

# **WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Monday, February 9, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

(For the February 17, 2009 Board Meeting - MINUTES ATTACHED)

## **COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Board of Education Committee meetings were held on Monday, February 9, 2009 at Walsh School, 55 Dikeman Street, Waterbury, Connecticut, starting at 5:41 p.m.

**PRESENT:** President Hayes, Commissioners D'Angelo (left at 8:49 p.m.), Flaherty-Merritt (left at 9:13 p.m.), Harvey, Laccone (left at 6:37 p.m.), Pinto (arrived at 6:50 p.m.), Stango, Sweeney, and Theriault.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner White.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent Snead, Assistant Superintendents Cullinan and Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, School Business Administrator Paul Mazzaccaro, Attorney Maurice Mosley, Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold, and School Inspector Herbert Greengas.

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee meetings adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie A. Swain, Clerk  
*Board of Education*

## **WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### *MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING*

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

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

***PRESENT:*** Vice President White, Commissioners D'Angelo, Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, Laccone, Pinto, Sweeney, and Theriault.

***ABSENT:*** President Hayes and Commissioner Stango.

***ALSO PRESENT:*** Superintendent Snead, Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, School Business Administrator Paul Mazzaccaro, Attorney Maurice Mosley, and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Vice President White called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with a moment of silence and a prayer for Brian Madore, Maintainer at Tinker School who passed away. Superintendent Snead led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **ROLL CALL**

CLERK: Commissioner D'Angelo.

D'ANGELO: Yes.

CLERK: Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Here

CLERK: Commissioner Laccone.

LACCONO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Pinto.

PINTO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Stango – absent. Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner White.

WHITE: Here.

CLERK: President Hayes – absent.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

1. Communication dated January 27, 2009 from Mary Ann Snieckus regarding her child.
2. Communication dated January 27, 2009 from Director of Finance regarding Capital funds and Special Revenue Funds Status Report.
3. Communication dated January 30, 2009 from WOW/NRZ Youth Council regarding the name of the new North End School.
4. Copy of communication dated February 4, 2009 from Civil Service certifying Catherine Michaud for the position of Administrative Support Specialist III.
5. Copy of communication dated February 5, 2009 from Civil Service certifying Diana Raczkowski for the position of School Secretary.
6. Copy of communication dated February 9, 2009 from Civil Service certifying Kenneth Lasky for the position of Carpenter.
7. Communication dated February 9, 2009 from State Department of Education regarding Notice of Midterm Arbitration.
8. Communication received February 10, 2009 from Kindergarten teachers at Gilmartin School requesting paraprofessionals.
9. Communication received February 11, 2009 from Kindergarten teachers at Tinker School requesting paraprofessionals.

WHITE: So moved and accepted. No one has signed up to speak. Is there anyone here wishing to speak?

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 12, 2009 and February 2, 2009.**

WHITE: All in favor, opposed.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Both Commissioner Sweeney and I attended and spoke at the Appropriations Committee hearing last week. There were a considerable number of people in attendance, so many in fact that the Committee hearing was broken up into three sessions. Senator Toni Harp, who is a Co-Chair of the Appropriations Committee, chaired our session, which was also attended by

Senators Hartley and Caligiuri. Commissioner Sweeney spoke first. I followed a few speakers later. Both of our speeches centered around the importance of maintaining at least the amount of funding as proposed in Governor Rell's budget. We also spoke about the possibility of including additional funds to help offset contractual salary increases and rising utility costs. We were both asked a number of questions which we were able to answer readily. I thought the discussion went very well. Commissioner Sweeney, do you have anything to add to that?

SWEENEY: It was a very well attended Appropriations Committee Hearing, as Dr. Snead said. They split the Committee between three rooms as well as the speakers between three rooms and Dr. Snead got quite a grilling from the Committee. They were very interested particularly if Waterbury were to receive funding, extra ECS funding, additional ECS funding, would it come directly to the Education Department? The people at the State Capitol are very concerned that the money doesn't funnel down to the Education Department but gets diverted into general fund budgets in other cities. We have reiterated to them that that is not the case here. It went very well.

SUPERINTENDENT: This morning Mayor Michael Jarjura presented a Proclamation declaring February to be Parent Leadership Month here in Waterbury. Organizations mentioned in the Proclamation included the Parent Leadership Training Institute, Parents Supporting Educational Excellence, the Waterbury Prevention Policy Board, Together We Shine, Family Focus Partnership, the Family Resource Centers, the Discovery Collaborative, the School Readiness Board, Parent Involvement Committees, and Parent Teacher Associations and Organizations. Among those in attendance were Senator Joan Hartley, parents, community leaders and education department staff.

There will be a Public Presentation on the new PreK - 8 school in the North End next week on Tuesday, February 24 at 6 p.m. at the former St. Lucy's School, 58 Griggs Street.

Also, applications will be available next Monday for the K - 5 lottery at Maloney and Rotella schools.

