

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Stango, Commissioners Brown, D'Amelio, Harkins, Harvey, Hayes, Morales, Rodriguez, Sweeney, and Van Stone.

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, Director of Personnel Ron Frost, and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

1. SILENT PRAYER

President Stango called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. with a moment of silence.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Dr. Ouellette led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner D'Amelio.

D'AMELIO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Harkins.

HARKINS: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Present.

CLERK: 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.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Communication dated March 1, 2013 from Representative Selim Noujaim to Commissioner Harvey regarding responses he received when he asked for opinions of a school in Hamilton Park.
2. Email communication received March 4, 2013 from Walsh School Governance Council regarding District School Plan.
3. Copy of communications from Civil Service dated March 6, 2013 certifying Griselda Torres and Maria Aurigemma for the position of Food Service Helper.
4. Copy of communication from Civil Service dated March 7, 2013 certifying Wanda Rodriguez for the position of Attendance Counselor.
5. Communication dated March 7, 2013 from Joseph Nolan regarding naming of the new career high school.
6. Copy of communication from Civil Service dated March 12, 2013 certifying Shelby Davis for the position of Attendance Counselor.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Committee Meeting of January 31, 2013, Rescheduled Regular Meeting of February 6, 2013, Committee Meeting of February 14, 2013, Regular Meeting of February 21, 2013, and Special Meeting of February 28, 2013.

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

6. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to allow the public to address the Board at 6:42 p.m.

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. All speakers are encouraged to submit prepared written statements to the Commissioners. Comments shall be limited to a maximum of three 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.

Jimie Griffin, 41 Pilgrim Avenue, had the following comments: I wanted to come down in support the naming of a school after a Latino in the City of Waterbury. A friend of mine, Jay Gonzalez, who's been heading up this effort has been bugging me about it so I decided that I would come down and just put my two cents in. I know that there was some discussion over whether or not you wanted to keep the name sort of generic with Waterbury so I got a suggestion, I suggest that you name the school Waterbury Rivera Career Academy and then you get the best of two worlds – you get Waterbury and you get Rivera in and that settles the whole problem. Thank you.

Waverly Battle, 411 Frost Road, had the following comments: I'm here today because I have a daughter Corey Battle who's a Junior at Crosby High School which I had an issue with the Basketball Coach there Phil Lott and the issue was reported on 1/23/2013 to Ms. Maryann Marold at the office down on Grand Street there and the issue wasn't resolved and from there I ended up contacting Mr. Ron Frost and spoke with him on more than one occasion on this issue and all the way up to today I have not gotten any response and I'm looking for some type of clarification and that's why I'm here today. Thank you.

Jay Gonzalez, 47 Sharon Road, had the following comments: Good evening Commissioners, we again assemble here tonight to discuss the naming of the new school, that's the topic I wanted to speak briefly about. As you know there are a few different extremely worthy candidates to bear the name. Last Monday many people showed up here to make their case for the naming. There were many people here for Edelmiro Arroyo; there were many people here for Rivera Memorial. The room was almost evenly divided as each person came up and told their stories about this person or that person and the many positive experiences both of these people have had on their lives. To me it seemed clear from that hearing that this is the right time to name a school after a Hispanic. Both candidates are well deserving of the honor and it's been my pleasure to stump for Rivera Memorial and the Hispanic community in general. Unfortunately I'm not sure everybody on the Committee was receptive of the message. I feel sometimes it's very hard to hear when your ears are not open and I plead with the Board to consider a Hispanic named school an option. Not just an option on paper, not an option on paper, but a legitimate option. At that meeting Monday only one person spoke in favor of "Waterbury Career Academy" and sometimes I guess it seems like we may be merely going through the motions. I echo what Victor said that night on Monday – is it that hard to make a decision for the betterment of the community? Is naming it after a Hispanic rather than "Waterbury Career Academy" that farfetched? We, in the Hispanic community, have from the beginning fought an uphill battle kind of against the name "Waterbury Career Academy", still a sign out front on Birch Street that says "Waterbury Career Academy" and they even have a Wikipedia page on that. But I just hope that the Board truly recognizes the passion in the Hispanic community about this topic and that we're not just here just for a specific name, this is bigger than all that. And I hope you consider what the Hispanic community wants and deserves. If we in Waterbury are to feel that we have a voice then please do not allow the bureaucracies that plague us on a national spotlight grind us to a halt here in Waterbury whether Mr. Arroyo or Mr. Rivera, please don't let our voices fall on deaf ears. Thank you.

Matthew Ocasio, 255 East Main Street, had the following comments: I'm here also in support of the Rivera Memorial Foundation and naming of the new school. I can't say it any better than Jay just did so I won't take up any of your time, I just want to show my support for this organization. They touched my life and several other people that were here on Monday. They spoke their peace and I don't see a reason why this school can't get named after an individual and not a generic name. Thank you.

Mayor O'Leary had the following comments: I am here to speak on behalf of the name of the "Waterbury Career Academy". Quite frankly we are looking at this as a brand for this school. I support wholeheartedly the position of the Latino community. Certainly I believe that the effort that was made by the African American community to name the new school after Dr. Reed was an excellent opportunity to recognize the contributions of the African American community to the City of Waterbury, long overdue, no doubt about it. Given the enormous Latino and Hispanic population here in the City of Waterbury, I think it's high time that we find a way to recognize the contributions and the impacts that the Latino community has on the City of Waterbury. Quite frankly, my position is, and let me just address some of the speakers' positions, I think it is high time, as I had mentioned, to recognize the Latino community here in the City of Waterbury, there's no doubt about it. The Waterbury Career Academy is branded to be a "career academy". This Board, in their wisdom, pushed through the idea to have the "career academy" established because we all knew that we were unable to get our student population into Kaynor Technical School so you all worked very hard to create the "career academy" so that people would go there primarily with the four strands that have been established – manufacturing, allied health, human resources, and technology. The discussions back then, I will remind you, was that we recognize fully that many of our students may not go onto college but we wanted to establish this school specific to their needs to give them the work skills so that they would be fully qualified and skilled to leave high school, go into a working life always with the opportunity to continue their education later on. So that's why it was called and named by you all the "Waterbury Career Academy". Now you could contemplate Jimmie Griffin's idea and that certainly is something that you can decide on your own, but I would offer this suggestion and idea to you, and this was brought up to me earlier today by Commissioner Felix Rodriguez, there are other schools in this City that could be, and probably should be, named after the Latino or Hispanic community such as Bucks Hill School, Hopeville School. We've done it before when Maggie Generali suddenly passed the community was so shocked and devastated that we took her name and put it on East Farms School. I would suggest even though the policy does dictate otherwise, I would suggest that we look at this as a very, very good compromise especially since Bucks Hill School is going to become a bilingual center next year and I bet the population of the student body at Bucks Hill School is predominantly Latino or Hopeville School which I can guarantee you the population of Hopeville School is predominantly Latino. So I just offer those as suggestions to you. I think that Commissioner Rodriguez's idea holds a great deal of merit and I think that by the recognition, if you will, and the community input on the Reed initiative, I think was a very good thing just like I'm proud of these folks for being here tonight and voicing their opinions on their ideas about their desire to see a public school named after a Latino individual. So all the names I've heard are very worthy, I'm glad I don't have to worry so much about that as much as you do at least at the moment, but certainly I think it bears that we should pay attention to this and find a way because this unites the community, it gives everyone the feeling that they're being heard, and it's not a great effort, by the

way, to change the policy so that we can make this happen. So just a thought since we're so far down the road on the career academy but certainly there's plenty of opportunities to recognize the contributions that the Hispanic community brings to the City of Waterbury and the ways that I just mentioned and I'm sure that there's other folks who will come up with ideas that are just as good so we welcome them all and I think it's just something to think about moving forward. So I thank you for your time and your commitment to the Board of Education.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:55 p.m.

