

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Stango, Commissioners Awwad (7:04 p.m.), Brown, Harvey, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, Sweeney, and T. Van Stone.

ABSENT: Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Kathleen Ouellette, Interim Chief Operating Officer & Chief of Staff Gary Miller, and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

1. SILENT PRAYER

President Stango called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. with a moment of silence.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Awwad (arrived at 7:04 p.m.). Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

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

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 28, 2014 Special Meeting with Aldermen, August 17, 2015 Special Meeting, August 19, 2015 Special Meeting, July 27, 2015 Special Meeting, July 30, 2015 Special Meeting, July 30, 2015 Workshop, August 6, 2015 Regular Meeting, August 19, 2015 Rescheduled Workshop, and September 3, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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

6. 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 6:40 p.m.

STANGO: Motion has been 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.

Danielle Albert, 93 Kelsey Street, had the following comments: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I will be much more brief tonight than I have been. I would like to bring specific attention to the daily digest in the Waterbury Republican American from Wednesday, September 23. This is what I can only refer to as a student-police blotter of sorts. As a parent I was truly appalled at what I read. The mentioning of specific student arrests, suspensions, descriptions of crimes, and a pregnancy showed a complete lack of respect for and violation of privacy for students and families involved. There was a specific mention of a pregnant student at Gilmartin School being taken to St. Mary's Hospital and a Hopeville student taken to Waterbury Hospital. Is this not a direct violation of HIPAA laws? From what the paper stated this pregnant young lady was not involved in an arrest. Sadly the speculation of who she was immediately started. Imagine middle school students texting the article to their friends. What does this do to the morale of the children involved to the environment of the school? If this was my own daughter I don't know what I would have done. We all know that there are significant behavioral issues in this City but I do not understand the purpose of having that information publicized. Let me remain clear, I am not here disputing arrests or consequences for poor choices or inappropriate behaviors of students. I'm asking tonight what I have asked before, where's the appropriate amount of social service support in our schools? Under Alliance Grant money social workers and psychologists were supposed to have been hired. If there was sufficient staff I am sure many of these problems could have been avoided. The school year has just begun and this is only the tip of the iceberg. Children are being allowed to disrupt testing, student assessments, and classroom teaching. Parents know what's going on in their children's classrooms and from our perspective these problems are not being taken care of because the behaviors continue. Students' learning is being disrupted. The need for appropriate social services should be one of the highest priorities for all of you in our schools. Our children are screaming for help, you have to take into account the wellbeing of the entire

child. We can try every incentive and turnaround program available, if students' physical, emotional, and mental health needs are not being met we are setting them up to fail. Our teachers and staff need support. The roles that they are being forced to take on in some cases are completely unrealistic. They're required to be the parent, the teacher, the counselor, and in some cases even the doctors. What should you do? Get staff in our classrooms who can support the teachers do a job that is often at times beyond the realm of teaching. Begin by getting SRO's or community officers in all of the buildings that have middle school students including our four PreK to eights. Parents want to know what's being done to create and foster a positive, calm environment that will support student learning and positive engagement. You do have responsibility to replace this police blotter that we saw and get the social service staff in place. Thank you.

Lisa Lessard, 905 Pearl Lake Road, had the following comments: I'm here tonight in accordance to once again Smarter Balance. Mayor Neil O'Leary here in the City of Waterbury basically was on WATR and he was explaining about Smarter Balance and he actually said you need to understand how many special educational children and English language learners we have here in the City. Well we have 2.4% of children out of district that are special ed which is an amount of six million dollars, the rest are here in district, yes, but I don't know if you are aware of this being Board of Education but the Supervisors of Special Ed, at the meetings, there's such thing called Smarter Balance Accommodations and Modifications Page and on that Smarter Balance Accommodations Page basically the Supervisors of Special Ed could either write to the State Board of Education or phone call the State Board of Education and ask them for certain accommodations and modifications for the special educational child in front of them. Let's say you have a child that's blind, basically the State Department of Education then would have sent a test, in Braille, so that child could have taken that test. Let's say you have a child that's deaf and hard of hearing, the State Department of Education would have sent a computer programming so they can have an ASL interpreter someone that interrupts on the computer if that child's special needs also requires other special needs then that child could have taken a written test with an ASL interpreter or someone that speaks pigeon sign language or signed English right directly next to them for directions. With English language learners speaking Spanish all they had to do was contact the State Department of Education and get the computer programming under Spanish and the children that spoke Spanish could have taken that course, meaning that test within their language being Spanish. So there's really no excuse here in accordance to special ed population or English language learners population. That seems to be what our Mayor here the City all the time seems to use at end of budget, the fiscal budget, each and every year, well you need to understand we have so many special educational children within our City. It's not the special educational population or the English language, believe it or not 90% of federal grants and state grants go towards special ed children's teaching, 10% is up to the City of Waterbury. If it was just spent in the direction it supposed to be spent, as it was intended to be spent, then the special educational department that is really doing a great job under Ms. Wendy Owen would be able to do the processing that they need to do. So basically if you can just collaborate and make sure maybe next year so the Mayors not on WATR telling everybody special ed population or the Spanish population being English language learners, we, the special educational population that have our children would deeply appreciate it cause it's not their faults. Thank you.