Sprague School will be honoring Dr. Sandra Burke, a former Sprague School student, as part of its Black History Month celebration next Monday.

There is a **possibility** of an early dismissal tomorrow due to the prediction of snow arriving in the state tomorrow afternoon.

On a sad note, we all are praying for the family of the Maintainer I at Tinker School who passed away this morning. Thank you very much and that concludes my report.

WHITE: Thank you Dr. Snead. Not being the President I will not make any comments. We have a Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.9. Does anyone wish to have any of those removed from the Consent Calendar?

Commissioner D'Angelo proceeded to read the list of items under the Consent Calendar.

## 9. CONSENT CALENDAR

**Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.9, as listed:**

- 9.1 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Waterbury and New Opportunities, Inc. as required by the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007.
- 9.2 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the Department of Education's proposed 2010 – 2014 Capital Budget.
- 9.3 With the approval of the Committee on Grants, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the State Department of Education's "Enhancing Education Through Technology" Grant.
- 9.4 With the approval of the Committee on Grants, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the State Department of Education's "Local Competitive Grant for Computer Assisted Writing, Instruction, and Testing".
- 9.5 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval various changes to the High School Science Curriculum, as listed.
- 9.6 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of various changes to the High School Math Curriculum, as listed.
- 9.7 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to the following for use of school facilities school organizations and/or City Departments.
- 9.8 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to the following for use of school facilities by outside organizations/waiver requests.
- 9.9 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to P. Forcucci, CHS, and eight chaperones to take 35 students to New York, NY on April 22, 2009 to attend a Broadway show.

WHITE: No items to be removed. All in favor, opposed.

## **11. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

11. **Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner D'Angelo, it was voted to approve, yet the motion failed by roll call vote, for select schools to participate in the State of Connecticut**

**Departments of Education and Public Health “Connecticut School Health Survey” with the utilization of the attached opt-in student permission form.**

WHITE: Discussion?

D'ANGELO: Roll call.

***ROLL CALL VOTE:***

Yeas: Commissioners Laccone (passed on first call), Pinto, and Theriault - 3

Nays: Commissioners D'Angelo, Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, Sweeney, and White – 5

CLERK: Motion fails three in favor, five against.

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

**Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 12.1 through 12.8, Superintendent Notification to the Board, as listed:**

**12.1 Athletic appointments effective immediately:**

Vecca, David – Freshman Boys' **Baseball** Coach, WHS (correction from Basketball Coach).

**12.2 Athletic resignations effective immediately:**

Scialla, Marlena – Junior Varsity Softball coach, KHS.

Vecca, David – Freshman Boys' Baseball Coach, KHS.

**12.3 Wilson Family Resource Center Before School Basketball/Book Club appointments, two hours per week, salary according to individual's contract:**

Book Club: Lucille Dejesus, Allison Pelletier, Leocadia Quinones, Andrea Perrelli

Basketball: Kelly Fengler, Ray Melendez

**12.4 Middle School Credit Retrieval Program appointments:**

NEMS: Heather Brown, Beth Longo, Geralyn Mastrianni, Jodi Sarlo

WMS: Jon Gutierrez, Sharyn Ogrodnik, Lisa Camilleri, Donald Shulenburg

WSMS: Kate Lockwood, Rohinie Ramlal, Lori Ann Bechard, Kimberley Carlone

**12.5 Teacher new hires:**

132	Flammia, Peter	CHS	S. Studies	MA	1	02/02/09
133	Danziger, Byron	WAMS	Health/PE	MA	1	01/26/09
134	Harris, James	Enlightenment	Special Ed	MA	1	02/02/09
135	Kenney, Steven	KHS	BDLC	MA	6	02/02/09
136	Paradis, Sara	CHS	Health/PE	BA	1	01/12/09

**12.6 Appointments:**

Bergin, Maureen – TVP, Bucks Hill Pre-K, effective 02/09/09.

Spar, Matthew – Acting TVP, State Street School, effective 02/09/09.

12.7 **Retirements:**

Balletto, Debra – WHS Special Education, effective 06/30/09.  
Demitto, Sylvia – WHS Special Education, effective 06/30/09.  
Jokubaitis, Suzanne – Barnard grade 4, effective 07/01/09.  
Medic, Madalena – NEMS Spanish, effective 06/30/09.

12.8 **Resignations:**

Phalen, Christy – Hopeville Math Resource Teacher, effective 06/30/09.

WHITE: All in favor, opposed. Anything under New Business?

HARVEY: I apologize for not having all the information but I think it should be mentioned because Dr. Snead is not going to mention it so I will. Dr. Snead is being honored this Wednesday in West Haven. He's being honored as a distinguished citizen. And I will send out information to everyone regarding, to the Commissioners, regarding the specifics on where this event will occur and costs, etc. Let me be the first to congratulate you Dr. Snead on your accomplishment.

SUPERINTENDENT: Thank you. I believe it's Friday. You said Wednesday.

