

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Brown, Commissioners Harvey (left at 8:33 p.m.), Hernandez (left at 8:33 p.m.), Pagano, Stango, Sweeney (left at 7:15 p.m.), Theriault, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone.

ABSENT: Commissioner Rodriguez.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Kathleen Ouellette, Chief Academic Officer Darren Schwartz, Director of Personnel Robert Brenker, and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

1. SILENT PRAYER

President Brown called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with a moment of silence.

SUPERINTENDENT: We have three former educators and a Commissioner to remember, Mr. Theodore Donahue, Mr. Lawrence Zollo, Mr. Vincent Festa, and Ms. Genevieve Strileckis.

Mr. Theodore Donahue was a teacher in the Waterbury Public School System for many years, ending his career as Principal of Kennedy High School. Mr. Donahue passed away Thursday, March 24, 2016.

On Tuesday, March 30, former Board of Education Commissioner, Mr. Lawrence Zollo passed away.

Mr. Vincent Festa, taught in the Waterbury School system for 30 years, first as a classroom educator and then as principal of Bucks Hill School. Mr. Festa passed away on Friday, April 1, 2016.

On Monday, April 4, Ms. Genevieve Strileckis passed away. She spent 38 years teaching as a Kindergarten teacher in Waterbury.

Let us remember Theodore Donahue, Lawrence Zollo, Vincent Festa, and Genevieve Strileckis for their service and dedication to the students of Waterbury Public Schools tonight.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Jason Van Stone led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Pagano.

PAGANO: Present.

CLERK: Vice President Rodriguez (absent). Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner J. Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Brown.

BROWN: Present.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Copy of communication dated March 15, 2016 from Civil Service certifying Nilsa Cintron for the position of HRIS Data Entry Clerk.
2. Email communication dated March 16, 2016 from James Sanders supporting naming WCA Media Center in honor of Kay Wyrick.
3. Email communication dated March 17, 2016 from Robert Goodrich regarding the Board's support to legislation.
4. Email communication dated March 21, 2016 from Trisha Norris regarding the Wendell Cross School Project.
5. Copy of communication dated March 28, 2016 from Civil Service certifying Dominique LaValle for the position of Paraprofessional.
6. Copy of communication dated March 28, 2016 from Civil Service certifying Jason Porrini for the position of HVAC Foreperson.
7. Communication dated March 30, 2016 from the Margaret Generali Foundation regarding their seventh annual awards ceremony.

BROWN: Discussion? All those in favor, opposed, motion carries.

5. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Theriault, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to allow the public to address the Board at 6:36 p.m.

BROWN: All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

Jami Dohoney had the following comments: Good evening, I'm Jami Dohoney of 39 Brackenridge Drive. I'm here to talk about Wendell Cross becoming a Pre-K through 8 grade school. My son is a student at Wendell Cross, and my husband and I couldn't be happier with the thought of him remaining at Wendell Cross through 8th grade, and as it turns out we certainly are not certainly alone. Earlier this week we assembled a parent committee at Wendell Cross in support of this initiative, and with over a dozen parents to start, we will be working together to represent the views, support, and voices of the parents in our school district. We really believe in Wendell Cross and want to see this project move forward sooner rather than later. We all strongly believe it's time to invest in the East End, specifically in East Mountain. We watched our tax dollars at work all around the city, renovating, expanding, and building new schools, and we really feel like now it's our turn. East Mountain has great neighborhoods, great families, and a great school, ranked among the highest in the city. If we don't move forward quickly with the expansion, we really run the risk of losing our neighbors. People will move to other districts, and people will not move into our neighborhood. Unfortunately, my husband and I are included in that group of people who will move out of the district, or Waterbury, all together. East Mountain is a special place and Wendell Cross is a special school. The teachers, the administrative staff, they're all top notch. Wendell Cross has a safe, nurturing environment, where our children can continue to learn and strive right up through the high school years. It's time to invest in Wendell Cross now. Our parent committee will see this through, providing our views and opinions every step of the way. We're going to do everything we can to keep our children in this thriving and learning environment. Thank you very much.

Toni Rinaldi had the following comments: My name is Toni Rinaldi. I have 3 children, 2 seniors at WAMS, and one who is a graduate of WAMS. I am here to talk about the controversy surrounding the upcoming international school trip. I can only speak about the trip my two children are scheduled to go on next week to Peru. As you know, there are no State Department travel warnings to Peru. They're traveling with trusted and experienced international travel chaperones who are their teachers, administrator, and parents. This is a life experience that they may not have if it's not for this trip. Sacrifices were made in order for them to go on this trip. But I'm here to speak from the heart. I'm in the law enforcement profession. Every day I go to work wondering that today might be the day that the unthinkable happens. I pray that it won't, and I feel blessed when it doesn't. And every day that my children go off to school, 2 here at WAMS and one who is a junior in college in downtown Chicago, and I wonder if today might not be the day that the unthinkable happens. I pray that it won't, and I feel blessed when it doesn't. But they still go to school, and they go to their job, and they have their social lives, and they are aware of the daily risks that they face in life. I think I prepared them well as to what they can do to reduce that risk. So, do I support that this trip goes as planned? You bet I do. And when they leave for the airport, I will pray the unthinkable does not happen when they're on this trip, just as I pray the unthinkable does not happen when they're at school, or in our home, or at their job, or in a movie theater, or

driving a car, or at the mall, and so on. I think you get my point. So I'm asking you to please allow the trip to Peru to go as planned. Thank you.

Jennifer Lopes had the following comments: My name is Jennifer Lopes, a resident of Terryville, who chooses every day to send my daughter, Sydney, a sophomore here at WAMS, to Waterbury schools and we couldn't be more pleased. My daughter, Sydney, is also prepared to attend the trip to Peru next week, something we've been saving for since December, 2014. Just a couple of things that I want to point out to the board today is that recently I'm not sure if you're aware, that the town of Wallingford had a group of students prepared to go to Europe, and they recently changed that because those students will be going to Peru for their trip, as a result of the travel ban on Europe. As a matter of fact, students from the town of Bristol left today for Peru, so I think it's very important that we take those things into consideration. One thing Attorney Wihbey mentioned to us at an informational session prior to this meeting this evening, is that there was a national travel advisory alert and warning across the globe. That actually does not exist for Peru, so I would be very interested in seeing that document that she referenced. Lastly, I see on the agenda, there are many other trips on your agenda this evening to approve for students to go to New York, other major cities, Denver, Colorado, etc. At what point does the board decide that no travel will occur for any students of Waterbury? So, in closing, besides the subject of reimbursement which is of utmost concern in the event that this occurs, and the fact that, you know, we would like to know if the residents of Waterbury are prepared to ensue the burden ...that would come obviously passed onto them for \$300,000 that it costs for these trips combined, in addition to all the clothing specifically that we bought for this trip, vaccinations that had to occur for this, and other ancillary things that would not have normally been purchased by families unless they were going on this trip. Just in closing, I really question the power that this fine board has if they've approved this trip for several months, and now the Mayor can come in at the 11th hour and override that. Thank you.

Jose Bodon Orsini had the following comments: Hello. My name is Jose Bodon Orsini. I am a student at Wilby High School and I want to thank you guys for listening to our voices. So, what I want to talk about is our trip to Paris. I just find it very unfair how someone can just make the decision for us, although, we have our own voices, like I said. We have worked very hard to make this all happen and make this trip so important for all the students on the Paris trip. This trip is one in a lifetime deal for a lot of us. At the high school, no one knows where it's going to take us. We don't know where we're going to end up. We don't know anything. So, I feel like this will be a life changing experience and we are looking forward to being able to go. I trust my teachers and my fellow classmates. I feel the Mayor should rethink his decision because of the whole countless hours that we spent trying to make this happen. With fund raising, we had fashion shows,we had Black History month sales, shows everything. This had been one of my dreams since I was a freshman, so I've been working for this for four years, helping out every year, and I don't see why this year would be different, just because they're having terrorist attacks, although we're having terrorist attacks here ourselves. It should be our decision because we know the dangers of what's going on. We are well aware of what's going on, so if our parents and ourselves feel comfortable going to Paris, that should be our decision, no one else's. It will be greatly appreciated if you guys help change his decision.

Alicia Mortensen had the following comments: Good afternoon, my name is Alicia Mortensen. I am a senior at Wilby High School. I am here to speak on behalf of my fellow classmates because I feel like students should have a voice and should be heard. Sorry, I'm a little emotional. In the past 8 months, we have worked extremely hard for this trip, staying countless hours after school making clothes to sell to people. I never worked so hard for anything in my entire life. Many of us have jobs. We've been working countless hours, staying after school for countless hours and I feel like it's unfair and the first thing is we should have our opinion and we should be heard because it's not fair that someone else has to make the decision for us a week before the trip. It sucks, but...I'm sorry I just didn't have anything prepared. It's more emotional for me because I've been dreaming about going to Paris since I was a freshman and want to see those from my school going. I've been working so hard, and so have my classmates, so I just wanted to speak on behalf of all of us because I know we all feel the same way.

Kristy Williams Pavleus had the following comments: Hello. My name is Kristy Williams Pavleus and I am here to talk about the Paris trip. I am preparing notes and I am just here as a parent. I am very upset at this last minute change after these kids have worked so hard to make this trip happen, and a week before they're cancelling the trip. The biggest concerns of the school board and the city of Waterbury is that something will happen and it won't be covered by insurance. I can assure the board that my biggest worry is my son, and if I feel confident in the teachers, in our school and our children to go and be safe and come back, I believe that the Mayor should also listen to us and approve this trip to Paris. We are America; we are the land of the free and the home of the brave. And if we bow down to these terrorists and cancel trips and don't go places, they win. Please say yes to Paris.

