

**WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING*

Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

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

**PRESENT:** President Brown, Commissioners Harvey, Hernandez, Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone.

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Pagano and Rodriguez.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Academic Officer Darren Schwartz, and Director of Personnel Robert Brenker.

**1. SILENT PRAYER**

President Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with a moment of silence.

STANGO: In our moment of silence this evening let us remember Ms. Mary Flaherty, Mr. Donald McCasland, and Mr. August E. Ranaudo. Ms. Flaherty was a teacher in the Waterbury Public School system for 50 years who passed away on Wednesday, August 31. She spent her entire 50 year career as a fourth grade teacher at one school – Washington School. She retired in 1999. Ms. Flaherty was also a member of the Waterbury Retired Teachers Association. Also this evening let us remember Mr. Donald McCasland who passed away on Wednesday, September 28. Don worked for Adult Education for many years as their Grants Facilitator and also as the Coordinator of the Phlebotomy classes. Don was a great asset to the Adult Education Program and was also well known and respected by the students there. Also this evening we remember Mr. Ranaudo. He was a retired teacher and principal in our district for 35 years. Augie passed away on September 16, 2016. Mr. Ranaudo was a product of the Waterbury Public Schools and a veteran of the United States Army. He taught in Tinker, Webster, and Walsh Schools. Later he became a house principal at Wallace and West Side Middle Schools. Augie was also instrumental in founding the School Administrators of Waterbury, SAW, over 40 years ago. On a personal note Mr. Ranaudo was my seventh grade and eighth grade teacher and then became my principal when I began my teaching career. He was a true professional and a quality gentleman. Ms. Flaherty, Mr. McCasland, and Mr. Ranaudo were all committed members of the staff who took pride every day in their work and were a tremendous asset to all of their students. Let us remember them and their families this evening for their service and dedication to the students of the Waterbury Public Schools.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Theriault 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 (absent). 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: Here.

#### **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 communications dated September 12, 2016 from Civil Service certifying Waleska Soler and Rosa Molina for the position of Food Service Worker.
2. Copy of communications dated September 13, 2016 from Civil Service certifying Heather Zima for the position of Paraprofessional and Dawn Garraffo for the position of Food Service Helper.
3. Email communication dated September 16, 2016 from CAGE regarding Policy Highlights.
4. Email communication dated September 25, 2016 from Danielle Albert regarding Talented and Gifted Workshop request.
5. Copy of communications from Civil Service dated September 26, 2016 certifying Thomas Russell, Nicholas Rosa, and Mark Kunofsky for the position of Maintainer I and Anne Zadora for the position of Library Page.
6. Email communication dated September 30, 2016 from CAGE regarding Policy Highlights.

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

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 28, 2016**

**Workshop, February 4, 2016 Regular Meeting, February 11, 2016 Workshop, February 18, 2016 Regular Meeting, February 25, 2016 Workshop, March 3, 2016 Regular Meeting, March 10, 2016 Workshop, March 17, 2016 Regular Meeting, June 23, 2016 Special Meeting, June 30, 2016 Special Workshop, June 30, 2016 Workshop, July 14, 2016 Special Meeting, July 28, 2016 Workshop, August 4, 2016 Regular Meeting, August 25, 2016 Workshop, September 1, 2016 Regular Meeting, September 8, 2016 Workshop, and September 15, 2016 Regular Meeting.**

BROWN: Discussion? All those in favor, opposed. Motion carries. Thank you.

## **6. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD**

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

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, motion carries. Thank you. Welcome back Lisa. I hope you're feeling better.

**Lisa Lessard had the following comments:** Thank you for welcoming me back, I'm happy to be back. It's been a long journey to get here. Basically I wanted to be back earlier to let you know what was going on with the ASL interpreters with DORS, the Department of Rehabilitation Services, American Sign Language Interpreting Unit closing July 15, 2016. There are children within this district that have not had ASL interpreters since that date and I know this specifically because my daughter is one of them. These are the dates she has not had an American Sign Language interpreter – July 20, 2016, July 21, 2016, August 23, 2016, this was during summer school, August 24, 2016. Now we're in school – September 1, 2016, September 2, 2016, September 8, 2016, September 9, 2016, September 13, 2016, September 14, 2016, September 15, 2016, September 19, 2016, September 20, 2016, September 21, 2016, September 22, 2016, September 23, 2016, September 26, 2016, September 28, 2016, and counting, and October 6, 2016. She just texted me before I got here. Now I've been in contact with the district through text and through email and basically was letting them know that DORS was closing July 15, 2016, American Sign Language Interpreting Unit. June 29<sup>th</sup> I found out and came home from the nursing home June 1, 2016, so my daughter went down to the rally with a lot of other children from Waterbury and the State and basically I called all news stations to be there because I wasn't able to go because . . . doesn't go that far. So just so you know my daughter had three ASL interpreters – Laura, Michael, and Karen. Laura just gave her two weeks' notice and she left last Tuesday, reason, this district has not unfortunately paid her since July 15, 2016 to the very date of today. So Michael left, got another job, he's now working at Life Branch and the reason is, he's been with my daughter since the fourth grade, because he's not been paid since July 15, 2016 to this very date. Karen is with my daughter still but she's looking for another job because they have houses, they have families, they have children. So she hasn't been paid this very date. Basically I was also told, which I thought was quite interesting, from Barbara Bouley at Captain Ouellette's office, they were promised to get contracts. Barbara told me that contracts in the City of Waterbury right now are running behind, huge time, so they're asking all people to sign vendor slips, they're independent contractors, they had an oral agreement, which I told them first that was a mistake, they had an oral agreement, Denise Carr, Supervisor of Special Ed, that they were gonna