Jami Dohoney, 39 Brackenridge Drive, had the following comments: Good evening. I'm here tonight to share my thoughts on making Wendell Cross a K through eight elementary school. Wendell Cross is an amazing school and this is evidenced in part by their district ranking and their overall student test scores. Wendell Cross students' Smarter Balance test scores far outperformed the district averages. Wendell Cross students saw a math achievement of 21.3% which is well over the district achievement level of 13.3%. In literacy the children saw a level of 47.3% that's nearly double the district results of 26.1. Of the children who are approaching the achievement level, Wendell Cross students are at 37.3% in math versus 24.5 at the district level and 26.7 in literacy versus the district results of 25.9. Seeing these results it's no surprise that Wendell Cross is among the top three elementary schools in this City. In fact they're only third to Rotella and Maloney but without the funding and resources that are provided to magnet schools. In addition to providing a solid educational foundation, Wendell Cross is among the most safe and encouraging environments that I've seen for children in being involved in mentoring and different programs throughout Waterbury and other towns through volunteer efforts. My son has been at Wendell Cross for three years and not once has he experienced bullying, teasing, or had an unpleasant interaction. They encourage friendship, inclusion, and teach the importance of diversity to our children. As a parent the overpopulation in our city middle schools really scares me. To go from a nurturing safe and controlling environment such as Wendell Cross to a middle school with over 1,000 students, our children are really put at a disadvantage. From sixth to eighth grades kids really begin to take their independence to the next level socially, academically, and personally. They develop into young adults and begin making decisions to help form who they will become. As a parent I really want my child that's in an environment that's most conducive to promoting and encouraging him to continue on a path of success. Despite the best efforts of the phenomenal educators in the middle schools, and several of them are personal friends of mine, we have wonderful educators throughout the school system, but despite their best efforts they just simply cannot provide the support that our children need and deserve and that's due in large part to the sheer volume of students. I understand that budget and funding are always a cause for concern. That being said, Waterbury has spent a significant amount of time and money on other schools in the district. In fact the paper stated yesterday over 300 million in the last decade and that's an astonishing number, it's wonderful we're investing in the education, we're investing in the future of the children in Waterbury but we need to spread it out a little bit. When you look at it it's Crosby, Duggan, Gilmartin, Carrington, Reed School all in the last five or six years, it's time to invest in Wendell Cross. These students should not lose their momentum going from fifth grade into middle school. It's clear that the level of education provided to the students at Wendell Cross can't be challenged, it's in the numbers. Why not invest in the number one non-magnet school in the City, why not, why would we not do that? Why not ensure that the highest performing students in the district continue to learn in the same environment through their preparation for high school? Expanding Wendell Cross would be putting my tax dollars to good use and create much needed room for our city middle schools. I just have one last thought, if I may; currently my son is in second grade at Wendell Cross. I myself was a student at Wendell Cross. We live in the neighborhood; Wendell Cross is our neighborhood school. My husband and I had made the decision that we will move our son to a private school if Wendell Cross is not a K through eight by the time he is promoted from fifth grade. Judging from what I've read it wouldn't happen. But the cost of private school tuition is worth any financial sacrifices we're gonna make as a family to ensure our child continues to receive a

greater level of academic support in a more controlled, safe environment where he can continue to thrive. Thank you for your time.

