

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 14, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Hayes, Commissioners D'Angelo, Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, O'Leary, Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, and White.

ABSENT: Commissioner Laccone.

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.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. with a moment of silence and a prayer and Superintendent Snead led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

STANGO: Thank you President Hayes. We had some sad news today. Today we learn of the passing of Mr. Lucian Mannello. Mr. Mannello was a much loved and respected career long teacher and administrator in our district. I know most of us here tonight knew him and remember him fondly. He served as the first principal of West Side Middle School where I had the honor of working with him for 20 years. He acted as a mentor and a friend to many of our teachers and principals who are now leading our district today. Lucian was a great educator, an outstanding administrator, and generally a good man. He will be missed by all of those who knew him. He was very good to all of us, teachers and students alike. Often times I quote Mr. Mannello when speaking to various teacher groups and at graduations. Allow me to quote him here one more time. At the beginning of school orientations, Lucian would say to his new teachers "to be successful in teaching you need to do three things. Number one, you need to know your subject matter cold. Number two, you need to be willing to share it with others – your colleagues as well as your students. Number three, perhaps most important, be a lady or gentleman while doing it." Best if we pause in all his words tonight. Let us remember him in our prayer, may he rest in peace. May we have a moment of silence first and then our silent prayer remembering Lucian. Thank you Mr. President.

HAYES: Dr. Snead would also like to acknowledge a couple more.

SUPERINTENDENT: Thank you. I would like to include in our prayers the family of the preschool student at Bucks Hill that passed away last week. In addition to that, Mrs. Ginny Grzymkowski who assisted us in correcting some of our audit questions a few years ago, passed away this morning.

ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner D'Angelo.

D'ANGELO: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt.

FLAHERTY-MERRITT: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Here

CLERK: Commissioner Laccone – absent. Commissioner O'Leary.

O'LEARY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner White.

WHITE: Here.

CLERK: President Hayes.

HAYES: Here.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

1. Communication received August 31, 2009 from Rebekah Merancy regarding bus stop.
2. Communication dated August 31, 2009 from Vanessa Benette regarding bus stop.
3. Communication dated August 31, 2009 from Roxanne Benette regarding bus stop.
4. Copy of communication dated August 31, 2009 from Civil Service certifying Michael Flynn for the position of Paraprofessional.
5. Copy of communication dated September 2, 2009 from Civil Service certifying John Gaetano for the position of HVAC Foreperson.

6. Civil Summons received September 2, 2009.
7. Copy of communication dated September 2, 2009 from Civil Service certifying Cathleen Greene for the position of Elementary School Teaching Vice Principal.
8. Copies of communications dated September 3, 2009 from Civil Service certifying Luis DeJesus and John Maturo for the position of Maintainer I; Joseph Crowley for the position of Mason; and Tanya Black for the position of Paraprofessional.
9. Communication dated September 3, 2009 from Fire Chief Maglione regarding annual fire inspection reports.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner White, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2009 Special Meeting and August 25, 2009 Rescheduled Committee Meeting.

HAYES: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion, changes? All in favor, opposed. We have no one on the signup sheet. Is anyone here wishing to address the Board? Anyone here wishing to address the Board?

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Snead read and distributed the following report:

The District Improvement Plan Executive Committee met last week. We reviewed the District Monitoring Report issued by the State following its visit in Spring. The Report concludes that Waterbury has done a good job in implementing its Plan thus far. The State recommends that we now go back to Step One and analyze our results from the most recent CMT and CAPT tests and decide for ourselves what initiatives and strategies are working and which ones are not. We should look at each Tier II indicator and determine if they should be kept intact, modified, or eliminated. We may also wish to delete some of Results Indicators as we may decide we have too many. We agreed to continue meeting as a Committee on a monthly basis.

I have asked administrators and my Cabinet members to get together and hold some discussions regarding the Race to the Top proposal we heard last week. I have asked that each group (Supervisors, Principals, WTA, SAW, etc) develop a one-page recommendation as to whether or not we should participate and why. I have asked that everyone be objective and to look at all of the possible angles before coming to a recommendation. I will be reviewing these recommendations and then forwarding them to the Board.

There will be a community workshop/presentation of the plans for the Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway on Wednesday, September 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Kennedy High School.

There will be a Tools for Schools meeting at the West Side Middle School on Thursday, September 17, beginning at 4 p.m.