get a contract from the City of Waterbury being independent contractors. They're telling them to sign vendor slips. Vendor slip, contract, apples and oranges. I'm here asking, begging, pleading for my daughter's ASL interpreters to be paid because we were told by the State Department of Education they should go to Waterbury Supreme Court, charge them for their attorneys to get paid because they should have been getting paid weekly and it's been a couple of months now. We all have mortgages, we all have children, you know bills come in they don't have the money for it, they have to look elsewhere. It's not just my child, American Sign Language interpreters here in the City are lacking. I know Governor Dan Malloy did without but there's Partners out of Massachusetts, there's Sources out of Life Bridge in Bridgeport, there is Sources which is brand new as of two months ago out of the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford. There are places they can go to get ASL interpreters. I was told by Denise Carr, Supervisor of Special Ed at a PPT in my dining room because I am now physically disabled, she came over and she said they refused to call Partners. I've been sending them things from Partners out of Massachusetts, Sources out of ASD, Life Bridge out of Bridgeport, and I've been sending them the prices of the interpreters, I've been sending them everything. Basically to be in school you need to be legalities within. So they need to have Connecticut registration cards. A . . . card just means membership, a blue . . . cards means certification nationally, a white Connecticut registration card means their allowed to be an ASL interpreter within the State schools. So far on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> the interpreter that was with my daughter just so you know did not have a Connecticut registration card. She came from a Waterbury school here in the City that they borrowed to give to my daughter in the process of. She had a . . . card, and ITP card, that means Interpreter Training Program membership card, no Connecticut registration card. You by law can tell them I'm sorry but you can't be an ASL interpreter because of that. So if you could look into that I'd deeply appreciate it because it's not just my child, it's all children here in the City that are not getting what they need to get and there's a US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights complaint, State complaint, which they took on because there's over 20 days so far.

BROWN: Thank you very much for bringing that to the Board's attention.

**Thomas Pelletier, 112 Concord Street, had the following comments:** I felt the need to come here tonight overlooking in the paper the last couple of weeks it seems like lately a lot of things just shoot right to the paper rather than being brought up to the Board. First about Reed School, this is nothing new and the City has been developing plans with the cracking in the flooring. I know a lot of the guys that have been working there and have been working there and they're doing their best at it but you have to realize that area that that school sits on was deplorable before the school got there. You know we did a lot of remediation work, of course the land is gonna settle. Yes things need to be addressed but to say that we need to stop an audit that's gonna cause, that has nothing to do with the warranties of the school. If there's warranties still left of that school they are going to be addressed but to tell the State of Connecticut that we're gonna stop an audit, you know what the State of Connecticut is going to do to us, they've already made . . . announcement today that there are more cuts on the way. You know if we're gonna bust their chops they're gonna bust our chops in another way so you know I think that we need to go forward with this audit.

The other reason why I came here tonight that I found was very discouraging, you know we have a new HR representative in the Education Department, Mr. Brenker, who I think is doing a phenomenal job and ever since he's been here has been getting a lot of flak from a lot of different areas in the community. Yes maybe some people that happen to be in the department but for years this Board has said repeatedly why haven't we hired an HR person and yet the Mayor, this Board came about in the last year said we're gonna hire an HR person and he's developed plans that have saved the City countless dollars, just on absenteeism alone. I mean, you guys all know the numbers every year, how much we were spending on substitutes, how much we were spending in overtime, I mean the proof is in the pudding. You know to say that morale is bad I beg to differ and these so called people saying that morale is bad I would like to say in working in the department, these so called people saying that morale are bad are the ones causing these issues for these reforms because they've gotten away with things for years and years. Yes, I loved Paul Guidone, Paul Guidone was a great guy, he wore many hats, he left this City in a good place. To say that Mr. Brenker is taking on too much and we need to evaluate, he's doing about much, maybe more then what Paul Guidone was doing and he's wearing many hats and he should be commended on that. You know so I think we need to, you know, for the public that doesn't get to go out there to these meetings all the time we need to think first before we go out to the paper and make political issues out of nothing because the public only sees the top title unfortunately in the paper and they don't read the whole story and they don't know exactly what's going on. But I think you know this Board needs to really evaluate what are real issues here and needs to start figuring out now with the budget what we're gonna do because the State gave us a warning ahead of time and we've been very lucky in this City with a Mayor, a Superintendent, and Boards working together to get more funding from Hartford so I think we need to figure out what are real issues and what are non-real issues. And if we can't figure that out next November we'll figure it out. Thank you.

**Sal Diaz had the following comments:** Hello everyone, thank you for having us. My name is Sal Diaz and I'm the local Executive Director for Miss Greater Waterbury Scholarship Program. Waterbury, the Greater Waterbury area hasn't had a scholarship program locally in a few years and Alex, who's the current Ms. Greater Waterbury, actually won her title through another local and chose to represent Greater Waterbury. And so one of the things when she won her title we both agreed that we wanted to bring back the local to Greater Waterbury because we have such a diverse of students in our towns and serving our populations. So we're here today just to tell you that we are opening the local back up, December 18 is our slated pageant date and the importance of this is that really the girls are taught to uphold the four points of the crown which is "scholarship", so we do award scholarship dollars to the young ladies based on sponsorships from our local businesses which we'll be going around to; "service" – they go out to the community and volunteer; and "style" – so we teach them how to embrace the individual style, how to empower themselves to shine, and how to be our next president, or our next president of something else, and how to succeed. So I just want to tell you, Miss Greater Waterbury is Alex Giannelli and Miss Westbrook is Brooke Cyr. Alex actually was Ms. Hartford County a couple of years ago and because of our program we have a Miss, Miss Outstanding Teen, and a Princess. So Brooke was Alex's princess and in your flyer you will see how Brooke started off as a Princess, very nervous, was shy, wasn't sure she wanted to do it, she took on it and Alex mentored her

and now she is mentoring another Princess. So I'm just gonna let them tell a little part of their journey.

ALEXANDER GIANNELLI: I'm the current Miss Greater Waterbury 2016 and I just wanted to come up here and say that I am a volunteer at Maloney Magnet School in one of the kindergarten classrooms; I've been volunteering there for three years. I go to school at Waterbury UConn right next door. I'm really passionate about Waterbury and that's why I chose to represent it. I think it is so vital for Waterbury to try to welcome the organization back into the City because not only will it allow girls from the local area to be able to earn scholarship dollars to be able to get out into their community and promote their personal platform and continue their education but it's also going to help the Waterbury community prosper and grow especially within the school system. I have a personal platform, it's called Happy Hands, promoting health and hygiene awareness and I try to go into schools in the Waterbury community and teach them how to wash their hands, all about cold and flu season because I think that's really important and that's gonna help them not miss days of school and keep them healthier longer. So not only do I have the opportunity to go around to local businesses and represent different events in the Waterbury community but I also get to go into schools and see first-hand all of the excitement and all of the potential that these students have and I'm so glad that I get to be able to do that but it's really important that we're welcomed back into this community because our girls have so much to give to the Waterbury community and we're hoping that they have stuff to give back to us too.