Anita Watkins had the following comments: Good evening. I am here to advocate for them. I am the person who has caused all of this. I am the one who was supposed to take the kids to Paris. I want you to know that this is not just a trip for them. Every one of the 20 students participating in the field trip has had to be a participant in my college preparatory club which means that they have all been accepted to universities and colleges. That's what the criteria was to attend this trip. It wasn't just a vacation. They had to work for it. They had to come back knowing that they were going to attend post-secondary institution. Another criteria for the trip was for them to work really hard. If they did, I would work with them. We did it so that their cost is \$700.00 for a week. That includes plane fare and hotels. That's a lot of work. They were also under the criteria that they would assist in this fund raising. And as you heard from them, they worked very hard. From the minute that the approval came through, we went at it. As a matter of fact we have a huge fund raiser tomorrow night which was supposed to be the last. I actually applied for a grant for this trip which I've done in the past. As a matter of fact, this is my fourth time in 10 years in going to Europe. We did get the grant. My dismay comes from the fact that on January 6th I emailed to make sure that I should proceed because there were bombings in November. So, in January I made sure I emailed the right people and I was told that we could proceed. I did this throughout, even March 3rd which was our last payment for our flight of \$20,000.00, and we paid it. The last minute impact of this trip is great. I just wish that we could have been told something 3 weeks prior, even 3 weeks prior, as you can see shirts are printed. They are ready to go. Some of the parents said we never know what could happen. It could happen here in the United States, believe me. Traveling with them, I feel very responsible for anything that

would happen. We can only pray. But I think the Mayor, I'm not sure if he's here right now, but if he made this decision, I wish he could have been here to hear our voices. This is something that is just not a trip, it has educational value. It has mathematical skills, it has history, and it has English. My students, as in the past, would get to interact from students in other countries, something that's unheard of. I do believe that I need all of you to please do all that you can so that we succeed. Thank you.

Carolyn Morrison had the following comments: Hello. My name is Carolyn Morrison and my daughter is a senior at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School and is registered for the trip to Peru. I am frankly outraged that you would revisit a decision that you looked at twice. You approved the trip, and then last week at your board meeting, it was reaffirmed that the trips would continue. I feel this is a knee jerk reaction to a tragic and scary, but very rare incident. We've been told that the city's insurance carrier won't cover terrorism or acts of violence. My question is, has it ever? Will it ever? There've been international trips every year, but for some reason, this year is the only year that the city is worried about liability within days of our travelers getting on a plane. I find that very curious. The U.S. Dept. of Transportation shows that 1,344 school transportation fatalities occurred between 2004 and 2013. That's about 134 deaths per year just from kids going to and from school. My point is that no trip is without risk, absolutely none. I don't feel you're giving credit to the trip leaders, families, and students. We've been made aware of the risks to international travel. We understand these risks, and more importantly, we accept them. You should not be bullied into reversing your previous approval due to fear and pressure from the Mayor's office. Please uphold your previous decision to allow these 3 international trips. Thank you.

Vivian Mortara had the following comments: Hi. My name is Vivian Mortara. Actually my niece is going on, hopefully, the Peru trip. I did understand that you guys, as was previously stated, that you guys did approve the trip, and that Mr. O'Leary has pressured you guys into changing your mind. I don't think it's fair that you're not here. It's very like him, however, to not be here for something like this. He's going to put pressure on you guys and make you guys reverse your decisions to allow these kids and families who put so much into fundraising for the trip. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. I'm sure none of you have been to Peru, and I'm sure most of the people here have not been to Peru, Paris, and Italy. There are other towns that are going, same advisory stands for them and they're allowing their students to go. I find it insulting that you, the Board of Ed and the Mayor's office, think that you know better for the students than the actual parents themselves.

Adriana Taplin had the following comments: Good afternoon. My name is Andriana Taplin and I am a senior here at WAMS, and I do plan to go on the Peru trip, and I'm taking my grandmother, who is my guardian, with me. I'm new to the democratic process, and I'm a registered voter now. I find it interesting that within weeks of me registering to vote, that I am now a part of the process in the city of Waterbury, and I'm just surprised that anything like this could happen. We all knew the risks, and we all knew what was happening around the world, and I know what is happening in the country now. In the United States your odds of being killed by gun fire are one in 32,250 according to the New York Times, and your odds of being killed by a terrorist attack are one in 20 million according to the Washington Post and Times. I don't understand why any of these trips would be cancelled. Every single student, every single parent, every single teacher, made a conscious decision, and for anyone to be bullied into turning back those decisions is irresponsible. What you guys are doing, is instilling cowardice

and fear into the community. This decision today, will always be with me, and with everyone who is in here, and everyone who knows about this, and it will be carried through, and I just don't think that's right. We live in America. We are supposed to be free, and to basically take that away, we're looking as to how other countries do in fear of other people. We should be able to go. Thank you.

Arlene Arias had the following comments: I just want to say nice job to the students. So, good evening, Board of Education Commissioners and Superintendent Ouellette. Tonight I would like to address two subjects. One is related to the district hiring process, and the other is parent and community engagement. The school district's administrative leaders recently submitted a proposal for a new teacher hiring process. The original contained a mechanism that would ensure those who were responsible for choosing the candidates to receive an offer of employment, would have to offer a valid reason why a minority candidate was not chosen if there was a minority candidate interviewed. This type of prompt is similar to what most organizations have as part of their Affirmative Action policies and actions around hiring goal candidates to address the need for equal access to employment opportunities. The original prompt that was part of the hiring process was changed before the Board of Education workshop even began, and now states all candidates versus minority candidates. The Waterbury Public Schools are in need of a process that supports a diverse teaching force. Identifying a goal candidate is often necessary as that demographic usually is not reflected fairly in the group. This is true of the demographics for the Waterbury Public School teachers. However, the goal candidate for organizations often changes to meet the needs to increase diversity in the work force. Because of the glaring racial disparities that exist in this district, we know that teachers of color are identified as goal candidates. Affirmative Action practices are necessary. They're necessary to address our implicit biases and ensure equal access to employment. Right now this process benefits white adults versus the children of color in our district. Keeping a hiring policy that doesn't specifically address the issue of bias, that we know, has been written about, studied and exists, and hiring is an action that supports the status quo. You, as a board, have the opportunity to be progressive, take control of this process, and make systemic change by keeping the prompt and consider reasons for not hiring a minority as part of the process. Don't let this turn into a missed opportunity. As our elected leaders, you can push the district's administrators to show their commitment to alter the striking disparity in the racial demographic of our teaching course. Let it be a way to actively fulfill the district's mission which is clearly stated on the web site of establishing itself as a leader in Connecticut for urban education.

The second topic that I, who am a co-founder of RACCE, would like to address is parent and family engagement. As we know, a key part of a student's success, is parent and parental involvement. According to researcher Lee in 2011, school barriers that impact minority involvement include: teachers' perception about the ethnicity of minority parents, teachers' perception about the capacity of minority parents, teachers' beliefs in the effectiveness of parental involvement, school friendliness and positive communications, the diversity of parental involvement when developing school policies and school leadership. Myers and Myers in 2014 also found that family structure has an impact on parent involvement. So, these pieces of research may assist the board, specifically, you Commissioner Harvey, in the school and family community partner district action team, and it's efforts to use the dual capacity building framework in approving family and community engagement. And there was just something that I read this morning about a very progressive district, not in this state, that actually requires

teacher applicants to have experience or knowledge in critical race theory. I thought, isn't that radical, but really it's not. It's progressive. Thank you.

Robert Goodrich had the following comments: Good evening Superintendent Ouellette and Board of Education Commissioners. My name is Robert Goodrich, co-founder of RACCE, an advocacy group here in Waterbury. Tonight, I will address two concerns. In August 2015, RACCE held a Black Girl Summit, and with the help of the district, we were given the opportunity to analyze important school district data as it relates to the discipline of female students. We found, and the district agreed, that disparages exist for black female students and Hispanic female students when compared to the rates and frequency of their white counterparts who are disciplined. At our first and last meeting with the district leadership staff on September 4, 2015, it was agreed that these disparities were alarming and needed to be addressed. We have yet to receive any follow-up from the district's staff about these practices and policies to be implemented that would reduce these disparities. This is alarming. We were told we would be given access to similar data for Waterbury Public Schools male students. This data would help hold our advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels. We have not been given this data. We continue to follow up with Corporation Counsel, but no credible response has been given. It has hurt our advocacy efforts. We find this equally alarming. When will the data be released? In the same vein, we asked for specific data and information about the minority teacher recruitment and planning grant and implementation grant. Specifically, we asked for the district to account for how the funds were spent and plan to be spent. This request has not been fulfilled. Most recently, we requested copies of the curriculum for the Teaching Assistant seminar which was to be funded by this grant, the Implementation grant. We asked for the number of students currently enrolled, the number of graphics of the students enrolled broken off by race and gender, and the quantitative as well as the qualitative assessments to be used to determine student and faculty programming success. This information has never been released.

Next, the Board of Education sent a letter to our State Legislative Delegation. This letter highlighted pieces of the legislation that the Waterbury Board of Education supports or opposes. We find ourselves agreeing on one important piece of legislation. We both support SB379 which focuses on minority teacher recruitment. The board didn't take a position on SB380 which would include student performance data from state mastery tests from the teacher evaluations. First, there's already a statutory body which includes various educational stake holders, and tax assessment standards. Let ... do their job. this bill cause federal back lash within an 18 month transition student succeeds at. Also, if this bill advances till it becomes statute, superintendents, principals, and teachers would not be allowed to continue to use the state master examination data in setting district, building and classroom goals. We urge our delegation to oppose SB380. We disagree on HB5551. Despite the board's reasoning for opposing it, we find this bill contains the accountability standards that were thrust upon the state after the passage of federal education legislation known as ESSA. It also insures that the state will take responsibility for accomplishing what districts fail to do. In prior communications, we stated we believe this bill is a positive for Waterbury students and families, because it guarantees the district that recruit highly qualified and effective educators by making the bill available to those who exceed expectations. That is not possible within the current WTA and Waterbury Board of Education agreement. It also insures the proper and prudent transition in and out ofnetwork schools. It

secures more community and 3rd party influence on the development turnaround plans, and secures greater amount of accountability by mandating that funds received must be used exclusively for turnaround programming in such schools. This allows parents and families in our community to believe that if a district can't successfully turn around a school, than the state can and will. But, if there's been other input from citizens or special interest groups, let it be known. We urge you to re-debate these publically, specifically SB380 and HB5551 so the public knows the board's and the district's stands on these pieces of legislation. Thank you very much.