Nicole Kendall, 133 East Side Boulevard, had the following comments: Basically what I came to the Board for today for advocacy for Wendell Cross expanding into a PreK through eight school. I believe that the goal for Waterbury needs to be an increased academic achievement and create atmospheres more conducive to learning and I believe getting away from the middle school we would then be doing that. By having a more hands-on approach as well as smaller schools students will demonstrate fewer behavior problems and be allowed to focus on higher academic achievement. In longitudinal studies from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Philadelphia and several other studies, students enrolled in K through eight schools had higher academic achievement by both boys and girls in comparison to K through six and middle school. By keeping students in a K to eight setting both faculty and staff have much better chances of truly knowing the workings of students and their families which is a very important issue in Waterbury. We want to make sure that our students are treated well. We want to be able to catch any kind of educational issues as well as social issues with them. For parents such as myself who have a child with a learning difference, we can feel comfortable knowing our child feels safe and their struggles and accomplishments not only are documented but have been witnessed first-hand. For many parents we are faced with either moving once our child gets to fifth grade, putting our child into private schools or sending them onto a middle school and many parents are choosing to leave. This often causes a loss in the dollars in tax money because people do not want to move their families to our city because of the middle school issue. We need to make Waterbury family friendly and by doing this we need to start having our schools go from a K through five to a K to eight and middle schools, by doing this we will start the process of really, really nurturing our students. Thank you.

Marcel Nicolasora, 45 Cooper Drive, had the following comments: Forgive me, this is my first time coming. I have two children that are enrolled – one in North End and my other daughter is in Regan elementary. I just want to address an issue that I've had in the past couple of years involving my kids, there have been three instances of bullying and there's one that's occurred most recently in the past couple of days where my child was assaulted by two girls at the school bus. The punishment to me was very minimal and given the severity of what I feel as a concerned parent, having to hear my daughter call me and saying what happened to her, it just tore me up inside. I don't know if this is the correct forum to bring this up in terms of if there, what I'm trying to find out is it discretionary for certain punishments for certain types of assaults in the school bus? I think the child that assaulted my child only got, she was only banned from the school bus for five days but there was two girls that jumped her because they were trying to steal her book. I think the best testimony I could probably provide, she's my daughter, so I brought her here hoping she can shed some light on what goes on in the Waterbury school buses when the bus driver couldn't see anybody and there was no one on the bus to see on the kids are behaving in the back. I asked to see a copy of the videotape and I was denied the privilege and I need to know why.

SUPERINTENDENT: Sir, what we'd love to do and I don't want to public comment, but I'd love to have a conversation with you so if you want to conclude your remarks and I can take it off camera and I can give you some advice. We have a parent liaison sitting right here that can assist you.

NICOLASORA: I'd be glad to; does my daughter have any voice in this forum?

SUPERINTENDENT: I would just, I'd like to talk with you first and then we can certainly get your daughter's remarks later. I would not recommend putting a child on camera.

NICOLASORA: I didn't know this was being taped, I apologize.

SUPERINTENDENT: It's live, so I would not recommend that.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:59 p.m.

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

8. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

STANGO: There will be no school on Monday, October 12 in observance of Columbus Day. Columbus Day is a national holiday observed on the second Monday of October. Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy and the holiday also has become noted as an Italian Heritage Celebration.

Of note this week, the Board and other officials were invited to meet with the State Teacher of the Year Selection Committee at Kennedy High School. In all there were about 16 members of the Committee from the State visiting Kennedy to get feedback and input on our district teacher of the year Jahana Hayes who is one of the four finalists for that honor. As part of the process the Mayor and the Board members met with CAFE officials charged with the task of getting input and give and take with the Board and the Mayor. For me it was very interesting to see how very involved the process is for the selection and how it plays out. This is all serious business and not to be taken lightly. Certainly the Mayor and the Board were very high on Mrs. Hayes and all conveyed that message in force to the Committee. Later that day the Committee went on to meet and visit with the other finalists for the teacher of the year from the State.

In another piece of good news about Kennedy, the State of Connecticut Bond Commission approved 1.5 million for the installation of artificial turf at Kennedy. The field project is part of a much larger addition project at the school which consists of new classrooms and an auxiliary gym. The Kennedy High School project also includes a realignment and remodeling of the office, central office, and the nurses' suite. And when completed some sort of opening celebration will be held for all to come and see. And that concludes my comments this evening. Now we'll revert back to the Superintendent's announcements.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements:

The Connecticut State Teacher of the Year committee conducted a site visit at Kennedy High School on Monday. The committee held several meetings with parents, students,

staff and administrators, as well as Board of Education Commissioners. They observed our Waterbury Teacher of the Year, Jahana Hayes, as she taught her class. We are very pleased that Mrs. Hayes was selected as one of four finalists for the Connecticut State Teacher of the Year. This is a great honor for Mrs. Hayes, Kennedy High School, and Waterbury.