BROOKE CYR: I just want to say from personal experience how much I've grown throughout this organization is amazing. I used to be a shy girl who couldn't talk to like adults at all and now I'm perfectly comfortable with it. And I think it's really important that girls in Waterbury get involved because there's . . . it doesn't have a pageant but hopefully we will this year and it helps them to build confidence and keep them focused on school to win scholarships and get out there and get into community service.

BROWN: Thank you very much. Mr. Diaz, if you could just tell us what we as a school district can do to help.

DIAZ: So we're hoping that you will promote the pageant within your school cause we're looking for girls from the ages of 13 to 17 to go into our Miss Outstanding Teen and then 17 to 24 is our Miss. Our pageant again will be held on December 18. My information is here on this pamphlet, my email. The other thing I just want to mention really quick, it's a real sisterhood and one of the things that I thought was amazing to me this year, I was at the pageant and I was behind the scenes working and I'm very competitive and the girls are very competitive and one of the girls unfortunately went to put on her dress and her dress busted right before she was supposed to go on stage with all the other girls. And none of the girls . . . refused to go on stage and everybody ran down to get their dress to give to her so they could go on stage together even though they were all competing. So that's what they teach – sisterhood, service. So than you and if you could encourage your students, I sent you a form letter, thank you.

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:53 p.m.**

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, thank you.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

BROWN: The Superintendent is not with us this evening. I just want to highlight a couple of her comments.

*The following announcements were distributed to the Commissioners:*

Our Annual Title I District Meeting was held last night at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. The event featured Title I information for parents as well as educational strategies parents can use to assist their children to succeed in school.

Tomorrow, October 7, is a professional development day for staff. There will be no school for students. School is also closed on Monday, October 10 for the Columbus Day holiday.

Our schools are continuing to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. For example, the Waterbury Career Academy is hosting a celebration on Wednesday, October 12, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The annual district wide celebration will be held on Friday, October 28 from 9:00 to 11:00 at Crosby High School.

The official Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony and Dedication for the Kennedy High School Athletic Fields and Addition will be held on Saturday, October 15, beginning at 10:00 in the auxiliary gym.

October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. Annabella's Angels, founded by Tinker School teacher Jessica Ocasio, is joining with thousands of organizations to increase public awareness. The organization is holding its Second Annual Remembering Our Babies Walk to raise awareness and funds to help purchase CuddleCots for all Connecticut hospitals. The event will be held on Sunday, October 9, 2016, at Fulton Park.

There will be a "Fall In Love With Reading" event for children at Library Park on Saturday, October 15, rain or shine, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by Bridge to Success and the Silas Bronson Library.

The Waterbury Arts Magnet School is conducting two Informational Open Houses with School Tours for prospective students. The first is on Saturday, October 15, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. The second is Tuesday, October 25th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Applications will be available starting on Saturday, October 1, and must be submitted by November 18th at 2:00 p.m.

The district is hosting a Career Fair for teachers on Tuesday, October 18 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Waterbury Career Academy. Certified teachers are encouraged to bring copies of their certification, resume, and letters of recommendation for on-site interviews.

The Greater Waterbury branch of the NAACP's 74th annual Freedom Fund Awards Luncheon is Saturday, October 22nd, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott. Several Waterbury educators are being honored this year, including: Jacqueline Newsome Butler, Waterbury Adult Education; Shernett Evans-Foster, Chase

Elementary School; Talisha Foy, Gilmartin School; Jade Lee Gopie, Crosby High School; Jahana Hayes, Kennedy High School; Adela Jorge, Bilingual/ESOL Education; Mary Ann Marold, FACE Center; Cassandra Fann Pierce, Kennedy High School; and Anita Watkins, Wilby High School

## **8. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

BROWN: I would just like to recognize a couple of our Commissioners this evening. I would like to recognize Commissioner Stango, I received a letter from CABA, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, saying congratulations Commissioner Stango, you have earned CABA's Certificated Board of Education Member Award. Very few other Connecticut Board of Education members have earned this prestigious honor so congratulations.

*(applause)*

BROWN: And I'd like to also recognize Commissioner Thomas Van Stone who received recognition at the Waterbury Career Academy Manufacturing Open-house. Do you want to just say a few words Tom?

T. VAN STONE: I'd love to. Thank you Madam President. Career Academy, a couple of weeks ago now, Commissioner Sweeney and I were there. It's a major milestone, this is our first senior class at Career Academy, we put a lot into this school to bring trades people back into the community. It was pretty much a forgotten art for a number of years where we pretty much pushed all students to college and college only and now we're looking at the fact that we've forgotten about the trades. So we had a ceremony the other night that Commissioner Sweeney and I were very happy to be at where there's an association called the National Institute of Metalworking Skills, it's called NIMS for those that are in the trade. And what this is is it's a certification and accreditation that individuals in the trades are awarded to say they have that and they're ready to go onto the next step which would be an apprenticeship. This is typically a certificate given to adults. We awarded about a dozen students...

SWEENEY: Seventeen.

T. VAN STONE: Seventeen, I'm corrected by Commissioner Sweeney. Seventeen students that received this accreditation, a national accreditation, and there's more to follow. So this was a major event at Career Academy. Commissioner Sweeney and I were so proud to be there that night to see the students. I spoke to a couple of parents, I think the parents kind of got it a little more than the students but they will realize as they go into their trade that what they were able to do as teenagers and what our school system has afforded them to do is a major, major accomplishment. I don't think it really got the recognition it deserved at the time so I appreciate that you're allowing me to talk about it. This is not only a real big check in the box for those of who bring education to our students, what we have given the opportunity for these students to achieve is just fantastic. There's about 30 accreditations you can get through NIMS, the Principal promised me there's more to come but the fact that we are graduating high school students already with this lead in to become an apprentice in a trade is exactly what this school is meant to be, exactly what this school is meant to be. I was very proud that they asked me to present the awards and I explained to them that when they came in as freshman I was a freshman on this Board so now they're seniors, we're going to

continue the tradition and this is a major accomplishment. I really wish it would get a little more publicity than it did get. So again I appreciate the fact that you were able to honor us tonight and say that these students have done exactly what we asked them to do. There's a lot to this. They don't just go to school you know from whatever, seven to two, these are students who then have to go out to local companies and complete work. Some of these students work until seven, eight, nine o'clock at night, it's a tremendous feat and these students are, I told them that night they definitely get my 95% award and I really appreciate you giving me a little bit of time to talk about them because they're a tremendous group of kids, we have more kids at Career Academy that are going to accomplish even more between the health fields and everything else. It felt good for Commissioner Sweeney and I that night because we don't get a lot of opportunities to see what our decisions do, that was a night we really got to see what our decisions do and that school is right on the money. So thank you again.