Danielle Albert had the following comments: I hope everyone will be clapping after I speak. But, I hope you will just listen with an open mind to what I have to say. I will never claim to be 100% correct. I will only ever stand here as a parent and raise my own concerns with my own voice. Last week I sat in the background and listened to the discussion of allowing our children to travel aboard and I became very concerned. I was concerned because there wasn't more resistance to sending these kids to an area that has proved to be an extremely dangerous one, during which was one of the most volatile periods of world terrorism many of us have ever lived through. It's been said before that it's up to this board to make the hard, difficult choices, yet only Commissioner Hernandez spoke up. She said, I'll be voting no, while in fact voting yes for the sake of safety of our children. I read the paper, although I don't think insurance liability should catapult this subject to the forefront. It's important that this subject of travel is getting the proper attention. It was stated last week that fear shouldn't win. Speaking honestly we all need to be a little bit more fearful. The reality is that we are living in a time when you can't exercise enough caution when it comes to trips of this magnitude. Some might think that I am the overprotective mom who wants to keep her children in a bubble. But that's not the case because 10 years ago I would have been on a plane with my kids. When your family has been put through a military deployment, it changes every single reality and perception that you have on terrorism and you become more aware of the truth and violence that exists in this world than you ever want to be. International travel is a totally different monster, and with the most respect, I don't know how sitting with Mr. Herman or anyone else involved in city security can adequately prepare our students, staff, or parents for they can realistically encounter. Can it prepare them for what the two suicide bombers did in the Brussels airport or for what those experienced in northern Paris, after the additional bombing and mass shooting where 130 people recently died. Are the safety implications fully understood? And, I don't ever have all the answers. What precautions could any of us take to protect ourselves from an individual who has a bomb strapped to their chest? Do we have any idea of what these terrorists and extremists are capable of and will do in the name of God, religious beliefs, or for their own political gain? That, folks, is the real world we are living in. Europe is beautiful, with its exposure of history, culture, art, architecture and food. It's amazing. Yet, I was fortunate enough to travel to France as a senior, but 25 years ago, we were living in a very different world, and my children may not be doing the same things that I did. It is the job of this board to offer safer alternatives. The normal way of thinking may need to be changed just for now. Just because it's always been done, doesn't mean that it should continue to be done. Cancelling these trips, shouldn't be looked upon as a punishment, but as a pro-active way to protect our families. My parents were the baby boomers. They had air raid drills. My generation did not, and now my own daughters are exposed to lockdowns. Society changes and proper decisions need to be made to coincide with the dangers that do exist. This situation in this room should never have escalated to this point that it's at right now.

That's where the system in this city is flawed. It is up to this board to keep our children safe and make those hard choices. The kids may miss out on a once in a lifetime opportunity, but is it worth the risk, not if safe informed decisions are made, because they will have their entire lifetime to be filled with opportunities. And please believe me, all of you, I truly have the utmost respect for you for coming here and coming forward, and that's the great thing about living in this country is that we can all express how we feel. I'm just bringing a different perspective. My own life has given me that. Thank you.

Kathi Savage had the following comments: Hi. I have a son who goes to WAMS. He is a senior. I was planning on speaking tonight but as I sat at Kennedy High School, the reason that they stated the Peru trip was not happening, was because the crime rate was too high. Well, what I would like to say is that in the city of Waterbury we have a one in twenty-two chance of becoming a victim of a violent crime. That's in the city where our kids are. Last year, the city of Waterbury had 3,125 thefts. That's not violent crime, that's not murder, that's theft. So, we're worried about our kids in Peru getting pick pocketed when that can happen in our city. Our kids are seniors. We taught them right from wrong; we taught them common sense rules. They are not kindergarteners. There are 32 children going with chaperones. The common sense rules that what they follow in the U.S. will protect them in Peru, just like it would protect them in Alabama. It doesn't matter where you're going, you have to protect yourself. You need to teach them common sense. If something is going to happen to us, it's going to happen to us. And Mayor O'Leary stated in the paper that we should travel within our own country. Well, I feel safer in sending my child to Peru right now, then I do to Washington, D.C. My son is going to Boston University next year. What happened in Boston? That was a crime. That was a terror attack. New York City, there's crime everywhere. There's crime in this city. If something is going to happen, it's going to happen. We can't control that. The other reason, after we brought up our facts about crime as far as the pick pocketing and what not, she said the second reason was they spoke the Zika virus being a threat. Well, I find that very interesting since in the United States we have 312 cases of the Zika virus. In Peru, there is one case, a gentleman who contacted it in Venezuela. Peru is not Zika, it's not there. So, the board that you brought in front of us tonight, didn't do their homework. We can protect them against that. There are 61 pregnant women in the United States right now that have Zika. Also, another question I have is, they're saying OK, we'll get our money back if we don't go. Well, where is that money coming from? Is it coming from the Board of Ed., because our buildings need repair in the Board of Ed? There's programs that are going on where teachers are bringing in their own supplies, because we cannot afford them supplies. Are they willing to give us our money back? Are they willing to pay me for the time I took off from work to take my son? Are they paying me for my gas that I spent while I spent hours in the store trying to find his hiking boots? And this \$3,000 dollar number is not correct. We paid for insurance, that was another \$165.00 and I spent, and I spent almost \$500.00 in products. So, that's another thing that's crazy to me. This is American, we can't live in fear. It's not us. We need to live our lives. We can't let terrorism win. Anything can happen, the moment you walk out the door. You can get hit by a bus crossing the street. We need to live our lives. We teach our students not to bully, especially in the school system. Don't bully. Don't let other people bully you. Well, from where I stand Mayor O'Leary, he is not here tonight. He is a bully. And, I'm asking you, the Board of Ed., not allow yourselves to be bullied by him. Where is he? How can he not be here tonight? But, he makes it known on the front page of the paper that he will veto it. Who is he who makes that decision? So, that's it. I just really hope that you guys, when you put your head on the pillow tonight

that you rethink this, and not have a man who doesn't have the decency to show up, make the decision for us.

Mel Sellers had the following comments: I've listened to a lot here tonight. I'm here to voice my concern. My daughter Adriana Taplin, she spoke earlier, and I'm very proud of what she said, I think she covered everything. Eighteen months ago the trip to Peru they talked about the dangers that were involved, she's my granddaughter, I don't see where that has changed. My wife she's gonna be a chaperone but it goes beyond that point. Two years ago she went on a trip to Europe and we entrusted her and the faculty at WAMS school and we understood what the risks were at that particular time. The world that we lived in changed after 9/11. Do we stop living or do we understand what the risks are? We instill in our young adults how to go about life, living, understanding what those risks are, and keep living. I read in the paper that they talked about the insurance. It goes beyond insurance. When she went to Europe two years ago I'll tell you because I'm one that believes in education, I can't express how much she learned going abroad and I understood the risks then, I understand the risks now. I also understand the risks everyday she walks out of her house that what can happen. Every day I listen to the news, I know what goes on in New Haven, I know what goes on in Waterbury, I know what goes on in Bridgeport, I know what goes on in Hartford. Do we stop living? Do we let one person make a decision for an entire community? I'm sure that the parents that are in this room whether it's in Europe, whether it's in Peru, they understood what those risks were. If a parent does not want their student to go, that's fine but for those that are willing and understand what the risks are that we live by everyday this group should support that risk. It's easy to group everything into one and say okay, no one's gonna go. Where's the terrorism in Peru? Eighteen months ago I understood what the crime rate was there, that hasn't changed. If Europe lifted the restrictions today what does that do for Peru. The crime rate is still gonna be there. I recently went to Sonora and for those of you that don't know where that is that's Obregon, that's in Mexico. There's crime rates there also and we were limited as to what we could do, I went with a team. But you need to practice safety every day you walk out your door. It doesn't start in another country it starts at home. And if we've done our jobs as parents then we should feel comfortable with the decision that we've made. I'm comfortable with the decision of my granddaughter going. I was comfortable with the decision of her going to Europe two years ago. This is her last opportunity as a member of WAMS to venture out with the school, with some of her friends. For those of you that don't know Machu Picchu will undergo construction in a couple of years, it's going to be off limits for travel while it undergoes reconstruction and it's a great time you know for the kids to go and to learn. Thank you.

Yvette Vargas had the following comments: First I'd like to say thank you for the opportunity that you give the parents and the people of the community to come before you to this Board. I think it's one of the most important boards in this City because it's the Board of Education. The Board of Education is where a lot of children, a lot of parents, a lot of grandparents, a lot of aunts, anyone that's raising a child needs to stay connected because you are the board that sets the standards for us to help us raise our children. Understanding the way the Board of Education works I've raised six children in the City, I still have a kindergartener that goes to school here in the City and what my concern with this trip is is that we're always preaching that children should learn the most that they can learn because then their lives will be so enhanced. They'll meet different people, they'll be open-minded. I'm here to represent all the kids that are going

on the trip. I thought it was initially my daughter from Kennedy High School that was going to the Italy trip but I'm concerned about these seniors, this could be a trip that could make or break their lives. This is the last year of their high school years, they're gonna experience something that after you become 18 years old what's the guarantee that you're gonna go to college, what's the guarantee that your parent has \$50,000 for you to go to school? And this might be something that opens their minds to avenues of continuing education and that's what the Board of Education always preaches. We had someone here talking about a group that they have together about the hiring process and how parents think and how things happen in the community, period. Another thing is my concern really, the kids that are here they should feel privileged, why, because their parents were able to come up with the money to go anyway. You guys didn't spend any money to give their parents to do anything they did. Whether they had a passport, whether they bought boots, whether they bought underwear, mosquito repellent. Some people have co-payments for their doctors to get shots, it's not just a regular tetanus shot, these are shots that the doctor's office charges more money for in case you didn't know because I know that if you're working at one profession you don't take it upon yourself to investigate the other. Now I work in the professions where I push numbers every day and my concern today about my daughter going to Italy and not being able to go nine days before is that I'm a single parent and I sacrificed. Twenty-seven hundred dollars is a lot of money, it's a lot of money. And my concern is when you have a kindergartener like I do that pays a dollar every day for snack, a kindergartener, there's a problem with the budget for the Department of Education. They should never be charging 50 cents a day for a five year old to have a snack at school. We're supposed to have a lunch program. Now let's jump to my daughter being a sophomore, she has an opportunity, okay, we're supposed to be teaching enhancement, teach your children how to go out there and communicate and express themselves and now she has an opportunity to go to another country and that might be the opportunity that opens her horizons to educate herself to be a different person because she sees a different part of the world. We're not taking that into consideration. I think this is a selfish decision but if it's already made there's nothing I can do. I can only state the fact that I am concerned about the funds that are going into the Department of Education, where are they going? The reason I'm here right now because I went to a meeting prior to this one is because the attorney for the Board of Education stated she did not know if anyone, including the kids that stayed up, my nephew that stayed up until 10 o'clock at night, that did all these fundraisers that the school got all that money and all they had to put was \$700 which was wonderful. Where does that money go now? Another thing I wanted to say, just up until last Monday, just up until last Monday they took \$1,000 from my daughter, the last payment of the trip, \$1,000, and this attorney said that she might not get it back. Where's that money gonna go? Do I look like the person here, I did not drive a Mercedes Benz in here and I do not live in a mansion on the hill, where is this money that I sacrificed for for my daughter to have a new educational experience which is supposed to be your area of expertise, because educators always want children to have the most education and be exposed to the most education so they can be the most productive citizens of the United States cause now we can't talk about those countries, they're making it easy for us to go in. Why does this have to be so hard? And if it is going to be hard we need answers, we need to know when the money is gonna be returned. Thank you.

