

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Stango, Commissioners Brown, Harvey, McEntee, Rodriguez, Sweeney, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone.

ABSENT: Commissioners Awwad and Hernandez.

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Academic Officer Darren Schwartz, 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 6:38 p.m. with a moment of silence.

STANGO: In our silent prayer tonight I ask that we remember retired teacher Mrs. Judith Bannon. Mrs. Bannon taught for 34 years at Sprague School, she passed on August 3. We remember her and her family in our prayer tonight.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Awwad (absent). Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez (absent). Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner J. Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here. Superintendent Ouellette is out of district this week so she will not be attending this evening. She sends her best wishes for a fruitful meeting. Commissioner Awwad and Commissioner Hernandez are also unable to attend this evening.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Copy of communication dated June 29, 2015 from Civil Service certifying Maria Munoz for the position of Food Service Helper.
2. Thank you note from Anne Marie Cullinan dated July 1, 2015.
3. Communication dated July 9, 2015 from Jessica Gonzalez regarding their use of Gilmartin School and the assistance of their maintenance staff.
4. Copy of communication dated July 14, 2015 from New England Association of Schools & Colleges to Lauren Elias, Waterbury Arts Magnet School, regarding the school's accreditation.
5. Copy of communications dated July 15, 2015 from Civil Service certifying Natasha Minnis and Catherine Coviello for the position of Paraprofessional.
6. Copy of communications dated July 16, 2015 from Civil Service certifying Carley Phillips and Meka Flowers for the position of Paraprofessional.
7. Copy of communications dated July 21, 2015 from Civil Service certifying Nakesa Johnson for the position of Paraprofessional.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2014 Special Meeting, June 12, 2014 Workshop, June 19, 2014 Regular Meeting, June 26, 2014 Special Meeting, June 26, 2014 Workshop, July 17, 2014 Special Meeting, July 31, 2014 Workshop, August 7, 2014 Regular Meeting, August 28, 2014 Workshop, September 4, 2014 Regular Meeting, September 11, 2014 Workshop, September 18, 2014 Regular Meeting, September 25, 2014 Workshop, October 2, 2014 Regular Meeting, October 9, 2014 Workshop, October 9, 2014 Special Meeting, October 16, 2014 Regular Meeting, October 29, 2014 Rescheduled Workshop, October 29, 2014 Special Meeting, November 6, 2014 Regular Meeting, November 12, 2014 Rescheduled Workshop, November 20, 2014 Regular Meeting, November 25, 2014 Rescheduled Workshop, November 25, 2014 Special Meeting, December 4, 2014 Regular Meeting, December 11, 2014 Workshop, December 18, 2014 Regular Meeting, January 8, 2015 Workshop,

January 15, 2015 Regular Meeting, January 22, 2015 Special Meeting, January 29, 2015 Workshop, February 5, 2015 Regular Meeting, February 12, 2015 Workshop, and February 29, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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

6. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone 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 6:43 p.m.

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. 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.

Lisa Lessard, 905 Pearl Lake Road, had the following comments: I'm here tonight in accordance to the School Governance Councils, the history, the background, and the law itself. Connecticut Parent Union basically Athena Wagner, Waterbury, myself Lisa Lessard, Waterbury, and Gwen Samuels, Meriden, that is our law that we worked with with California parents. The California folks that had California Parent Trigger, we actually spoke with them and talked with them for at least six to eight months and then we worked on this law to make it law. Basically Gwen at the time got a grant and with that grant basically we had buses from each and all cities with parents, grandparents, caregivers alike and we had three overflow rules at the State Capitol in accordance to this law working very closely with legislatures, senators, and representatives. Basically we also worked with Milly from the State, statewide to make the law come to fruition. Basically the law was put in place, we had it called Connecticut Parent Trigger, obviously they didn't like the name Connecticut Parent Trigger because of the word trigger which we really didn't like that either but California called it California Parent Trigger, so they called it then School Governance Councils. The law that we helped write with just a different name change. So basically I just want all the parents out there to know, grandparents, caregivers, everybody, that this law was made for each and all children within the district as well as all of the districts within the State of Connecticut so parents were sitting at the table with administrators, paraprofessionals, teachers, community members, people within their schools to work together and collaborate so they will have a voice sitting at the table that was heard in accordance to each and all their children within the schools. School elections are now coming up when the school now starts again and it's very important and vital that each and all parents, caregivers, and grandparents alike go and put their names in to the school administration and then their names go forth within the elections. And once you do become part of the School Governance Councils it's really vital you stay within the School Governance Councils you engage, you follow the bylaws as the bylaws are written which sometimes some of the schools have trouble with from what we know and what we've heard. Basically I just wanted to mention as a shout out that I know Karen Harvey said she was going to be cheering very loudly and very excitedly and Mrs. Marold as well as Paul Guidone in accordance to having all our parents understand and know about the School Governance Councils and the importance of. Connecticut Parent Union, the word parent, we came up with this with California Parent Trigger folks in accordance to