BROWN: Your welcome and thank you for your commitment to our children. And Commissioner Sweeney, thank you for representing the Board that evening.

Next I just wanted to mention the CABA Newsletter. The CABA Convention is beginning November 17, I'm pretty sure we're gonna have a good crew, it's always worthwhile for us as Board members to learn from CABA and from other members, it's an opportunity to network and really understand educational issues facing Connecticut. So please try to come if possible. There's some really upcoming professional development seminars, there's one Thursday, October 13 on legal issues and you know there's some, laws change dramatically all the time so this is another opportunity to get an update. Also on Tuesday, October 18, there's a Workshop designed for superintendent secretaries, administrative assistants, and executive assistants and topics to be discussed are coping with upset and angry people and the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act. So again dealing with the public, how to really honor the public, how to really interface with the public, this is all part of our job and we can all learn how to do that. So I would recommend that anybody who can avail themselves of these wonderful professional development opportunities to do so.

Also on October 17 I've invited Jim Finley who has been the Coordinator for the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Funding Education. He's willing to come to Waterbury and tell us about the historic court case that's been on the news, the court case that happened about four weeks ago, and it's going to dramatically impact hopefully education funding and a whole host of other issues. So he is intimately involved in this case and I thought it would be interesting for Board members who are available, he only could come at 10:30 in the morning but we'll make sure we get the information for you. If you would like to come I think that would be great. I haven't determined the place yet, I want to see what the response is because I've also invited, we're in area one for the CABA district so I invited our area Boards of Educations to attend as well because it's a critical, important issue. So if time allows I hope you will come. And that's about it, thank you.

Moving onto number nine, is there anyone who would like to remove anything from the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Item 9.9 please.

*President Brown proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.8 and 9.10 through 9.13.*

## **9. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Stango, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.8 and 9.10 through 9.13, as listed:**

- 9.1 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with PowerSchool Group, LLC for a Student Information Management System.
- 9.2 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES), for a two year period, for Project Management Services for a Student Information Management System.
- 9.3 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the submission of the 2016-2017 State Bilingual Grant Application.
- 9.4 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the submission of the 2016-2018 Title III Grant Application.
- 9.5 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Professional Service Agreement with Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center of Greater Waterbury, Inc., for a Licensed Board Certified Behavior Analyst.
- 9.6 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Ambassador Wheelchair Services, Inc., for a three year period, for Transportation Services for Medically Fragile Students and/or Students with Disabilities.
- 9.7 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Friar Associates, Inc., for Engineering Design Services for Elementary School Elevator Projects and Resurfacing Parking Lots and Tennis Courts Projects.
- 9.8 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the acceptance of the Code Combination Project, State Project #151-0243, as complete.
- 9.10 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the acceptance of the Waterbury Career Academy Project, State Project #151-0273, as complete.
- 9.11 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Robyn Hicock, KHS, and four chaperones to take 50 students to Salem, MA on Friday, October 21, 2016 to visit various sites.

- 9.12 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.
- 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.

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

## **10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

### **Commissioner on Building**

#### **Item #9.9**

STANGO: Ladies and gentlemen, with the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the acceptance of the Reed Elementary School Project, State Project #151-0253, as complete, **so moved**.

SWEENEY: **Second**.

BROWN: Discussion. Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Thank you Madam President. I'm gonna try to keep this thing focused because I have some comments about a couple of statements made by, during comments from the public. But I'm gonna say this that I have a problem with voting "yes" on this acceptance of the Reed School being complete and I'm doing so because one, I want to make it official that there is an issue, I feel, with it. When you build a beautiful school and I think back to the years that were put into getting this school placed, first of all in the north end, placed where it was placed, where it is now, what this community did to fight for this school to get for the naming of the school to be named after, the first school named after an African American, the work that went into, the workmanship that went into the school, the beauty of the school, when you drive by North Main Street and can remember what was there before and what is there now and what that school has invoked in terms of the community and rebuilding the community right across the street from PAL. So when you work hard on that then you could sit up there and talk about what's important and what's not important. When you walk into the school and by all means you walk in, the schools complete, it's beautiful, but you walk in and you immediately see cracks in the floor. Now as a Commissioner am I supposed to ignore that? Am I supposed to act like there's no flaws in the building? This is an obvious flaw. Now I have been around long enough to know we have approved other contracts, other schools, but when something is as obvious as this I just have an issue with approving that. I question the liability factor from the contractor. Do we have any provisions in place to go back to the construction, those who are in charge of construction? Do we have any provisions in place to go back to O & G when there's something as obvious? What we're looking at with WAMS happened over the years. The issue with the floors at Reed School I believe was a matter of two years that we

noticed cracks in the floor and we were told that things were being settled, the building was settling. Okay, I can accept that, but then we have more cracks and more cracks in these beautiful floors and it takes away from the beauty of the floors. And this has nothing to do, this is not an issue of the maintenance department because I believe I have a good relationship with them, as soon as I walk in the school they know who I am. The relationship with the principal and the vice principal and the students, this has to do with I believe, I mean I'm no expert on construction but I know that there's not supposed to be cracks in the floor that there's something obviously wrong. So I'm just going to vote "no" on this because I think there needs to be a record that someone noticed there was a crack, there are cracks in the floor, and for whatever that is worth, yes the school is complete but there are flaws so where do we go from there? So I just want it to be noted and I just think we need to look at this as we move forward. I know we've had other schools that we've built and we have signed off on, what's the sign off process? Who okayed that everything is okay knowing that we had cracks in the floor? So I think we need to look at that, moving forward, to see what the liability factor is here. When we get this money are we gonna put that money towards fixing the cracks in the floor? So I'm just, again, making sure that this is official, that there is a flaw, we're going to vote to move forward with this which I think we should I mean it's you know yes we want the money, we want to complete it, but there are flaws. So thank you.

