So that's my point tonight and I really feel very happy to see a place where these students can go

and because I retired I'm off and I'm offering myself to be able to help also, anytime you need me. Thank you

**Rubis Collado, 23 Elizabeth Street, had the following comments:** I'm Parent Liaison at Waterbury Career Academy High School and I really encourage about if we can have the Cultural Center. I remember when I was living in New York City we had the center at . . . and I remember everybody come and celebrate our culture, celebrate our history and now I see in the school we have 49% Latino and Hispanic population and I see even the Italian student, the . . . they want to learn, the want to learn about . . . and the food, they want to learn how it's done, my children want to learn the history who are our heroes because they know who the hero in the United States, the history, but as a Latino mom I want to share that with the community and so they know because I think and I believe if you don't know where you come from how are you going to find out where you're gonna go. And I think that's why sometimes our student they do poorly because they have to find out first who they are in order to find out where they're going and we can help with that center. I, myself, volunteer, anything we can do I'm excited to bring things from my country, Dominican Republic, and share with everybody, our music and everything that we have to offer. Thank you so much.

**Nakia Reddick, 135 East Liberty Street, had the following comments:** I'm here to show my support for the Hispanic Coalition. I'm actually in the building they're out of and being the Executive Director of the BAG Scholarship Foundation we work together on a lot of different things and I see day to day the hard work they put in from the seniors program in the morning, . . . to the afternoon with the L.A.C.E. Program for the after-school kids and it's free for all the students. But I also want to talk about the Cultural Center that they're thinking about trying to get done. I think that would be a great thing for Waterbury, just being in that building I've learned so much about the Hispanic culture. I grew up in Miami, Florida and I thought I knew a lot about the Hispanic culture back then but just being in that building from great recipes to how to enhance my Spanish and all those great things. So anything that they are doing in the Hispanic Coalition I'm really here to show my support cause I think they're a wonderful organization. Thank you very much.

**Victor Lopez, Jr., 23 Haystack Circle, had the following comments:** First off I want to tell you how much I appreciate your services to our City. I am here today not as a City elected official, I am here today as the Executive Director of the Hispanic Coalition. I wanted to apologize for Thursday, I thought, I was under the impression I was doing things in a proper way and a proper manner but I truly appreciate the fact that you embraced the opportunity and we have an open dialogue but I did want to apologize because I thought I was doing the right thing and obviously it was not received that way. As you know my agency the Hispanic Coalition just received an award to run a Cultural Arts Center, that's the main reason I came to the Board last week requesting access and permission to the building on 30-B Church Street. I also wanted to actually state that the Hispanic Coalition has been serving the Waterbury community for over 40 years. We started off as the Spanish Action Counsel. Amongst other things, our mission is to provide needed services as identified by our community. Needless to say, and due to input of many city residents and Waterbury kids, the Hispanic Coalition recognizes there's a need to engage our children and to provide them with support to enrich their lives and that of their families. I also know that the Board of Ed welcomes collaboration and supportive services. There's a need and we want to help fulfill that

need because it affects our children so we want to collaborate, we want to work together. That is the only reason and essentially the genesis of planning and establishing this Cultural Arts Center, simply put – we want to help and assist in a positive and influential manner which will lead to a successful individual. You have an important role as Commissioners of the Board of Education and I'm so delighted, I would have never guessed that I would have heard Eddie and Erik come up front and speak and that to me is just amazing. You, yourselves, represent leadership and you promote empowerment. Leadership to me is the ability to influence for positive changes. Empowerment is creating space or providing a platform for which will enable people to obtain knowledge and skills to better their lives. Our Waterbury kids today are faced with different kinds of challenges such as access to opportunity for growth, development, peer pressure, social justice, just to mention a few. This evening, Thursday, May 7, 2015, you will act as leaders and empower our youth by casting a favorable decision or vote on our request to have access to the building on Church Street you are empowering our youth, our children, and are leading the way in upholding the mission of the Waterbury Department of Education. Yeah, I know, I realize this is not going to change the world but it will change the world of some of our Waterbury kids. I assure you this decision tonight will make a difference in the life of our children, their families, and our community. Imagine what could be possible together we will turn an empty, vacant building into a space where our children will have a chance to express themselves in ways they never though imaginable. Together we will open the doors to motivate Waterbury kids to explore their ethnic background and be proud of their ancestors and learn about their history. Together we will expose Waterbury kids to supportive services which will have a life-long impact in their lives. Together we will seize the opportunity to enhance the lives of those who will make the world a better place for us tomorrow. Together we will encourage Waterbury kids to dream big and continue without wavering until the dream becomes a reality. Today we will influence Waterbury kids not to get discouraged but to fight and seek positive change while upholding their values. In conclusion, together we will give Waterbury kids a voice to speak and a place to be heard. Thank you.

**Maybeth Morales Davis, 846 Bunker Hill Avenue, had the following comments:**

I'm a Board Member of the Hispanic Coalition and I'm here to support the Hispanic Cultural Center in downtown Waterbury at 30-B Church Street. The Coalition understands the issues our kids are facing and we want to be part of the solution. Our Cultural Arts Center is part of our efforts to supplement the work of the Board of Education and the Waterbury Department of Education. As a Board member I'm very confident that this will be a success for our community at large. I ask you for your support of the Hispanic Coalition's Cultural Center. Thank you.

**Maritza Acosta-Gay, 60 Fiske Street, had the following comments:** I'm actually the President of the Hispanic Coalition. My name is Maritza Acosta and I wanted to just share a little bit. I'm here obviously to support the Cultural Center as well which will be in the heart of Waterbury. Being a native from Waterbury, growing up in Waterbury, and I have to say pretty much my entire life I grew up here and went to school here there was not much for youth. I am very, very much in support of this and would hope that you guys will be as well. The intention of the Hispanic Coalition is to open this Cultural Arts Center in downtown Waterbury. The goal is to bring convenient and interactive programs for our youth especially after-school. We currently do have programs out of the agency however I have to say we're at the Baldwin Rec and our space is very

limited. We currently provide mentoring services and other services for our youth but we would definitely like to expand and having this Cultural Arts Center would be an excellent resource for our youth to actually become familiar with their culture and ethnic background which we do not have much of that in the community right now. It is very difficult for our youth to connect with positive images due to social media and many things that are actually going on right now. We would like to educate our youth on their Latino heritage and to become familiar with their cultural ethnic background. The Coalition understands many of the issues that our youth are currently facing and want to be part of the solution. Our Cultural Arts Center is part of the efforts and we would like to collaborate with the Waterbury Department of Education and I'm confident that this will be a success for our youth and community at large. Thank you for your time.

**David Glidden, 760 Capitol Avenue, had the following comments:** I am the Executive Director of CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 which is a labor union representing public sector workers across the State including the library pages in the Waterbury School System. I'm here today to speak in support of the library pages who are an important resource in the City's school libraries but who we understand face a serious risk of layoffs. School libraries play an important role in lowering achievement gaps and in supporting at-risk students on their pathway to graduation. And within the library system, library pages perform key duties that help make our libraries functional. The work they perform has the important impact of freeing librarians to spend more time educating and assisting students. But you should know that pages play a role in the delivery of education, too. They are trained to collaborate with librarians and teachers, and to engage students with information that matters in the real world. When libraries are properly staffed, they become sophisticated 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments that offer equal opportunities for achievement to all students, regardless of the socioeconomic or education levels of the community. Studies across the country show that students with good school libraries learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized tests. School libraries introduce children to not just books, but to the technology necessary for success in our competitive world. This is especially important in order to support many at-risk students who do not have access to technology at home. Losing the library pages is far more than simply the loss of a job for the affected employees; it truly is a loss of potential for Waterbury. In 2013 Waterbury's CMT scores lagged the rest of Connecticut significantly in both reading and writing. This is obviously a problem for the community. Under the circumstances, the idea of cutting resources from the school's library program, one of the most effective ways to improve literacy and writing abilities, is almost unthinkable. Waterbury Public Schools say that they believe all students have the capability to become successful readings and writers, but that optimism needs to be paired with appropriate staffing and funding to ever see fruition. Please invest in our libraries and our library pages. Thank you.

**Donovan Tipantuna, 189 Willow Street, had the following comments:** (Mr. Tipantuna had an interpreter). I'm pleased to be here to say hi to the educational counsel and everybody who's present here tonight. I'm a student from Wilby High School and I've been here for one year already in this City. I'm here to support the petition of the Cultural Center and to support the Hispanic community and whoever is going to participate. As a student in Wilby High School I'll give you some of the examples of the activities going on. Everyday there is something different going on in our classrooms. And it's very important to see our traditions and the essence of the diversity of cultures. And this is the best way for the new generation that we are

developing our youth in Waterbury. That's why we need a place where we can express our culture diversity and that's why I'm here tonight. Thanks for your time.