We are continuing to track a number of State budget related issues including final resolution of school construction matters, family resource center grants, and the treatment of the City's ECS allocation. It is anticipated there will be additional guidance and clarification by the end of the month.

The Democratic Party Primary is scheduled for tomorrow. As usual, a number of our schools will be used as polling places. Administrators and custodial staff have been informed and are prepared for the associated traffic.

HAYES: We'll move to the Consent Calendar.

President Hayes proceeded to read the list of Consent Calendar items.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion from Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner D'Angelo, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.15, as listed:

- 9.1 With the approval of the Committee on Grants, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval for Rotella Magnet School to apply for the State Department of Education "Enhancing Education Through Technology" Grant.
- 9.2 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Rob Davis, d/b/a SUMMITT Support Services, to provide special education services for children.
- 9.3 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the job specifications for the following positions:
 - Middle School Title I Instructional Tutor
 - High School Title I Instructional Tutor
 - Non-public High School Title I Instructional Tutor
 - Gilmartin School After-school Program Title I Classroom Assistant
 - Gilmartin School After-school Title I Teacher
- 9.4 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the position(s) of Elementary School Title I instructional Tutor for all elementary schools. The number of positions per school shall be based on the availability of Title I funds per school.
- 9.5 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the position(s) of Middle School Title I instructional Tutor for all middle schools. The number of positions per school shall be based on the availability of Title I funds per school.

- 9.6 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the position(s) of High School Title I instructional Tutor for all high schools. The number of positions per school shall be based on the availability of Title I funds per school.
- 9.7 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the position of Non-public High School Title I Instructional Tutor for Sacred Heart School.
- 9.8 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of three (3) positions of Gilmartin School After-school Program Title I Classroom Assistant.
- 9.9 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of three (3) positions of Gilmartin School After-school Title I Teacher.
- 9.10 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of job specifications for and position of "Title I/ARRA Parent Liaison/Non-Public Schools".
- 9.11 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the ED042 (phase 3) for the Enlightenment and Special Education Program Center Project.
- 9.12 Motion to approve permission be granted to the following for use of school facilities school organizations and/or City Departments.
- 9.13 Motion to approve that permission be granted to the following for use of school facilities by outside organizations/waiver requests.
- 9.14 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to the Kiwanis Club of Waterbury to hold their annual Snack Sale during the period of October 13 through 23, 2009, subject to review by the Director of Food Service.
- 9.15 With the approval of the Committee on School Activities, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Dr. Connors and M. Galbraith/21st Century Grant Project 1/Cohort 2, and 11 chaperones to take 80 students to New York, NY on Saturday, September 26, 2009 to attend a performance of The Lion King.

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

11. COMMITTEE ON RULES & REGULATIONS

- 11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner White and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the revised Electrical Appliance Usage Policy.**

HAYES: Motion is made and seconded. Under discussion, Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Just very briefly. I asked that this not be on Consent Calendar because originally this was brought forward, a request for small personal fans to be used in classrooms and it was presented as relief for students and staff. I don't believe a small personal fan on a teachers' desk is really for students, I don't think it addresses the problem, and this is the second time since we instituted this policy that we've gone through it and decided to change something. My vote on this will be no.

HAYES: Anyone else. Commissioner D'Angelo.

D'ANGELO: Just very quickly at the risk of correcting Commissioner Sweeney. This historically was never an issue in Waterbury, it wasn't a policy. About eight months ago, Mr. Greengas sent out a memo saying basically "remember, no fans are allowed in the classroom". I called Dr. Snead and Paul Guidone and others, there was no such policy that fans weren't allowed. So this was never an issue, there was never complaints about it. Teachers and students that felt, teachers that needed fans used the fans; teachers that didn't and principals that didn't, didn't, so it was a non-issue. Herb sent out the memo saying "no fans are allowed" and all heck broke loose. So really this is just undoing what was never done in the first place, actually. It wasn't a policy in the beginning, it never has been.

STANGO: I think we talked about this a series of time in workshops and I think that if it's passed tonight, the revised Electrical Appliance Usage, must be strictly adhered to. Because if it's not, all the time invested in this policy would be . . . The Superintendent's discretion must be equally understood and enforced system-wide. If that's where we're going with it then that's what we have to do. If everyone is not on the same page here this policy would become yet another exercise in futility. So, therefore, if we pass it tonight we must, we must enforce it. Everyone has to understand what dates the Superintendent is gonna say you can put the fan, what date the fan has to be put away. And if that's the rule, that's the rule. Thank you.