Emma Lewis had the following comments: I am a senior here at WAMS. For the past almost two years we have been working towards this trip to Peru. Two years ago

we waited with baited breath for you to approve this Peru trip and when it was approved we were all ecstatic because we finally had a chance to go to this amazing place. Time, effort, and heart went into making and planning this amazing journey so that it was possible. Cancelling these trips at the last minute lacks foresight and any sort of respect for the students who put the time into this. I know I may be rehashing things that were previously stated but I ask you to please listen to them because they are valid points. Denying children this amazing opportunity is a great disservice to them, they will not be able to find it many other places. They will be traveling with a group, it is preplanned for safety. The company that we're going through, Explorica, they would not allow us to travel if it were not safe. As of now we're allowed to travel because it is still safe. The thing is that all of the points that have been raised tonight I believe all are valid and should be considered when making this decision. The students are the ones who put the time into it; you approved the trip, they made it possible. I didn't even know at the beginning of the week that there was even a possibility for this trip not to go through and it is just absolutely preposterous to me that you would do such a thing to your students who have worked so hard, to rip something away from them that they wanted. I am not here not only for the Peru trip but for the other trips because I know that you guys worked hard for that. There is a warning for Europe but that is just an advisory, it is to advise people that you should take precaution and that should be taken into account no matter what you do. Every day you should have precaution and the thing is is that the world has not changed, how we react to the world has changed. Two years ago, two months after the Boston bombing you allowed students to travel to Boston. Why now are we not allowed to go to Peru where there is no terrorism precedent or even to Italy, Paris, it has been longer than two months since Paris so why should the students not be allowed to go there and enrich their lives. This experience will do so much for them and by taking it away at the last minute you are really robbing them of something special. I am not up here for selfish reasons, I am up here because I believe that if we travel and see more of the world we will understand it better. So you can either stay at home and hide from what exists or you can go out there and understand it and be able to meet the world and the dangers within it with more information and be able to think more intelligently about how the world works. Our part of the world is very small, by allowing these students to travel you expand their world. So please don't make them, do not resign them to a life in a small world.

Lisa Green had the following comments: Back in January I came and I spoke to you because, as a member of the PTO for Kingsbury School when we were talking about Mr. Brown being removed. Now he came back in April, three months we were left in limbo. The students, the teachers, I have to say when Mr. Brown came back granted we had a snow day the day he came back but the day after I had the opportunity to see him come out and he greeted everyone. And I heard a parent yell from a car Mr. Brown, welcome back, we missed you. Okay. You left us in limbo for three years, the damage is done. Our students thought he was either arrested, they thought he was hurt, they thought he was in jail, these are the things these little kids were thinking going around. We're doing testing with these kids and we're supposed to show how much they're learning but can you imagine you have this worry in your heart and this is what you're thinking. How do you focus, how do you do the work? So like I said to you in January, stop tearing each other down, let's work together. There's a few months left in this year to salvage for these kids let's make it a good one. I have one child, it's her last year in Kingsbury, let's make it good, this has not been positive, okay.

Secondly, I have a child in Wilby High School, you see Wilby students here, you heard how hard they worked to go to their Paris trip. For them to go on a trip to Paris for \$700 is amazing. I know they fundraised because every time I went to the parent/teacher conference they were selling the empanadas, they were selling all different things, they fundraised hard. I can't go to Paris for \$700, I wish I could, but I can't. You know I was coming here to talk about the fact that every time I keep getting a message from Wilby about the dress code and how they dress and what they wear, what you wear doesn't depict what you know, okay, there's a lot of students here that learn a lot, they're very smart, they could be your next inventor, they'll be your next engineer. These are the kids that are growing up that is gonna help you guys as you become senior citizens. These are the new leaders of your world, okay. You have to support them. They're expanding their wings, they're going to Peru. I've never been to Peru, I wish I could go there. They're going to Paris, under guidance. They're going to Italy. I mean these are beautiful experiences to have. You heard the students. I know the Board, when I read the newspaper and saw the Board considered and they said okay the trip is a go and then I picked up the paper today and they said the Mayor said he's gonna cancel the trips, that's not fair. I had no idea on how close you were to your trip and I'm heartbroken to hear these kids speak about that. And the mom that said they'll have this opportunity for the rest of their lives, that is not true, that is not true. These are once in a lifetime opportunities and not everyone will be granted this. So as a community for Waterbury this will be a positive thing to see happen. We've heard enough bad news in this system. It's enough is enough, you know. Let's come together, let's work together for the safety of our kids. As a parent allow me to understand and make the decisions as to what is safe for my child and what is not, not the Board, not the Mayor, let me as a parent decide what I want to put my children through. So thank you and good evening.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 7:35 p.m.

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain – motion carries.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements:

On Tuesday Reed School hosted an Invention Convention from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. This event grew out of the Extended School Hours program, and nearly 500 students in grades 3-5 originally took part. Approximately 120 students were at Reed, and 50 students qualified for the UCONN statewide convention on April 30th.

Also on Tuesday evening, I attended the Mayor's forum on opioid addiction. The forum was well attended. Officials shared a number of statistics about opioid use here in Waterbury. The Mayor shared with us the possibility that a second methadone clinic may open on Brookside Road.

Yesterday was the 11th annual Autism Awareness Day at the State Capitol.

Last Tuesday, March 29, over 200 Waterbury Public School students attended the 8th Annual Great Debate sponsored by the CT NAACP at The First Cathedral in Bloomfield,

CT. Over 3,000 students were able to participate and learn from Howard University and Morehouse College Debate Teams, representing two of our outstanding Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The Debate was moderated by Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin. Debate questions included immigration and the need to build a wall along the U.S. Mexico border, as well as, criminal justice and repealing the "Three Strikes" law.

The annual Rivera Memorial Foundation's Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet will be held next Thursday, April 14, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at La Bella Vista. Crosby Principal Jade Gopie and Supervisor of Math Janet Frenis are being honored with Inspiring Educator Awards.

Lastly, I have attached an update from CAGE on current legislative activity.

7. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

BROWN: I would like to first of all thank the public for coming tonight. The students are outstanding; we have so much to be proud of. I would like to have the committee to be able ask Attorney Wihbey any questions at this time they may have in light of the conversation if that's okay with everybody.

LINDA WIHBEY: And I apologize, I didn't hear you announce for any more speakers, I was gonna get up at the end. Good evening, I'm Linda Wihbey, I'm Corporation Counsel, I'm also a resident of the City of Waterbury and I was happy to speak as a member of the public and take my five minutes. I'm here to request that you review your prior votes of October 15 and November 18 on the international trips. I'm asking that you take a vote on it because I think in all fairness to the Board the votes were in October and November before the United States of America State Department issued travel advisories. I also was not aware that you were going into executive session last week and I believe I understand what was said however I've been advised that you were not given the legal opinion last week, or some of you may not be aware of it, against the trip, and that the acknowledgment that the parents were asked to sign would not cover liability and did not waive the district from the cost of any lawsuit or any injury to the students, that our insurance company indicated there was no coverage for an act of terrorism or war and that we should expect huge lawsuits that were expensive should we go forward. This is from our insurance consultant. Now granted that was not part of the legal opinion rendered after the March 29, 2016 State Department Travel Advisory. In fairness to this Board you were not aware of it and in fairness to the parents and the students who worked so hard for these trips, there was no three weeks' notice of the attack on Brussels. There was no three weeks' notice before the travel advisory, in fairness to all. The approval of the three international field trips to Paris, Wilby has approximately 20 students . . . Peru, approximately 23 from WAMS and Rome/Venice, Italy . . . Again, it is acknowledged and understood how hard everybody worked and when you approved it the November attacks in Paris killing 130 people were not known, the travel warning was not issued by the State of Connecticut. After the travel warning was issued many districts looked at whether or not to cancel trips to Paris. However the travel warning was not for an indefinite period of time and did not cover these trips. So in November when the State Department issued its warning it did not cover this period of time and in fairness to the Board at that time as well as parents, chaperones, and others who worked so hard for these trips they were not aware at the time you took the vote approving it of the travel advisory. And certainly as a result of the March 22, 2016

terrorist attacks in Brussel the US Department issued an updated travel alert for all of Europe advising US citizens that they should exercise diligence when traveling in Europe, especially in public places and using mass transportation. The travel alert advises US citizens of potential risks of travel and says quote "terrorist groups continue to plan near term attacks throughout Europe targeting sporting events, tourist sites, restaurants, and transportation". Again when that issue, that travel issue entered, many districts again took up the issue in late March as to whether or not to continue with the trips. I believe John Herman is here, he prepared a detailed report of the warnings and the security and he's certainly much more knowledgeable on these issues than I and can speak to them. But as a result of that on or about March 30, we were asked, we being the Legal Department, were asked whether or not the acknowledgment the parents signs was sufficient and if it protected the district and the City. And on March 20, staff attorney Richard Scappini advised in writing that, to the Superintendent and John Herman, that it was not advisable for the Department of Education to plan, organize, sponsor international student trips based upon the United States Department advisory warning. Attorney Scappini further advised that the parent acknowledgment form advising the risk would not adequately protect or relieve the district from liability in the event of student harm or injury as a result in participation in a school trip.