having parents voices heard in collaboration, working together, and I can't say it more, then working with and for each and all children within their schools, do better their schools within district and out of district in all the schools. So basically the school rally is coming up August 19th, we're gonna try to have a booth there in accordance to pushing this along so each and all parents know they can get excited about and they can know yes, your children are important and yes, your parent voices are important because that's the reason this law was made, it was meant for that. Parents voices being at the table talking, collaborating, and working together with everybody within the schools. Why, because our children are the most important, period. Thank you and God bless.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:49 p.m.

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

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to Dr. Ouellette's absence, there were no Superintendent's Announcements.

8. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

STANGO: As we all can see the summer is moving along seemingly faster than some of us would like. We must now begin to focus on the opening of Waterbury Schools on Wednesday, August 26. The approaching opening of schools will necessitate some movement and modification of Board of Education meetings; I will get to that in a minute. I encourage parents and students to monitor the press and the district website for further information about opening of schools and bus routes. In anticipation of the opening of school there will be a Back to School Rally on Wednesday, August 19 in Library Park from one to four for families and children of all ages. There will be entertainment, prizes, and giveaways. This Rally is sponsored by a partnership with Waterbury Youth Services, the Mayor's Office, other community agencies, and the Department of Education. Again, that will be Wednesday, August 19 from one to four at Library Park.

And now for those Board meeting changes I referenced. In order to expedite administrative appointments prior to school beginning, we will need to schedule a few special meetings as follows: item one – special meeting for Monday, August 17, 2015, for the purpose of an executive session for discussion on administrative appointments needed prior to the beginning of the school year. Item number two – special meeting for Wednesday, August 19, 2015 to vote on the administrative positions that we discussed in executive session on 8/17. And then item three – since we will already be meeting on August 19, we will move the Board's Workshop that was originally scheduled for the following week on the 27th to that night. So those are the three changes, they were emailed to you earlier. Hopefully we will all be able to attend or at least have somewhat of a quorum and I certainly thank everybody for your cooperation as we get ready to begin yet another school year.

Does anyone wish to remove an item from the Consent Calendar?

President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 9.1 through 9.17.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.17, as listed:

- 9.1 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a College Facility Request/Reservation Agreement with Naugatuck Valley Community College for the Transition Learning Center Program.
- 9.2 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the 2015-2017 State Department of Education Family Resource Center Grant for Chase School.
- 9.3 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the 2015-2017 State Department of Education Family Resource Center Grant for Reed School.
- 9.4 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the 2015-2017 State Department of Education Family Resource Center Grant for Wilson School.
- 9.5 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the State Department of Education Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens Program (SPPT) 2015-16/Year 3 Continuation Grant.
- 9.6 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement, with the following agencies, for Sub-grantee Services under the School Readiness and Child Day Care Grant for grant years 2015-2017:
 1. The Ark Child Development Center
 2. Catholic Charities
 3. Children's Center of Greater Waterbury Health Network, Inc.
 4. Children's Community School
 5. Children's Village
 6. Community Development Institute (CDI)
 7. Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center of Greater Waterbury, Inc - All Kids Child Care
 8. Chase and Wilson FRC Child Development Centers
 9. Kid's Town, LLC
 10. New Opportunities, Inc.
 11. NVCTC Discovery School
 12. Rainbow Academy LLC
 13. St. Mary's Hospital Child Development Center
 14. T.E.A.M. Inc.
 15. Waterbury Youth Services System, Inc.
 16. Waterbury Young Men's Christian Association a/k/a Greater Waterbury YMCA

- 9.7 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Waterbury Youth Service System, Inc. as required by the Youth Service Bureau Grant for truancy prevention services.
- 9.8 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with The Institute of Professional Practice (IPP) to provide services to students per their Individual Education Plans.
- 9.9 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Rob Davis d/b/a Summit Support Services to provide clinical coordinator services to students.
- 9.10 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the new Waterbury Public Schools English/Language Arts Kindergarten Curriculum.
- 9.11 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Acts 4 Ministry, Inc. to provide a student prevocational and employment training program.
- 9.12 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Children's Community School, Inc. to provide a student prevocational and employment training program.
- 9.13 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with the Waterbury Young Men's Christian Association to provide a student prevocational and employment training program.
- 9.14 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Dr. Saharan, WHS, and nine chaperones to take 25 students to West Springfield, MA on September 24, 2015 to visit The Big E.
- 9.15 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Energy Efficiency Services Letter of Agreement with Eversource Energy for the Kennedy High School Addition & Alterations Project.
- 9.16 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:

