

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, November 26, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

(For the November 26, 2007 Board Meeting - MINUTES ATTACHED)

COMMITTEE MEETING

The Board of Education Committee meetings were held on Monday, November 26, 2007 at Generali School, 3196 East Main Street, Waterbury, Connecticut, starting at 5:53 p.m.

PRESENT: President Hayes, Commissioners Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, Petteway (arrived at 6:04 p.m.), Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, Uriano, and White.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Snead, Assistant Superintendent Cullinan, Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, School Business Administrator Paul Mazzaccaro, Attorney Maurice Mosley, and School Inspector Herbert Greengas.

Reports were submitted to the various committees of the Board and discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee meetings adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, November 26, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

Generali School, 3196 East Main Street, Waterbury, Connecticut

PRESENT: President Hayes, Commissioners Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, Petteway, Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, Uriano, and White.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Snead, Assistant Superintendent Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, School Business Administrator Paul Mazzaccaro, Attorney Maurice Mosley, and School Inspector Herbert Greengas.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Hayes called the special meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. with a moment of silence and a prayer and Superintendent Snead led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Here

CLERK: Commissioner Petteway.

PETTEWAY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Uriano.

URIANO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner White.

WHITE: Here.

CLERK: President Hayes.

HAYES: Here.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

1. Copy of communication dated November 5, 2007 from Civil Service certifying Joseph Diana for the position of Maintainer I.
2. Copy of communications dated November 13, 2007 from Civil Service certifying Jaclyn Planas for the position of Administrative Support Specialist I and Diane Rinaldi for the position of Attendance Counselor.
3. Copy of communications dated November 14, 2007 from Civil Service certifying Asia Thompson and Lisa Mucherino for the position of Attendance Counselor.
4. Copy of communications dated November 16, 2007 from Civil Service certifying Marvin Newell for the position of Paraprofessional and Donna Korbusieski for the position of Storekeeper.

HAYES: Motion made and seconded. All in favor, opposed. We have a signup sheet with no one on it. Is there anyone here wishing to address the Board?

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Snead read the following report during the prior Workshop:

Just a reminder that we will be holding our Legislative Breakfast tomorrow morning at 8:15 in the conference room at 30 B Church Street. Also, the Appellate Court will conduct hearings at Wilby High School on Wednesday morning as part of its Appellate Court on Tour program. The day will start with a breakfast for the judges and invited guests at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at about 11:30 a.m.

Last Monday, I met with Public Works Director John Lawlor and Dave Simpson also from Public Works, and Bob Rowland from the street department, along with Paul Guidone and Jeff Hunter. We met to discuss procedures for snow delays and closures.

Today at noon, the Naugatuck Valley Community College Advisory Board, of which I am a member, met for a discussion on the hiring process for a new president. The Advisory Board was invited to give its input.

This Thursday, Commissioner McQuillan will be holding a Summit on Reading / Literacy Achievement in Connecticut Schools from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Grand Hotel. I will be in attendance.

Kennedy High School's Student Theater will present "The Impossible Years," a comedy in two acts, this Friday and Saturday evening at 8:00.

The Crosby football field and track area were the object of vandalism sometime over the weekend. The concession stand was broken into with an unsuccessful attempt to set it on fire. In addition, garbage cans were dumped with trash thrown over the area. Police and Fire have been notified and are investigating. Staff is addressing the issues.

Joyce Petteway's celebration party for her election to the Board of Aldermen will be held at the Duke Club at 7 pm on Friday evening.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: I want to wish the best to Commissioner Uriano; it's his last official meeting with us. He's been a great guy, great Board member, dedicated and you're going to be missed, but we'll be in touch. Like I said, good luck wherever you go. Vice President Petteway – good luck to you with the Board of Aldermen. On the 3rd we're inviting, we'd like you to come back on the 3rd and we'll send an invitation to Commissioner Geremia too, we can have an official goodbye to the three of you.

PETTEWAY: I just wanted to say that for the last eight years I served on the Board with most and all of you and I wanted to let you all know that I've learned an awful lot and I want to let all of you know that I have really enjoyed working with you. Great group of men and women. I wish you much success on this Board and as I look back, we've accomplished an awful lot of things from eight years ago and I'm very, very proud of that and I'm very proud of all of you so I wish you well, I'll be over there on the Board of Aldermen lending the expertise I have learned here. Thank you for your patience, thank you for your information, thank you for all of your kindness and I wish you well. Thank you.

REPORTS

1. COMMITTEE ON GRANTS

1.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Petteway and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve to apply for the U.S. Department of Education "Teaching American History Grant".

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passed unanimously.