While we all appreciate the well-spoken students and parents that appeared before you tonight, I bring to light any concern that the Board may not understand. This is not the parents agreeing or these very mature adult children who are 18 in some instances and 19 and legally responsible for their decisions, it is the Board and the City of Waterbury that is responsible for these children because it is a Board approved sponsored event. It is not the parents who are financially responsible in the event something happens; it is the Board and the district. The parents can send their children on trips, they can make those informed decisions to do that, however this is your decision, it is your sponsored trip, it is the City and the district that is financially responsible for any injury to these children, to the chaperones. Our Worker's Comp will not cover an injury that is excluded as a terrorist act or act of war so if a teacher participates there is no coverage. If a child gets injured as a result of not a terrorist act against that child, although United States may be targeted, if there's an event and they're at a bus station or a train station and there's another act of a terrorist group, there is no coverage. I talked to our agent who happened to say as a result of, he's very intimately familiar with this issue because he was participating in an insurance international trip sponsored by executives of an insurance company in Paris next week. The insurance executives cancelled the trip. The insurance industry cancelled the trip because of the warnings. They told them if you want to go on your own you're an adult, go ahead, but we are not sponsoring an event in which there is a travel advisory from the United States Department of State. So I am requesting that if the Board has any questions, in fairness to the Board, this information was not known or available because it did not occur when you took your vote in October. It was not available or known because the event in Brussels had not yet happened and this State Department issuance had not been made. Having said that, I don't know whether or not all the information was available when you spoke of it or discussed it last week, in fairness to the Board. So it is the Board's decision, there is no liability insurance, there is no coverage, it is the district's financial responsibility for the students on these trips and the City's and the taxpayers. That is the basis of the decision in part to address the issue. Not that the parents can't make an informed decision, not that the children who are in many instances hardworking, mature, capable, and legally capable in making decisions, this is a Board sponsored event in which the

financial exposure and risk is on the taxpayers. And for that reason and to make that clear, I'm requesting that you consider that. You're the policy makers, I'm here to advise you of the risk and the exposure, coverage so that it's adequate and you understand what the issues are. And I was gonna tell you the Mayor was at the Budget Hearing but apparently I would be wrong. So the other issue in discussing it is you need to be aware that the exposure is not non-existent, it's real. And for any of you who do read legal treaties, you are aware of the lawsuit against Hotchkiss School in Litchfield for a field trip in which they took a student to China and she was bit by a mosquito and developed encephalitis and tragically had life altering injuries. That decision was just upheld by the Second Circuit court of appeals for 41 million dollars against Hotchkiss School. It is real, there is a risk that our insurance consultant said is huge, quote/unquote, and it is a financial exposure. Again, I ask that you, the Board, consider that and take up a vote having this information now available which was not available to you in October and November when you originally approved of these trips. I have information with me here tonight if you have any questions I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions, in open, so that all are aware of what the circumstances are especially given so many parents and children who have eloquently talked about the educational benefits in promoting it because that's not the basis for any decision. We all agree these are wonderful opportunities that may be once in a lifetime, these are wonderful opportunities to learn and experience. Nobody is disputing that, nobody contests that, nobody is saying whether or not there is educational merit or not. That is not what is before this Board's consideration. I'm asking you to consider the exposure of risk, liability, and of course the safety of the children, the faculty, and the chaperones that are going, that is the district's and the citizen's responsibility at this point as a school sponsored international trip.

BROWN: Thank you. I see our Mayor is here. Would you like to speak Mayor?

MAYOR O'LEARY: I would, thank you. I know there's a lot of angry people behind me, I met with several outside and I understand it, I do, I understand you being mad, I would be mad too. Excuse me, let me finish please, this is a public meeting. Thank you. It was certainly my prerogative as a member of this Board, the Board of Education through 2009, 10, and 11 to have many occasions to support school trips overseas. I never voted against any school trip, anywhere. I've always supported educational opportunities both in the United States and outside the United States, but these are different times, this is the world we live in today. Back when I was on the Board we weren't faced with the decisions that you're faced with. Certainly there wasn't a bombing in France that took 130 innocent lives including children. There wasn't a subsequent bombing just two weeks ago in Brussels that took untold number of lives, the death toll keeps rising and some Americans died there as well, as well as children. Same organization responsible for both, United States intelligence has been clear and travel advisories have been clear, State Department advisories have been clear. They expect more, they expect more violence, more bombings, the same group of people, some of them died, some of them got away and some of them were captured. It's not going away, this is the world we live in, we've been living in it really since the World Trade Center attacks and I'm not talking about 2001, I'm going all the way back to 1995 I believe it was. This is the world we live in. I don't expect the young people behind me to have a full understanding of the consequences of this decision but I would hope that the parents might. This district, this district is faced with a difficult decision. You know the fact is as Attorney Wihbey pointed out, we as a district, if the parents want to send

their children that's their prerogative, that's their prerogative. But unfortunately because of what we've determined over the last 48 hours if those children get hurt, injured, or worse we, you/me, but more importantly or as importantly the taxpayers of the City of Waterbury are responsible. These are school sponsored trips. Plain and simple. And as Attorney Wihbey pointed out if anything happens to a child, a faculty member, or a chaperone, we are responsible, period, end of story. And so we've been told, we've been told by our own government, that these are very tumultuous times and these advisories are put into effect and the travel advisors are in effect until the end of May at least for all of Europe and France and Italy are part of Europe. We have talked, excuse me please, I think respect is deserved, you may not agree, you may not even like me, but you could at least respect the Office of the Mayor. I would have loved to have shown up but I was at a Budget Hearing at the Board of Aldermen and I rushed over here to get here as soon as I can. The Peruvian decision was not easy to make as well. However the Peruvian government has issued their own advisories that there are domestic problems over there as well as the State Department. As recently as yesterday the State Department issued a memorandum that the situation in Peru is very unstable. That Americans have been subject to personal attacks and robberies, okay. Look, I find it very odd that I have to stand up here and stick up for the safety of children who are not my own. I feel very, very uncomfortable having to make decisions that are going to negatively impact these students. Having said that it's not the students' safety, I guess, that I should be foremost concerned with because the parents don't seem as alarmed as I am. But what I have a responsibility to do and I'll continue and you can keep talking behind my back if that makes you happy.

(heckling from audience)

BROWN: I would expect the audience to have some courtesy for the speaker please.

MAYOR: I'm certainly amazed at this because I think that we're supposed to be role models for our children but nonetheless. That's right and I, I don't think it's setting a very good example doing this but you can continue if it makes you happy. At the end of the day the City of Waterbury is on the hook here with financial liability all over the place. We've been told by our insurance carrier do not do this; if you do you're on your own. The taxpayers of Waterbury deserve more than this. The taxpayers of Waterbury should not be in a position to have to be financially liable for this. This is it, plain and simple, and I urge you, urge you to consider this. I don't want anything to happen but quite frankly I can't guarantee it nor could you and that's the story at the end of the day. We are elected officials and we have to make difficult decisions that are not always popular, we know that. But that's what the people of Waterbury elected you to do, that's what they elected me to do and that's what I'm doing and I urge you to listen to the lawyers, please. I'll be here to answer any questions.

BROWN: Is there any questions? Commissioner Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President. First off are we recognizing legal counsel's request for a vote tonight?

BROWN: Yes. We would need a two-thirds vote of the committee to add it to the Agenda so I intend to do that this evening.

T. VAN STONE: I unfortunately was not at the Workshop last week until late and did not take part in this discussion and I do have concerns. I understand, I feel, but there's something a lot of people, as the Mayor pointed out, is we do have a tough job, not all of our votes are for cake sales, I wish they were. I've seen the documentation that's being referenced tonight and I have, I truly have concerns. And there's something else I want people to know is we may have a tough job here and it may be one of the first times in three years I've been along with Mayor O'Leary, as he knows, he and I disagree quite often. But in this case he does have the final vote on this and that's what I want people to understand. We and the attorney can talk to this if she may, this is the type of government we have that we have placed the responsibility of these hard decisions on the Mayor, he's had to make others. So I personally, I think we do need to air on the side of caution. I don't know if the attorney has any other case studies that, other than the one, I did know about the one you mentioned, in fact I have it right here on my laptop is one of the many articles I found on it and actually if I could just read and we also unfortunately vote sometimes with liability looking over our shoulder. The exact case paperwork actually found this 41 million dollar verdict based on one major line in the paperwork that the school did not take proper precautions against potential mosquito bites. That's what they won 41 million dollars on. They said the school should have given them spray and long sleeve shirts and based on that the school paid 41 million dollars. So we do unfortunately have to keep liability in mind, it is our job. So I know it's a very difficult situation, we'll have to proceed as order calls and we'll go forward. Thank you.

BROWN: Are there any other questions for Attorney Wihbey or the Mayor because as we, the discussion will be as we're taking the vote. So if you just have specific questions at this time. Commissioner Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: If we're talking about specific questions then yes. Is the liability any greater on international soil than on domestic soil?

WIHBEY: The carrier, the policy excludes acts of terrorism or war. So if, because there is an advisory of immediate or near terrorist activity and events in Paris we know, or should know of that, but more importantly there is no coverage for that.

J. VAN STONE: So we have two field trips on the books here tonight for New York City, the Statute of Liberty, and one to Washington, DC. I think we'd all agree that not only is there a history of terrorism in those two spots, but my question is should we be nixing these too?

MAYOR: No because there are no alerts domestically. There's no alerts in the United States and New York City. You know that there are different levels of Homeland Security Alerts but there's been no written correspondence from the State Department as the advisory alerts in the United States of America so the answer is no.

J. VAN STONE: So if a terrorist, hopefully, obviously this didn't happen, but if a terrorist act happens while one of these groups is down there we're covered?