The Annual Title I Meeting will be held next Wednesday, October 7th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School Cafeteria. Participants will receive a free book for their child along with information on Title I, School Governance Councils, School Family Community Partnerships, and how to improve parent engagement in all schools. Parents will also have the opportunity to meet other parents and school staff and work cooperatively to create safe, respectful and welcoming schools. A free dinner is included. Translation will be provided in Spanish and Albanian.

Our schools are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with a great variety of activities. In addition to studying Hispanic culture and history in the classroom, students are writing poems and research papers and creating art work. Some schools are hosting family nights or concerts. Some examples: Maloney School held a Salsa Night tonight from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Gilmartin School will be hosting a student poetry night on Thursday, October 15th, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Kingsbury School is hosting a Hispanic Potluck Supper that evening from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Wilson School will have a student concert during school that same day.

Tuesday evening I had the pleasure of attending an event at the new Hispanic Cultural Center, El Centro Cultural, located at 30B Church Street. While there, we had an opportunity to see the new center and view some of the art work and cultural displays as well as learn more about the programs offered at that location by the Hispanic Coalition. The L.A.C.E. (Leadership, Athletics, Community, Education) Youth Leadership Program offers students tutoring, athletic activities, mentoring, and participation in community outreach projects.

Mayor Neil M. O'Leary visited the Kennedy High School classroom of journalism teacher Alena Cybart-Persenaire this week to personally deliver 25 new iPad tablets for student use. Kennedy's newspaper, The Eagle Flyer, has won 66 awards in the past several years, with the latest award, a Special Recognition Advisor award from the Dow Jones News Fund, going to Mrs. Cybart-Persenaire. Students were very excited to receive the new tablets, so that they can continue the excellent quality work that has won them so much recognition.

The NAEYC accreditations of Duggan and Gilmartin Pre-Kindergartens have been maintained following an annual review. Carrington and Reed Schools are currently in the review process.

Crosby High School is having a Crosby JROTC – Culinary Arts Breakfast on Sunday, October 4th, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

STANGO: Any questions for Dr. Ouellette at this point from the Board? Okay, moving on, does anyone wish to remove an item from the Consent Calendar?

President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 9.1 through 9.6

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 9.6, as listed:

- 9.1 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of Amendment 1 to the Contract with College Board for College Readiness Programs, funded by the Alliance Grant.
- 9.2 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the new AVID Elective/AVID Secondary Course, as attached.
- 9.3 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Rich Martinez, WAMS, and two chaperones to take 30 students to New York, NY on October 27, 2015 to attend the NACAC Performing and Visual Arts College Fair.
- 9.4 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities & Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Contract with Turco Golf, Inc., for Crosby High School Athletic Field Improvements (funded by Capital Improvement Bond).
- 9.5 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
B. Post	WAMS apron stage: 2/1-2/7/2016, 3:30 - 10:00 pm (rehearsals and performances of main stage show)
N. Smith	WAMS apron stage: 12/7-12/12/15, 3:15 - 9:00 pm (rehearsals and performance of musical) WAMS apron stage: 4/4-4/9/16, 3:15 - 9:00 pm (rehearsals & performance of school play)
K. Ondrush	WAMS atrium & café: Mon., March 30 th , 4:00 - 8:00 pm (faculty murder mystery dinner fundraiser for the Class of 2016) WAMS apron stage: Nov. 30 th thru Dec. 4 th , 3:15 - 6:30 pm (annual 9 th grade world history project)
L. Lombardi	Rotella Community room: 12/17-12/21/15, all day (student holiday shopping) Rotella art room/café: Tues., Dec. 15 th , 5:00 - 8:00 pm (Family Art Night) (snow date: 12/16/15) Rotella media ctr.: Tues., Nov. 17 th , 5:00 - 7:30 pm (Family Technology Night) (snow date: 11/18/15) Rotella aud.: Mon., Oct. 5 th , 6:00 - 8:00 pm (Bullying presentation for parents) Rotella café: Wed., Apr. 13 th , 5:00 - 8:00 pm (Family Bingo) Rotella café: Wed., Mar. 16 th , 5:00 - 8:00 pm (Family Reading Night) Rotella café: Wed., Feb. 17 th , 5:00 - 7:00 pm (Family Math Night) Rotella café: Tues., Jan. 19 th , 5-8 pm (Family Fitness Night) (snowdate: 1/20/16)
T. Grabowski	Maloney café: Thurs., Oct. 22 nd , 1:30 - 8:00 pm (school fundraiser ziti dinner)

