

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Stango, Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, Hayes, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone.

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

1. SILENT PRAYER

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

SUPERINTENDENT: As we take a moment to remember those who have passed, please remember Mr. Lawrence Cooley who passed away January 9. Mr. Cooley worked for the City of Waterbury, Department of Education for 36 years. He began his career as a Physical Education Teacher in our elementary schools in 1969, transferring to Wallace Middle School in 1974 where he remained for 31 years until his retirement in 2005. Mr. Cooley's wife Elizabeth, a teacher in Waterbury for the past 20 years, is currently teaching at Washington School. Please keep Mr. Cooley and his family in our thoughts and prayers this evening.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Copy of communication dated November 27, 2013 from Blum Shapiro regarding the City's audit for year ending June 30, 2013.
2. Copy of communication dated December 11, 2013 from Civil Service certifying Kathy Nearing for the position of Paraprofessional.
3. Copy of communication dated December 19, 2013 from Civil Service certifying Stephanie Carpentieri for the position of Elementary School Supervising Vice Principal at Bunker Hill School.
4. Copy of communication dated January 3, 2014 from Civil Service certifying Melissa Traver for the position of Administrative Support Specialist I.
5. Email communication dated January 5, 2014 from Selina Kamo regarding the mid-term exam scheduled.
6. Copy of communication dated January 6, 2014 from Civil Service certifying Joseph Cichowski for the position of Carpenter.
7. Email communications dated January 8, 2014 from Jimmie Griffin regarding City hiring practices.
8. Email communication dated January 9, 2014 from Athena Wagner regarding Walsh School Governance Council.
9. Email communication dated January 9, 2014 from Mary Jean Monnerat regarding tutors.
10. Copy of communication dated January 9, 2014 from Civil Service certifying JoAnna Cass for the position of Paraprofessional.
11. Communication from Senator Markley dated January 9, 2014 regarding proposed methadone clinic.
12. Email communication dated January 13, 2013 from Jimmie Griffin regarding city hiring practices.

13. Email communication dated January 13, 2014 from Celina Caetano regarding mid-term schedule.

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

5. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to allow the public to address the Board at 6:35 p.m.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor, opposed, motion carries. I shall read the disclaimer – all speakers are encouraged to submit prepared written statements to the Commissioners. Comments shall be limited to a maximum of three minutes. There will be no responses this evening to any questions or concerns raised; they will be referred to the Administration for review and response.

Selim Noujaim, 104 Dinatali Drive, had the following comments: Good evening Mr. President, Superintendent Ouellette, Vice President Harvey, members of the Board, my predecessor Commissioner Brown, Mr. Guidone, Dr. Sequeira, Alderman Hadley, I am very pleased and privileged to appear before you this evening. I'm honored to represent the 74th District, the East End of Waterbury and East Mountain. I'm privileged to appear before you this evening to extend to all of you on behalf of our community my personal gratitude for the resolution that you took at your meeting of December 19, 2013 in opposition to the proposed methadone clinic at 447 Meriden Road which is two doors down from Chase Elementary School. From the inception of this project I have been bringing to the attention of the community the project and the proposal, it's been about eight months now and we are right now towards the finish line. We do have a public hearing that is scheduled at St. Peter and Paul lower level of the Church at 67 Southmayd Road on Thursday, January 30 at 2:00 p.m. Initially the public hearing was supposed to be scheduled in Hartford until we told the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health that we will have very large number of people attending and we intend to rent buses to bus them to Hartford, that's when they decided to bring the public hearing to us. They did set the time at 2:00 p.m. I realize 2:00 p.m. is not a really good time for people to attend because people are working. However, this is very important to our community and we need to set the time and make the time available for us to attend. Mr. President, I encourage you, on behalf of the Board, to attend the meeting and to speak and to present the resolution that you adopted here on behalf of your Board. I would like everyone to know that the meeting is going to last several hours. It's not going to be a meeting that begins at 2:00 p.m. and then concludes within a few minutes, it's going to last several hours. So if someone cannot make it for 2:00 p.m. they can always make it after that. There have been some reports that our arguments and our presentations will be limited. That is to some extent true, however, it is very important to note that public opinion always prevails. In my 12 years' experience as a State Representative I have seen many times where when people come to testify usually legislators do change their mind and support the community and this community is very important to us.