BROWN: Commissioner Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President. I have some of the same concerns because I brought up and what bothers me about this is "as complete" and I know this is in essence a check in the box to get the money. However when I brought up when we did bonding recently to have to do all sorts of environmental changes to our new schools where our older schools were okay and we asked about liability, . . . signed off as complete well that's what concerns me here. Do we need to go forward and get the check from the State on this? Yes, I guess we do. However the way it is exactly worded on our Agenda is "as complete" and that does worry me a little bit. If we move forward and say okay, as complete, do we now accept this building as is, like a used car? So it does worry me a little bit that we're saying this and I don't think we got the right answers or at least answers that have satisfied me to say if we sign this it's just a procedural thing and we can go back later. Well we were told just the opposite when it came to the bonding money. So I get it, we need a check in the box, but I really do hear what Commissioner Harvey is saying and that we need to really worry about that wording "as complete" so thank you.

BROWN: Thank you, Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: I was basically gonna ask if Bob could come up and share some light on it.

BRENKER: I share all of your concerns. Since we met last week I went back with O & G to get the information that we have in the file – letters from the architect, letter from the structural engineer, minutes of the Building Committee. I've been told that legally the sign off is for the money, it's not for liability, but I agree, we should have all the doubts. What I'd like to propose is that we take it and postpone it until the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> and then we go forward with a Building Committee meeting and I'm available on the 17<sup>th</sup> if that works for the Building Committee members or I can meet on other dates.

I don't want to rush this, I've talked to the Finance Director for the City and he's okay if we sit back for two, three, four weeks and go through all the information that we have or that we need to get. Because frankly I don't find anything after 2012 and that's a concern.

SWEENEY: Through the chair, **a motion to postpone Item 9.9 until the meeting of October 20<sup>th</sup>.**

HARVEY: **Second.**

BROWN: Discussion. Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: I really didn't get an opportunity to get in there so I'm gonna parley my comments in there at this time.

SWEENEY: Motion to postpone on the floor, only discussion on the motion.

THERIAULT: Okay, I withdraw it.

BROWN: All in favor. Okay, thank you very much. I think we all need the information and we appreciate your attention to it.

## **11. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Stango and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file Superintendent's Notification to the Board, items 11.1 through 11.11, as listed:**

- 11.1 Athletic appointments effective immediately:  
Soucey, David – Assistant Football Coach, KHS.
- 11.2 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:  
DeCena, Davina – Parent Liaison, Washington School, \$15.12 per hour for 30 hours per week, school year only, non-union with salary and benefits governed by UPSEU #69, funded by Title I grant.  
Leach, Darice – Classroom Assistant, Rotella Magnet School, \$11.15 per hour for 35 hours per week, school year only, salary & benefits governed by UPSEU #68 bargaining agreement, funded by Rotella Magnet grant.  
Matazzo, Claudette – Child Associate (recalled from layoff list), Duggan School, \$22.00 per hour for 19.5 hours per week, school year only, non-union and without benefits, funded by Primary Mental Health grant.  
McIntosh, Natasha – Assistant Tutor to the Homeless, \$16.00 per hour for 8-10 hours per week, school year only, non-union and without benefits, funded by EHC&Y grant.  
Rentas, Benoni – Classroom Assistant, Sprague School, \$11.15 per hour for 35 hours per week, school year only, salary & benefits governed by UPSEU #68 bargaining agreement, funded by School Readiness grant.  
Rinaldi, Joseph – Assistant Tutor to the Homeless, \$16.00 per hour for 8-10 hours per week, school year only, non-union and without benefits, funded by EHC&Y grant.

Walluck, Robin – Assistant Tutor to the Homeless, \$16.00 per hour for 8-10 hours per week, school year only, non-union and without benefits, funded by EHC&Y grant.

- 11.3 Recreation Specialist appointments, State Department of Education and 21<sup>st</sup> Grant After-school Programs, maximum of 10 hours per week @ \$12.00 p/hour, non-union and without benefits, effective immediately:

Chase Park House: Jedidah Burke	Hopeville: Adnyl Trinidad
Driggs: Josiah Burke	Wilson: Joshua Adorno
Substitute: Rachel Lamb	

- 11.4 State Department of Education After-school Program appointments, Sprague School, salary according to individual's contract:

Geraldine Horan – teacher	Stephanie Pascale – teacher
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- 11.5 21st Century Grant After-school Program appointments, salary according to individual's contract:

Jamie Donahue – PE teacher	Wesley Katrenya – PE teacher
Lauren Abarzua – Sub Teacher	Christian Baumbach – Sub Teacher
Carli Carpentieri – Sub Teacher	Vivaldi Demas – Sub Teacher
Alison Kirchberger – Sub Teacher	Marcy Peschke – Sub Teacher

- 11.6 Rotella Magnet School's After School Program appointments, October 3-December 8, 2016 – Monday through Thursday, salary according to individual's contract:

Administrator – Robin Henry	AV Tech – Brian Michaud
Grants Facilitator – Jean Zastaury	

Teachers – Enrichment and/or Academics

Altieri, Christina  
Argenta, Lauren  
Barrett, Ellen  
Cipriano, Nancyjean  
Ciuffo, Stephanie  
D'Aniello, Kara  
Drysdale, Dana  
Ecke, Lisa  
Ledbetter, Brenda  
Lee, Ellen  
McLaren, Ashley  
Miller, Terri  
Rinaldi, Heather  
Shopey, Meghan  
Silva, Joseph  
Vargas, Melissa

Subs

Heidgerd, Angela  
Matthews, Julia  
Monroe, Mary  
Ouellette, Bernadette  
Romano, Lisa  
Russaw, Crystal  
Santovasi, Monica  
Stanco, Barbara

Aides

Beaudoin, Janet  
Generali, Linda  
Hamel, Jacqueline  
Lopez, Elizabeth  
Meehan, Lisa  
Santos, Jeannine  
Vicenzi, Valerie  
Walters, Kimberly

Paras

Begin, Debra  
Cicchiello, Ersilia  
Sugrue, Kathleen



BRENKER: We're very happy with it and we appreciate all the help we're getting from you all notifying the minority community. That's helping us greatly. We have certain jobs we need to fill. You mentioned the Career Academy, we have some openings there left to fill and some other need in psychologists and speech/language pathologists that are critical going forward. That's what we're focused on this time around. But we have the plan set, the ILDs are all set to be there with us, principals have volunteered, vice principals have volunteered. This time around our focus is not on the elementary openings, we don't have any but we will take applications and interview people of course. We are set with it and we hope everything works out.

HERNANDEZ: Do you know if we were able to get it out to the Spanish speaking radio stations?