**Josh Carey, 43 Field Street, had the following comments:** Thank you for allowing me the chance to speak before you tonight. My name is Josh Carey, I'm the Director of Grants Management at the Connecticut Community Foundation in Waterbury and I'm here on behalf of the foundation to voice our support for this program for the Cultural Arts Center. We had recently, at the Foundation, actually made a grant of \$10,000 for this program because we feel so strongly about it and actually the one contingency that we had in the grant was that a space would be secured for the program. So we're excited about this opportunity and this program. We think it fills an important gap and need in the community and it fits strongly with our mission at the Foundation to build thriving communities and create a partnership. So thank you for your consideration.

**Dr. Ruth Glasser, 99 East Main Street, had the following comments:** I'm a Professor of Urban Studies and History right across the street at UConn Waterbury. For many years I've been a chronicler of Puerto Rican, Dominican, and other Latino migrations and immigrations to Connecticut and to other parts of the United States. A history which is still extremely underrepresented in the public view. I think it's really important to redress the balance because we get so many skewed pictures in the media about Latinos committing crimes and having dysfunctional families and it's not often acknowledge that Latinos have different and diverse cultures and histories that are just as rich as the groups that came before them to places like Waterbury. I teach Urban Studies and History at the campus across the street so I have pledged as a member of my program to support the Hispanic Coalition in this project of opening and running the Cultural Center. And to be more specific about that I am going to be teaching courses the next semester and the spring semester, so fall and spring in which students will be doing history projects that will complement the work in the Cultural Center and we will also be working with the students. So first semester we will be working, I have a history methods class and we're going to be working on putting together the outlines of a Latino exhibit about Latinos in Waterbury and then in the spring semester we are going to be working with the children, I shouldn't say the children, the youth in the L.A.C.E. Program and doing oral histories with them, training them to do oral histories and working with them to interview people from multiple Hispanic backgrounds in the Waterbury community and then putting the results of that up in the Cultural Center. So I think that, I love the idea that we're doing this collaboration in urban studies at Waterbury campus. We only believe in doing collaborations that go two ways – that is they benefit our students and they benefit other members of the community and the Cultural Center will give us an opportunity to both reward our students and to give back to the larger community. Thank you.

**Diane Ploch, 83 Bank Street, had the following comments:** I am the Administrator of the Arts and Culture Collaborative for the Waterbury Region. We are a regional arts and cultural service agency under the auspices of the Greater Waterbury Chamber of Commerce. We serve artists, performers, and cultural organizations and their audiences in 16 towns with Waterbury as the hub. We promote, connect, collaborate, and advocate for the arts from individual artists and performers up to larger venues like the Palace Theater and the Mattatuck Museum. I also serve on the City's Public Art Committee as well as Waterbury's Downtown Arts District Advisory Committee. Our mission is to strengthen and support the arts as a central component of furthering

economic development and enhancing the quality of life for the residents of our regions. This so coincides with Waterbury's desires and efforts to revitalize downtown. It has been proven that the arts often play a key role in revitalizing a city. That revitalization takes time and it evolves one step at a time and it can start with one gallery, one dream-driven artist or group like the Hispanic Coalition, somebody with a passion for what they do, that spark ignites others and makes people take notice. I see that the Hispanic Coalition and its Cultural Arts Center proposed on Church Street can be one of those sparks. It's part of . . . happening in downtown Waterbury today to create vibrancy. This project will not only provide Waterbury high school students and youth with the accessibility for interactive arts programming and professional artists to teach them but can be a venue for artwork to be displayed, both students and artists. It can nurture young artists and help instill cultural pride and civil engagement in the students. This Cultural Art Center fits in with other initiatives in the works for Waterbury. The public art committee is planning a mosaic tile project that will involve the students from five schools creating artwork about the history and culture of their respected neighborhoods. This is going to be done with the guidance of a professional artistic team. The collaborative work will be displayed downtown, another spark in the creative synergy of Waterbury as we move forward. The Coalition's Cultural Arts Center being located downtown is crucial. It's close to the Mattatuck Museum; they will have that resource close at hand. This public art project that we just talked about will be downtown. And there are other resources for this Cultural Art center right downtown. I understand that there are at least 100 students interested in participating in the Cultural Arts Center. Let's provide the space needed for them to creatively express themselves in a safe environment while learning and growing in the arts. I applaud the Hispanic Coalition on this effort. The Arts and Culture Collaborative looks forward to working with them promoting, connecting, collaborating, and advocating as we build and even stronger arts community that can give Waterbury the economic boost it needs. Thank you.

**Doreen Lopez, Reed School, had the following comments:** I'm the Library Media Specialist at Reed School. I'm here on behalf of all the librarians in the elementary and K to eight schools in the City. We are here to address the possible elimination of the library page position among the elementary and K to eight schools. It is our understanding that the proposed budget includes eliminating these 20 positions. This elimination will directly and negatively affect student learning and achievement. In our district these essential individuals are primarily responsible for checking in, checking out, and reshelving over 20,000 books per week in primarily non-automated libraries. They are also responsible for assisting with book repair, accession, and cataloging. The amount of time allocated to these tasks is 19 hours per week/per school. If the teacher librarian becomes responsible for these tasks book exchange and student instruction will be reduced by approximately 50%. Fifty percent fewer books exchanged mean students will not get new books each week. This results in 180,000 fewer books in circulation during the school year. Students will not have guidance choosing appropriate reading materials. Classroom teachers and school staff will have limited access to the materials due to time constraints upon the teacher librarian. Thus student instruction will be adversely and significantly impacted. At a time when literacy is one of the most important issues facing our schools it seems an incredible disservice to remove print materials from the hands of our youngest learners. Strong school libraries building strong students and this position is integral to effectiveness of the library program. According to school library impact studies a review of findings and guide to sources which was revised in August, 2013, the most highly effective library programs

have a school librarian with one or more full-time support staff assigned to the library that assists users with non-instructional needs. Removing this one position according to the study would move the current Waterbury Public Schools library program from progressing toward effective to ineffective. Across the United States research has shown that students in schools with effective school libraries learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized tests. Our school libraries are the primary source for our students to access any print material and limiting that access will deny the neediest students the basics for success not only today but in the years to come. We would be happy to answer any and all questions this evening or at a later date and I really thank you for your time on behalf of the school librarians.

**Karen Tessier, 158 Ridgfield Avenue, had the following comments:** I'd just like to let you know that this library page position may not seem like much of a job in this world to any of you but to me it is the world, I love my job. I love helping the kids, I love helping the librarian. I don't even know if any of you are really sure of what the librarian in the schools do today. They're not just librarians, they're teachers. By taking away my position you're turning it into their position. They're already overworked as it is. The kids aren't going to benefit from this in any way and I thought the kids came first. The small amount of money I make doing my job is not gonna balance your budget. I think you need to look elsewhere, I'm sure there's a lot more money available in overstaffed supervisory positions. I think you ought to look there because you'd have to get rid of way less positions to get rid of the same dollars that you're looking for right now. My librarian in my school, it's the largest school in the City, I work for Chase School, there's over 850 students in there. She has a full day; there is no down time for her to be doing this any of this menial task work. She has to do student planning for every grade which is six grades in our school, I don't know where she's gonna find more time to do the little tasks when she has to do that. She doesn't concentrate just on the library any more. The staff now has to, they're backup specialists for the regular school teachers, that's an added burden on them and now you're asking them to do even more. She's there before school starts in the morning and she's there well after school ends in the afternoon. Now she'll have to stay even longer and I think that's unfair. I wish you would consider other alternatives. Thank you for your time.

STANGO: That concludes our speakers for now. I'm going to exercise a point of personal privilege here and invite the Board to ask any informative questions that they might need more information from either group. We're going to start with the librarians and the pages first and then we will open it up also to the Spanish Coalition Group. Does any Board member have any questions they would like to ask for information of the librarian group? Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: It's not so much a question but a comment. The budget as proposed is not written in stone, those were proposed cuts at the time and I think we are looking at the options and certainly I personally understand and I think a lot of the Board members do understand the important role that you do play and I think we're very, we're looking hard for other ways to come up with the money. That said, everything is on the table so it's not just about the library pages but there's other positions we're looking at too to balance the budget. But I do think that, I don't want you to leave here thinking that it's a done deal.

STANGO: Anyone else? Once again, as Commissioner Brown said, the budget, our district school budget department is still under review, we still have more sessions to go through . . . answer where that's going at this point. However we welcome and we're thankful for your input. I just have one question for Ms. Tessier, I wonder if you could come up to the podium one more time and tell me what your day is like, what do you do?