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

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUELLETTE: My first, most important message this evening, is that March has been designated as the Connecticut Board of Education Member Recognition Month. This gives me the opportunity to officially thank our Board of Education Commissioners for all the work they do on behalf of our students and staff in Waterbury. To each of you I say thank you for your dedication and your commitment of time and energy to the children of this wonderful school district. Those listening at home have the opportunity to see you at our weekly meetings and workshops but they may not always realize how many additional hours you devote to participating in other Board and education related events and certainly committee meetings. This year I thank our Board of Education Commissioners especially for their enthusiastic and consistent support of the district reform plans now underway in our schools. Your support of the implementation of the Blueprint for Change and the Alliance application is already beginning in a change in the way we conduct business in our district and I am confident that with your continued support Waterbury will realize its vision of a district where all students can be successful. As a token of my appreciation, I'd like each of to accept this small gift of appreciation in celebration of Connecticut Board of Education Member Recognition Month and I urge everyone to join me in recognizing the dedication and hard work of our local Board of Education Commissioners in preparing today's students for future success. Thank you very much.

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements:

Wilby won the Connecticut Association of Schools and CIAC Michael's Cup for Unified Sports as the top Unified High School in the state. A dinner recognizing the winners of Unified Sports awards will be held on Monday April 29th, 2013 at the Aqua Turf in Southington.

Crosby High LifeSmarts Team became State Champions on Friday defeating Ellis Tech by a score of 170-161. The team consisting of Captain Cindy Chatterpaul, Gabriel Mobley, Jorna Sojati, Belman Soto and Patricia Myer competed in 17 grueling rounds of competition to secure the win for Crosby. Crosby has now earned the right to compete in Nationals in Atlanta Georgia in April. LifeSmarts is a consumer based competition which tests student knowledge of personal finance, consumer rights and

responsibilities, health and safety, the environment and technology. The Crosby team placed tenth in the national completion last year after winning the statewide competition. There was an article about the competition and the team in the Meriden Record Journal last week.

Bridge to Success held a Partnership Forum this afternoon in City Hall. Community organizations, local agencies and our Waterbury Public Schools were showcased at this event, where BTS partners had an opportunity to network with each other.

“Wendell Cross Got Talent Show” is this Saturday, March 23rd, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in our Gym. Tickets in advance are \$1.00 each; tickets at the door are \$2.00.

Bridge to Success is holding a planning meeting on Monday, March 25th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the United Way / BTS office, to discuss how BTS can assist the local introduction of FAVOR, Inc., a non-profit statewide family advocacy organization. FAVOR, Inc. serves families, children and youth dealing with a broad spectrum of behavioral and mental health needs, by providing policy and family advocacy. They provide parents and caregivers of children with mental health needs an opportunity to be part of a unified voice that will be heard throughout the state.

Hopeville is having a Roller Magic Night on March 26th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4.50 and include quad skate rentals.

Several of our schools are working together to host a Community School meeting on Saturday, April 6th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Police Activity League building. The meeting will include information about community resource partners, educational tips and activities, and new initiatives in our schools. The meeting is held in collaboration with Bucks Hill, Reed, Regan, North End and Wilby, the Police Activity League, and the Community Health Center.

8. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

STANGO: The Naming Committee of the Board conducted a public hearing on Monday night for the purpose of taking testimony supporting a particular name which has been submitted for the career high school scheduled to open in the fall. We had a very good showing of Waterbury citizens. Thirteen people addressed the Board on their choice for a school name and we thank the people who did come out to speak and they did a very good job stating their case. Also, in light of the fact that it was going to storm later that night, they didn't know what they were going to come out to but we did fine. However, I have received calls from the public asking for a timetable on the process. So this is the process as I know it going forward – the Naming Committee will meet to discuss possible names and vote on a name to recommend to the Board and this meeting will take place on April 8th, it's a Committee meeting. The recommended name from the Committee will come before the entire Board at Workshop on April 11. The recommended name will then come to a vote of the Board on May 2. Meetings will be advertised and posted. The public is encouraged to continue to come to the podium, as we saw tonight, or write letters of testimony to the Clerk of the Board which we then receive copies of.

Also of interest to the public is the planned combined Workshop of the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Education. The combined meeting is to discuss the possibility of building a new Pre-k through 8 elementary school on the east side of Waterbury and also the location of the school. That meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, coming, at 6:00 p.m. right here in Waterbury Arts Magnet School. And also, just to be clear, this is a Workshop meeting and it's for sharing information with both Boards and there is no public speaking at this time. If down the road we need public speaking we will arrange one of those meetings.

I also want to thank the Superintendent for remembering and discussing the Board of Education Appreciation Month. I'm wondering if it's appropriate for me to also appreciate this Board and I think I will. I have the privilege of working with nine dedicated Board members and I do appreciate them very much. They are each dedicated professionals who bring various talents to the table. A lot of time and commitment is required to answer the calling of the citizens of Waterbury – the calling to serve. And I join the Superintendent in thanking you for your dedication and service, all of you. And Dr. Ouellette, do you know when the Superintendent's appreciation day is?

SUPERINTENDENT: I don't think they have one yet. Every day, every day is...

STANGO: That certainly would be every day. And let it be known that this Board appreciates your work all the time.

Moving on now to the Consent Calendar. Does anyone wish to remove an item from the Consent Calendar? Yes, Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: I'd like to remove Item 9.13 please.

STANGO: Okay. Does anyone else wish to remove an item?

President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 9.1 through 9.12 and 9.14 through 9.23.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harkins, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, Items 9.1 through 9.12 and 9.14 through 9.23, as listed:

- 9.1 *Committee of the Whole:* Request approval of an Occupancy Agreement with StayWell Health Care, Inc.
- 9.2 *Committee of the Whole:* Request approval to participate in the State Department of Education and Public Health's "2013 Health Survey".
- 9.3 *Committee on Finance:* Request approval of the Department of Education's 2013-2014 Capital Budget Request.
- 9.4 *Committee on Finance:* Request permission be granted to Ken Yaffe, Physical Education Teacher, Walsh School, to apply for the ING Unsung Heroes Grant.