BRENKER: We did. We had assistance with the names and I got some additional station information today to provide. But, please, if you have any doubt, give it to anyone you know, we want everybody to have an opportunity to come in.

HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

BROWN: Thank you Mr. Brenker. Commissioner Theriault, you wanted to comment?

THERIAULT: I'm gonna bring us down memory lane here a little bit, I've gotten half my voice back any so at least I can hear myself talk. I'm gonna bring you back to the point of Rotella when Rotella first opened up. We wanted to open up that building really quick so we spent an additional \$400,000 to shrink wrap it so it would come in six months early and actually it came in a year late so that was a year and a half from the shrink wrap. And the structural engineer on the job, I'm not chastising him but obviously something went wrong because once we accepted the building there were all kinds of leaks, there was all kinds of drainage problems, the tiles were picking up, we couldn't touch the tiles because there was asbestos in them, and there were all kinds of, a myriad, multiple types of problems in the building that actually still go on today. So that's where some of our problems begin. Now we take this building, we sign off for it and they said you know the cracks are only, it's not really serious, we're gonna put monitors in here and we're gonna monitor the evaluation, the cracking of the building. But all you really have to do is look at walls, you don't need a monitor in there, we don't need a seismograph instrument here. I mean that part of the building obviously is sinking and people say well you know you got to expect a building to settle and you got to expect the building to crack. Washington School didn't crack, Hopeville didn't crack, Sprague didn't crack. Actually Sprague was built on a fisher, on a fault, there's remediation system in there that actually pumps the radon out of the basement of the building. Not too many people know about that, it's not really publicized, you want to keep that kind of stuff quiet. So I agree with Commissioner Harvey, being chairman of the Building and Grounds I'm very concerned about the buildings. I'm very concerned about accepting contracts for things that say it's okay. You know they kind of wash their hands of it and say we accepted the building. Remember when we accepted Duggan? We accepted Duggan and all of a sudden there's still a lawsuit going on that we didn't hear about for five years, six years and all of a sudden two to four million dollars' worth of change orders are no longer acceptable by the State. People would say that's okay because we bond the money. We bond the money but it comes out of our hide too because we're State taxpayers and City taxpayers and when we bond the money we

pay, the State pays three-quarters, we pay one-quarter; it's still our money. So I can appreciate your concern. When they took out the PCBs and the asbestos in the building the guy said he would take out so many thousands of tons and he did and when he was all done he said I'm done. They said how about the second floor? Oh, I go by tonnage not by the volume of the building so obviously somebody didn't cross their t's, cross their i's, or do the proper calculation of how much asbestos and PCBs were in that building. So I too am concerned, I too am concerned over when we get a report on energy and Washington and Hopeville schools are recognized as some of our most energy efficient buildings that were built over 100 years ago?

BROWN: They did it right.

THERIAULT: Well look at this edifice, you can almost fit all of Washington School in this area. I mean there's four stories here. I mean it's a magnificent structure, it's a magnificent edifice, but were our buildings really built properly? I mean Gilmartin School, they talked about putting solar energy in the building, I didn't see any solar energy go in. They talk about heat pumps, there's all kinds of things they should be doing with regard to the structure of the building. You go up to Carrington School, we put that building up, we, this Board, O & G and the contractors, on top of the hill wouldn't, you couldn't find, I mean goats live on top of that hill and deer and all kinds of animals. They put the building up there. Unfortunately we're right next to the power line which I'm really not crazy about. But absolutely a beautiful building. I don't buy it that Reed School was built on a swamp and it has to settle. If it's built on a swamp then you put the proper footings in there and the proper foundation and you go past the swamp into the bedrock so the building doesn't crack. I don't agree that if you build a building it has to settle and it has to crack. I don't agree with that. With the architects and the engineers that they have today the building shouldn't crack. The day we went in there and opened that building there was a beautiful mosaic and right down the center of the building was a giant crack. That was our first, I mean if they said to us listen, we're gonna let you accept the building but we're gonna do something about these cracks, I didn't really hear that loud and clear. I heard you know, now I'm hearing a little bit different that we're gonna go in there and we're gonna look how to fix these cracks and the cracks should be fixed. As we put up the buildings I think we need to do the proper thing. If you look at that hallway going down there and you look at some of the areas of this floor it's all bumps, all kinds of bumps. They didn't want to remove it because it's full of asbestos. So I could go on and one with these building problems but I hope as we go forward with any building projects that we have that we take notice of the buildings, and there should have been footings out here, not on hard . . . ground compacted earth, should have been footings and maybe if there were footings maybe it wouldn't have cracked.

And my last comment with regard to the removal of asbestos. We look at Carrington School that we tore down and we really probably should have renovated it and made a StayWell Health Clinic out of it for that end of town but we didn't we tore it down. It cost it two and a half million dollars to tear it down. So we don't always do it right, sometimes we do it wrong, and I'm sensitive to the speaker who said, threatened us and said I'll vote you out of office. Okay, you vote me out of office, that's your vote but there's a whole bunch of people out there who will vote me into office. So tit for tat. Thank you.

BROWN: Commissioner Van Stone, we are now under New Business.

T. VAN STONE: Many months ago we came out of the budget talks, I had asked for a number of contracts to be reviewed. That meeting was set up for me over the summer only to be informed that a single Commissioner cannot make that request that it has to be in a committee type setting which I disagree with but that's what I was told, that that advice came to our Central office that I could not do that. Now the meeting was scheduled, they had the information available for me and it was, we did not have the meeting. So we're now in October and some of the things I asked to look at was the contracts we have on the table and are those services we pay for being provided. We actually voted in a couple of contracts tonight that actually last week in Workshop I asked if those services will be provided. So we have heard nothing about whether or not State Street School could be brought into another facility that we already occupy to save us some money on the rental fee or whether or not we're gonna consider renegotiating that contract and of course to my surprise last year upon my cries of renegotiating, we actually paid more because we paid the full utility bill. So that kind in the opposite direction that I expected. So we're here in October, within the next four, five, six months; probably more like four or five, we'll be talking about the budget again and once again I'll be told it's too late to look at those contracts. So I'm not sure where we're going with that. Are we just going to say you know that's Commissioner Van Stone just going off again or are we really going to look to save some money on some contracts and apply that elsewhere? I'm not saying we eliminate it from the budget, I've said reapply it elsewhere. I've also said I'm willing to stick with the contracts we have as long as we make a good effort to renegotiate. Between the State Street School and how much we pay for places like the Palace and a few others, I think the price is too high for what we get. I'm not sure like in the Palace why we pay the theater director any money and it's actually about a third of the contract. So I guess we could blow it off for another year and say we don't really care or maybe we could finally have a conversation on what we said we would have a conversation about. So I'm at the point that I'm probably close to putting up the white flag that we will ever do anything about these contracts that we sign up for and, blindly sign up for, and just continue to pay the dollars. It's time we look at these contracts and get back what we're paying. I don't mind paying if we get it back. But the two I highlighted I'm sure everyone is just waiting for the time to go by and I could be told that it's too late to talk about it. So I figured I haven't spoken about it in a couple of months so maybe it was time to bring it up again. So we really need to discuss this. It may be already too late because I will pretty much guarantee that we have not looked for any relocation of the students at State Street. So at some point hopefully we do talk about it. Thank you