D. Bakewell	Sprague gym: Thurs., Oct. 22 nd , 5:30 - 7:00 pm (Family Harvest Night)
K. Yamashita-Iverson	Maloney rm. 109: Oct. 2015 - June. 2016, Thursdays, 3:45 - 5:00 pm (Japanese class for alumni in grades 6-12)
White Collar Union	Rotella café: Thurs., Oct. 22 nd , 5:30 - 8:30 pm (annual membership meeting)
T. St. Pierre	Duggan café: Wed., Oct. 7 th , 4:30 - 7:30 pm (Book Bingo) Duggan café: Thurs., Oct. 29 th , 4:30 - 7:30 pm (Middle Sch. dance)
K. Walston	WAMS apron stage: May 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 6:00 - 8:00 pm (presentation of Global Leadership Institute Research results)
M. Parker	Rotella aud. & café: Thurs., Jan. 7 th , 5:00 - 8:00 pm (Troupe Showcase)
Mayor's Office J. Geary	Crosby aud.: Wed., Oct. 21 st , 6:00 - 9:00 pm (Dept. of Transportation public meeting re: Route 8 Bypass)
Guidance Dept.	WAMS atrium: Tues., Nov. 10 th , 6:00 - 8:00 pm (College Financial Aid Night)
K. Ross	WAMS atrium: Wed., Nov. 18 th , 5:30 - 7 pm (Habitat for Humanity Coffee House) WAMS atrium: Wed., Feb. 10 th , 5:30 - 7 pm (Habitat for Humanity Coffee House) WAMS atrium: Wed., Mar. 23 rd , 5:30 - 7 pm (Habitat for Humanity Coffee House) WAMS courtyard: Fri., May 20 th , 5:00 - 6:30 pm (Habitat for Humanity Carnival)
Adult Education	WSMS café: Thursdays, Oct. to Dec. (10 wks.), 6:30 - 8:30 pm (food prep enrichment course)
Adult Education	Kennedy rooms: Thursdays, Oct. 8 - Oct. 15, 6:00-8:30 pm (Couponing) Tuesdays, Sept. 29 - Oct. 27, 6:00-8:30 pm (Black Jack) Mondays, Oct. 26 & Tues., Nov. 17, 6-8:30 pm (reverse Mortgage) Mondays, Sept. 28 - Dec. 21, 6-8 pm (Photography) Mondays, Sept. 28 - Nov. 9, 6-8 pm (Excel) Thursdays, Oct. 1 - Nov. 5, 6-8 pm (Basic Computer Class) Mondays, Sept. 28 - Dec. 21, 6:30-8:30 pm (Meditation) Mondays, Sept. 28 - Dec. 21, 6:30-8:30 pm (Spanish I & II) Tuesdays, Sept. 29 - Dec. 22, 6:30-8:30 pm (Italian I & II) Thursdays, Sept. 24 - Nov. 5, 6:30-8:30 pm (Medicare) Mondays, Sept. 28 - Dec. 14, 6-8 pm (Floral Design) Tuesdays, Sept. 29 - Nov. 3, 6-8 pm (Jewelry Design) Mondays, Sept. 28 - Nov. 16, 6-8 pm (Sewing)

- 9.6 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>	
U.S. House of Rep. Congresswoman Esty	Crosby classrooms: Saturday, Nov. 21 st , 10 am – 3 pm, 6 classrooms (Service academy nominations) (\$552.)
Grandville Academy Maurice Mosley	WAMS atrium, café, classrooms: Saturday, Oct. 3 rd , 9 am – 2 pm (grand opening of enrichment program) (\$420.)