2. COMMITTEE ON RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 2.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Uriano, it was voted unanimously to approve revisions to uniform grading (policy #6040, 6045, and 6050).**

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passed unanimously.

3. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Upon a motion by Commissioner Petteway and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve items 3.1 through 3.7, as listed:

- 3.1 Use of school facilities by school organizations and/or City departments.
- 3.2 Use of school facilities by outside organizations with fees as outlined in their attached Use of Building Permit and subject to the receipt of all necessary deposits, insurance information, and/or lifeguard/CPR certifications, as listed.
- 3.3 Request of Connecticut Rivers Council Boy Scouts for a waiver of custodial fees for their use of Wilby High School in the approximate amount of \$756.00 be approved.
- 3.4 Request of Bunker Hill Neighborhood Association for a waiver of custodial fees for their use of Carrington School in the approximate amount of \$216.00 be approved.
- 3.5 Permission be granted to D. Mancuso, CHS/Gifted, to take eight students to Washington, DC from March 2 through March 8, 2008 to attend the Close Up Program.
- 3.6 Permission be granted to Mr. Capolupo, Mr. Pazntoni, and Mr. Feola, KHS, and two chaperones to take 50 students to New York, NY to visit various historical sites.
- 3.7 Permission be granted to M. Zwick, WAMS, and five chaperones to take 48 students to Washington, DC from April 8 through April 10, 2007 to visit various historical sites.

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none – all in favor, opposed, motion passed unanimously.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Petteway and duly seconded by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt, it was voted unanimously to remove item 4.5, Adult Education Appointments, from the agenda.

HAYES: Motion made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, thank you.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Petteway and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 4.1 through 4.4, as listed:

- 4.1 **Athletic resignations effective immediately:**
Poulter, Randy – NEMS Assistant Swim Coach.
Vassar, Ryan – CHS Varsity Soccer coach.
- 4.2 **Athletic appointments effective immediately:**
Poulter, Randy – NEMS Head Swim Coach.
- 4.3 **Grant funded transfers/appointments effective immediately:**
Graham, Doreen – Parent Liaison, from Wash School to Waterbury Arts Magnet School.
- 4.4 **Resignations/terminations:**
Carrasquillo, Cynthia – Shelter Bilingual/Math Teacher, WMS, effective 11/13/07.
Craig, Garry – Math Teacher, NEMS, effective 11/30/07.
Gaites, Kimberly – Guidance Counselor, WMS, terminated effective 11/9/07.
Hayes, Nicole – English Teacher, NEMS, effective 11/2/07.
Ribeiro-Garcia, Maria – ESL Teacher, Sprague/Bucks Hill, effective 11/26/07.
Russell, Corrinne – School Psychologist, WHS, effective 12/14/07.

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. All in favor, opposed. Next we go to New Business.

SWEENEY: I just want to speak to tonight's special meeting and how we got here. I understand that there was discussion concerning the fact that new members coming to the Board will be coming to the Board on a voting meeting. While I understand that as always I have a problem with a special meeting or with adding a meeting to the end of a Workshop because we don't have that week in between. There wasn't anything of particular note tonight that led me to believe that we needed not to do that. However, the situation that led up to here is the fact on the calendar each year the last meeting in November is a Workshop. The first meeting every December will always be a voting meeting. So I think what we need to do is look at the calendar and find some way to adjust that so that the last meeting in November is a voting meeting; the first meeting in December is always a Workshop because per Charter new members will come to the Board that first week of December. So to avoid what we had to do tonight in the future going forward we need to look at that calendar and see if we can adjust that.

HAYES: We could probably look at that in the by-laws but it's not going to be needed for next year, there's two years so I think we've got time to address that. But I

appreciate you pointing that out. We could do it with the by-laws, under Rules and Regs.

URIANO: inaudible.

WHITE: I do think that it can, because it's not written in the Charter, the formula we use is not written in the Charter I believe we can change that and I think it's a good idea, it kind of makes things neat and tidy.

HAYES: Let's be trepidatious as we go forward.

STANGO: I agree with Commissioner Sweeney and I agree with Commissioner White and I agree with President Hayes most of the time too. But I just have two views on the subject, in my view; the Board of Education in nature is contemplative. In workshop we listen, we ask questions, we reflect, we decide and we vote. The reflective piece, if the reflective piece is altered I believe that the due process of the Board becomes a little bit diminished. Again, I agree with everyone. And the other point, this point is probably closer to home, I call it double jeopardy, this Board meets in workshop or regular meeting pretty much once every week. Attendance it taken, if I am absent one night I miss one meeting. If I were to be absent tonight, and I almost was, it would be recorded as missing two meetings. This does not seem to be right to me in principle alone. Again, it's just my opinion and once more I agree with Mary and Pat and Ann. Thank you for listening.