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES
M. Marold	WAMS café: Fri., Sept. 25 th , 8:30 am - 10:00 am (Sch. Governance Council mtg.)
G. Wright	WAMS café: Wed., Oct. 7 th , 3:30 - 8:30 pm (Title I annual district meeting)
N. Clemente	Rotella aud.: Mon. & Tues., Aug. 24 & 25, 8 am – 3 pm (ECEP Prof. Dev.)
L. Richard	Career Academy media ctr.: Thurs., Oct. 1 st , 8 am - 3 pm (State HOSA advisor mtg.)

G. Huckins	Wallace Room 203: 8/26, 9/9, 12/1, 6:30 - 8:00 pm (swim officials meetings)
N. Clemente	Rotella gym: Mon., Aug. 24 th , 12:30 - 1:30 pm (Prof. Dev. breakout session)
M. O'Neal	Wilby café & aud.: Mon., Aug. 24 th , 8 am-3 pm (Prof. Dev./Paraprofessionals)
A. Simms	Rotella gym & café: Mon., Aug. 3 rd , 8 am – 3 pm (Prof. Dev./ABA therapists)
Human Resources	WSMS theater arts rm.: Friday, July 31 st , 5:00 - 7:45 pm (Zumba fundraiser)
Cherrie Lamb	(Admin. Approval Granted)

- 9.17 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:

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES	
<u>REQUESTING WAIVERS:</u>		
P.A.L.	Crosby gym: Fri., Nov. 13 th , 1:30 - 10:00 pm, (Wrestling event)	
Ofc. C. Amatruda		(\$1,764)
Ingenuity NE.-Robotics	Wilby gym, café, 6 rooms: Mar. 4 th , noon - 10:30 pm;	
C. Scully	March 5 th , 6:30 am - 10:00 pm and March 6 th , 6:30 am - 10:30 pm (New England First Robotics Convention)	(\$7,560)

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

Main Street Wtby.	WAMS courtyard: Thurs., Aug. 20 th , 5:00 - 8:30 pm
Carl Rosa	Fulton American band free concert (use of Apron Stage if raining)
Hoops 4 Life	Reed gym: Monday – Friday, Sept. 1 st – Nov. 18 th , 4:30 – 9 pm
D. Fryer	WSMS gym: Monday – Thursday, Sept. 1 st - Nov. 19 th , 4:30 – 9 pm Duggan gym: Tuesday & Thursday, Oct. - Nov. 12 th , 5 - 8 pm
Brass City Kings	Crosby football field: Friday, July 24 th , 4:30 - 6:30 pm (Meet & Greet)
Hollister Munn	Saturday, July 25 th , 4:00 -10:00 pm (football games) (Admin. Approval Granted)
Neighb. Housing Serv.	Reed Sch. field: 7/24/15 & 8/14/15, 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Eden Brown	(neighborhood movie nights) (Admin. Approval Granted)
Brass City Brawlers	Crosby football field: Saturdays, 4:00 - 8:00 pm
Rick Bachand	Aug. 1 st thru September 26 th

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

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

11. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- 11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve of the expansion of the Reed School district to include Locust Street, Ward Street, and the expansion of Tudor Street from beginning to end.**

STANGO: Motions been made and seconded. Any discussion? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Thank you. I just want to thank Paul Guidone and company for making the modification to extend Tudor Street. As I discussed, every year I get questions from parents about extending the district they say that you know the kids get on a school bus to go to Kingsbury and they can look right down the street at Reed School and just logically it didn't make any sense to them. So I really appreciate that modification. I know it only includes a few students but nonetheless it makes them happy. Thanks again.

STANGO: Anything further? Seeing none – all in favor, opposed, motion carries.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 12.1 through 12.3, Superintendent's Notification to the Board, as listed:

12.1 Grant funded appointments:

Amato, Alicia – Pre-k Classroom Assistant (replacing Kristen Frenis), ECEP, 10 months per year, 35 hours per week, \$10.25 p/hour, UPSEU position with benefits, funded by School Readiness Grant.

Deziel, Shelley – Office Manager, Competitive Grants Office, 12 months per year, 35 hours per week, \$16.48 p/hour, UPSEU position with benefits.