- 9.5 *Committee on Finance:* Request permission be granted to Robert Plasky, Health/Physical Education Teacher, WSMS, to apply for the Batters Up USA Grant.
- 9.6 *Committee on Finance:* Request permission be granted to Ann DiLorenzo-Mari, Health Specialist, KHS, to apply for the Rachael Greene Memorial Scholarship Grant.
- 9.7 *Committee on Finance:* Request permission be granted to Ann DiLorenzo-Mari, Health Specialist, KHS, to apply for the Stop and Shop Community Donation Grant.
- 9.8 *Committee on Finance:* Request permission be granted to Michael Stango, Health/PE Teacher, KHS, to apply for the CT Association of Schools PJ Settlement Grant.
- 9.9 *Committee on Finance:* Request permission be granted to David Sidella, PE Teacher, WMS, to apply for the Wal-Mart Local Community Contribution program.
- 9.10 *Committee on Building:* Request approval of the ED042/Phase 2 for the Wallace Middle School Addition & Alterations Project (State Project #151-0285 EA).
- 9.11 *Committee on Building:* Request approval of the ED042 for the Bunker Hill Elementary School Asbestos Abatement project.
- 9.12 *Committee on Building:* Request approval of the ED042 for the Bucks Hill Elementary School Asbestos Abatement project.
- 9.13 *REMOVED FROM CONSENT.*
- 9.14 *Committee on Curriculum:* Request permission be granted to Nicole Martone, KHS, and five chaperones to take 50 students to Lenox, MA on April 5, 2013 to visit Shakespeare and Company.
- 9.15 *Committee on Curriculum:* Request permission be granted to Trevira Boatright, KHS and four chaperones to take 49 students to Jackson, NJ on May 2, 2013 to attend Six Flags Great Adventure Marketing and Business Challenge.
- 9.16 *Committee on Curriculum:* Request permission be granted to Dea Illian, WAMS, and two chaperones to take 30 students to New York, NY on April 12, 2013 to visit Marymount Manhattan College.
- 9.17 *Committee on Curriculum:* Request permission be granted to Deborah Benjamin, WAMS, and four chaperones to take 40 students to New York, NY on May 2, 2013 to visit September 11 Memorial Site, The Museum of Tolerance, etc.
- 9.18 *Committee on Curriculum:* Request permission be granted to Paul Forcucci, CHS, and eight chaperones to take 45 students to New York, NY on April 24, 2013 to attend a Broadway performance.

- 9.19 *Committee on Curriculum:* Request permission be granted to Licia Albini Fitzpatrick, WAMS, and four chaperones to take 23 students to Europe from April 12 through April 18, 2013 to visit Amsterdam, Paris, and Normandy.
- 9.20 *Committee on Curriculum:* Request permission be granted to Vincent Balsamo, KHS, and three chaperones to take 30 students to Lewiston, ME from April 3 through April 6, 2013 to attend the Pine Tree Regional FIRST Robotics Competition.
- 9.21 *Committee on Curriculum:* Request permission be granted to David Nicholson, KHS, and four chaperones to take 50 students to New York, NY on April 23, 2013 to visit Hayden Planetarium.
- 9.22 *Committee on School Facilities & Grounds:* Use of school facilities by school organizations and/or City departments.
- 9.23 *Committee on School Facilities & Grounds:* Use of school facilities by outside organizations and/or waiver requests.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

Item #9.13 – Committee on Curriculum

BROWN: Ladies and gentlemen, with the approval of the Committee on Curriculum the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the new High School at Night Program, **so moved.**

SWEENEY: **Second.**

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. Discussion – Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: I've really been kicking this around a lot. I have to say I'm in favor of the concept of trying to provide additional support for some of these kids that are in need and I'm not clear on what we're approving because we were told it's gonna be a pilot program but it appears we're approving the entire program. My concern, as I mentioned the other night, is that we're looking at, just round figures, we're gonna spend over \$800,000 on 140 kids, it's about \$6,000 a kid. If half of them don't show up it turns out to be about \$12,000 a kid. And I'm wondering what, I still don't understand the roll out to all the schools. I honestly would prefer that we simply did it at the Enlightenment School where we've already got all these kids identified, it would then allow us to move the kids to the evening program and maybe bring some more of our kids out of our other high schools into that program. I'm just concerned that, there's another concern that I have is that you know the kids that go there during the day have to take City buses but yet we're gonna provide transportation for the kids that go at night. It just looks like we're trying to give additional dollars to kids who don't seem to care, or their families don't care for them, which is an issue in itself. I've always been supportive of expanding our alternative program for the impact it would have also on the regular population at

the schools. As I said, I'm still not clear on where I want to go with this, I would prefer that we held off and have some more consideration about putting it back because I don't want to vote against it because of the concept. But the idea of rolling it out at all four high schools and providing transportation to all without really having an understanding of how it works, at the very least I'd like to have this, if it were approved, with the understanding that it's approved for these last five or six weeks of school and see how it works out before we approve of it going forward. Like I said, it's a concern of mine when we're going through the budget constraints and problems that we have that we're trying to figure out how to help kids that we can't have money for after-school programs for kids who need additional help but the kids who apparently who are not willing to take advantage of the opportunity we provide for them on a daily basis are going to be given special consideration and be given an opportunity to go on a flexible schedule, if you will, where it might be a problem for some other kids who face some of those problems but we know we've heard so many stories of kids who have these issues at home but yet they make it a priority for them to get to school and get their education and take advantage of what we provide for them. I would approve of this if it was simply started out as a night program at the newly refurbished school that we have over there which I still don't know how many additional kids are being provided with that opportunity cause one of the things we wanted when we expanded that was to get additional students from our regular ed high schools in there that are on a waiting list. From what I understand we are sending kids over there regularly unfortunately there's a need for this alternative education site probably greater than what we can provide. We also have to understand that for the kids to get into this program we have to have the parent's approval and one of the things I spoke about last week is at the very least if we can get these parents, I know there's gonna be a parental contract, but I'd like to have something where they have to show up at some point so if we're gonna provide this additional service and funding for their kids or in some cases they might be guardians of these kids, just to show them because I know from all my years, while people might know us from here, the people who remember us most was when I was with the PTA and the kids that were there because they saw you took the time to go to the school at the very least these kids need to see that someone cares enough to at least go to their school for a dinner or whatever. I know what we were talking about initially was a smaller program like it started out in Manchester where the Superintendent came from which was started out at a smaller scale and ultimately the results were there but I'm just concerned with the amount of money that we're putting out for those amount of kids without having any assurances that there's gonna be some repercussions if they don't show up. Right now they have an empty seat in the class now there's gonna be an empty seat in the class at night. And the final concern that I have is about the staffing of it. I know we want to have people that work with those kids regularly but I'm just wondering if a teacher who's been working all day at one of our schools is gonna, we'll probably have to do some kind of a flexible schedule also, I don't expect them to stay there every night after working all day and expect to be as successful as they'd like to be. So that's another one of the concerns I have, I'm just wondering whether we could, if we're gonna be allowed to interview and select people that really want to do this and it fits their schedule and all that kind of stuff. So there's a lot of questions I have, like I said I'd prefer that we have held off on this but I know there's been a lot of work going into it and quite honestly I'd like to hear what others have to say because right now I'm still not sure where I want to go with this. Like I said, I understand the concept, I'd like to expand the Alternative School and to me expansion of the Alternative School into a night program would be the best way to go.