BROWN: I would like to ask Mr. Brenker because I have been in discussions with Mr. Brenker in September and he assures me that there is a committee looking at that, they postponed it over the summer, but that was a request by this Board to look at the pros and cons and options of State Street School and Mr. Brenker and his staff have been doing their due diligence.

T. VAN STONE: May I ask who's on the Committee?

BROWN: Mr. Brenker and staff.

BRENKER: Do you want the names of the people that are meeting with us?

BROWN: That's not necessary right now.

BRENKER: Okay. It's a multi-functional group, it's not just my staff, it's multi-functional staff. We have met, we continue to meet every week, we stopped for about six weeks in the summer with the vacation scheduled. We came back right afterwards; we've identified the program needs. I'm not going to discuss real estate options because you probably would understand that may raise the price if we say we're out looking for places people are going to say their property is more valuable now that Education needs it. But we are looking at all options. The first option is to keep them in a currently owned or leased facility that they have. But then we're looking at other options that may be available. We're looking at combining some parts of the two and from there I don't know how much more I can say in open session. But we meet every week. The next meeting is Tuesday because of the holiday on Monday.

BROWN: Thank you. Okay, so we are on top of it and we'll definitely have a report on your findings.

BRENKER: The Superintendent has tasked us with a decision presented to her by January.

J. VAN STONE: Madam President. Why are members of the Committee super-secret?

BROWN: They're not secret...

BRENKER: I didn't say they were; I have no secrets.

BROWN: They're not secret; I didn't think it was necessary but feel free. Nobody's trying to keep, this is all very transparent.

BRENKER: If you want the names...

J. VAN STONE: If you wouldn't mind.

BRENKER: I don't mind at all. It's me, Lisa Dunn because of the personnel issues with teachers, Will Zhuta, Mr. Whyte, Ms. Baker, Ms. Owen, Lisa Ariola, Rich Arroyo, the principals, and I think we've had people in and out at different points for specific questions. That's all I can remember off the top of my head. But I have no secrets.

BROWN: Okay. Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Same topic. The only reason I voted for this last time, I was opposed to it all along with other Board members here, I was opposed to it all along, just because of the fact that we didn't really give them enough notice. If we had given them the proper notice and we have facilities I think in-house without buying anything that we could take these kids and put them in. We're looking at approximately 90 kids that have gone down to 60 of which probably 30 or 40 attend on a daily basis. I've checked the attendance records and I know part of their problem is attendance and the nature of the children there, they're very difficult children to handle and part of their problem is chronic absenteeism, attendance, and academics. I ran the sister program for years,

the alternative school program, the Enlightenment School for three years when it was in its infancy so I know well the nature of the students that go there. The program actually is costing us closer to 400,000 cause we're paying the utilities, we're paying for two custodians, we're paying for the lease, we're paying for other things and so forth and when you look at the lease and you add these other things up it is closer to \$400,000. Now \$400,000 for 60 kids to me is a little pricey. And I'm gonna say this again because people don't want to hear it, I'm gonna say it again because it's the truth, when the Enlightenment School was refurbished we were to take State Street out, refurbish that area and put State Street back in and then we were going to take Enlightenment out and when that area was refurbished we were going to put them all back in. Both programs together not separately. I know maybe our educational focus has changed and certainly the requirements of education have changed and evolved over the years, the last 10 years or more. But I don't see any reason why we can't put 50 or 60 kids back into the Enlightenment School from State Street. I mean it's not like they're in the hallways bumping into each other and when you go over there you're lucky if you have four or five kids in the class and maybe by the nature of the situation maybe that's the way they should be taught. And by the way there are some great kids, great success stories that came out of the Enlightenment School and come out of State Street. I myself bumped into a young lady from the Enlightenment School and she said to me I wanted to look you up, I said for what, and she said I went back to school and got my bachelors degree from Teikyo Post; thanks for never giving up on me. Not just me, the school system and the Board and the teachers there. But I could go on and on but I see no reason whatsoever to, as the number one, it almost seems like it's a preemptive strike to say that the number one option is to keep them there without looking at all of the information and all of our options. I think \$400,000 is way too much. The rectory building right next door to the current Enlightenment School is available for lease. They were thinking about leasing it. The little building, the little rectory building, the little building on Church Street was available before we made it into a special resource center. You could have put 60 kids in there. There always seems like every time we turn up another stone there's a reason why we can't move it. I think there is a reason why we can move it. And quite honestly I'm a little insulted that not one Board member is on your committee. I think somebody should be on the committee so they can bring a report back to us. So what I said before I truly mean. I'm sure your committee is doing a good job and they're well intended but I hope they're not getting whispered in their ear before they go into the meeting as to which way this discussion is gonna go. But as you go forward you make the options, you're the number one boss today so and you're the number two boss during the rest of the time so you could make the options but just make them fairly and keep your options open so that they're equitable and just. Thank you.

BROWN: Thank you Mr. Brenker. And I can assure everybody it's gonna be a transparent process, Board members, once the staff who gets paid to do this research and analysis, will bring it forward and we'll have substantive discussions by pertinent committees and Board members. So I think we are starting the process so thank you very much.