HAYES: On the bright side you got two attendances in one meeting.

THERIAULT: I think I would be remiss if I did not say a final goodbye to my good friend Jim Uriano who got elected with me four years ago and we've been sidekicks ever since. And one of the best things that ever happened to me during the election process in addition to being elected was my friendship with Jim; getting to know him and his family and the kind of man he is and the outstanding individual he is. I know people have written letters, people have gone to the tops of buildings shouting his accolades and I would certainly be remiss if I didn't shout his accolades too and say what a great guy he is and what a deserving guy he was and what a great guy he was in terms of, and is, not was, this is not an obituary here, and in terms of his contribution to the City of Waterbury with his election as a Board member four years ago and all of the foster children he has taken into his home and put in his heart and under his wing and done so much good for and all the of the good that he does throughout the community year after year, day after day, hour by hour, he's going to be sorely missed but he's not going to miss my friendship because I got him into one of the clubs in town here and we're going to be meeting once a week so I'll have an opportunity to meet with him and talk politics and just talk good old camaraderie. I'm going to miss you. I'm going to miss you Joyce, you've done a great job over the years and that trek of getting back and forth to Hartford has got to be a killer for you but your attendance has been very good and you've contributed significantly and I too have learned a lot from you also. So I wish you both a good and pleasant journey and don't be strangers to any of the Boards and Commissions in Waterbury because they certainly need the likes of both of you and people of your ilk that make a difference in the City of Waterbury. Thank you.

URIANO: John I want to thank you, I want to thank all the Commissioners, the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendents, Attorney Mosley and everybody else who I did not name. It's been a pleasure working four years, it was an honor, it was a privilege to win an election and I thank you for the invitation on December 3 but I got a Christmas party with the Mayor and a few other people, democrat people, so I will be at a Christmas party on December 3 but I probably will attend another meeting. Thank you very much.

HAYES: Anything else under New Business? Dr. Snead wanted something.

SUPERINTENDENT: In addition to all that's been said about our two Commissioners that are leaving I'd like to express my appreciation for your support, especially since the year 2000, and yours for the last four years Commissioner Uriano, it's been challenging at times but we've always gotten things done in the right way on behalf of children. And I'd be remiss if I did not welcome and thank my best friend, ally, and colleague Dr. Constance Clark, Superintendent of Schools in Westbury, New York for coming to visit us this evening.

HAYES: Anything else under New Business? Under Old Business?

SWEENEY: Back on September 5 this Board sent a communication to Corporation Counsel requesting a legal opinion on one matter in particular and requesting clarification on a request that Corporation Counsel made of us. And again, that was back on September 5 and to this point we have no communication from Corporation Counsel as to these two matters. And I would like to know what's going on with them, if Corporation Counsel is that burdened then maybe they need to return to the way this Board was run and allow legal opinions from our attorney here who represents Corporation Counsel and maybe then we don't need to vote to send them a request. But I would have expected much speedier results than this.

HAYES: I expected as speedy of a result as we're getting. That's the problem, that's why we had a request to have our own attorney. Dr. Snead or Central Office will check with Corporation Counsel, I'm sure they'll have a response. Anything else under Old Business.

HARVEY: I was wondering about that as well and if, we're going into a new Board now and if it's Corporation Counsel's way of saying it's not important then we need to look at maybe the new Board coming on, look at using our attorney, Attorney Mosley, as the one to give opinions as opposed to having to vote to go to Corporation Counsel. Frankly, I'm gonna say it, I hate to use the word insulted, but I mean I don't think things should take this long and if it does then we have some serious problems. So I would hope that we would pursue that and see what is taking so long and if it needs to take as long as it is taking then we need to go with the opinion of our Attorney, Attorney Mosley.

HAYES: Well again, as someone who has been around for awhile, that's why we asked for our own attorney. I don't know that it's fair to say that it's taking a long time for Corporation Counsel, we don't know the workload that they have because they have

quite a bit, which is again why they allowed us to have Attorney Mosley but let's keep in mind Attorney Mosley still works for Corporation Counsel and we don't want to put him in a bad light either. This is coming from us; basically just let them know that's our concern. That when we do have to go through them that there's a lot of time that passes and we need to have speedier responses. We know it's hard for them to do that but that's what we need and hopefully we can go back to doing things the way we did in the past. Anything else under Old Business.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Uriano, and duly seconded by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

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

Resolutions signed by Mayor Michael J. Jarjura on December 6, 2007