STANGO: Commissioner Hayes, would you like more clarification, maybe Mrs. Cullinan can answer some questions right now.

HAYES: Quite honestly, I've asked all the questions and that's why some of the answers that I got has me going back and forth. My concern still is, while everybody thinks it's the right thing to do, I've been around long enough to know that chances are we're not going to have 100% of those kids show up, we're gonna have to staff all four schools at all four sites, we have to figure out the best staff to go there and again, if anybody wants to address this, Superintendent, Mrs. Cullinan, I'd like to have this discussion. It seems like I've been the only one discussing this, I'd like to hear what others have to say because it is a commitment here to something that I'm just fearful that's going to be too costly for the return on the dollars that we're putting forward, that maybe we could use those dollars in a better way. Like I said, maybe just make an evening program at the Alternative School for these kids that's the same as the daytime program. So, I mean this sort of came up on us quickly, I know we had talked about it and the Superintendent wasn't at our Workshop so that's why I went in to talk to her about it today. I'm still not clear, and if anybody else wants to ask any questions that may help me move one way or another. Chances are if I vote against it I'll be on record voting against it and if I say go for it I can sort of sit back and hope that it works. But I do have genuine concerns about this due to the cost, first, and secondly the perception of providing a special program for kids where we're at the point now that we have a lot of other kids that maybe could use some additional help and we're reaching out to these kids who at the current point, for sometimes legitimate reasons but simply aren't taking advantage of the day to day opportunity we provide for them in all our high schools.

SUPERINTENDENT: I'd just like to say that I was, originally, Waterbury is not Manchester and Manchester is not Waterbury and we did begin this pilot program in Manchester as well and like all good pilot programs, I do agree, you need to begin small and build on your successes. And I do understand your concerns Commissioner with regards to transportation and that includes the day program because I'm concerned as well as the day program and I will be looking for opportunities to transport students and not from the city-bus perspective. I think we have an obligation as a district, a school district, to provide transportation equitably for all students. So I will be looking into that. This has been in the Alliance application since last year. I do have growing concerns with regards to drop-out prevention initiatives and as you are aware there's a new calculation for that drop-out percentage that will be, and has been in place, and will be afforded to each high school in Connecticut. We also will be looking at, as well as nationally, we also will be looking at personalized learning and not just looking at seat time where students who choose to take a more aggressive approach to learning and actually a more streamline approach to learning where they can perhaps do their high school graduation time in three years versus four years, so there's gonna be a spectrum of learning. I too supported the single site satellite program but after listening to my team – Chief of Staff Mr. Guidone and Chief Academic Office Mrs. Cullinan, they certainly have shared with me some of their concerns and some of the highlights that I truly didn't even think about and just the capacity that we could reach out to some of these students it made me think differently. So I'd like for Mrs. Cullinan to address a few things and then hear from Mr. Guidone with regards to the cost effectiveness of this program and that it's more cost effective this way than what I had originally thought. Mrs. Cullinan.

CULLINAN: Well I think the whole point of this program is to reach kids and to give them a certain amount of dignity and self-respect that they are staying on their same campus, that they will be familiar with the administrative and teaching staff, and we feel that there will be more buy-in from the students along with their parents because they will be right there and have the opportunity to go back into the day program if they're successful. As the Superintendent mentioned, we're concerned about drop-out rates. We also will have additional Carnegie units being required. We're looking at our students who are 16 and 17 years old and giving them the opportunity to get a high school diploma. I know all of you are very familiar with the research around students that are that age and have fewer Carnegie units and don't see the possibility of being able to graduate high school. We also know all the research that says what happens, the cost to society when a student drops out of school. So our whole goal here is to give our students the ability to graduate from high school and to go onto career-ready or college. We want to focus on 160 students. We have about 3,600 high school students and we're focusing on the 160 that are really causing some concerns in our school whether it's academic concerns, emotional, behavioral, social, academic concerns, we want to focus on these kids. And Commissioner is right, when I met with Commissioner Hayes today, we did say that we'd like to look at this as a pilot although we wrote it into the Alliance Grant as a full year program but with any new program we need to look at it, maybe survey parents, students, and staff who work in it, to see how we can tweak it and make it better to meet all of our students' needs. So at the end of the school year we would come in front of you and describe the strengths of it and maybe some of the weaknesses where we would need to make some changes. I do think that we looked at and we tried to be cognizant of fiscal restraints and our students that are coming into the schools will come on the inbound bus, that first tier of buses that are coming to our high schools to pick up the kids to bring them home. So it will be one additional run at the end of the day to bring the kids back home but just for safety, going home at 7:00 at night and 6:00 on Fridays, we felt that we would not want to give our kids bus tickets and have them come on a city-bus and that it was our requirement to bus the kids. We also considered having all 160 go to one site and we felt that it might cause some discipline issues and our whole idea is to get our kids engaged academically. So if they went to their own schools they had staff that they were familiar with and were familiar with them, we'd have pupil personnel on site to talk about engagement and to get these kids on the right road. We're also looking at student success plans for the future and we just felt that having it on-site, and we did a lot research, we talked to a lot of principals and vice principals in our district and in other urban districts, and they all seemed to feel that an on-site program worked best. And we did go and visit Manchester, remember Manchester is about one third of the size so we're kind of tripling our program to meet our kids' needs. We've been working on this, we've had committee meetings, we've had committees who worked on it, so we really put some effort in around the research. So I hope, Commissioner Hayes, I've answered some of your questions and I know when we spoke today that we were in line with having this as kind of a pilot with the idea of continuing it in September but coming back to the Board and giving you kind of an update.

HAYES: One other issue that I'm still not clear about is who we select to teach there, how this impacts with the WTA agreement, is it a more senior person, how do we disqualify somebody if we don't, just my concern that they put in a long day and I'm wondering how effective they can be at night?

CULLINAN: Well one thing we did was to do a schedule that if you were the English/Language Arts teacher you'd only work two of the days out of the five days. If you were the Math teacher you'd only work two of the days so that you wouldn't be expected to work seven hours and then another five hours. We see what you're saying. We have worked on some postings and the principals of the school will be able to hire staff. So we're hoping that it's a match between our kids' needs and the staff who choose to work in this kind of a program knowing that it's new and that it will be challenging because these will be some of students that are bringing challenges with them.