TESSIER: When I get to the school in the morning there's usually a cart full of books from the day before. So the first thing I do is try to organize all of those books to where they have to go in the library and then take the time to put them away. I have to do that in-between classes because if I'm doing it during classes there's no room in the library to move those carts around if the kids are in there. So you have to kind of plot your day. Any new books that come into the library and unfortunately that's pretty few, I would like to see that increased too, but those books also have to be marked and cataloged. We are not an automated school, everything is done by hand. When the kids come in to check books in and out I'm sitting at a desk with a pad and paper and I'm writing down their names, the name of the book, when it's due, when it was taken out, I have to keep track of who doesn't bring books back, make sure I get the list to the librarian so that she can write book notices so she can send them home to the kids that haven't found their books. I repair books all day long. Right now I can't repair any books because we're out of money so there's no more material to repair books with because our budget is so low in our school, I'm thinking in all schools. I help when there's fire alarms. We're on a main road and I don't know about you but it's not easy wrangling 30 five year olds to stay on the sidewalk so I'm at one end of the line, she's at the other end of the line, and we hope that they're all gonna stay together. If there's lockdown which there is a lot, we have to get the kids to be quiet so that if it were a real situation nobody knows where we are. That's also real difficult with five year olds, six year olds, they don't want to be quiet and not for as long as a lockdown practice is. There's so many things, I can't even think off hand everything that goes on. There's not enough time in the day. I mean if anything, not getting rid of the position, I would say the hours need to be increased because there's a timeframe I'm not there and she has to deal with all of this on her own. I think it's a safety issue also with the kids, when they need to go to the bathroom. The younger kids can't go to the bathroom by themselves, it's not allowed, who's gonna watch them? The kids are gonna end up getting lost, it happens every day. When she's trying to get a lesson across and somebody doesn't understand what she's saying, I'm going around table to table seeing if I can help the kids with what she's trying to teach. It's a lot of work. I ask all of you, invite you, come to our school, come spend the day as they say at Middlebury Consignment, come spend the day and see what we do. It's very difficult with the limited resources we have, if anything we should be expanding. The kids need a lot more than what they're able to get at the schools today, they need everything, they need everybody to be invested in the libraries. My child goes to school in Waterbury, he's almost about to graduate next year, there was very little when it comes to library things for any of them. Sure, these schools here, they have lots of stuff, it's like Disney Land in here, that's what our kids call it when they go to field days, sometimes they have to use Rotella School for field days at different schools. When he was at Generali that's where their field day is. They were looking in the windows and they're like wow, how come these schools look like this and ours look like this? Ours are Quassapaug, there's Disney Land. It's not even, we don't get the State dollars the way that these other schools do, we need the City to be more invested in these. Thank you.

VAN STONE: Mr. President, point of order, we have an Agenda Item 10.1 about this so...

STANGO: I was just gonna say that but in case there was someone else besides Mr. Reyes or Mr. Lopez that you might want to question.

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 7:26 p.m.**

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

## **6. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements:*

The Parent and Community Leadership Conference held on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at Naugatuck Valley Community College was a tremendous success. The venue was filled with parents, community members, and school and district staff. Activities included a keynote speech by Elizabeth Williamson from the U.S. Department of Education, informative workshops, a wonderful lunch catered by our culinary arts students, and an awards ceremony in the afternoon. Mrs. Williamson later complimented us on our strong family engagement and the quality of the conference.

Students from three of our elementary schools, Rotella, Walsh and Sprague, attended this year's Invention Convention held last weekend at UConn. Two of Rotella's fifth graders, Samantha Schulte and Jaylene Urbaz, were chosen to present their inventions. Jaylene was awarded an additional trophy and a \$25 gift certificate for "Recognized Inventor."

The Eagle Flyer, Kennedy High School's monthly student newspaper, captured five 2015 New England Scholastic Press Association awards on Friday, May 1st, at the 67<sup>th</sup> annual conference at Boston University. The entire staff was awarded a Highest Achievement Class I award for their work in producing the newspaper. Juniors Kathryn O'Donnell and Paolo Robles, along with senior Damian Lucian, won photography and design awards for their coverage of the school's spring musical "Pippin," which showcased the historic merging of student theatre between Kennedy and Sacred Heart High School. Senior Perla Cora won photography and design awards for her coverage of senior Stanley Little's championship track season: Little finished first in Connecticut and second in New England for the 55 meter dash. In addition, for their coverage of the Greater Waterbury community, including news, sports, features, and commentary such as the Waterbury Hospitality Center services for the homeless on East Main Street, the entire staff received a 2015 Highest Achievement Award in Scholastic Editing and Publishing from Mrs. Helen F. Smith, executive director of the New England Scholastic Press.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, several Youth Health Service Corps students worked together to create a small garden at Crosby High School. The program is part of the Northwestern Connecticut Area Health Education Center, and the project was funded by a grant from

the Disney Friends for Change and Youth Service America Grant. The grant proposal was written by a senior, Rilind Abazi.

Our schools have a number of activities and events planned for the months of May and June. We are adding these to the calendar on our district website, as well as to the calendars featured on the individual school sites. Hopefully we will have all of our school events and activities listed by the end of this week.

The Walk for Autism will be held this Saturday, May 9, 2015. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. in Library Park. A welcome ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m., with the walk following the conclusion of that ceremony.

The Gathering, an annual celebration of Waterbury's heritage, will be held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, beginning with a parade at 11:00 a.m. Our students will be participating in the parade as in years passed. There will be food and entertainment throughout.

Our annual Superintendent's Student Recognition Awards is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. at Kennedy High School. The first event is devoted to students in fifth grade and the pre-kindergarten program at Bucks Hill Pre-K Annex. The second event features students in our middle and high schools, as well as adult education.

## **7. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

STANGO: Just a few thoughts on Teacher Appreciation Week. A long time ago I read an article about teachers which stated the old, incorrect adage – those who can do and those who can't teach. I found this to be insulting and demeaning to the profession and usually stated by someone who knows nothing about education. Quite opposite – those who can choose to teach and they must also do everything else that comes along in the course of the day. Teachers teach because they are trained and they can, they are able to do it, but they also act as a parent surrogate, a friend, a sounding board, advice givers, and authority figures because they need to do that in a day. Teachers must be planners, minute managers and caregivers. They must be ready to react to the crisis of the day at a moment's notice 180 days a year, then they must turn around and instantly be inspiring and passionate. Not an easy task. Teachers have a dedication to young people and to education. They sometimes are challenged, they sometimes become frustrated, and they also get tired. However, they keep on going, they keep on giving. We appreciate our teachers this week and every week, we have the best there is in our district.

And now for the Consent Calendar. Does anyone wish to remove an item from the Consent Calendar? We'll start with Commissioner Sweeney, then we'll go to Commissioner Van Stone, and then we'll go to Commissioner Awwad.

SWEENEY: Item #8.6.

STANGO: Commissioner Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Item #8.1.

STANGO: Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: Item #8.8.

*President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar., Items 8.2 through 8.5, 8.7, and 8.9 through 8.25.*

## **8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 8.2 through 8.5, 8.7, and 8.9 through 8.26, as listed:**

- 8.2 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the 2015-17 Connecticut State Department of Education IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) Grant.
- 8.3 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the submission of the 2015-2017 School Readiness Grant Application to the CT Office of Early Childhood.
- 8.4 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of Amendment #4 to the Contract with Ricoh USA, Inc. (formerly known as Ikon Office Solutions, Inc.) for copy machine lease, installation, supplies, and maintenance, for a 24 month period beginning June 1, 2015 and ending May 31, 2017.
- 8.5 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of Amendment #1 to the Agreement with CTB/McGraw-Hill, LLC for local assessment program.
- 8.7 With the approval of the Committee on Policy, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the revised High School Graduation Exit Criteria Policy (#6146), as attached.
- 8.9 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the revised Teacher Evaluation Plan, SY 2015/16, as attached.
- 8.10 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to grant .5 high school Humanity Credit to students who successfully complete the Waterbury Public Schools/GEAR UP 8th - 9th Summer Bridge Program.
- 8.11 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Luanne Rosin-Capolupo, KHS, and five chaperones to take 50 students to New York, NY on May 22, 2015 to visit the Holocaust Museum.