WHITE: Congratulations Dr. Snead. Is there anything else under New Business? I have something under New Business. We had two letters, one from Tinker and one from Gilmartin and we received one at home from Carrington from the kindergarten teachers asking about the paraprofessionals and I would like to have them forwarded to Dr. Sequeira because he is the head of curriculum and have him give us some information on that particular.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: Paraprofessionals are special education so...

WHITE: I know that but I think what they want are paras in the kindergarten. Our paraprofessionals are only in special ed. But there was a time when they had what they called kindergarten aides.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: So more of an aide rather than special education.

WHITE: The whole idea is because the curriculum is so expanded as to what a kindergarten curriculum used to be and they require more care and more help and they also need to be assessed more regularly. So I would just like, do you think Dr. Sequeira can address that?

SUPERINTENDENT: Yes, that's fine, but I've also received those letters and each time I've received them I've had a discussion with our Chief Operations Officer Paul Guidone relative to the cost and to be quite frank with you right now we're trying to limit any new positions but certainly we can discuss the merit of the position so if and when we ever receive additional funds we can give it more serious consideration. Right now it's going to be very difficult because of the financial situation that we're in this year and next year to give it much more than a thought.

WHITE: I think we all understand that but I do think it's a starting point and we're always encouraging our employees to speak up and they are and we should not just sweep it under the rug, we should validate their request with some sort of a response. Thank you. Anything else under New Business? Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Just a point of clarification, actually the kindergarten aides were taken away years ago as a cost reduction measure. Actually when they were taken away the class size in the kindergarten used to be about 24 children. Then when the aides were taken away it was reduced to 20. And back then the curriculum was large and it's even larger and more momentous and more rigorous for kindergarten students now because we don't just teach them socialization, we teach them actual reading and some phonics and it's not just play time in kindergarten as it used to be. Negotiating with the teachers this coming year would be a perfect opportunity to look at this particular issue with regard to cutting someplace and maybe putting some paraprofessionals back in there or teacher aides if you want to call them that and do it on a limited basis and try to get them back in there. I too, like Dr. Snead, am very wary as we go forward we still don't know, we've been told nothing is going to happen to our educational cost sharing money, our ECS, but it's not over yet and it won't be over for a long time. And I hope that we're not going to get a change in the last minute and have to go through this budget all over again. But I suspect that's exactly what's gonna happen. But it is a worthwhile endeavor and I certainly sympathize with those teachers. If I'd have my way I'd have a teacher's aide in every grade K through 3. But that would be impractical, just like putting aides on the bus would be impractical. So good luck and we'll do what we can.

WHITE: I do think we have to address it somehow or another even if it is just with addressing it. Anything under Old Business?

SWEENEY: Two things, I'm gonna start with the issue of opt-in policy. I would appreciate very much if that became a priority for Rules and Regs, if we could discuss that and decide whether this district is going to be opt-in or opt-out so we do not have to continue to have this conversation every time a survey comes forward. We need to also look at it in relation to other programs that the schools allow parents to opt-out of and do we want to apply it across the board, do we want to apply it specifically to something that comes in from the outside, a request for a survey or files. But we definitely need and the parents deserve for us to take a look at that and make a decision as a Board as to how this district is going to operate. And I would appreciate getting that done and having something in place at least for the start of the new school year so that no longer do we have to question whether something comes forward and is it opt-in or opt-out, we no longer have to ask somebody to put together a form and approve a form when these things come forward to Central Office, Central Office will say "here's our form, we are either opt-in or opt-out and take this back to your people and if you still want to come forward and make your request that's fine as long as you can abide by this". That's where we need to be so that when these discussions come forward the discussion is on the content of what is being asked of this district as opposed to the form itself. So I would, in the absence of the President, I would ask that that be directed to Rules and Regs as a priority.

Secondly there was a response to a parent comment regarding one of the programs offered in our middle schools and I don't know who the response came from because



there was no indication who put together the response. But I think we need to have a discussion on that response also because I do recall either last year or the year before members of this Board who brought forward concerns about an airing of that program on Channel 16 and we thought that this was resolved. That response also indicated that there was never a parental notification or form required of that program. I seem to recall that when that request was made to bring that program into the school, the very least we asked that parents be notified before students took part in that program. So we need to review that again and make sure that we're all on the same page as to how that program is supposed to operate within our schools.

WHITE: Thank you Commissioner Sweeney. I'll refer that to the proper committee. Is there anything else under Old Business?

PINTO: I just have a reminder that next Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. is the Finance Committee Meeting.

WHITE: Okay, thank you. Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: I just would like to thank Paul Guidone; I think Herb was involved in this as well, for checking that sidewalk front area of Walsh School because I had concerns about someone tripping on those patches. So I appreciate your checking into that as quickly as you did.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

**Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo, and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. for discussion concerning strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.** All Commissioners were present along with Dr. Snead, Paul Guidone, Ron Frost, and Attorney Mosley.

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