The other thing that I would like to tell you about is that yesterday morning in the fog I visited Chase School and I am doing a PowerPoint presentation. I stood in front of the building and they saw the kids being dropped off from their vehicles with their parents right in front of the proposed building for the methadone clinic and it is a travesty and a tragedy if we are going to expose the children, the children that are entrusted to you as members of the Board of Education and their future depends on us. It is a travesty if they end up seeing a methadone clinic in their early age and that clinic is right next to a bar. Additionally, I visited the clinic up on Midland Road and East Main Street. I usually go by there very often and you have to see the trash and the cigarettes and the cigarette butts and the cigarette cases that are there on the sidewalk. This proposal does not convey that our community is a great community. It is something we don't need, we have no need for it and believe me if I tell you if we go before the Commission and we speak and we attend in numbers, I think we'll prevail, I know it from the bottom of my heart. We need to show up, our community is too important for us to not show up. We need to set some time in order for us to demonstrate to the Department of Public Health and the Office of Health Care Access that we care about our community. And if we go and speak in all likelihood we will prevail. It's very, very important for us. And I know this is being televised, I would like the community to know how important it is. I spoke to the principal of Chase Elementary School, I spoke to many parents who were bringing their kids to school yesterday, everybody is motivated and we need to pull together as a community to make it happen. It's the only way to reject it. And honestly if it is approved in Hartford it will be very difficult for us here in Waterbury to defeat it, we'll have no choice but just to swallow it. So I urge everyone to really make a firm commitment to attend to speak our mind because if we do we'll prevail. Thank you so much for your service, very, very appreciative for everything you do for our community and for the future of our children. God bless you all and Happy New Year.

Lisa Lessard, 905 Pearl Lake Road, had the following comments: It accordance to the methadone clinic, I would be asking the Board as well as Ms. Kathleen Ouellette if you could send home a letter to each and every household, to each and every parent and child, to ask them to bring themselves, their parents, their relatives, anybody and everybody that can speak about this because we all know what happened with Sprague School and the proposed gun range - do we have the gun range - no. Parents come out, community comes out, and believe it or not, like Selim said, the more that come out and the more that are against this, the more they will listen because if this ends up going there our children will be getting an education that we don't want them to get which is the people who are walking by with what they're doing which is not okay.

Another thing I wanted to ask you was when it came to Common Core and we have out of district students and I know you're doing the Smarter Balance here in district, I was wondering how that's going to work for our out of district students? I was at a PPT and I was listening and basically the Supervisor that was there explained that even though you're doing Common Core here in West Hartford, we're doing Smarter Balance in Waterbury and that's what we're going to expect this child to follow and do when it comes to testing. And all PPT members were confused because they're teaching Common Core, here in Waterbury you're doing Smarter Balance, how's that gonna go? So I would just really, if I could get an answer to that after I would really appreciate it for my daughter's sake. Thank you.

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:43 p.m.

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

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements:

On Monday, I met with Anne Marie Cullinan, our Chief Academic Officer, Commissioner Elizabeth Brown, School Inspector John Cross, and the City Fire Marshall at Chase Park House to look at the feasibility of using three classrooms there for our Early Childhood Pre-K program as outlined in the Alliance application. After some minor alterations, the rooms should be available for our program by the first week in March. I will keep you posted.

Two Waterbury Public School students won top awards in this year's VFW Voice of Democracy contest. The first place winner, Anabela Gomes, is presently a Senior at Wilby High School. She attended Crosby her first three years and was last year's 2nd place winner in the VOD local contest. She was awarded a check for \$1,500. The second place winner, Oscar Medina, is a Junior at Crosby. He was awarded a check for \$1,000. Oscar was informed last night that he has also placed third at the contest district level. This year's topic was "Why I'm Optimistic about America's Future". The contest is open to all high school students, both public and parochial.