HAYES: Anyone else? Hearing no further discussion – roll call please.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Commissioners D'Angelo, Flaherty-Merritt, Harvey, O'Leary, Stango, Theriault, and White - 7

Nays: President Hayes and Commissioner Sweeney - 2

HAYES: Seven-two, motion passes. Hopefully we don't have to have another revision after the first time we have a problem.

12. COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

12.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve the revised Grades 6 through 8 Language Arts Curriculum.

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

12.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Flaherty-Merritt and duly seconded by Commissioner Stango, it was voted unanimously to approve the revised Grades 9 through 12 Language Arts Curriculum.

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

13. 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 13.1 through 13.6, as listed:

13.1 Athletic appointments effective immediately:

Acevedo, Paul – Soccer Coach, WSMS.
Rasheed, Yeisha – Volleyball Coach, WMS.
Wanzie, Dennis – Asst. Football Coach, CHS.

13.2 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:

Crighton, Nancy – Grant Coordinator, MMS, \$18.00 p/hour, 35 hours per week/12 months per year, non-union position with benefits governed but the SEIU Agreement.
Gomes, Lucille – Fine Arts Teacher, Stepping Stone Program, \$25.00 p/hour, 16 hours per week/36 weeks, no benefits.
Sandone, Darlene M. – School Guidance Counselor, Stepping Stone Program, \$25.00 p/hour, 16 hours per week/42 weeks, no benefits.

13.3 Appointments:

Green, Cathleen – TVP, WSMS Blue House, effective 08/31/09

13.4 New teacher hires:

46	Calabro, Diane	KHS	Special Ed	BA	1	8/24/2009
47	Valenti-White, Marisa	WSMS	Literacy	6th	1	8/24/2009
48	Clemente, Rachel	WMS	Lang Arts/6	MA	1	8/26/2009
49	Perue, Katie	WSMS	BDLC	MA	2	8/25/2009
50	Decicco, Elizabeth	Chase	Literacy Facilitator	MA	9	8/26/2009
51	Parks, Brian	CHS	Science	MA	6	8/27/2009
52	Phostole, Sean	CHS	Special Ed	MA+15	8	8/31/2009
53	Petrassi, Jacqueline	Kingsbury	ESL	MA	1	8/28/2009
54	Brown, Stacey	WSMS	Biology	MA	2	8/24/2009
55	Hajjar, Marie-Therese	Enlightenment	English	MA+15	2	9/8/2009
56	Davino, Karen	WMS	Literacy	MA	1	9/1/2009
57	Cardella, Rachel	Kingsbury	Gr. 1	BA	1	9/1/2009

13.5 Teacher transfers:

Pelletier, Roseann – from Walsh Title I Literacy to Walsh Reading, eff. 8/24/09.
Proulx, Sarah – from Bucks Hill Title I to Driggs Internal Literacy Facilitator,
effective 8/24/09.

13.6 Resignations:

Cahill, Richard J. – WMS Special Education, effective 08/28/09.
Primus, Desiree – Kingsbury School, effective 09/01/09.
Robles, Johanna – WSMS Spanish, effective 08/27/09.

13.7 Retirements:

Arbuckle, Agnes Theresa – Chase School, effective 11/2/09.

HAYES: Motion made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, passed unanimously even though I heard one voice. New Business?

THERIAULT: Nothing earth shattering, but I did want to add my condolences also to Lucian Mannello's family. I, like Commissioner Stango, worked with him many years at West Side Middle School and on behalf of me and my family and this Board, I offer my condolences as well as humbly also representing the thousands and thousands of children that he influenced in Waterbury over the years. And we are very, very saddened at this time with his passing, but he always had a special place in my heart and he always will. And my condolences to the family.

HAYES: Anyone else. Any Old Business?

SUPERINTENDENT: I want to give a special thanks and acknowledgement to Nick Albini because when we recommended him to be hired, to be the secondary literacy supervisor, we had high hopes that we would get this curriculum done, six through twelve. It was a lot of work, but he got it done in a timely fashion. I just want to acknowledge him back there and your support of him, Dr. Sequeira.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner D'Angelo and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:02 p.m.

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