HAYES: Thank you. I appreciate you taking the time today to discuss this. Like I said, I would like to see this, my concern is that we're putting it forward for a full year but the understanding is you're gonna come back to us. Again, it's just a difficult thing for me to; I've been wrestling with it back and forth. Like I said I think what I have are legitimate concerns, I also trust that Mrs. Cullinan has done her work on it and I guess I've just seen so many of these efforts fail, I hate to be negative, I've seen so many of these efforts fail that we've made attempts to over the years and then again with the financial situation we're in to put that kind of money out there with an expectation in my heart and in my mind that these kids aren't going to show up, that's still what causing me to have all this back and forth. So if you guys all vote for it then it will be a lot easier for me. Like I said, I have genuine concerns but I also respect the opinions of the Superintendent and Mrs. Cullinan and Mr. Guidone. This isn't an easy one for me.

SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. Guidone, do you have any comments?

GUIDONE: I, too, had an opportunity to talk to Pat today and discuss it further with Anne Marie and the Superintendent. I think that, it appears to me at least, the academic staff has done good research, good analysis, included our own building people on what they think is best. Pat, I share some of your concerns because we've seen programs from Saturday Academy to Summer School have less participation than we'd like but the alternative is what do you do with these children? We've got children, they're our children, this seems like a reasonable direction to try to reach kids that haven't been reached who are not succeeding in their current state. In my opinion, it's a good idea, and to do nothing is not a solution to me. From the money standpoint, the budget that was projected to be a central location budget, this actually projects out slightly less, it's still a lot of money, because the other proposal contemplated essentially hiring full time staff, and administrators, and other individuals which would already be in the four buildings and obviously extending some additional amounts of time but not to the extent. And I, too, share the . . . of potentially reaching a critical mass in one place in the evening until we have a chance to sort out some of the logistical concerns and we might, as the pilot goes on, decide that maybe a direction in the future and some modification of that. In my estimation it's certainly worthy of proceeding with a pilot and then trying to figure out where we are at the end of the school year. Obviously Mrs. Cullinan and her staff will make . . . as to how it should proceed or if it should be modified some way in the new school year.

STANGO: Commissioner Van Stone.

VAN STONE: Paul answered one of my questions, the question is gonna be how does it cost out one side versus four sides and you said it's a little cheaper this way because we can do the part time, a couple of extra hours a day at each school model.

CULLINAN: Hourly staff.

VAN STONE: Why couldn't that be done with just more hourly staff in one site?

CULLINAN: I think he's comparing the original program which at that point we felt we wanted to hire staff just dedicated to this program, hire administrators and teachers, full time, contracted folks, to be just in this program. With this alternative we are hiring staff on an hourly basis like we do Adult Ed, 21st Century After School Programs.

VAN STONE: Would it be possible to do this hiring model in one site?

CULLINAN: We would probably then still have teachers who have taught all day at a site and then come to this site to teach again. It's possible, I don't know if it would make the most sense. But, again, if you let us try it we will come back with what works and doesn't work because we wanted to also survey staff at the end of this to see what they feel, if this was working, if they were meeting the kids' needs or if we need to go to a different model. Originally when we had looked at it we were going to hire specific staff, certified, a regular like high school staff that would come in at two o'clock in the afternoon and work to seven or eight.

SUPERINTENDENT: One of the points I wanted, still stay connected to your school and I think that's huge, that even I did not even think of because this is going to be a continuum of learning from night school. Our goal is to transition back, back into day, back into the comprehensive high school, it's a continuum, it's not the end all be all. Some students, in my experiences, have truly liked the evening program better however our goal too is to be able to transition back into, when appropriate and when ready, into perhaps a day program, not the most restrictive programming. So it can work. It has to be in able to flow, I think, for the program. And to Mrs. Cullinan's point, that thinking it would be easier at one site, it's still keeping them connected to their school which they know, which makes sense too.

VAN STONE: And I understand that. I guess my hopes would be, if it were at one site or maybe even two sites, depending on how attendance worked out, I think we have a better chance of success in some cases where all the kids show up and we end up at a place, wow, this is successful, this is doing its job, we have to bring it out to the four schools as opposed to starting them in the four schools and the potential for each of them to be a third full. I'd hate to be a cynic but that is my concern that we're gonna put it out in four schools and while we will be helping certain kids . . . spread ourselves very thin over four places and I think the moral, frankly, in those schools, the teachers would be, we're here, we're putting our time in and I see Jane and Johnny every night and nobody else where if we were able to consolidate it into one or two at least every day we had this concession the teachers could feel that they were doing something, the kids would see peers there, so they wouldn't say why am I the only sucker here this week? And not to be too cynical, but I think we set ourselves up better for success in the long run by starting in a more concentrated model.

STANGO: Commissioner Harkins.

HARKINS: I'm not sure about the argument about it being a cheaper model because, like you said, it's the model where the teacher teachers all day and then goes there, wouldn't that be the same as Adult Ed that's happening now? So it's not necessarily an issue about cheaper, and I also don't know if I agree with the staying connected argument because certainly these students can transition back in and it's not, you know, a slight to their self-esteem or image, to be at another facility than their neighborhood school. However, you've made an excellent point earlier, you kind of touched on, about the discipline. Currently we have alternative programs in which students are combined and they are not what you'd call under control. Sometimes to the point where I think the public would be quite surprised and appalled at some of the problems that occur during the day with discipline and keeping control of that and separating those students gives the opportunity to have a smaller group that could be more controlled and hopefully actual learning can happen there. So for that reason I'm in support of splitting it.

STANGO: Commissioner D'Amelio.

D'AMELIO: The question I have is what exactly is preventing these students from taking advantage of the opportunity they have right now to learn in a regular school? I mean I feel like we're enabling them to continue on a path that when they get into the real world, employers are not going to make special accommodations if they can't show up for work or show up for work being tardy. Aren't we enabling them? I mean if they don't want to go to school, every opportunity is there for them to take advantage of. I would rather see that money go towards extra learning opportunities for those kids who are in school, who do want to learn. I'm, this has me a little, also, it was quoted that grant officials expect to see the grant repeated. What happens to those kids who say are still not ready, what happens to those kids, do they go back into the school they were in?

CULLINAN: Our expectations is that the grant will be repeated. But again...

D'AMELIO: But it's not guaranteed.