Schools will be closed next Monday, January 20th, in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

The Bridge to Success Family Engagement workgroup is sponsoring a Parent Group Forum on Best Practices in Family Engagement for service providers on Wednesday, January 22nd from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Bible Church on Dwight Street. Several of our district staff will be serving as speakers or participants at this event.

The celebration honoring students who participated in last summer's Johns Hopkins Center for talented Youth is also scheduled for January 22nd, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Kennedy High School.

Maloney's Japanese Language and Cultural Program's 20th Anniversary celebration is next Friday, January 24th, at 1:00 p.m.

Parents and community members who are interested in learning more about Common Core State Standards are invited to attend a forum on Saturday, January 25th, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Cromwell High School. Those interested may register online on the CEA website or by calling the Connecticut American Federation of Teachers at 860-257-9782. A number of organizations are sponsoring this event, including CEA and AFT.

The third training module for members of School Governance Councils will take place on Tuesday, February 4th, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Kennedy High School. This training is entitled "Working with Others" and will feature presentations by Dr. Shuana Tucker, our Talent & Professional Development Supervisor/Interim Personnel Director; Bob King, a consultant with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education; and Attorney Kelly Moyer, Senior Staff Attorney for CABE.

There is a Black History Heritage Celebration event at the WOW/NRZ Community Learning Center on Tuesday, February 4th, starting at 6:00 p.m. The guest speaker is Crosby High School principal Michael Cain.

The Board of Education, along with named defendants, was exonerated of any wrong doing earlier this week in New Haven Superior Court in a lawsuit brought by the previous Supervisor of Maintenance.

STANGO: Thank you Superintendent. Are there any questions for the Superintendent at this point? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: I'm not sure if this is the point, it is during announcements so I think I'll bring it up, if not, we can bring this up later on in the meeting Dr. Ouellette. I'm not sure if you want to talk about the mid-term exam schedule and what occurred with that in terms of what the outcome is. We have some people that are in the audience that would like to hear what the outcome is.

SUPERINTENDENT: We made an adjustment to the mid-term schedule, Chief Academic Officer is not here, we reviewed the schedule and we are currently exercising a full day of exams, actually two exams with review sessions throughout the day. Those will be a five day session, all staff were informed, met with WTA, met with some students, we are forming a committee to actually review policy, current practices, but all in all we did have favorable reviews with that. There are some issues we have to work out but all in all it certainly will service the betterment of the district with providing structured review sessions for our students in the remaining days after the exam. So I do have a schedule that I can share with the Board but I give my regards and high kudos to Dr. Johnson who constructed that and worked very closely with the high school principals so we're very pleased. We did have concerns about the performance of our students in the first and second marking terms and felt that early release dates would not probably benefit our students as much as having structured study sessions within the school day.

HARVEY: Okay. Just one additional question. Has there been any change in what the schedule was that we received?

SUPERINTENDENT: No.

HARVEY: So the schedule will remain the same?

SUPERINTENDENT: That's correct.

8. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

STANGO: Thank you Doctor. Last weekend I had the excellent opportunity to attend an out of district event, it was unrelated to my duties as a member of the Board of Education, however, the event was the Connecticut Music Educator Association Festival. When reviewing the program I realized that a number of our district students were performing at this Festival. Students participating in the concert had to take part in a rigorous audition process back in November. Those students now have the option of auditioning for the Connecticut All-state Ensembles. Those Waterbury students who performed were Myles LaBarre, Emily Pierce, Christian Janis, Lucas Savage, Adam Colagrossi, Wilmer Gonzalez, Daniel Heetman, Jenmark Levin, and Adam Pierce, all of the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. Also Dallas Swain and Juston Scott from Crosby. They represented Waterbury well. I congratulate them and their music teachers, they did a great job representing us and it was a fantastic event with I would say 1,000 students from all over the State, 1,000 of Connecticut's best music performers in high school.