Majeski, Metal – Title I Instructional Tutor, Yeshiva K'Tana, maximum of 18 hours per week during school year, \$25.00 per hour, non-union and without benefits.

Smith, Dawn – transfer from Classroom Assistant, Driggs to Pre-k Classroom Assistant (replacing Sandra Allen), ECEP, funded by Title I.

12.2 SOAR to Success Summer School appointments, salary according to individuals' contract, subject to enrollment:

Mejia, Migdalia – Duggan.

Giammatteo, Timothy – declined position.

Soucey, David – District-wide.

12.3 Leave of absence requests:

Kilroy, Cara – Bucks Hill Pre-k, requesting an unpaid childrearing leaving of absence through November 30, 2015.

Tolly, Bianca – WMS grade 8 Science, requesting an unpaid childrearing leave of absence for the 2015/16 school year.

STANGO: Motions been made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries. Item number 13 on the Agenda – Unfinished Business of the Preceding Meeting Only. Going on them to item number 14 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

JASON VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President, through you, this might be the case for a number of Commissioners but over the past week or so it seems a lot of, or at least I've been getting a lot of phone calls and emails from parents who now, starting to know that the school year is coming upon them, realizing that there's a dress code, somehow

they missed the press when we were actually doing that. So I was wondering if this Board could direct the district to do whatever it can to once again reach out to the parents whether it be through an IRIS alert, whether it be through an email, whether it be through one of the school's Facebook pages to remind parents or in some cases for the first time alert parents that this coming school year there's gonna be a dress code for a number of their students just so we can alleviate any problems walking in on the first day. I was somewhat shocked by the number of parents that came up to me and had no idea this was happening. They may be heard some scuttle but didn't think it was a real thing. So whatever the district can do in short order to reach out again to the parents I think that would be appropriate and would save us a lot of headaches on day one.

STANGO: Okay, we'll look into that for sure Commissioner. All the things you itemized would be IRIS alert and social media. Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Yes, just to piggyback on that, I would suggest that at the Back to School Rally we mention, bring that up as well just to start the alert. Just a few things, Mr. Schwartz are you still here? Okay, I didn't realize that the Superintendent was not going to be here tonight and I think that brings to mind it would be nice, I'm not saying this as a criticism, but that we should know kind of ahead of time what her schedule is going to be. When she first arrived we kind of knew or had some idea of her tentative schedule, so it would be nice in advance if we could receive some kind of calendar or something as to what her schedule is going to be so we know when she is not going to be here. I got some calls from parents asking if she was going to be here and I didn't know until I tried to send her an email. So I'm just putting that out as a suggestion.

Mr. Schwartz, again I didn't know that the Superintendent was not going to be here, but I would hope that we would as a result of your promotion that we receive a revised org chart because I know, I'm not sure what we're gonna do in terms of personnel, if we're going to replace you as an ILD, what exactly is gonna happen there but I would hope that we would have that before the beginning of the school year or know at some point when that will take place. So if you could bring that back to the Superintendent as well as the request for her schedule.

And lastly, I'll have to put out an email to you in regards to this next issue and this relates to first congratulating the Waterbury Hospital Summer Bridge Program, they had their first Great Debate, I was a moderator and this, they did this in collaboration or as a result of the new, they're calling it the new Common Core ELA Curriculum. We had a big discussion about that at the Workshop on theory. The debate, I was just amazed at the organization, the research, the arguments that were debated, in fact the topics should fast food restaurants be banned, should school be optional, I almost fell out on that one, should beauty pageants be banned, and this was for and against, and should cigarettes be illegal. They were dressed for the debate tailoring it to the Great Debate movie, Denzel Washington, Oprah Winfrey, and they were just organized, spoke from their notes, etc., and it's something I believe we should definitely think about incorporating into our curriculum. Curriculum from what I understand is already written so we just need to simply put that in. This hits the high school students, middle school, etc., so it's something that we need to look at. And I know Mr. Strand's background is specifically in, I think his job title is seven through twelve so this hits it right there. So there needs to be some meeting with Angela from Waterbury Hospital, Angela Holmes,

and see what we can do to get this incorporated into our curriculum. I'll send you an email on that. I think, that's all I have, thank you very much.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone it was voted unanimously to convene into Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

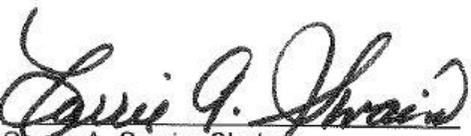
Present were: President Stango, Commissioners Brown, Harvey, McEntee, Rodriguez, Sweeney, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone. Also present were Mr. Guidone and Mr. Schwartz.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 7:18 p.m. with no votes taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST


Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education