

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

Wallace Middle School, 3465 East Main Street, Waterbury, Connecticut

PRESENT: President Stango, Commissioners Brown, Harvey, Morales, Rodriguez, Sweeney, and Van Stone.

ABSENT: Commissioners D'Amelio and Hayes.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Kathleen Ouellette, Chief Academic Officer Anne Marie Cullinan, Special Advisor to Superintendent Paul Sequeira, Chief Operating Officer & Chief of Staff Paul Guidone, and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

SILENT PRAYER

President Stango called the special meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Vice President Harvey led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner D'Amelio (absent). Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hayes (absent). Commissioner Morales.

MORALES: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Van Stone.

VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here. The next item on the Agenda is "Public Addresses the Board" concerning the items on the Special Meeting only, please come forward. Seeing none – we'll go to item number one on the Agenda.

1. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

1.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the

appointment of Margaret Surat as Supervisor of Mathematics-Secondary, effective immediately.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Discussion? I'll ask Mrs. Cullinan to come forward please.

CULLINAN: Good evening. I am very pleased to recommend to the Board of Education the approval of Margaret Surat for the position of Supervisor of Mathematics in our district. Ms. Surat's career in education began in 1998 as a Mathematics Teacher in Torrington, Connecticut. From there she came to Waterbury and worked at North End Middle School and Crosby High School for eight years. In 2007 she accepted an administrative position in Oxford as a Mathematics Department Chair and teacher. While there she completed all staff evaluations, hired staff, served as acting principal, wrote the mathematics curriculum in alignment with the Common Core State Standards, collected and analyzed data – just to name a few. She is passionate about student learning and achievement and staff development. Her credentials include a Bachelor of Science from Post University, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Sacred Heart University, and Certificate of Advanced Studies in Administration from Sacred Heart. Her certifications and endorsements include her 092 in Administration, her 029 in Mathematics 7 – 12, a 229/Mathematics-Middle School, and 15/English-Middle School. Colleagues describe her as dedicated to the profession, a mentor, fair, always focused on enhancing and improving what could be done to better the students and staff. I am pleased to present an outstanding educator, Ms. Margaret Surat, as a Supervisor of Mathematics.

STANGO: Thank you Mrs. Cullinan, on behalf of the Superintendent. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none – roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, Harvey, Morales, Rodriguez, Sweeney, Van Stone, and President Stango.

(applause)

SURAT: Thank you, it's great to be back in Waterbury. I am looking forward to moving the district forward with alignment of Common Core, working with the schools, the staff. And I am just so excited to be back and share with you all the knowledge that I've acquired over the past seven years as I left the district and I am returning. And I thank you and I look forward to working with you all very much in the near future.

1.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Van Stone, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the appointment of Paul A. White as Supervisor of School Turnaround effective immediately.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Mr. Guidone, on behalf of the Superintendent.

GUIDONE: Good evening. On behalf of the Superintendent we're very pleased to recommend the approval of Paul White for the position of Supervisor of School

Turnaround for our district. Mr. White's career began in education in 1992 and since that time he's held numerous teaching positions, most recently served as the Principal/Superintendent of New Beginnings Family Academy in Bridgeport since 2004. He is passionate about children's education and their future in society and he likes sharing his passion with students, parents, and colleagues. Mr. White's credentials include a Bachelors of Arts from Yale, a Master of Education from Harvard, and he is currently a Doctoral candidate at Columbia University/Teacher's College with expected completion next year. Wow, that's pretty impressive. His letters of reference – colleagues praise his work as being a collaborator, creative, knowing how to maximize student learning, and building staff moral and trust. He took a failing school with low morale and under his leadership has created one of the top ten lists of high achieving public schools in the State of Connecticut. Again, on behalf of the Superintendent, we are pleased to present an outstanding educator, Mr. Paul White, as Supervisor of Turnaround.

STANGO: Thank you Mr. Guidone. Any further discussion? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: We haven't voted yet but I'll tell you I sat through, as I normally do, at least the first two phases of the interview process but I felt it was important to sit through the third phase and I was just simply impressed and I appreciate that he's chosen Waterbury to help us with our Turnaround process. I'm just so glad that he's here and you've got a lot of work to do, you've got a lot of work to do, but I'm confident that you're gonna assist us with that and we'll get it done. So thank you.

STANGO: Further discussion? Roll call vote then please.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, Harvey, Morales, Rodriguez, Sweeney,
Van Stone, and President Stango.

(applause)

WHITE: Good evening Commissioners. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to serve Waterbury. I'm looking forward to being collaborative with this Board, with all the stakeholders in Waterbury – all the teachers, parents, and students that we can make the turnaround that we do need in this school. I'm looking forward to working with everyone and I know working together we will be able to turn the tide in our schools. So thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to getting started.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

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