Another announcement, January is a five Thursday month, therefore, there will not be a meeting of this Board next Thursday. Our next meeting will be a Workshop meeting on January 30 and that will be at the North End Middle School. This meeting will be followed by our Regular Meeting on February 6 back here at WAMS. And that concludes my comments.

Now for the Consent Calendar. Does anyone wish to remove an item from the Consent Calendar? Commissioner Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Mr. President, I would like to remove Item #8.2, Committee on Finance, from the Consent Calendar.

STANGO: Okay, Item #8.2. Anyone else? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Item #8.4.

STANGO: Okay, anyone else?

AWWAD: Item #10.1 for the purposes of I need to abstain on that vote. Is that on the Consent Calendar?

STANGO: That's off of the Consent Calendar already.

President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 8.1, 8.3, and 8.5 through 8.7.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 8.1, 8.3, and 8.5 through 8.7, as listed:

- 8.1 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the Department of Education's Organizational Chart dated January 2, 2014, as attached.
- 8.3 With the approval of the Committee on Policy, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the revisions to the Aquatics Safety Policy, #6142.102, as attached.
- 8.5 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an additional position of Vice Principal for the Waterbury Arts Magnet School to replace the current position of Supervisor of Arts and Professional Development (funded by WAMS Operating Grant).
- 8.6 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of job specifications for, and new position of Part-time/Extra-compensatory Science Instructional Coach Teacher (funded by the K-8 Science Improvement Grant), as attached.
- 8.7 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
Nancy Silva	Chase gym or café: 1/9, 30, 2/27, 3/27, 4/10, 5/8 3:05-6:30 pm (After school program) <i>(Started prior to Board Meeting)</i>
J. Gopie	Crosby auditorium: Fri., Jan 10th 5:30-10:00 pm (Crosby movie night) <i>(Prior to Board Meeting)</i> Crosby auditorium: Wed., Jan. 15th 5:00-8:30 pm (Wallace winter concert) <i>(Prior to Board Meeting)</i>
G. Wright	Reed café: Tues., Feb. 4th (snow date: 2/5/14) 5:30-8:00 pm (District Parent Meeting/Title I)
S. Dionne	WAMS I classroom: Monday, Jan. 27th 3:45-6:00 pm (CT. Art education assoc. workshop)
K. Galullo	WAMS room: 6:00-8:00 pm Fridays 3/27, 4/24, 5/29 (Health information meetings)
N. Vaughan	WAMS gym & café: Sat. May 10 th , 8am-3pm and Fri., May 9 th , 3:30 - 8:00 pm for set-up (Housing Expo & Sch. Family Community Partnership & Youth Fair)
Bruce Post	WAMS Recital Hall: 4/25 thru 5/29, 3:30 - 6:00 pm (rehearsals) and 5/30 & 5/31, 6:00 - 9:30 pm (performances of school musical)
Lou Padua	Career Academy cafe: Monday, Feb. 10th 5:00-8:00 pm (Smaller mfg. of Wtby. Meeting)
Eliz. Lopez	Rotella Community Room: Tues., Jan. 28th (snowdate: 1/29/14) 11:30 am – 3 pm (Mayor's visit – pizza party)
R. O'Neill	Carrington gym: Mon., Feb. 10th 4-9pm (rainforest presentation)
*Juan Mendoza	Reed café: Mon., Jan. 19 th , 2:00-6:00pm (FRC parents' mtg.)
*Doreen Currier	Chase gym: Fri., Jan. 23rd 5:00-8:00 pm (Family movie night) Chase café: Wed., Jan. 28th 6:00-7:00 pm (PTA mtg.)
*A. Edwards	Tinker gym: Thurs., Jan. 22nd 6:30-8:00 pm (Bubble Mania Show)
*R. O'Neill	Carrington café: Wed., Jan 21st, 5:45 - 8:30 pm (Book Club Mtg.) Carrington salon: Fri., Jan. 23rd 6:00-9:00 pm (Bullying Program)

*M. Amendola Chase café: Sun., Feb. 15th 9:00am-3:00pm
(Access Health Care Enrollment)