- 8.12 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Dea Illian, WAMS, and one chaperone to take 20 students to New York, NY on May 13, 2015 to visit Metropolitan Opera House and Lincoln Center.
- 8.13 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Ivan Hernandez and eight chaperones to take 55 students to Boston, MA on June 2, 2015 to visit the New England Aquarium and the Boston Duck Tours.
- 8.14 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Meredith White-Clark, KHS, and four chaperones to take 50 students to New York, NY on May 18, 2015 to visit Bodies World: Pulse Exhibition.
- 8.15 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Dino Pantoni, KHS, and eight chaperones to take 80 students to Agawam, MA on May 30, 2015 to visit Six Flags New England.
- 8.16 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Marnie Valletta, WHS, and nine chaperones to take 100 students to Agawam, MA on June 2, 2015 to visit Six Flags New England.
- 8.17 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Patricia Theriault, WAMS, and 13 chaperones to take 116 students to Agawam, MA on June 5, 2015 to visit Six Flags New England.
- 8.18 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Amy L'Heureux, WAMS, and 18 chaperones to take 190 students to Bronx, NY on June 1, 2015 to visit the Bronx Zoo.
- 8.19 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Luanelly Iglesias, NEMS, and three chaperones to take 30 students to Sturbridge, MA on May 15, 2015 to visit Old Sturbridge Village.
- 8.20 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Joseph Brady, WAMS, and three chaperones to take 39 students to Jersey City, NJ on May 26, 2015 to visit the Liberty Science Center.
- 8.21 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Anthony Mango, WHS, and three/four chaperones to take 30/40 students to Hyde Park, NY on May 18, 2015 to visit The Culinary Institute of America and the FDR Museum.

- 8.22 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Arianne Salcito, KHS, and four chaperones to take 50 students to New York, NY on May 27, 2015 to participate in a cruise ship tour of main landmarks.
- 8.23 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Major Mike Simon, WHS, and six chaperones to take 48 students to Washington, DC from June 5 to June 7, 2015 to visit Quantico Marine Corps Museum, Smithsonian Museum, Washington Memorial, etc.
- 8.24 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Melissa Levesque, Enlightenment School, and five chaperones to take 50 students to Agawam, MA on May 22, 2015 to visit Six Flags New England.
- 8.25 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities and Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities, at no charge, by the following school organizations and/or City departments:

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES</u>
Vanesa Hansi	Walsh gym: Wed., May 20th, 4:00-5:00 pm (ESH End of Yr. Celebration)
T. St. Pierre	Duggan café & gym: Wed., June 17th, 4:30-7:30 pm (parent involvement cookout)
M. Vagnini	WAMS recital hall: Mon., June 8th, 4:00-8:00 pm (Honor Society Induction)
R. O'Neill	Carrington café: Tues., May 12th, 5:45-8:15 pm (Book Club mtg.)
J. Dooling	Rotella lobby: Tues., June 9th, 3:35-5:00 pm (student piano recital)
Park Dept.	Kennedy pool: Mon. thru Fri., May 26th - June 5th, 2:30-5:30 pm (lifeguard training)
Ed McCann	Kennedy pool: Mon. thru Fri., 6/29-8/7/15, 8:45 am-3:00 pm (summer swim)
	Kennedy aud.: Wed., June 24th, 9 am – 3 pm (summer training-blood borne pathogens)
	WSMS pool: Mon. thru Fri., 6/29-8/7/15 8:45-3:00 pm (Learn to Swim Program)
	Sprague gym: Mon. thru Fri., 6/25-8/12/15, 8 am - 4 pm (summer recreation program)
R. Moffo	Generali gym: Thurs., June 4th, 5:00-7:00 pm (spring concert)
	Generali gym & café: Thurs., May 7th, 5:30-8:30 pm (Family Spring Night)
D. Bakewell	Sprague gym: Thurs., May 28th, 5:00-7:00 pm (Family Fitness Night)
N. Clemente	Sprague gym: Wed., June 10th, 4:30-7:00 pm (Family Math Night)
N. Jones	Reed café: Thurs., Aug. 20th, 10:00-11:00 am (Crossing Guards mtg.)
A. Edwards	Tinker café: Fri., May 15th, 5:00-7:30 pm (ESL potluck dinner)

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

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES</u>
Iglesia Adventista	
Del Septimo Church	Kennedy aud.: Sat. Aug. 29th 5:00-10:00 pm
Ruben Martinez	(church concert)

**REQUESTING WAIVERS:**

Grandville Academy	Reed computer lab, café, 5 classrooms: Saturdays 6/13, 6/20, 6/27
Maurice Mosley	9:00 am - 3:00 pm (STEM Program) (\$756)

STANGO: Motions been made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

## **9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

### **Committee on Finance**

#### **Item #8.1**

J. VAN STONE: Ladies and gentlemen, with the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of Amendment Number 1 to the contract with EBS Healthcare Services, Inc., d/b/a Educational Based Services Inc. for speech therapy services for students, **SO MOVED.**

HARVEY: **Second.**

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President. I asked for this to be removed because I speak to these type of items all the time. Do we need these services? Of course we do. By law we have to offer most of them if not all. However, in these budget times as we actually heard from some of the public tonight, we have to make tough decisions and if we just continually say we're gonna have not-to-exceed contracts that months later we just add more money to I think we're in bad practice and we're not doing our best to control these budgets. In the business world if someone came to me with a request for additional money for a particular work product I would probably take it from one of their other budgets and give it to them that way, it wouldn't just be additional dollars continually being added to budgets. We can't continue this way. Obviously this is brought to our attention at a time when we really don't have a choice but to vote for it and vote affirmative on it. But just because of what I'm stating I'm gonna vote against this tonight, not because I don't want the money going there, not because I don't want the services rendered, but we have to start looking at these accounts and knowing what we're doing. We just can't keep adding money, it's not gonna work. We just went through a very difficult budget time and this is just one more time where things come to us where we're not really given a choice. So that's why I removed it, I wanted to make this comment and, again, just on those facts is the reason that will be voting against this. Thank you.

STANGO: Thank you. Further discussion? Very well then, all in favor, opposed.

AWWAD: Roll call.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #8.1:**

Yeas: Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, Sweeney, and Stango.

Nays: Commissioners J. Van Stone and T. Van Stone.

STANGO: Motion passes eight/two.

## **Committee on Policy**

### **Item #8.6**

BROWN: With the approval of the committee on Policy, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of revisions to the “Mandatory Dress Code Policy, High Schools” section of the School Attire Policy (#5132), as attached, **SO MOVED.**

J. VAN STONE: **Second.**

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Discussion? Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: I would like to offer two amendments to the policy. The first one is three simple language changes, under “high school only, 1. Boys, section a” currently reads pants and shorts/or cargo shorts in solid black or khaki worn completely covering undergarments at the waist and no more than three inches above the knee. I find that language rather difficult and choppy and would like offer that we amend it to *“boys - pants and shorts/or cargo shorts in solid black or khaki worn at the waist and completely covering undergarments and no more than three inches above the knee.* We have a similar situation at 2. Girls, point a - pants shorts, skirts, skorts, or dresses in solid black or khaki worn completely covering undergarments and no more than three inches above the knee. I propose we change the language to *pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, or dresses in solid black or khaki worn at the waist and completely covering undergarments and no more than three inches above the knee.*

At the bottom, 3, where you have “all high school students”, I recommend that we delete the reference to “denim” which reads currently now at “b” – solid cloth or denim in black or khaki may be worn. We are talking basically about the colors, denim is already allowed, it doesn’t make any sense to put it under there and bring it out yet again, I think it just leads to more confusion so I would *eliminate that reference all together.* **SO MOVED.**

BROWN: **Second.**

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Now we’re gonna have a discussion on the amendment only please. Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: I think Commissioner Sweeney’s recommendations reflect our discussion that we had and I think we did discuss that at the Workshop so I would agree that it’s clearer to say at the waist because the other one sounds like it could be around there knees. So I would support at the waist for the boys and girls. As far as the solid cloth or denim in black or khaki may be worn, it says, in that sentence it is talking about the cloth or denim, which is a cloth, so am I looking at the wrong one?

SWEENEY: No, that’s correct.

BROWN: You want to eliminate the word khaki or the whole sentence.

SWEENEY: The whole thing. I think it's redundant and not necessary.

BROWN: Okay, that's fine, I just wanted to be clear, I thought you were eliminating the word denim, through the Chair, sorry.

STANGO: Any further discussion? Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: I think my only question would be in relation to the part 3b, if we eliminate any reference to cloth or denim and we don't have anywhere else kind of okaying anything, does that open us up to pants made of plastic bags or something and nylon, spandex, should it then be, if we're gonna get rid that "b" section should it in boys and girls each "a" have cloth or denim pants, skorts, cargo, part of those items there? I think 90% of the people will understand you could wear cloth or denim but I sometimes worry if we don't spell things out on day 2 somebody is going to walk in with a pant that we didn't necessary foresee and we can't point back to something saying no you can't do that. So I think Commissioner Sweeney might be right pulling it out of a third area, but I don't know if necessarily it wouldn't be wise to keep cloth or denim in the language under the boys or girls section.