CULLINAN: Right. But just to answer your other question. We wrestled, the committee wrestled with the enabling piece of it. A part of the program will work with the students not just on self-esteem but writing a resume, getting a job, being at a job on time. In fact, the Friday-day what we want to do is try to get the students internships or even worksites, so we've been working with some outside agencies to do that and they would get some Carnegie units based on getting to work on time, being appropriate, talking to their employers about their sense of the job, that they're there on time, that they're working efficiently, that they're following protocol on a job site. So you're absolutely right, this isn't, they're going to be expected to really complete their work academically, probably participate in some kind of social or emotional group, because these kids are coming with challenges, the kids that the principals are looking at are students that have attendance issues right now for a variety of reasons. Some due to poor academics, poor self-esteem, others have responsibilities, family responsibilities at home. So we're trying to take all of those kinds of excuses off the table and say now we're offering you this program, this is your opportunity to come to school on time, to complete your academics, to participate in some social groups, and to possibly have a work site. So

it's not going to be a kind of a program that is just going to stamp them that they are there, they will need to complete academic work and challenging academic work because what I have found from almost 12 years now of doing expulsions is that we have many, many bright kids. When I do the expulsion I look at their work, at their cumulative, at their CMT scores, their CAPT scores, we have really bright kids who have made some really bad choices and may not have the family backup, so I think what we're trying to do is give them one more shot at a high school diploma and, you know...

D'AMELIO: But don't we already have alternative schools?

CULLINAN: For about 130. What we're finding is that we need sites and slots for more than just what that school can handle right now. As I said earlier, we have 3,600 high school students.

D'AMELIO: Why is this a night school? Is it they can't get up in the morning?

CULLINAN: I don't think we're looking at that, we're looking at staffing, we looked at models, national models, and a lot of high schools are restructuring and looking at later in the afternoon programs.

SUPERINTENDENT: Which is also the research for teenagers. If you look, your high schools, I think it's Wilton who starts at 9:00 for high school, West Hartford, they're moving towards later start times. I know this is extreme, however, I think for CIAC interscholastic sports purposes we don't seem to move in that direction but...

CULLINAN: The other thing is we wouldn't have a site available if we have this alternative program during the day.

STANGO: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: I'm listening to all my fellow colleagues and they all have valid concerns but I can tell you very easily why I will support this. One – it tells our kids we're not giving up on them, we're not giving up on our kids. Secondly – it reduces drop-out rates, okay, and if you know that kids that drop out and don't attain a high school diploma, the chances for them to succeed, the chances of them of getting a job, a decent paying job, is slim to none. So what does that lead to, that leads to the opportunities to do something negative, that leads to the possibility of incarceration. So when you talk about the budget and what this costs, think about the cost of incarceration. So this for me is a minimum down payment for our kids' education. So we need to think realistically. And it's not a cookie-cutter approach, our kids learn differently. We don't learn the same way, some of us have responsibilities at home that unfortunately, through no fault of their own, they have to take care of their siblings because they have a single parent home so they can't make it to school on time. And it's not because they don't want to go to school, it's that they have a family obligation, family is important for some of these folks. And I'm not saying education is not, but they have a responsibility. So we need to think about it a little bit differently, and I appreciate all the work you've done, Superintendent, Anne Marie Cullinan, Paul, because for me, I've said it before, I thought this was an out of the box until Commissioner Hayes corrected me, but I still think it's a heck of an opportunity, I never heard of it, I think we

need to really think about instead of what the negative things may come out of it is think about the positive things that we can really gain from this and I'm all in favor of being optimistic and our kids deserve to know that we stand behind them regardless of the circumstances that they're surrounded with in their household. And so I'm in full support. Thank you.

HAYES: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: I think we do have a pilot program here cause I think 40 kids in each of our high schools is way less than teachers would recommend for a program of this idea. So I think we do have a pilot program and we're talking about running it through the end of the school year and reassessing it. One of the things that has always disturbed me about our 16 and 17 year olds who drop out from school and then go to Adult Ed is that they do miss out on that opportunity to go to the prom and after parties and the class day, all those things, and I talked with some of them that have gone that route and that's a piece of your life that you lose you can't ever get back, it only happens once and if it goes by you it's gone. So be able to hang onto that opportunity, I think if you take students out of the school that they're accustomed to, out of the area where they live, where their friends are, where there are activities after school hours, I think if you take them out of that they will be less inclined to show up for this alternative program. So, you know, and I'm not a big fan of this idea of all schools should go to a later start time given there are a few who maybe can't get up in the morning or can't, for whatever reason, is going on at home, can't get to school on time, but I think for those few that it really affects this is the way to go rather than to penalize everybody or to change the whole system for what amounts to better than a handful of students. So any time we have to put that much money on the table we should be concerned and we should be thinking carefully about whether or not it's money well spent. I think there's a chance here that it will be money well spent and I think if we don't ever try it we'll never know. But I, myself, feel much more comfortable with having students stay in the school that they're districted to, come in later in the afternoon for that extra help, and access what happens there. If the student is not progressing in that setting also, we have to look elsewhere, we have to get them out of there and put a slot in for another student who truly wants to try. But I think there are large numbers of students who for whatever reason are not able to assimilate in the regular daytime program, they need that little extra approach, I think this is the way to do it. I think you're also taking out some distractions from the very student that Commissioner D'Amelio talked about, the student that is there during the day and really wants to learn and for whatever reason this student is presenting a distraction. We now move that distraction to the evening program where there's a little more support. But, again, I think it all comes down to we need to really keep an eye on it and make sure that it's doing what it wants to do for every single student and if a student is not gaining that full benefit for that program, we need to get that student out of there and allow the others to grown in the program. So I support it, I think we should try it, and we should look at it at the end and assess whether we want to keep doing it going forward, but I think we have to try.

STANGO: Commissioner Morales.

MORALES: I got a couple of questions. Commissioner Rodriguez brought up a good point, I believe it's a great program, but do we know exactly why these students are not, are missing classes? Everybody is an individual especially in learning, but do we know,

we're getting a program that we got to know why they're having problems. Also, right now we have these students in our hands and we're gonna be able to do a lot of great things but we have to find out that. Commissioner D'Amelio brought up a great point, right now we have them in our hands, we have to teach them responsibilities but also we have to find out why they're not going. And I believe if everything goes in place it will be a great program but I think we have to get more into the problems, you know, because once they get out from high school I mean they're not going to come to any jobs, any problems that you have. You start missing work you're gonna get fired. But I believe now they're teenagers, I believe now that we have to address these issues.

CULLINAN: We have criteria built into the program. Typical characteristics of the type of students who might do well in this program but once we get your permission, our school counselors, they know who their students are and they'll be making referrals to the principal as to I think this student might do well in this program because of these reasons. And the reasons, some of them will be academic reasons, some will be emotional, behavior reasons, some distractibility. So the school counselors will really be integral in this planning process right now. But part of the program will deal with you need to be here on time just as you need to be at a work site on time because there are requirements to continue to holding a job and they are that you need to come every day. So I mean it will be, a piece of it will be some tough love too with, we will have pupil personnel on staff every night to work with the students too around, not just job skills and academic skills but just life skills like these are the expectations you have to fulfill to be a member of society and be successful.