MAYOR: No.

J. VAN STONE: So what's the difference? I'm not trying to be a smart guy here, I understand the liability...

MAYOR: Can I answer the question? You asked what the difference is, can I please answer it.

J. VAN STONE: From a liability perspective.

MAYOR: The difference is we've been put on notice. The difference is while we fully recognize that if there is a terrorist attack in Washington, DC or New York when our class trips are down there, that our coverage, quite frankly, does not allow the City to have insurance for those that are injured. The only recourse would be for people injured or worse to come after the City of Waterbury, very similar to what would happen in Europe. But there's a big difference Commissioner Van Stone and the big difference is that a jury would clearly say there's no way they could have known there's gonna be a terrorist attack in New York City, there's no way they could have known there was a terrorist attack in Washington, DC, there was no advance warning from the State Department. That's not the case here tonight.

J. VAN STONE: So the argument is punitive damages would be greater since we had a warning.

MAYOR: Absolutely sir.

BROWN: Thank you. The public, would you please keep your comments to yourselves please or I will have to clear the room.

J. VAN STONE: I have one more question and I get the rationale for your . . . we're gonna disagree on the outcome, that's fine, we're adults. Explain to me Peru again.

MAYOR: Peru is not as easy to explain as I will acknowledge to my friends behind me, however, at least they're my friends, I don't think I'm theirs. Do you have the written correspondence on Peru?

THERIAULT: Just a point of order, Madam Chair, just because the public is a little rowdy and a little emotional I don't think they should be threatened with clearing the room.

WIHBEY: If I may, all of us, Mr. Herman who's head of security, myself, and Mr. Whyte were available at Kennedy today at five o'clock for anyone who had questions or information. When they found out there was a meeting tonight they left and many parents were courteous and respectful and stayed and we answered every question every parent asked.

BROWN: I think there's a question on the table of the Mayor.

(Comments from audience)

MAYOR: Okay, so this is about the money? Okay, so then I could have answered that in the beginning, I'm sorry.

(Comments from audience)

MAYOR: When you submit the vouchers, tomorrow. So anyone else that's here for the money you'll get your money back. We sanctioned the trips, we'll pay you back the money. Madam President, I'd like to answer Commissioner Van Stone's question.

(Comments from audience)

MAYOR: Whatever you spent. Peru, December 7, 2015, the Embassy of the United States issued an emergency message for United States citizens, travelers to and from Lima airport has a continuing risk of robbery traveling to and from the international airport of Lima. Criminals often target . . . they talk about airport smash and grabs, violence that has occurred, robberies that tend to target taxis with windows that do not have security film. April 6, 2016 – United States Department, Peru travel advisory, demonstrations are common and can turn violent quickly. There is a general threat from terrorism and Americans have been targeted for violent robberies and attacks. What do, I'm sorry, I probably shouldn't of answered the questions from the crowd before, I have an obligation to the taxpayers of the City of Waterbury under the current trip as planned, if something happens to one of our students or faculty or chaperones in Peru, the City of Waterbury is liable, that is the bottom line. Now, a lot of things can come out of tonight. You as a school board are going to be tasked with best practices throughout the country to remove the liability from cities. Some cities and towns throughout America and in Connecticut had made it so that these out of country trips are completely independent of the school board. Some have done that. Some have cancelled the trips. Some have made the written consent or the requirements a little bit more sustainable in a court of law. I am not a lawyer but I do know that this school board was given a directive and when I say school board I want to correct that – Superintendent and John Herman. I am told on March 30th were given a written directive as an opinion from Attorney Richard Scappini of the Corporation Counsel's Office that these trips were highly, highly inadvisable. I don't know if that made its way to you. That was the intent of the memo, obviously. But what I'm trying to say is that if you didn't know about it on your Thursday night meeting last week you know about it tonight. And I'm just saying to you that it is what it is. Commissioner Van Stone, do you have any other questions?

J. VAN STONE: Not specifically for the attorney or yourself.

BROWN: Are there any other questions? Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Procedurally, explain why we have to take another vote. And before you answer that, just hear me out here, cause I'm a little ticked off too parents, okay. We were notified, I was notified basically in the paper that the Mayor was going to veto or whatever he was going to do, our vote, he wouldn't allow it, and I said okay. I was a little ticked off that I was notified by the newspaper. So my question is this, procedurally we've already voted on this, okay, I believe we voted on this in November. So the process as I understand is once we vote then the Mayor decides whether or not it's approved or not, that's my understanding, it goes to the Mayor. And I'm assuming he approved it as well. So my question is this, why then are we taxed with voting on this again if it's already been approved. And if that is indeed the case if this vote, say the vote is maintained, we vote to uphold our decision, then it goes to the Mayor, the Mayor doesn't approve it, either way we can, there's two things that can happen, we vote, we say no to the trips, the Board, or we can vote yes and let the Mayor say no. Is that pretty much...

WIHBHEY: I don't want to interrupt you.

HARVEY: Go ahead.

WIHBHEY: I as Counsel for the City of Waterbury thought in fairness to this Board that you were uninformed of the opinion of Counsel, number one, and number two, the warnings that came out as a result, the alerts, the travel advisories, the one in November and the one that just came out on March 29, had not occurred when you took your vote. I am simply advising of the risks and the information we have learned since then and asking that you consider it as a vote tonight because I was not present during executive session last week, I understand from a couple members that they were not aware of the opinion and was told specifically that you relied on your staff and your staff didn't tell you of our opinion. I thought in fairness this should be discussed in open and I'm requesting that you consider it in an open forum and take your vote. When you voted in October there was no Paris, there was no 130 people killed in a train station, there was no Brussels, it has happened since then. We're all mad. We're all mad that this is coming up late and I read it in the newspaper as well.

HARVEY: Understood. I understand that and that's good, you've answered my question. But there's a second question to that, that is there is two things that can happen here – we vote yes or whatever to uphold what we voted on in November, that was to approve the trips, and then it's sent to the Mayor and he can either approve or disapprove, correct?

WIHBHEY: Yes, within 10 days.

HARVEY: Okay, thank you.

BROWN: Commissioner Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: One more, that prompted a question for the attorney. So if this Board doesn't get two-thirds tonight to put this back on for a vote tonight and this Board has already approved it months ago, you just said the Mayor has 10 days to veto it, does he still months later have the opportunity to veto it?

WIHBHEY: He wouldn't be vetoing it, he has general authority under statute to exercise the authority to make a decision on behalf of the citizens.

(Comments from the audience)

J. VAN STONE: Madam President, I appreciate the group's interest but we have to maintain some kind of decorum. I'll ask the question because you mentioned decoupling, I don't know if there's an opportunity to fast track in a week's time a decoupling of these trips from the City or the Board of Education. Is that something that's even a possibility to allow these kids to still go but remove the City and the Board of Education from the equation?

WIHBHEY: I have to say the first step towards doing that would be taking a vote tonight and if you disapprove it any action wouldn't be approved by this Board. That might be, I don't know other steps that you would have to take to not approve and sanction it, some of them have already been done. But certainly by taking a vote tonight on the issue you

don't have to sanction the trips and they can move about on their own if they wish to pursue the travel without it being sanctioned by this Board or the City. The first step would be taking a vote on that and so enunciating it.

J. VAN STONE: So there is a pathway, from the Board of Ed perspective, we're not home yet. So there might be a pathway if the Board tonight or the Mayor disapproves the trip to pursue the opportunity to allow the trips to happen not under the auspices of the City or the Board of Education?

MAYOR: That is correct. That is exactly, do I mind if these folks go to Paris on their own, no. What I do mind is that the City has exposure. This school board can remove that exposure by vote. If you choose not to then I have the opportunity to do what I need to do. I think it's a great idea for you to vote and let the citizens of Waterbury hear from you as they've elected you. But if you choose to shy away from that responsibility then I'll have to do what I'll have to do.

BROWN: Thank you.

J. VAN STONE: So is that a yes there is the opportunity for them to still go?

MAYOR: They can go anywhere they want in the world as long as the City of Waterbury isn't sponsoring the trip. You vote or I veto an approval then they still are free to go. They have their passports, they can work it out with their travel agents. But I will say that no school employee, no school employee will be covered if they choose to go if something happens. We can work that out with the school employees. These are the parents, these are the children, they have the right to do what they want to do.

J. VAN STONE: Okay. I don't pretend to understand the funding mechanism here but it is my understanding that fundraising was done, it went into some account. I'm trying to figure out the mechanics to make this work.

WIHBEY: That is an education issue and I'm not familiar with it. But again, I caution you against the Mayor for approval to go on the trip because you're asking the Mayor to sanction it.

J. VAN STONE: No, I'm trying to find a way for none of us to approve anything and they can still go.

WIHBEY: So I'm not familiar with what was done and where the money is kept and if there was, I heard tonight that there was community grant money, maybe you should look at those finances, make sure they get a waiver. I don't know, take that money back for another trip or get, move it over as a credit. But there's grant money involved in it as well and I don't know if there's any educational money in it. But, again, that can be looked at.

J. VAN STONE: Does the Superintendent know if we underwrite any of this trip? Did we as a district underwrite any of this trip?

SUPERINTENDENT: No. There was fundraising and student activity accounts. I was just made aware of a grant, I will certainly look into that, that was the Wilby trip I guess to Paris.

MAYOR: And again, we're not shying, we, the City, we meaning the Mayor's Office, is not shying away from the financial responsibility here, that is not the case at all. I understand clearly that we have inconvenienced financially the people involved here. It is our intention to find the money to make them whole. We are making the decision in the 11th hour to cancel the trip. I would think that would be the least that we could do and we will do that and we'll live up to that responsibility. The truth of the matter is I didn't realize that there was so much focus on that particular portion of it but if that's the case then we'll be more than happy to find the funds to reimburse. I think we have an obligation to do that.

BROWN: Any further.

J. VAN STONE: I agree. I don't want to belabor the point but I think, and I think everyone in the room wants these kids to go at the same time we don't want to be stuck with potential liability so I would say whatever we could do to make both sides happy, figure out a mechanism to decouple the City from the trip and still allow them to go, I think, you know, in the remaining hours before they're supposed to get on a plane, we should figure out how to do that.