SWEENEY: I **would accept that as a friendly amendment.**

STANGO: Further discussion.

BROWN: So we're all set with the boys and girls in terms of at the waist so where would we be putting the clarification solid cloth or denim in black or khaki may be worn?

SWEENEY: It would then be put at "a" under "boys" and "a" under "girls" to further clarify pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, or dresses in solid black or khaki *cloth or denim*. And it's similar on the boys.

STANGO: The Clerk of the Board just handed me this book where it talks about restrictions, every child gets this, so this is the basic handbook before the change and it talks about students not permitted to wear the following during the day: blue jeans of any kind, so that's in there, leggings and stockings, and that's in there again. So I just wanted you to be aware of that too.

J. VAN STONE: I don't disagree but if we put right in the dress code that we're gonna be handing to everyone why make people jump around a book to go find other explanations?

CLERK: It's item #4 of the dress code, you only have the first...

J. VAN STONE: Oh, there's a second page which we don't have? Either way, I think right in that sentence where we're delineating what type of clothes they can wear why not simply add the two materials that we're allowing?

STANGO: Are you going to make a change to that amendment?

SWEENEY: I would *offer to amend the language at 1/Boys/a – pants or shorts or cargo shorts in solid black or khaki cloth or denim worn at the waist completely covering undergarments and no more than three inches above the knee. Point 2/Girls/a – pants, shorts, skirts, or dresses in solid black or khaki cloth or denim worn at the waist completely covering undergarments and no more than three inches above the knee.*

J. VAN STONE: Second.

STANGO: That was a friendly amendment. Further discussion. Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Are you saying section four says no blue jeans, is that correct?

BROWN: In the policy.

McENTEE: But we're gonna allow black jeans? What's the difference?

BROWN: The color.

McENTEE: Why would we not allow blue jeans but allow black jeans, what difference does it make?

STANGO: I don't know; is that a rhetorical question?

McENTEE: No, that's a real question.

SWEENEY: The original dress code allowed pants of any color; this is now narrowing that to black or khaki regardless of the material, black or khaki only.

McENTEE: Right, black jeans are allowed, right?

SWEENEY: Black denim, any material but it has to be black or khaki.

McENTEE: So why are we gonna allow black jeans but not blue jeans, it makes no sense.

SWEENEY: We're not allowing blue cotton pants either, we're not allowing blue dockers, we're not allowing blue.

STANGO: I think we entertained that question last week too about removing all denim. I guess black is acceptable and blue is not. Okay, any other further discussion on that amendment. Okay then, all in favor of the amendment. Let's do a roll call.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON AMENDMENT #1 TO ITEM #8.6:**

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, Harvey, Hernandez, Rodriguez, Sweeney, J. Van Stone, T. Van Stone, and President Stango – 8.

Nays: Commissioners Awwad and McEntee – 2.

STANGO: So the motion carries to amend Item #8.6. We're going to entertain the main motion as amended. Discussion?

AWWAD: First of all, as a comment, I don't understand why we're no longer going to allow white shirts in the district, a crisp white shirt is a very professional look and we're not going to allow the children wear white shirts by this policy. But more importantly the policy is being changed in an attempt to address a discipline issue and I do not believe for one second this is the answer to put kids in two color choices of pants and two color choices of shirts, it isn't gonna solve the problem, I don't believe that, I think many of our faculty don't believe it's gonna solve the problem, it will certainly limit the ability to be discretionary in your pursuit of enforcing the code but it isn't going to solve the problem and I won't support it. Thank you.

STANGO: Thank you, anyone else? Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: I don't believe that we've heard from all the stakeholders on this issue. We had a committee come down, some of the high school principals were on there, I think there were at least two or three that weren't, we haven't had their input. I don't think Crosby has had any input from their principal or Wilby's principal, we don't know where those parties stand. We haven't had any input from the Waterbury Teachers Association to see what their position is. We had a stack of letters I think that we got from students on the dress code I think about a year ago, are we just gonna discard that now and not consider those at all? And also the various parent groups and governance councils and PTA's and Parent Liaisons and so forth, they haven't given us their input. And I know that time is of the essence but that doesn't mean we have to rush into something that may not be appropriate and I think if you don't hear from all these groups that you're just setting it up for disaster. If all these groups had weighed in and said that yes, they approve it and they're in favor of it, then I would be in favor of it but just to hear from one of five or six different groups and not even the entire, not even every principal I think . . . not enough input to render a decision on this.

STANGO: I'll just respond to what you said I believe a lot of this discussion was in the School Climate Committee where a lot of these principals do attend and if they don't attend they have members of their staff attend. I think this has been vetted over a course of a long time. I understand your point, we haven't heard from them, we heard from some people tonight but we didn't hear anything about the code and it was publicized. So I mean I understand what you're saying but...

McENTEE: I'm only aware of what happened at the Committee and at the Workshop. I can't guess what happened in other conversations, other meetings that may have taken place.

STANGO: I understand. Any further discussion? Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: I have a second amendment to propose and that needs to be done before we take a vote on that. I would offer a second amendment in respect to the inclusion of colors for WAMS grades six through 8. It's included at the very bottom of the high school attire and I think that (a) we should remove that reference from high school attire because it doesn't belong there and (b) the process would be for WAMS to request to deviate from the school's district code for middle school and apply for that as a separate request, not to roll it into the high school. I understand the proximity, they're in the

same building however both the middle school and the high school follow the district code, dress code, and at this point the district dress code for the middle school still stands.

STANGO: So that's your amendment?

SWEENEY: *To remove the reference for WAMS grades six through eight from the high school policy* **SO MOVED.**

McENTEE: **Second.**

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded, now discussion on the amendment. Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: I guess at this point after several meetings that I was at when the Principal of WAMS talked about this it was a tacit and maybe it wasn't a specific recommendation as you're saying in terms of a written thing to the Curriculum Committee, but we did discuss it at the two Curriculum meetings that I chaired and nobody said a word that it was a problems. So I'm surprised at this amendment, this discussion, because it was, nobody has ever said that in the two meetings I was at so I'm not sure how to respond to that because as somebody said, time is of the essence and I think if we postpone this and have to go through all this again for the middle school for WAMS I think it will delay the process of purchasing and so forth. So I think we're gonna end up in the same place so I'm not sure why, is it a matter of just process that you're thinking or do you want to maybe put it in a different place? Right now I'm not sure if postponing it is going to change the outcome eventually. So if it's a process issue and procedure issue let's address that. If it's a concept or content issue that's a different thing. So if your objection is content that's one thing, if your objection is the process then maybe we could figure that out.

STANGO: Okay, we'll hear from Commissioner Sweeney on that.

SWEENEY: I was at one Committee meeting and I was at Workshop, there was no discussion of WAMS six through eight at Workshop. Although there was mention at the first Curriculum Committee it wasn't mentioned as an action item and throughout this process it has been about the high school, the districtwide high school dress code, no mention of middle school. We didn't give the public an opportunity to weigh in on it, it's not mentioned as a part of, we gave no one an opportunity to weigh in on this. And it's a separate issue. At this point in time WAMS should be following at the middle school level the districtwide middle school policy because there has been nothing requested to change that. At the very least it certainly does not belong under the High School Policy, parents would not know where to find it, they'd be looking under the Middle School Dress Code to find what their students should be wearing at middle school.

STANGO: Okay, further discussion on the amendment. Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: I guess I'm surprised, again, at this discussion and I think, maybe Mrs. Cullinan can answer this for me, through the Chair. I think at this point WAMS wanted to do the middle school and I was under the impression that we did discuss it. We did not specifically act on it but it was proposed to us.

SUPERINTENDENT: I guess I have concerns because WAMS is one facility, one building; it's a six through 12 school, I think that was the intent of the policy. It's not like our comprehensive middle schools, they're separate, so that would impact that. But certainly this will have an impact of having your high schools who are integrated in the high school setting if they were a school within a school somewhere else perhaps but they are certainly integrated throughout the building so I think that was the intent of the principal. I haven't been at that Committee but I've certainly been apprised of it, I think that was the intent of the principal and the intent of that. If you really want to get into some details just to be systematic with your policies I will quickly call a Policy meeting next week and bring us right back quickly if we want to get into that. But certainly it's the Board's privilege in what they want to do. But certainly WAMS is a magnet school 6-12, it's not a comprehensive middle school so I'll do, but I believe the principal's intent was to have it uniformed within her middle school. And the only thing I will comment to in speaking with all the principals with regards to the dress code policy, all four high school principals are certainly on board with this including the Crosby Turnaround Principal who is certainly taken the lead on that. So all four principals have supported this. Thanks.