SUPERINTENDENT: I'd just like to add also that our biological clocks are a little bit different here and that even our Fire Department, Police Department, some of the other careers, they're just not nine to three jobs, they're second shift, third shift, we have a lot of parents that certainly are around the clock and certainly what suits their needs with regards to employment. We certainly have our share of the workforce that works alternative hours, second and third shift as well. Many of our parents also are working those same hours also. So I just wanted to point that out.

STANGO: Any further discussion? Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: I guess the question is what if they don't show up, what are the consequences? As Commissioner Morales said if you don't show up for work you get fired. In this case if they don't show up we're just gonna send them back to their school with no expectations for anything. That's, I don't know how this is a learning exercise unless we know that these kids are gonna go. And, again, just looking at the dollar, we're talking \$875,000. If 100 kids show up that means we're spending \$8,750 on those extra 100 kids that show up. I'm all for investing in kids but we do invest in these kids on a daily basis, they have an opportunity to show up every day, we have programs for them. See my thought with the alternative program was set up to simply get the kids into that smaller setting as a result of whatever issues they had and to me it just makes sense to just expand it in the evening. It's not about not wanting a program it's about whether or not it would be more effective if we just simply had a night and day shift at the alternative school as opposed to this thing of how can I have some teachers stay late and hope that the kids show up and if they don't show up, oh well. There's no consequence, you got to tell your kid you show up or else, there's nothing like that, there's no "or else", they get to go back and do whatever they were doing before.

That's why I said I'd love to think that it's, and when I first got on the Board I thought all that stuff too, but I've been on long enough to see how we have the right intentions and we go out but the fact of the matter is they don't buy in. If they don't want to go to school in the morning what makes you think they're not going to have an excuse to not go in the afternoon? They're all say yes now because oh, maybe I got a chance to get through this but we're gonna find out for whatever the circumstances are they're going to have trouble getting there at two o'clock in the afternoon as well. I appreciate the fact that we all chimed in on this because I sort of felt I was out there all by myself. While I disagree, I respect everybody's position on this and I guess I have nothing more to say on it right now. Could there be an option?

BROWN: Let's vote.

HAYES: Maybe we do an amendment to say that we'll only approve it to the end of the school year and then prior to it going forward we have some reports back on what the results were, what the impact was, what the success rate was, what the failure rate was. You see right now we're putting in a whole program and hoping that it works and hoping that we get back to us. While I trust they will, the problem if they get back to us and say it didn't work then we lost all this money and time and we have other kids who probably could have benefited from some other kind of program, the kids who really want to take advantage it. So it really is a tough issue for me but when I put a price tag on it like that and I look and we're spending an extra, if they all show up it's an extra \$6,000, or \$6,500 per kid, I don't know.

STANGO: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: I am in support of this and I think this is just like any other program pretty much that is introduced as a pilot that we access it at the end of the school year. As far as whether or not kids show up, we really don't know because we haven't allowed the program to go forward. So if that does indeed happen, Commissioner Hayes, then at the end of the program, I trust, we will get the proper and thorough assessment of this program. So until then we're sitting here debating this and meanwhile we need to vote on it and I think we should trust that we will get the proper assessment, let's go forward with the program, and I agree with Commissioner Rodriguez, this at least gives our students the confidence that we have confidence in them. And we also need to address the drop-out rate. So let's move forward instead of speculating what we think is going to happen and allow the program to go forward and then access it at the end of the school year. So I'm in support of this.

STANGO: So I'm in support of this. All in favor.

HAYES: Can we have a roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #9.13:

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, Harkins, Harvey, Rodriguez, Sweeney, Van Stone,
and President Stango - 7

Nays: Commissioners D'Amelio, Hayes, and Morales - 3

STANGO: Motion passes.

11. COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES

- 11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harkins and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve that WTA Grievance 12-13-18, heard by the Committee on March 14, 2013, be denied.**

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Could you give us a brief outline of what this grievance was concerning?

HARKINS: The grievant was concerned that she was passed over for a position she thought she deserved. Unfortunately it was determined that the grievance process wasn't the correct forum because of the specifics of this case fell between the powers of this Committee.

HARVEY: Thank you.

STANGO: Any further discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstentions, motion carries.

12. COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

- 12.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve that permission be granted to Donna Vignali, CHS, and four chaperones to take 50 students to Orlando, Florida from April 14 through 21, 2013 to visit Disney World and Universal Studios.**

STANGO: Motion is made and seconded. Any discussion? Commissioner Van Stone.

VAN STONE: Usually when we get one of these there is some backup saying these are the reasons for it. Can you just give us a quick run-down for what we're hoping to...

VIGNALI: It's a Senior Class trips and it's to Universal Studios, they hold a Grad Night, which is open to seniors all over the country and they close the park to people and they open the park at six o'clock at night to one o'clock in the morning, that will be the last night of our trip and the students will have the opportunity, they have concerts and they bring in talent the students know and they set up dance floors, so it's like a big graduation party. And we will be going to Disney prior to that. They will have three days to visit Disney World and a day at the water parks.

VAN STONE: The only other question I have is in the contract, and I could just be reading it wrong, under the title "security", one it says security is not included in the package price and then there's another bullet but I guess you have to purchase a minimum of seven hours each night at \$24 an hour. Have you figured out how to cover that? Is that part of the request?

VIGNALI: No, it's not. The students are paying for the trip themselves. We have enough chaperones going with us. We have myself, three other teachers, we have a

parent, we have a substitute teacher, and another adult coming with us. So we figured between all of us, we're gonna do the tape the doors kind of thing. I've done this trip before several years ago at Wilby and we've had no problems. I think we can handle security.

VAN STONE: Okay, thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Just a couple of questions. How are the students selected to go on this trip?

VIGNALI: We had a meeting, it was open to all Seniors. We had a meeting of parents, invited all parents back in September, presented it to the parents and gave everyone the opportunity, explained to them. We had a payment plan, they started with their first deposit back on the evening of the meeting and if they committed to it that time we had them paying at different stages to know, we just hit our final deposit.

BROWN: And is this the first time Crosby is doing this?

VIGNALI: To my knowledge it is. The last time I did this trip I did it with Wilby.

STANGO: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: What is the relevance to learning on this trip?

VIGNALI: We chose to do this during vacation because we didn't want the kids to miss school. And you know, quite honestly Commissioner, a lot of our kids are never given the opportunity to travel and to visit Disney and to be able to be out and meet other kids, like I said, Universal Studios, there's gonna be a lot of kids, a lot of seniors from all the different high schools, and to give them those opportunities to just get out into the world because a lot of time our kids are just stuck in the neighborhood and you know where they are and they're not open to all this and we just wanted to give them the experience to be able to be on their own, to be able to prove that they can do it to themselves, and I think it helps boost their self-esteem, their confidence, I think it helps in all those ways.

HARVEY: So you're saying it's like a networking for the seniors.