MAYOR: The one thing that I would ask for those who may have changed their minds and are not going on the trip who seek reimbursement to submit the notarized voucher to the City of Waterbury showing what the expenditures were on an individual basis and we will do everything within our power to turn that around very, very quickly for that reimbursement.

BROWN: Thank you. Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: When we talk about shying away, I think the parents have the right to know who they submit their vouchers to, where do they go, do they go directly to the Mayor's Office, and have a little bit more detail in terms of what their procedures are going to be for the refund. So I think at the very least as we take this vote we at least provide them with that information so that they know do I go to Tax Assessor, do they go to the Mayor's Office and the Mayor's Office is going to handle it. So I hope you can answer that Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR: I'd be happy to, go directly to the Mayor's Office. When you come to the Mayor's Office whoever you give that information to we will give you a written receipt that we have received the information. The information should include obviously the expenditures that have been put out and notarized, please, just notarize it. We're not gonna go drilling around but obviously we have to protect the interests of the City as well. But we're happy to reimburse for those out of pocket expenses.

BROWN: Are there any more questions from Commissioners? Did you have a burning comment.

(Comments from audience)

MAYOR: . . . they will have to sign a form that will be written up before then obviously that will clearly remove the City from any liability and have them recognize they're going not as an agent of the City, that they're going as an individual to France, Italy, or wherever they're going.

(Comments from audience)

MAYOR: As I said we're not going to ask you to provide proof of sunscreen or those incidentals. Put them on a list, we will reimburse you. Hopefully we'll be good citizens and ask for reimbursement for monies that we've expended. That's what the City intends to do is to make you whole.

(Comments from audience)

MAYOR: Very quickly.

BROWN: I think we can summarize. It's been a great debate and I think what we'd like to do is make everybody whole and I think Commissioner Van Stone has recommended something that might work for everybody and the Mayor is obviously trying his hardest right now to accommodate everybody. We don't have the answers to everything. We want to make everybody whole, we want this to work for everybody. There's not one person in this room that wants to make this difficult. I think we just have to trust each other that the Mayor has said publically that we will try to reimburse for as many you know incidentals or travel that is really, would be eligible, within the sphere. So I guess right now I would like a motion to add. I'm sorry, Mayor, are you finished?

MAYOR: I only had one other point and it was to Commissioner Harvey. I'm sorry that you found out about this by reading in the paper, I forwarded an email to all the Commissioners yesterday, you may have not had the opportunity to open your email. But the decision on this issue was forwarded to every Commissioner via email early yesterday afternoon. That's all I have.

BROWN: Thank you Mayor and thank you everyone. If I could have a motion to add this, the item to the Agenda to review the already approved international trips.

PAGANO: Motion to add to the agenda review of previously approved international trips.

STANGO: Second.

BROWN: Discussion? All those in favor.

J. VAN STONE: Roll call vote.

BROWN: This is to add to the Agenda.

HARVEY: What item?

BROWN: The item to review the already approved international trips to Rome, Peru, and France.

T. VAN STONE: Madam President, I just want for clarity for all, cause we always seem to get wrapped around the wheel on these special votes, a vote "yes" is a vote to retake a vote, that is what we have to do, we have to first put it on the Agenda. So a vote now

of “yes” is to place it back on the Agenda. A vote “no” is to not put it on the Agenda, just so everyone’s clear.

BROWN: Is everyone clear on that? Thank you. Roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO ADD TO AGENDA:

YEAS: Commissioners Harvey, Hernandez, Pagano, Stango, Theriault,
J. Van Stone, T. Van Stone, and President Brown – 8

BROWN: Motion carries. So the vote before us to keep, I mean to rescind the approval of the international travel to Rome, France, and Peru. Commissioner Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Again, for clarification, if you’re saying the vote is to rescind, cause people have to be clear on what you’re asking us to vote on. Is that what you’re asking us, is our vote to rescind or grant approval?

BROWN: The motion before us, my understanding is that we are going to either approve the trips or rescind the trips. So we need somebody to make that motion.

T. VAN STONE: You’re saying two different things. We’re either voting “yes” the trips will go on or we’re voting “no” the trips will not.

BROWN: Correct, that’s the motion.

T. VAN STONE: That’s not what you said.

BROWN: Would somebody like to make a motion?

T. VAN STONE: Sure, I’ll make it very clear for you, **I make a motion that we take a vote, a “yes” vote will be the trips go on as designated, a “no” vote will be the trips are not going forward as designated.**

HARVEY: **Second.**

BROWN: Discussion? Roll call vote please. Yes is to approve, no is to rescind the approval.

THERIAULT: Madam Chair, under discussion, I feel like the china in the china shop and the bull has just come in. With all due respect, you know, with the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel here giving us this overwhelming advice, it’s really, we’re kind of stuck at a catch 22 here. So many times on this Board I have said to you you know we’re kind of damned if we do and damned if we don’t. You know I can appreciate the passion of all the people out there and all the hard work that you kids have done. And it’s so unfortunate that this has sprung on you at the, I don’t even want to say the 11th hour, 11 hours and 59 minutes and 59 seconds. It just seems so unfair to put you in a situation like that. But we’re also in a catch 22 situation. You know this is almost a conundrum, a problem incapable of being solved, you know. It’s a very difficult situation. The Mayor is doing his best to satisfy everyone. The Corporation Counsel, the Commissioners here are really working hard to think out of the box. I think in the end something good will probably come of it but it’s a very difficult situation for all the

Board members here and especially you and the parents and the kids. So bear with us as we forge on.

BROWN: Thank you. Roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRIPS:

YEAS: Commissioners Harvey and J. Van Stone – 2

NAYS: Commissioners Hernandez, Pagano, Stango, Theriault, T. Van Stone, and President Brown – 6

CLERK: Two to six.

BROWN: So the Board has voted to not allow the trips. Thank you.

J. VAN STONE: Madam President, if I may, I would ask that the Superintendent and her staff along with the staff of maybe the Mayor's Office do whatever we can to fast track the opportunity to get these people on their trips privately.

BROWN: Absolutely. Thank you.

8. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

8.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the appointment of Carey L. Edwards as Assistant Principal, Waterbury Arts Magnet School, effective immediately.

BROWN: Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT: I'm please to recommend to the Board of Education the approval of Mr. Carey Edwards for the position of Vice Principal at Waterbury Arts Magnet School. Mr. Edwards' education career began 17 years ago in Chicago Public Schools as a mathematics teacher. Upon moving to Connecticut he has worked in several school districts including New Britain, Hartford, and Windham and during his tenure in those districts he served as headmaster, dean of students for middle school grades. His current position here is an eighth grade math teacher at WAMS where he has proven himself to be an excellent teacher leader by immersing himself in the school community. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in business and finance from Manhattan College, a Masters of Education and school administration from American International College and a doctoral candidate in educational leadership and supervision from American International College. He holds certification in mathematics, school business administration. I believe Mr. Edwards in an extremely qualified candidate for the position on his experience specifically at the middle school level. Thank you Madam President.

BROWN: Thank you. Are there any other comments? Roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #8.1:

YEAS: Commissioners Harvey, Hernandez, Pagano, Stango, Theriault, J. Van Stone, T. Van Stone, and President Brown.

BROWN: Motion carries unanimously.

EDWARDS: Really I just want to thank Principal Elias, the Board, and Superintendent Ouellette for this honor and opportunity. Thank you.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

9.9 Upon a motion by Commissioner Theriault and duly seconded by Commissioner J. Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to remove item #9.9, Agreement with Durham School Services, from the Agenda.

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, motion carries.

(Commissioners Harvey and Hernandez left at 8:33 p.m.)

BROWN: Are there any other items anybody would like removed from the Calendar? Hearing none, I'll read the Consent Calendar.

President Brown proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.8 and 9.10 through 9.12.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.8 and 9.10 through 9.12, as listed:

- 9.1 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a new before school program entitled "Books and Basketball Club" for Reed Family Resource Center.
- 9.2 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the UConn ECE High School Course "Intra to Human Rights".
- 9.3 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Michael Sullivan, CHS, and six chaperones to take 30 students to Boston, MA on May 13, 2016 to visit various historical sites.
- 9.4 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Philip Sterling, WAMS, and eight chaperones to take 85 students to Holyoke and Agawam, MA on June 4, 2016 to compete in a band festival and visit Six Flags.
- 9.5 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Krislyn Petti, WHS, and three chaperones to take 22 students to Washington, DC from May 11 through 13, 2016 to visit various sites.

- 9.6 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Reina Irizarry, WHS, and five chaperones to take 45 students to New York, NY on April 14, 2016 to visit Ellis Island, Statute of Liberty, and Wax Museum.
- 9.7 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Donna Mancuso, CHS, to take five students to Denver, Colorado from approximately April 8 through April 13, 2016 to participate in the National LifeSmarts Competition.
- 9.8 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to George Flaherty, Jr., KHS, and five chaperones to take 30 students to Lewiston, ME from April? through 9, 2016 to participate in the Pine Tree District First Robotics Competition.
- 9.10 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities & Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Service Agreement with All-Star Transportation, LLC to provide Special Bus Transportation Services/Special Education Bus Transportation Services for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021.
- 9.11 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities and Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities, at no charge, by the following school organizations and/or City departments:

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES
J. Dangelo	WAMS atrium: May 31-June 2, 7:45 am - 3:30 pm (visual art show)
E. Racine	Reed gym: Apr. 11-June 2, 7 am – 8 am (before school program)
Registrar of Voters	Carrington, Chase, Crosby, W. Cross, Gilmartin, Kennedy, Kingsbury, Maloney, Reed, Regan, Sprague, Tinker Wilson, Washington Schools Tues., April 26 5 am-9 pm (Dem/Rep primaries and special 75th District election)
S. LaBonte	Wilby field: Wed., Apr. 13, 2 – 4 pm (School spirit rally)
L. Lombardi	Rotella lib.: April 25-29, all day each day (Book Fair)
M. Parker	Rotella aud.: Thurs., May 12, 5 – 8 pm (school instrumental concert) Rotella aud.: Thurs., May 26, 4:30 - 8:30 pm (Troupe performance)
Adult Education Antonio Musto	Kennedy aud., café: June 7 & 8, 5 – 7 pm (rehearsals) June 9, 4:30 – 8:30 pm (graduation ceremony)
P. Moran	Sprague gym: Tues., Apr. 12, 5:30 - 6:45 pm (Pre-K Family Night)
M.A. Marold	Wallace lib.: Mon., May 16, 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Sch. Governance Councils feedback meeting)
Refuse Dept. Bart Startup	Kennedy parking lot, café, bathrooms: Sat., July 9, 7 am – 2 pm (Household Hazardous Waste Day)
C. Quiles	WAMS dance studio: Fri., May 20, 6 - 10 pm (dance ensemble)
D. Monti	Reed gym, café: Thurs., Mar. 31, 5 – 7 pm (Family March Madness Basketball)
Sch. Personnel Office	Rotella gym/café: Tues., Apr. 26 & Thurs., Apr. 28, 4 – 7 pm (Career Fair)
M. Vagnini	WAMS recital hall: Thurs., June 2, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

	(music honor society induction ceremony)
K. Ondrush	WAMS café: Tues., May 31, 5 - 8 pm (Veterans' Voices Dinner)
E. Racine	Reed café: Thurs., Apr. 7, 3:00 - 4:30 pm (PBIS Incentive Dance)
D. Bakewell	Sprague gym: Thurs., Apr. 14, 4:30 - 6:30 pm (Family Fitness Night)
	Sprague gym: Thurs., Apr. 28, 5:00 - 7:30 pm (Science Night)

- 9.13 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities and Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities by outside organizations and/or waiver requests, subject to fees and insurance as required:

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES
Office of Congresswoman Esty	Rotella aud.: Mon., Apr. 4, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
M. Demac	(Town Hall Meeting)
Triple Threat Dance Co.	Rotella aud., café, rm.: Sat., June 11, 10 am – 7 pm (Recital)
Dancers Inc.	Rotella aud, café, rm.: 4/29, 4 – 11 pm; 4/30 & 5/1, 7 am–11 pm
David Palmieri	(regional dance competition)

REQUESTING WAIVERS:

Wtby. Basketball Academy	Chase gym: April 9-June 27, Sat. & Sun., 8:30 - 11:00 am
Chris Fisher	(basketball training) (\$3,234.)

GROUPS NOT SUBJECT TO FEES OR WAIVER DUE TO TIME OF USE OR PREVIOUS WAIVER:

Bunker Hill Nbrhd. Assoc.	Bunker Hill School parking lot: Sat., May 7
Ron Napoli	8 am - noon (neighborhood clean-up)
Wtby. Special Olympics	Wilby pool: Mondays, 3/28 - 6/6/16, 5 - 9 pm
Heather Minervini	(swim lessons) *(verbal approval 3/22/16- J. Theriault)

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain, motion carries.

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Pagano, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 11.1 through 11.4, Superintendent's Notification to the Board, as listed:

11.1 Athletic appointments effective immediately:

Conte, Joseph -Boys Tennis, WHS.
Danziger, Byron- K-K Intramural Tennis Coordinator/Coach, W. Cross.
Datil, Luis - Assistant Baseball, WHS.
Flammia, Peter - JV Boys Baseball, WCA.
Thomas, James - Assistant Outdoor Boys and Girls Track, WCA.
Yaffe, Ken- K-5 Intramural Tennis Coordinator/Coach, Walsh.

11.2 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:

- Belica, Arben - from Network Specialist to Network Specialist II, 12 months p/year, 35 hours p/week, salary and benefits governed by the SEIU Agreement, funded by Title I & Title IIA grants.
- Caligiuri, Vittorio - from Network Specialist to Network Specialist II, 12 months p/year, 35 hours p/week, salary and benefits governed by the SEIU Agreement, funded by Title I & Title IIA grants.
- Digsby, Dalia - Walsh Family & Community Center Coordinator, 12 months p/year, 35 hour p/week@ \$19.61 p/hour, non-union position with benefits governed by the UPSEU Agreement, funded by Walsh Commissioner's Network Grant.
- Fortier, Mark - from Network Specialist to Network Specialist II, 12 months p/year, 35 hours p/week, salary and benefits governed by the SEIU Agreement, funded by Title I & Title IIA grants.
- Vignali, Alicia - Recruitment and Student Placement Coordinator, ECEP, 12 months p/year, 35 hours p/week@ \$15.95 p/hour, non-union position with benefits governed by the SEIU Agreement, funded by Title I.
- Webster, Alison - Secretary II, Medicaid Office, 12 months p/year, 35 hours p/week, salary and benefits governed by the UPSEU Agreement, funded by Medicaid Grant.
- Yochum, PJ - Instructional Tutor, Kingsbury School, 10 months p/year, 18 hours p/week@ \$25.00 p/hour, non-union and without benefits, funded by Title I.

11.3 Reed Family Resource Center "Books and Basketball Club" appointments, four hours per week for eight weeks, salary according to individual's contract:

BaJa, Elona - Lead Instructor	Brown, Stacy- Lead Instructor
Regan, Lauren - Lead Instructor	
Barbera, Nina - Para	Coviello, Catherine - Para
Price, Deborah- Para	
Choi, Michele - Substitute	Rinaldi, Heather - Substitute

11.4 Teacher new hires:

Name		Assignment		Step	Effective
Dianne-Gorman	Regina	Gilmartin	Gr. 5	MA+15/2	03/07/16
Greene	Arthur	Reed	Lib/Med. Spec.	MA/6	03/21/16
Melaragno	Rebecca	WMS	Art	8+15/2	03/28/16
O'Leary	Ann	Bucks Hill Annex	PKSp. Ed	MA/6	03/21/16
Salamon	Nancy	Tinker	Sp. Ed.	MA/9	03/28/16
Morris	Michaela	Reed	Sp. Ed.	BA+15/3	02/01/16

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain, motion carries. Moving down to number 12 – Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting Only. Seeing none – number 13 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Commissioner Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Quickly, I had the opportunity Sunday to be part of the Chris Corbett 5K and I wanted to report back. Not only was it a tremendously successful event but in the youth categories for the winners Wilby High School, Kennedy High School, Crosby High School, all represented in the top three – males and females, terrific job by our kids.

BROWN: Great. Any other comments? Mayor, did you want to say something?

MAYOR: I'm going to go back and talk about what happened or I'd like to find out what happened at this last School Board Workshop last Thursday. My question to you is very simple, did you as Commissioners receive the information from our Corporation Counsel which advised all of you that this, that the City's position was not to allow these trips to happen – "a" and "b", were you advised "that the forms would not adequately protect or relieve the district from liability". Were you advised of that?

BROWN: Yes we were.

MAYOR: You were. That's all I needed to know. Thank you.

BROWN: Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Mr. Mayor, there was advisories going around and sometimes when we look at them and absorb them it's a sense that we're doing it because we are, to cover all legal bases. At that particular point in time . . . the intensity that Attorney Wihbey brought forward tonight. So that's where we were coming from on that.

MAYOR: And I understand that. I just wanted to make sure because we had a meeting that Thursday day on this very subject and I want to make sure that that information was brought forth to you. How you digest it is up to you as long as it got its way to you is what's important. And quite frankly the additional information of liability has been generated over the last 48 hours which you have not been privy to and that's, I expected that, I have no issue with that.

STANGO: As Attorney Wihbey stated when she came forward, she wishes she was at that meeting and I think if she was it would have been different because what she said tonight was powerful, it was not as intense that night. Again, just because we're looking to send the kids and we were trying, I interpreted that form as covering all basis and not realizing the liabilities and the insurance problems.

MAYOR: Were any of you informed that I was against the trips?

STANGO: Not until later in the week.

MAYOR: That's what I thought. Thank you.

THERIAULT: Just a point of clarification on the Mayor's remarks. I wonder if the Mayor, with the Corporation Counsel and the Board, at a Workshop, might consider really cutting ties with the trips abroad especially during these times of terrorism and so forth and doing as what you said before, Mr. Mayor, other school systems really cutting the ties with the Board and sponsoring those trips on their own. I mean it may come in two months or six months or a year that all of a sudden these warnings are lifted. You know we still have the problems within our own United States in the various areas that we have been affected by terrorism but these trips abroad get a little bit terrifying when we think about the . . . and the planning and the terrorism and actually pinpointing Americans so to speak, subject to these terrifying acts. So I don't know if the Board is

interested in that in the future or they want to continue when these alerts are, or these warnings are lifted, and continue on the way we were or establish a new policy.

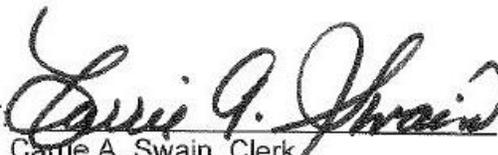
MAYOR: Well I'm glad you brought it up Commissioner. I've already asked our legal team to find what the best practices are, what most of the practices are from other districts in the State. You know the truth of the matter is it was this State that came down so hard on the Hotchkiss School in 2007. And don't misunderstand me, that child has suffered permanent, I'm not at all minimizing the pain and agony that that family has endured and obviously the jury felt strongly enough about it that they awarded the family 41 million dollars. But all of these things have been eye opening and you know as I mentioned before I sat on the Board with you and most of you and we approved endless overseas school trips and once in a while there was a question about it because there might have been a little unrest somewhere but certainly not as close as this is. And so that's why this is so hard to do. I get why they're upset, I quite frankly was a little taken back by some of the comments quite frankly but that's part of the job I guess, right. At the end of the day we're here to protect the taxpayers of Waterbury even if the parents don't see the risk, that's their business, those are their children, they can go where they like. But we need to go forward now recognizing the world we live in and understanding that the taxpayers of the City of Waterbury should not be held or have financial exposure for school sponsored overseas trips heaven forbid something awful happens. So we will be studying that carefully, we will be reporting back to this Board. You're the policy makers, you're the policy setters, we'd like to think that we'll all be in agreement and how we can eliminate the City's risk and liability for these types of trips. They can still happen but they can happen without the City's purse strings attached to them.

BROWN: Thank you Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Pagano, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

ATTEST


Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education

(Minutes transcribed in part by Virginia Birdsall)