CULLINAN: WAMS is a unique school in our district, it has a 6-12 and I think part of the thinking behind it by Ms. Elias was that it would be a clear distinction between her middle schoolers and her high schoolers and she thought just for safety issues too it would be good to be able to differentiate between the two groups of kids as they travel throughout the building. But I do have to comment that all of the principals were involved in the planning of it, in the meetings, in fact they were on a conference call from my office where all of them who weren't present in the office were on a conference to make sure that Wilby, Kennedy, Crosby, WAMS, and even Career Academy came to have a voice in this discussion.

STANGO: Thank you. Commissioner Sweeney then Commissioner Van Stone.

SWEENEY: I will state one more time that at the very least the reference to the middle school grades does not belong under the high school policy because parents will not find it. If you're gonna do this at least put it under the middle school policy, it doesn't belong here.

STANGO: Okay, Commissioner Van Stone.

*(tape ended)*

J. VAN STONE: I think Commissioner Sweeney makes a hundred valid reasons to do it a different way, that being said I think being pragmatic and practical, it's one building, it's one set of administration. I would find it hard to envision an atmosphere where eighth graders are walking around in a relaxed dress code and a ninth grader now is in a button-down uniform, I think that would just cause a number of issues on its own right. But this is kind of just a drop in, we've always been talking about high school, we've always been, so to add six through eight, wow, maybe right in practice, we could have done it a different way. My question would be, and I don't know if anyone has the answer, given that any of publicity about this, any of the talk is always spoken about the high school grades, have WAMS six, seventh, eighth grade parents been in the loop

that hey, this isn't just a high school thing, it's coming, it might be coming down the pike to you to?

SUPERINTENDENT: I believe so, most certainly. Mrs. Cullinan, yes, she's nodding as well. I know Mrs. Elias has really taken the lead on this and spoken to her parent groups as well as her advisory groups as well as the parents. I know they've been informed.

J. VAN STONE: Because that would really be my only concern is if the high school parents knew it coming but all of a sudden some seventh grade parent saying where did this come from. So if you are confident that those parents are in the loop and are on Board with it I think the proper way probably would have been to do this on its own as a middle school but I think we will kind of end up here anyway. I think the proper thing would be (1) to duplicate this language for the WAMS middle schoolers in the middle school area but to keep the navy blue language for them.

SUPERINTENDENT: And I have no problem reformatting this for policy purposes. This Board certainly, who knows, 10 years from now where we will be. So just for formatting purposes and policy we can certainly do that, certainly.

STANGO: Anything further? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: I'm lost, I don't know about any of the other Commissioners. Okay, so where are we, we have an amendment, where are we now? We're going to take a vote on the amendment?

STANGO: As soon as we're finished with discussion.

HARVEY: Okay, I call the question, let's vote, no more discussion.

STANGO: Okay, I guess we'll go roll call vote on that too.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON AMENDMENT #2 TO ITEM #8.6:**

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, McEntee, Rodriguez, Sweeney, and  
President Stango – 5

Nays: Commissioners Awwad, Harvey, Hernandez, J. Van Stone, and  
T. Van Stone – 5

J. VAN STONE: If I may, a vote "no" to this would be to keep the language. So if you want this language in here the vote you should have made is "no".

SWEENEY: The amendment is to remove the language, a vote "yes" would be to remove the language; a vote "no" would be to keep the language, to not remove.

STANGO: That's what we did.

J. VAN STONE: You voted yes though, you want this language out?

BROWN: Then I'm gonna make an amendment to put the language in the middle school policy, that's what we just decided.

STANGO: Five/five, motion fails.

J. VAN STONE: **I'd like to make an amendment to move that language to the middle school section.**

BROWN: **Second.**

STANGO: Any discussion on that amendment? Commissioner Jason Van Stone, do you want to discuss what you did?

J. VAN STONE: I do not.

STANGO: All right then, anyone else?

BROWN: Just to clarify, the amendment on the table is to take the language in allowing WAMS to follow the dress code and put that dress code in the middle school policy, we're just changing the position.

STANGO: Okay, that's the amendment. Any further discussion on it?

McENTEE: Is the amendment to put it in the middle school policy if it eventually passes or just to, are we approving this dress code now for the middle school or is this, it will be under the middle school heading if it passes?

STANGO: We heard it's not on, it's part of this item so I think it should still go back to Policy.

J. VAN STONE: No, the underlying motion to approve this has been amended to simply move the navy blue six to eight language at WAMS, to mimic it in the middle school policy of this. We are voting eventually to approve that or not tonight.

STANGO: If we do that though we're not having any discussion on it, it doesn't come to Workshop, we didn't vet it, we didn't entertain that. Okay. So that's Commissioner Jason Van Stone's amendment and it was seconded. Any further discussion on it? Then we'll have the vote. Roll Call.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON AMENDMENT #3 TO ITEM #8.6:**

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, Harvey, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, Sweeney, J. Van Stone, T. Van Stone, and President Stango – 9.

Nays: Commissioner Awwad – 1.

STANGO: Okay, so now we're gonna go back to the amended, amended motion. Do we understand what that motion is?

BROWN: The motion right now is to accept the proposed policy, dress code changes, with the amendments that we just adopted.

J. VAN STONE: I call the question.

STANGO: Let's have another roll call vote.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #8.6 AS AMENDED:**

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, Harvey, Hernandez, Rodriguez, Sweeney,  
J. Van Stone, T. Van Stone, and President Stango – 8

Nays: Commissioners Awwad and McEntee – 2

STANGO:

**Item #8.8**

BROWN: Ladies and gentlemen, with the approval of the Committee on Policy, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the revised High School Grading/QPR Policy (#6146.11), as attached, **SO MOVED.**

J. VAN STONE: **Second.**

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. Discussion? Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: I wanted this out so we could just explain what we're doing here in terms of its impact to students who tend to struggle and end up with, as we talked last week, 20s and 30s in the first semester and it gives them the opportunity to repair that grade and successfully complete the year with the unit to move forward. And I think it's important that we understand the steps that we're taking in addressing, calculating the students' grades, revising it to 60% of assessment, 20% of classwork, 10% of an attitude displayed by the student in terms of disposition to learning in the classroom, and 10% on homework. I think it's important that the parents understand that this has been done, not in an effort to dumb down anything but to assist a struggling student, to provide them with some degree of motivation as early on in the year so we're not wasting the teacher's time, the fellow classmates' time, and the students' time as they sit in class and potentially could be disruptive for the remainder of the year. It's very important and I think it's a good step in the direction. The other important thing I want to point out is that when we look at the grade point average and the attendance requirements that go along with these things regarding all extra-curricular activities. When we say extra-curricular activities we mean all extra-curricular activities, we're not talking about sports, we're talking about clubs, drama, everything – soup to nuts. And I just want to make sure that all the kids understand that this isn't geared towards sports, this isn't geared towards anything other than success in the classroom and making it through high school in a four year period with a good education. So I wanted to have the opportunity to speak about that before we voted on it and that's why I wanted it off Consent.

STANGO: Thank you Commissioner. Any other further discussion? Seeing none – all in favor, opposed, motion carries.

**10. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FACILITIES & GROUNDS**

**10.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Rodriguez and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve of a Property Access and Use Agreement with the Hispanic Coalition of Greater**

**Waterbury, Inc., for use of the first floor of the building located at 30B  
Church Street.**

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Discussion? Commissioner Jason Van Stone, Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

JASON VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President, through you. First of all I thank the City and the Coalition for getting us an agreement which is I think all we really asked for. Now I have some questions on that. Number two, right of entry and use, last week when we were speaking, Victor/Gerry, you want to come up, last week when we were speaking you were kind of conceptually talking about the first floor, could you walk me through again what parts of the building you were looking to utilize.

VICTOR LOPEZ: Essentially the first floor, as you walk the front doors, the room immediately on your right hand side, the second room off that space, and the room on the left and the small cubby on the left.

J. VAN STONE: So you have like the main foyer, the conference room, there's a back office or something there and then the kitchenette or something.

LOPEZ: The kitchen is all the way left back, on the left hand side.

J. VAN STONE: Then there was, someone had mentioned the possibility of 100 students in there. Is that at one time?

LOPEZ: Not at once.

J. VAN STONE: Okay. I was trying to do some quick square footage in my head.

LOPEZ: No, absolutely not.

J. VAN STONE: How did you foresee, what's the average day there again, how does that look?

LOPEZ: The average of attendance?