As to the issue of the contracts, I have actually listened very carefully to the conversation and I think a lot of us some issues and I have asked Attorney Wihbey to do a workshop on contracts to the Board so that we understand the process and our role in the contracts and the role by City Charter in the contracts and how we may look

at that and see if there is a different role for us so that we can do our due diligence. I think we all agree with you Commissioner Van Stone that we want to make sure that we are getting the bang for our buck and hold everybody accountable. So I think that's a first step and then we'll see if we can go from there. If we need City Charter changes, if we feel that we don't have enough input and enough active negotiations then maybe that's a City Charter issue. So hopefully we will move forward. So I did want you to know we have been trying to answer some of these questions. Commissioner Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: That's the same line I've been hearing for the three and a half years I've been on this Board – we'll always talk about it, we'll always talk about it, we never do. The bottom line is our name goes on the approval for these contracts. Now if we want to make it instead of you know the way the situation is now, we want to go to a czar management approach for our City then we don't approve these contracts. But right now we are responsible to approve these contracts, just liked the ones we talked about tonight.

BROWN: We don't negotiate. We either approve them or we don't approve them, we don't negotiate. So you're right...

T. VAN STONE: Well if we have something to offer that will make the negotiation go better we should be listened to. If we are not getting the services that we are approving we should be listened to and right now we are not.

BROWN: We are not getting services...

T. VAN STONE: So basically what you are telling me, Madam President, is this Board is ceremonial and really our approval means nothing. That's what you're telling me. So if that's what the Charter change is I guess that's what the Charter change will be. But right now we're approving, and that's an important word, these contracts. So if you're telling me we approve them but we have no input or authority into negotiation why are we approving them? Who cares what we think if we have no input into how the language goes. Okay. One of the things I wanted to bring to this Board and at one time it was welcomed was the fact that I have been negotiating contracts for 35 years, okay, and that's what I wanted to bring to this Board. But as far as I'm concerned in my three and a half years now on this Board that doesn't matter and really our approvals don't matter. That's my point. Thank you.

BROWN: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: I have some comments on what Commissioner Van Stone just said but I'll just go over quickly, I'm requesting that we, as a Board, receive, on a monthly basis, the financial reports, how we're doing financially on a monthly basis. We did get that, previously we did receive that and I'm noticing, well September, this is October, we received a report that told us, we could get a feel of how we were doing financially in this district. So I'm asking that we continue or reenact that so that we know if we're sticking with our overtime because I'm hearing that we're not and what we're over budget on, what is the budget, what we're over on, what we're under on, etc. So I'm asking for that to be reenacted.

Next is I want to just congratulate the Title I, the annual meeting that was held last evening, everyone involved with that committee, the staff. We had a great turnout, I was very pleased with the turnout from the parents, had a very good time, good information was shared and I can't wait to receive the report that tells us how many we had in attendance and things of that nature so it was a very, very good Title I meeting and kudos to all that were involved.

The next thing I'm going to ask for is, this is just a suggestion, kind of in line with what Commissioner Tom Van Stone. I noticed things are brought up and I know that we keep, during our regular meetings we keep track of, Carrie takes minutes on what we talk about at our regular meetings. But I think there's a need for us to keep a to-do list because things seem to get lost in the cracks. One of the examples what Commissioners Tom Van Stone brought up regarding contracts. I know for an example I brought up an issue time and time again that we should change our meeting date from Thursdays back to Mondays and I understand that's a bylaw change but you know that, this is like my third, fourth time mentioning that. There's a need for us to look at and to develop, although I think it is developed, a calendar, a district calendar, so that when we have meetings, you know we had the Title I meeting last evening and there was another meeting that was going on in the district so we need to use that and check with that to make sure that we're not meeting, holding meetings, three or four meetings in one evening. We need to look at redistricting, I asked the question about where do students who live in the Park Road area near the Western Golf hills, golfing club, where we send them and I found out we bus our kids that live in that area to Driggs School. Then I asked the question well where do kids who live in the lower Highland Avenue area, where do they go to school, and they go to Driggs School. So I think we need to look at that, this is another can we keep kicking down the road. You know the Mayor had a suggestion about, let's look at busing our kids to suburban schools, well we need to take care of what we have here in Waterbury first. We bus our kids completely to opposite ends of the City, Kindergarten kids live in one end of the City and we bus them to an entirely different end of the City, totally against neighborhood schools and that concept so I think we need to look at that, that was also on the list. So I think we need to look at and to keep and maintain a to-do list for this Board of Education so that we can go through it to check off to make sure that we're looking at things that we bring up on a regular basis at our meetings. Thank you.

BROWN: Thank you. And I believe that issue of the Board night is on the agenda for the Policy Committee, the upcoming Policy Committee. And as far as the redistricting concern if history, my mind, that was done in efforts to comply with State law for integration of the schools and I think it is time to revisit them because there have been just because of the population in Waterbury it might not be the most feasible thing at this time but that is the reason prior and I'm sure you were aware of that, that that was the reasons. So these are all issues we are trying to address and hopefully we'll continue to do it as a Board. Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Thank you Madam President. Just a couple of things. As far as the financial report Madam President, we would get that every three months, not every month, so one is due to come up but it was every three months in my recollection. And as far as the, you're absolutely right with the redistricting, that's when our middle schools opened and at the same time the middle schools opened, West Side Middle School opened, we had a school called Russell School which closed down because of

the middle school opening. So when Russell School closed down Driggs was the next viable spot to go because, Western Hill students as we talked about they went to Russell, lower Highland went to Russell. That has changed 35/40 years ago. Mr. Guidone when he was here and we were examining new schools brought PowerPoint presentations of those districts that we had in place, some of them haven't changed but it's not like we didn't look at them since we've been here, we have looked at them, maybe it's time to look at them again, but that's the story about what happened at Driggs. So I know that, I just wanted to say that.

BROWN: Thank you. Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Just, I had questioned this back before the summer and my understanding is that Will Zhuta and Jeff Hunter are currently working on the redistricting, looking at the map as it stands today and what could be done to shift students around. I had asked for a report a while back but was told that this was now in place and that Jeff Hunter and Will Zhuta were looking at redistricting. Possibly follow-up with Will or the Superintendent to see where that's at.

BROWN: Will do. Anything else from the Board?

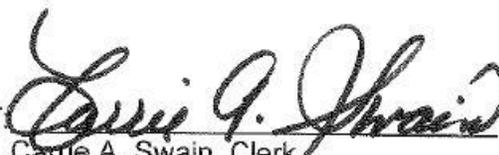
HARVEY: Question. Are we saying that we will get a report on that or...

BROWN: I will find out the status of their review of redistricting and tell them we would like an update.

## ***ADJOURNMENT***

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.**

ATTEST

  
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk  
Board of Education