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

Robert Goodrich R.A.C.C.E.	WAMS atrium: Wed., Oct. 21 st , 5:00 - 10:00 pm (Mayoral Debate) (Radical Advocates for Cross Cultural Education)
Grandville Academy Maurice Mosley	Reed computer room: Oct. 19, 2015 - May 2, 2016, 5:00 - 6:00 pm Mondays & Tuesdays (math enrichment) WAMS 8 classrooms & computer room: Oct. 6, 2015-May 3, 2016 Tuesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm (enrichment program)
St. Mary's School Brian Zaccagnini	Generali gym: Mon. thru Fri. Oct. 13, 2015-April 1, 2016 5:30 - 9:00 pm (boys & girls basketball program)
Wtby. Basketball Academy Christopher Fisher	Chase gym: Mon, Wed, Fri., Oct. 5 – Dec. 30, 2015, 5:30 - 7:00 pm (basketball program)

STANGO: Motion 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 ON FINANCE

11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve of a New Tech School Agreement with New Technology Network, LLC for a School Education Program/NTHS Model for Crosby High School (funded by Crosby's Turnaround Funds).

STANGO: Motions been made and seconded. Any discussion on that item? Seeing none – all in favor, opposed, motion carries.

12. COMMITTEE ON POLICY

12.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the revised High School Grading/QPR Policy (#6146.1), as attached.

STANGO: Motions been made and seconded. Any discussion? Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Just briefly, the new policy addresses two areas – the high school grading we're going from a numerical to an alphabet system with the same crossovers and the second major thing is the weighting, instead of a 4.0 scale we're going to a 4.33 and the reason for this it to really incentivize people to take the honors courses and AP courses. This will not impact extra-curricular eligibility or anything but it really is to, if I take an AP course I would like, we would like to make sure that kids are rewarded for doing that. Right now there's little difference between an AP course and an honor's course so this is what the district is recommending, those two moves.

STANGO: Further discussion? Seeing none – all in favor, opposed, motion carries.

13. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

- 13.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve the lateral transfer request of Jennifer Dwyer from Supervising Vice Principal, Driggs School to Supervising Vice Principal, Gilmartin School, effective immediately.

STANGO: Motions been made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none – all in favor, opposed, motion carries.

14. SUPERINTENDENT’S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, with Commissioner Tom Van Stone “abstaining” on Item #14.2, to receive and place on file Superintendent’s Notification to the Board, Items 14.1 through 14.6, as listed:

- 14.1 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:
Rodriguez, Jessica – Secretary II, ECEP (replacing Shelley Deziel), 35 hours per week, 12 months per years, salary and benefits governed by the UPSEU Agreement, funded by Title I.
Wall, Kaitlyn – Substitute, 21st Century After School Program, WMS, salary according to contract.
- 14.2 Recreation Specialist appointments, State Department of Education and 21st Grant After-school Programs, maximum of 10 hours per week @ \$12.00 p/hour, non-union and without benefits:
Sprague: Nicole Boyette, John Ferrelli, Emily VanStone
Chase Park House: Pamela J. Czarsy, Victoria Greene, James P. Nemece
Hopeville: Jordon Adorno, Michael R. McDuff, Jessica Rodriguez
Driggs: Jason Paternostro, Surraya Peel, Nadir Samih
Wilson: Matthew A. Czapora, Austin Gesner, Ethan Yates
Substitutes: Shantia Burke, Sara Aquavia, Daniel Zuniga
- 14.3 State Department of Education After-school Program appointments, Sprague School, salary according to contract:
Debra Robinson – teacher Benjamin Germain – teacher
Suzanne Newman – teacher Christine Rinaldi - teacher
Traci Cianfagna – teacher Timothy Giammatteo – substitute
Helen Kaminsky – substitute Kathleen Napolitano – substitute
Chelcey Williams – substitute
- 14.4 Walsh Before and After School Program appointments, contingent upon enrollment, salary per contract, maximum of 11 hours per week, funded by Title I and Priority School Grants:
Morning: Ana Paris –lead teacher Auria Nichols- assistant
Sandy Jakubzyk-assistant Seritha Anglin- assistant
Bernice Walker-assistant

BROWN: Thank you Mr. President, I just want to give a congratulations to Mrs. Marold. I attended the breakfast for the School Governance Council parents last Friday as many did here and really impressed with the wonderful attendance and the great work that Mrs. Marold is doing with our parents and the School Governance Councils. Many schools were recognized and I really appreciate the fact that they were recognized because this is a very important system that we've instituted in our school system and they're doing great work. So thank you to Mrs. Marold and the schools, the teachers, and the parents who really are participating and making this really a great asset to our schools.