J. VAN STONE: Just the, you walk in at nine o'clock and there's classes going throughout the day but how many kids are in there, how many people are in there?

LOPEZ: The request of time that I put down was nine in the morning to eight o'clock. We will not be there open daily nine to eight; it's just having access to the building. Essentially what you're looking at, our program participants arrive around two, two-thirty. Most of the evenings will be mentoring and tutoring which is the essential part of the program. By five o'clock, five-thirty, the kids are being transported back home. So on a weekly basis what we'll be adding is a special evening event and that's why I requested the extended time until eight o'clock but it's not going to happen every night, we're looking at open, open the display, the gallery for viewing so that would be after five, six o'clock. So essentially it will be between the hours of nine to eight but we're not going to be there every day from nine to eight.

J. VAN STONE: And what do you imagine, I won't hold you to a hard number...

LOPEZ: Can I answer the second part of your question as far as how many participants are going to be there.

J. VAN STONE: That was going to be my question, max capacity, at any time the most kids we would ever have would be.

LOPEZ: Right now 16 kids. There are four groups of tutors, depending on, if it's math day or reading day, and the program director will be there, two coordinators will be there, and two volunteers. So 20 people.

J. VAN STONE: Okay, that's better than 100. Now the term of this agreement is this Monday through October 31 and there was some talk in the group about some pretty long-term reoccurring things. Is it your hope that this becomes a reoccurring grant that you continually get and continue to use? Because we had talked about one of the professors was looking to do something spring and fall semester and then there was, do you envision this as a one-shot deal?

LOPEZ: That's all I have, that's all I have time for.

J. VAN STONE: Is there even an opportunity to?

LOPEZ: You mean long-term, to have the center open?

J. VAN STONE: In six months from now is there a second grant that you can maybe extend the program.

LOPEZ: Of course, if the opportunity arises I would definitely love, we're looking at a pilot program and honestly, I'm looking forward to reporting to you on the activities and events so if the opportunity comes along that more money becomes available and we are granted, I would love to, something that we would definitely consider, yes.

J. VAN STONE: Okay, so there's no hard plans today but should that opportunity arise you will pursue it.

LOPEZ: I agree with you, yes.

J. VAN STONE: My other question involved section eight, under insurance, when the commencement of access use activities, when do you think access use activities will begin which I guess means the first day you'll have kids in there.

LOPEZ: Honestly Commissioner, I have to clean, sweep, clean the windows, I couldn't tell you. As soon as you approve this we'll go in there and access what needs to be cleaned. I'm looking to do it as soon as possible obviously so we can utilize the funding. My initial concern is getting the site but I will say a week.

J. VAN STONE: That question leads to my next question, so you'll have the insurance in time for that if you don't already?

LOPEZ: Oh no, we do already. The City of Waterbury, we occupy currently property of the City of Waterbury so the City of Waterbury has been on our insurance and they're a hold on our insurance.

J. VAN STONE: So you'll just add this property, the address to it and it will...

LOPEZ: I actually have a copy of it, I brought it just in case.

J. VAN STONE: Those are my only questions on the agreement. The only other comment I would make would be to, I don't want it mischaracterized that this Board was ever against the idea of this. I think it was tough last week, you guys are operating kind of under a short timeline, a lot of us were just first hearing about this and it's our job to ask those questions. We didn't want to come off in a manner that was unfitting but we need to protect the City from our end as you do all the time on the Board of Aldermen. So all the, . . . was this piece of paper and now that we got it it is very easy to ask questions and if timing had been worked out better this probably would have been a Consent item two weeks ago and there wouldn't have had to be any questions for it. I think you guys are going to do a great job with this property, I think the children that will go through these doors will be richer for it and I'm glad we got the opportunity to do that. The only this I would caution this Board is this short time line, I'm not talking about you guys any more, this was I think a very special example and a one page contract, we just have to be careful that things showing up at noon that we vote on at 8:20. This, thank you for making it one page by the way, if I read my email today at 5:30 and this was a 12 page document I'm not too sure I'd be voting yes for this tonight but thank you for your diligence in getting this to us albeit at the eleventh hour and I wish you success in this.

LOPEZ: And I honestly appreciate your job, doing your job, and I did not take it, trust me, I did not take it any other way than what you should be doing which is putting the City first, putting the children first, so I commend you for that. I didn't leave here thinking otherwise. Like I said, I was under the impression that I was doing it the right way. I like doing things the right way, I strive to, . . . properly, accomplish things properly and I would say when something like this started the right way it ends in a successful outcome. So I appreciate your questions and I thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President. I prepared a few notes here which is not my norm, I'm usually an off the cuff person but I wanted to make sure my thoughts came out the way I wanted them to come out. Obviously last week was a conversation that went in some directions I don't think any of us expected it to but when things do, as Commissioner Van Stone stated, come to us last minute, there's another Agenda item tonight that was similar and we get them all the time and another thing that got to me a little bit here is I'm not sure John Q. Public and whatever other organization could have turned this around in a week's time. We have an Alderman, we have a Mayoral Aide, and certainly that accelerated it to my point maybe quicker than most people in the City could have had something turned around to utilize City property. So that's part of what my concern was also. The building does need work, as you guys already know, but that all being said we're put here by the citizens and our final judgement, regardless of everything I just said, is to do things that are right by the citizens of Waterbury and when

I look at this, and actually one of your comments tonight when you were speaking you said it may not change the world, well I'll nicely disagree with you because I think if the children you take in you exercise anyone's imagination in this facility you have changed the world, so I'll disagree with you a little bit when you said that, okay, politely. So that all being said and being that we are here and we've gotten this aside with the document, I'm absolutely going to vote yes for this tonight. This is going to be going forward, I hope you do get more grants because ending this I think, unfortunately is Halloween, is the date that's on the contract, I hope it could go further or if something else comes along and takes its place because it is good work and I thank for being not just an Alderman and working in the Mayor's Office, for being in your community and doing this work. So I do appreciate it. Last weeks behind us, the contract is in place, I wish you the best of luck. I hope to be able to visit one day and see everything you're doing.

LOPEZ: Yes you will. Yes, you all will definitely visit, and I appreciate your communication by the way, your email.

STANGO: Thank you. Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: I see Mr. Cross sitting back there and I was the one who asked for you to have some weigh-in on this so just real briefly, we're looking at something that's appropriate for the space?

CROSS: Yes, yes we are. Mr. Guidone did ask me last week to look at the space rather quickly and from everything I've heard we'll certainly be able to accommodate that program there. So I would definitely support it.

SWEENEY: Thank you.

STANGO: Anyone else?

RODRIGUEZ: Thank you President Stango, through you. I just want to take this opportunity, I don't have a question, more of a comment, thank you Victor Lopez and thank you Gerry for really putting a lot of hard work behind this, putting some thought to it, I know it was last minute and I know it got some of us frustrated but at the end of the day we wanted what's right for the City. I think this program is needed, particularly downtown which a lot of young folks are saying we don't have nothing happening downtown and I hope this is one of many things that come across positively in the City of Waterbury for that area because it desperately needs some upgrade in the City. So I just wanted to thank you for all the hard work, thank all the people that came out here and spoke. Seeing Santa Perez, seeing Dr. Ruth Glasser, wonderful pillars of our community really supporting this effort and I thank those folks. So I just wanted to publically acknowledge all the work that you guys are doing behind the scenes and here publically today. Thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: I want to echo Commissioner's comments and just say that I was so impressed with the input from the community and the partnership that you made with the Foundation and the University and this is just a higher level than I thought of so

actually it worked out well that we were able to hear more about the program because it certainly is impressive and I would love to see this as a long-term initiative in the City of Waterbury especially with the arts and how it really can be a revitalization effort. So maybe sometimes the perfect is the enemy of the good but in this situation the good that we're landing on I think is a much better, more comprehensive understanding of just how great a project this is. So thank you.

STANGO: Anything further? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Gerry and Victor, I'm glad we were able to work this out. I was really nervous last week and when we didn't get any paperwork Monday, I said oh boy, this is going to be difficult. But we were able to work it out, we have our paperwork, and that's good, that's a good thing. I definitely believe that the kids will benefit from this. I know as a kid coming up it was very important for me to have something culturally. I didn't know it at the time but I know it now as an adult. John, if you could come forward just for a minute, I have a concern though, the building has been empty, I know there are issues at 30-B, one issue in particular, and I just want to make sure that we're taking all the precautions necessary to resolve that. I know we had some pest problems in there. It's been awhile since I've been in the building but I know that those who were in there did mention that.