VIGNALI: Yah, and I think it's also a reward for the seniors, I mean they finally made it and they're graduating. I think it's something to help them to see what's out there, to get them out into the world and be able to be on their own, they're not going to be totally on their own, but to give them the opportunity to be away from home and away from Waterbury and to see other parts of the country which I don't believe a lot of our kids have the opportunity to do.

STANGO: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: I was just wondering why this is separated and wasn't just on our regular thing. Is there a particular reason for that?

CLERK: It wasn't on the Workshop agenda.

VAN STONE: It just missed the Workshop agenda deadline.

HAYES: I have no problem with it because it's during their vacation time anyways but the fact is they had to raise a lot of money and I doubt that some of those kids who never had the opportunity, I've been some of those kids have already been there. I mean that's just the way I see it because I know that's, it's the way it is. The kids that don't have anything weren't able to raise these dollars. I've been through that myself before, you had to do a lot of fundraising, I was just wondering if there was some fundraising to allow some kids who couldn't afford it to go.

VIGNALI: Commissioner, I beg to differ with you because there are quite a few kids that I really would not have suspected would have been able to go who are going on the trip and are very, very excited about it.

STANGO: Just one minute Mrs. Vignali.

SWEENEY: I think my actual question will probably be to Paul Guidone, I know this has come up before when students are on a school-sponsored trip during a vacation break, what the insurance implications for that? Are we okay?

GUIDONE: The normal would apply, no difference.

STANGO: Anything else? Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Just on a note, I want to thank you very much because this is your vacation to and you're choosing, you and the other chaperones and other teachers are choosing to spend it with the students and give them this opportunity. So thank you for your dedication.

VIGNALI: And it is on a bus for 24 hours; I just want you all to know that. Thank you.

STANGO: All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 13.1 through 13.5, as listed:

13.1 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:

Atkinson-Heyward, Kylee L. – Instructional Tutor, Bucks Hill, maximum of 10 months, 18 hours per week, \$32.00 per hour, non-union/without benefits, funded by Title I.

Frenis, Kristin – Pre-k Classroom Assistant (replacing Angelina Irizarry who resigned), ECEP, salary and benefits per the SEIU agreement, funded by School Readiness Grant.

Meyer, Sara E. – Instructional Tutor, Bucks Hill, maximum of 10 months, 18 hours per week, \$32.00 per hour, non-union/without benefits, funded by Title I.

Nemense, Lisa – Instructional Tutor, Bucks Hill, maximum of 10 months, 18 hours per week, \$32.00 per hour, non-union/without benefits, funded by Title I.
 Pino, Katie S. – Instructional Tutor, Bucks Hill, maximum of 10 months, 18 hours p/week, \$32.00 per hour, non-union/without benefits, funded by Title I.
 Tirenzi, Timothy – Substitute Teacher, 21st Century Downtown Academy, Cohort 8/Project 2, salary according to contract.
 Zhuta, Rakibe – Substitute Pre-k Classroom Assistant, \$9.95 per hour, no benefits.

13.2 Teacher transfers:

Teacher	From	To	Date
Ahlert, Noelle	Duggan Spec Ed	Gilmartin Spec Ed	3/4/2013
Bonaldi, Gary	Hopeville PE/Health	WCAHS PE/Health	8/2013
Bonnett, Derek	Crosby English	WCAHS English	8/2013
Lindley, Carly	Crosby English	WCAHS English	8/2013
Dest, Sharon	WAMS Spec Ed	WCAHS Spec Ed	8/2013
Formato, Jennifer	Wallace Guidance	WCAHS Guidance	8/2013
Franceskino, Jen	Crosby Math	WCAHS Math	8/2013
Iannucci, Donald	Kennedy Science	WCAHS Science	8/2013
McDonald, Ryan	Crosby Soc. Stud	WCAHS Soc. Stud	8/2013
Paradis, Sara	Crosby PE/Health	WCAHS PE/Health	8/2013
Perugini, Ellen	Crosby Math	WCAHS Math	8/2013
Sylvester, David	Crosby Soc. Stud	WCAHS Soc. Stud	8/2013
Toucet, Nyree	Crosby Guidance	WCAHS Guidance	8/2013
Wilson, Maureen	Sprague K	Chase Reading	03/25/13

13.3 Resignations:

Keidel, Kris – Early Childhood Education Supervisor, effective 03/28/13.
 Lopez, Francesca – Speech Language Pathologist, CHS, effective 02/08/13.

13.4 Leave of absence requests:

Bette, Rachel – Hopeville Bilingual Basic Skills, requesting an unpaid childrearing leave of absence from 05/22/13 through the end of the school year.
 D’Agostino, Jamie – Chase grade 4, requesting an unpaid childrearing leave of absence from 03/18/13 through the end of the school year.
 Nowacki, Jennie – WMS Physical Education, requesting an unpaid childrearing leave of absence from 04/29/13 through the end of the school year.
 Perrelli, Andrea - Wilson Kindergarten, requesting an unpaid childrearing leave of absence from 03/27/13 through the end of the school year.

13.5 Adult Education appointments effective March 22, 2013:

Nouchkious, Omar – French (Enrichment Program), 2 hours p/wk @ \$24 p/hr.
 Scarfone, Concetta – Spanish I & II (Enrichment Program), 4 hours p/wk @ \$24 p/hr.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries.
 Item #14 – Unfinished Business of the Preceding Meeting Only. Item #15 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Thank you President Stango, through you, I just wanted to publically acknowledge the folks that came out to support the naming of the school and just

recognize the passion and the pleas that they presented to the Naming Committee, the Ad-hoc Committee, and I just wanted to thank them for taking time out of their busy schedules and really enlightening, not only myself because I know of Eddie Rivera and Edelmiro Arroyo, some of the background and information they provided which was really heartwarming, I just wanted to publically acknowledge them and thank them for coming out and doing that.

STANGO: Anything else? Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Just to follow up, we talk about this East End school, we're gonna have that joint committee, I think we have to make a commitment to a public hearing on that, just my suggestion. You said we may have it, I think we should make a commitment that we will have it and hopefully people will get an opportunity to look in on and listen to the discussion that we have next week, I think that was a good idea to get both Boards together so we don't end up having this, the Board that we need to support us, be in the dark. It makes a lot of sense and I appreciate the fact we're able to schedule that.

There was one other thing, it's under the resignations, I just was concerned about, the resignation of our Early Childhood Education Supervisor. Can we get some more information on that, what happened with that?

GUIDONE: Like a number of our administrators and/or teachers, she attained a position elsewhere for additional money.

HAYES: That's what I figured. I just thought I'd have it out there so people understand it. It is another issue that we face, we don't have money to pay the people that we want to pay to keep them here and others are paying for them.

STANGO: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: If we have this hearing, I'm in total agreement with the hearing on the East End school, I would hope that we would try to have it somewhere in the East End to allow for those in that neighborhood to speak and to have access. So I hope we have this in the East End somewhere at one of our schools. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:06 p.m.

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