STANGO: Thank you. Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: I have a couple. I was approached by several parents asking if it was possible for a crossing guard and a crosswalk to be put on the corners of Oak, Wood, and Ash Street. There are at least six different bus stops that stop there. The last bus comes at 5:30 p.m. I myself went and there were several cars driving past the flashing lights. The kids have to cross, that's a busy, busy intersection. I just think it would be in our best interest to try to keep these kids safe. At some point someone is going to get hurt, there's really no one there to cross them once the bus decides to cut off its lights and the child hasn't gotten totally across the street yet. So I'm asking that someone please look into putting a crosswalk and a crossing guard on the corner of Wood, Oak, and Ash for the six different school buses that pick up children in that area.

Secondly, on Tuesday I had the pleasure of attending the open house for the Hispanic Cultural Center. As the Superintendent said, it was fabulous. The students there were very knowledgeable of their heritage, they were very excited to offer you any type of information you wanted. I actually ended up staying their past time, I actually closed the place. The food was great, the entertainment was great, the knowledge that the children shared with everyone. The building looks absolutely gorgeous so if you get a chance I would recommend that you go in and do a tour. Mariah down there at the center really does not mind given anyone a tour; it was really, really great, I enjoyed myself. That's it, thank you.

STANGO: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: I'll echo that, it's really a great job that they've done in renovating 30B, I echo that sentiment. I want to go back to Jahana Hayes, I just want to, again, I know I've said this a thousand times, I just really keep my fingers crossed that she is selected as Teacher of the Year from the State. But I also wanted to just mention that the Committee was very accommodating, I talked with them for at least 20 minutes, they had phone interviews set up, they just basically let me talk and didn't interrupt and just were very, very gracious. I also want to mention that the Board members who participated, I heard Cathy was there, Cathy Awwad, Juanita Hernandez, the two Van Stones, Liz Brown and if I left anyone else, in addition to the Superintendent and the Mayor. So I think the Committee went away with knowing that we really appreciate Jahana. So we just keep our fingers crossed and hope that she gets it, she deserves it very much.

I want to thank the following people for coming out to the community by request of the NAACP to Mount Olive AME Zion Church, my church, to accommodate a discussion presentation on chronic absenteeism. Darren Schwartz, Paul Whyte, Pamela Baim, Michelle Baker, Kevin Walston, Mary Ann Marold. This was held on Tuesday from six

to eight at Mount Olive AME Zion Church, it was a presentation, and this is basically what we look for and what they look for is to come out into the community. There was a very lively discussion on chronic absenteeism. We need all hands on deck and you know we need things coming out from the pulpit, get the kids in school, the only way they're gonna learn is if they're in school. So I think that message was given very, very clearly. I know the group appreciated it and we need to continue to get this message out to the community. So I want to thank them, I know there were a lot of other things that were discussed, there was the impact of teachers not looking, the role models and some of the comments were you know some teachers don't look like the students, so that could impact on learning, impact on whether or not the kids are in school, not excited about going to school, etc., but we need them in school in order to learn. So, again, I want to just thank the group for doing that and hope that we can continue to do so.

Lastly, you know I wasn't going to say something about this because the gentlemen, I didn't get his name, came up and spoke about bullying, but I have two complaints, Dr. Ouellette, two complaints regarding bullying. I have to call the parents on this probably tomorrow and within the past couple of weeks I've heard more and more about bullying and the catch 22 that some kids are in. They complain about, they go to their teachers or their administrators and say well so and so is bullying me, so and so is threatening to harm me, they tell the teacher, they're afraid to go to school, they stay home from school, then they go back and they're threatened again and then they get into a fight and they're arrested for fighting when they're being bullied. So I'm gonna get the details on it but I think we really, really need to look at our bullying procedures again because it's, these kids are caught in a catch 22. No I'm not saying they should fight, I'm not saying that, but if they come to us and say this person, I'm afraid to go to school because this child has said they're going to harm me then we really need to look into that to avoid the fight and this is what I talk about when we talk about the arrests, we talk about well, the police are doing what they should be doing, yes they are, but what are we doing in advance of or before this, our students get into a fight, what are we doing to prevent it. So I'm gonna get the details and I will call you on this but I'm really concerned about this because it seems to be something that we're not taking care of. We want the schools safe, we don't want the fighting, but we also want the kids to feel comfortable coming to school. So I think with that I will end it with that. Thank you.

STANGO: Okay, we will not need an executive session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:37 p.m.

ATTEST


Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education