CROSS: The building itself has been in, I would classify it as hibernation, but when it's in that state we don't abandon it, we certainly go in there from time to time to keep it somewhat maintained although you know, my thing is if the building is empty it's not a happy building. A building when it's full is happy. So we do have traps in there but certainly the building does have limitations and reading the program and what they're doing in there you know from my perspective, I'd rather have somebody in there. We're still gonna be checking the boilers, checking the power, still gonna be monitoring the security system and certainly pest control. We do that at the Enlightenment, we'll continue to do it there as well. If something breaks we're gonna fix it. The building is what it is and for me it's great having somebody there.

HARVEY: Thank you. Now my last question is because of something I had to contend with this week is the parking. You're just, State Street is there, I'm not sure Paul what we're gonna do with the parking. Enlightenment, sorry.

LOPEZ: Although this project arrived to you late, very late, we've been working on this for seven months. I already have established communications with owner's right across the street that have parking spaces and when we do have evening events there are some parking spots there that they have allowed us to have access to. I've also talked to the church which has the parking in the corner, and Mattatuck Museum. So that was one of the concerns if we had an evening event, a six to eight event, where do people park. I have made several phone calls to AT&T, Frontier, which actually owns that huge lot which is empty and I've gotten great feedback unfortunately there's nothing official as far as us utilizing 10 spaces from that parking right immediately next door on the left had side. But that was considered and discussed. Also the evening, there will be access to some parking.

HARVEY: I'm just mentioning that because that could be an issue if you take control of it however it won't be an issue. So just mentioning that to make sure you get a handle

on that because people will try to take advantage of that. But other than that I'm looking forward to visiting. I know there's some accessibility issues with the building that I had to contend with and I dealt with it but that's something that hopefully you'll look at to make sure that you take care of that. But other than that...

LOPEZ: I'm gonna get you there, even if I need to carry you, trust me.

HARVEY: Thank you very much and I'm looking forward to seeing the progress and results of your work.

LOPEZ: And by the way I know we're probably done with questions but I still want your input. I still want you to email me on concerns or ideas, how to promote the Center, how to get other programs, there's a lot of collaboration established already with other entities, I'm not gonna announce that now. Like I said I've been working on this for seven months, we just got a great collaboration today from another entity that we're delighted to work with. Again, thank you.

STANGO: Anything further? Very well, roll call.

AWWAD: Why the need for a roll call?

STANGO: Because this is a contentious issue, I think we just need to be on the record.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #10.1:**

Yeas: Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, Sweeney, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone – 10

STANGO: Motion carries ten/zero.

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

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 11.1 through 11.2, as listed:**

11.1 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:

Butler, Priscilla – Parent Educator/Positive Youth Development Leader, Wilson FRC, 10 months p/year, 30 hours p/week, \$15.00 p/hour, non-union and without benefits.

Paternostro, Gina – Substitute Teacher, 21st Century After School Program.

11.2 Teacher hires:

Name		Location	Assignment	Eff.	Salary
Sudell	Kevin	CHS	Tech Ed	03/02/15	BA/3
Carbonell	Caitlin	Sprague	Library Media	04/20/15	MA/3
Sagaci	Jason	WAMS	Tech Ed	02/17/15	BA/5

STANGO: Motions been made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries. Item #12 – Unfinished Business from the Preceding Meeting Only. Seeing none – Item #13 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: I have a couple of items. First of all, I know we're still a football field away from finishing a budget because we have to get it back and go back to work but there are some scheduling things and issues regarding College Connections at Crosby that have to be addressed because the college needs to know and Principal Gopie needs to know. So if we give her some direction.

SUPERINTENDENT: That's already been done.

AWWAD: Okay, I wasn't aware. I know that I got a question last week about it and I didn't hear anything back.

SUPERINTENDENT: No, that has been, in fact I met with all three principals this week.

AWWAD: Second, I know we got an email awhile back that the Alliance Grant budget and Priority School budget grants were sent up already and will be coming to us, could we get them?

SUPERINTENDENT: I will be happy to submit those to you, we're just having some revisions and feedback from the State Department, I don't want to put the Board through the exercise until we, the verbiage and the smart goals are all firmed up and certainly you will have that for discussion.

AWWAD: It will be coming soon?

SUPERINTENDENT: Within the next couple of weeks I would say. I spoke with the Commissioner today.

AWWAD: Well I think it's gonna become germane to what we've even set up there when we start looking at budget discussions cause we're understanding that there's some latitude.

SUPERINTENDENT: I agree.

AWWAD: So it's important to start to look at it now to digest it whether it's cut in stone or not.

SUPERINTENDENT: Let me just take another review of it, there should be some edits coming our way and then we could perhaps send it. I just don't want the Board to be repeatedly voting on it.

AWWAD: I'm not looking for a vote I'm just looking to read it.

SUPERINTENDENT: Okay.

AWWAD: And then lastly I happened to be at a couple of events out of state and it got out that I was on the Board of Education, people questioned it and a couple of folks

wanted to inquire about some of the stuff in the district and I referred them to our website. And I did hear back that while it's flashy and nice, it's difficult to navigate, they can't find a message from you easily, they have trouble searching. Then I went on because I didn't believe them and I went on and I looked and I had a hard time finding it. So the functionality of our website needs to be improved to make it user friendly, to put the message of the district from the Superintendent's perspective on the front page. Our mission is there but I think we need to have it be more friendly for a searchable document for someone that's looking to do some research about the things that are going on in our district. And that's not a criticism, just a point of notation and something we could probably improve on.

STANGO: Further? Yes, Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: I would have to agree with Commissioner Awwad because I went on and I couldn't, and I am not a computer person so it was a little difficult for me to try to find what I was looking for. But I just have a couple of things. I would like to ask the Policy Committee to have a meeting to revise and amend the timeframe for submission on the field trip permission forms because although they state if you're going out of state you need to have it five weeks in advance, we're not getting them all in that five-week span so I'd like to have a Policy Committee meeting to just revise it, make it two weeks or something like that so that everybody still gets it in at a proper time so that we approve them but, if we're gonna have a form where it states that it has to be five weeks and we're approving them four weeks and not the five weeks that just doesn't make sense to have it written up that way.

Also, I had the opportunity to go to Crosby STEM, the event that they had at the school, and I was very impressed with all the participants there but I was extremely impressed with Walsh School. Walsh School had four participants there and their ideas were great. One little girl, and I'm probably going to say their names wrong so I apologize, Yosi Ura, she said her grandmother likes hot chocolate so she invented a hot chocolate tea-bag so she puts the hot chocolate in the tea bag and then she stapled it back up so that now all her grandmother has to do is just pour the water on and not make a mess. Alyiah Ortiz she did a sponge holder where she put two . . . and then there was Andreyia Dickens, she made a rotating fork to help you get spaghetti on your fork, it was really neat. She had a thing of spaghetti and she just hit the click and the fork went around and around and the spaghetti ended up on the fork which I thought was great. Elvis Santos made an organizer for his mother's earrings and other things, basically one plate then he had a stem and then another plate and he made it for forks and knives but his mother uses it for her jewelry so he was very psyched that she's starting to use what he made. And I'd like to give a good thanks to their Science teacher Karen, and I apologize because I can't read my own handwriting to say what her last name is. So that's all I wanted to say, thank you.

STANGO: Thank you Commissioner.

HERNANDEZ: I'm sorry, there's one more thing, as we all know Crosby is having their Walk for Success and they still need Spanish speaking and Albanian speaking volunteers to help us go out and knock on doors to get the word out about how Crosby is coming together and have a successful year. The person to get in contact with is

Jackie Dupre at [jdupre@waterbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:jdupre@waterbury.k12.ct.us). If anyone is interested in coming out and speaking Spanish or Albanian for the group.

STANGO: Anything else? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Quickly, I thought that we were going to revisit the fees that we charge for the use of our buildings. I thought we were going to do that at some point as we were talking about the budget. I remember Paul sent out some information so I was just wondering when and if we're going to do that. And also when or if we're going to talk about our decision on the non-profits as far as charging because we're getting some calls on that as we draw closer to I think July or something so I just want to put that in as a possible maybe Workshop endeavor or something so I think we need to look at that again.

I also want to congratulate, I was in attendance for the Parent and Community Leadership Conference, they did put me to work but nonetheless our parents, I'm telling you, this was a professional program that the parents put on at the Naugatuck Valley Community College. I was really impressed with the afternoon program with the awards that were presented, with the support that was shown from the schools, the principals, etc., that were handed out to the parent liaisons and I just, it was a really very good program. Next year, I told them, I don't know how you're going to top this because you did an excellent job. So I just want to congratulate them, really I want to congratulate the parents on getting together and working on this program. And that's all I have.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Awwad and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.**

ATTEST

  
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk  
Board of Education