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

9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

8.2 Committee on Finance

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve of the submittal of the 2014-15 Department of Education's budget proposal #1 in the amount of \$162,199,737 and budget proposal #2 in the amount of \$160,308,753, to the Mayor.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: I have a few questions. I'm kind of down in the weeds on this but I do have a few questions, mainly with respect to utilities and maintenance, first one it's called account number 543, this is gonna be kind of a theme, each question is going to be very similar but different parts of the budget. It's pretty much dropped every year since 2008 but this year we're gonna try to go for about \$150,000 more. If this is for maintenance and tools don't we know like depreciation and where we're at with our tooling because that seems like a pretty big jump and after a year it seems to drop.

GUIDONE: You're speaking specifically to utilities?

T. VAN STONE: Right now it's account 543, property expenses, pretty far in the back.

BIOLO: Are you talking maintenance and service contracts?

T. VAN STONE: Yes I am. Since 2008/2009 expenses have gone down over a half million dollars but we're gonna look for another 150,000. Is there something outstanding that we know about, why that would be?

BIOLO: This has remained the same from the current budget that we're in; there hasn't been an increase in this current year.

T. VAN STONE: I'm reading expenditures and it seems to be going down. Expenditures are going down every year but we're gonna go look for more money.

GUIDONE: I can see it now. You can see that it is generally consistent, actually less than the prior year's expenditures with the exception of last fiscal year. There was a citywide freeze placed on all City departments in that year. So we held what would have been certain expenditures, not only in this account but several others, based on the city imposed freeze.

T. VAN STONE: But your expenditures way back in 2008 were almost a million dollars.

GUIDONE: Correct, and you can see them go down . . . be very flat for one, two, three years and then the decrease with the freeze in 2012/13.

T. VAN STONE: So is there a reason why it's gonna jump, as far as budget, do we know something's coming?

GUIDONE: If you likely saw the, which would not be depicted here, but the 2012/2013 budget, you would have probably seen it at this 630,000 level. It was not expended, however, in that year because of the freeze. So the budget was probably budget to budget to budget in that time frame.

T. VAN STONE: But there's nothing outstanding, unexpected, or expected I should say, that's jumping out to make that request higher than expenditures?

GUIDONE: No.

T. VAN STONE: It just jumps right out when I see that.

GUIDONE: Again, you may see a few others like that because of the unique circumstance of the freeze in past years.

T. VAN STONE: I have a few others.

GUIDONE: Just for example, especially in some of the maintenance accounts, you'll see expenditures perhaps higher than some prior years because as we proceed through, especially the spring months, if we seem to be okay, on budget, I'll authorize the School Inspector to put together projects and to do much needed capital or maintenance projects with those dollars that would have actually exceeded their budget for that year but we would have funds in other places. This past year we did not do that.

T. VAN STONE: And, like I said, this is kind of a theme, a few pages later account 545 for electricity, once again expenditures seem to go down but we're gonna, not as big as the last one, but we're still going to go, we're gonna try to budget for greater than our expenditures.

GUIDONE: Yes. This year particularly with two new large buildings online, particularly Career and also obviously Carrington, both air conditioned schools which draw obviously electricity so it was recognition of two large buildings coming online.

T. VAN STONE: Okay, that one seems to make a little more sense. A couple of pages later, account 545, this also seems to be dropping in expenditures but requesting more in budget and this has to do with monitoring security systems, intercoms, elevator maintenance.

GUIDONE: Same thing, new buildings coming online with the new monitoring requirements specifically very large ones.

T. VAN STONE: Now this is the one that really jumped out at me, a couple more pages, it's account #561, natural gas, we heat, this just seems, two million dollars is an awful lot of natural gas, where are we using natural gas at our schools?

GUIDONE: All buildings are heated by gas, every single building. I would say to some relatively new Board members, these accounts, as large as they are and they are very large accounts, several years ago were maybe 40% higher. We've taken a number of energy improvement measures across the district which have saved significant dollars which we've been able to devote to other matters in the budget, as you may recall from the other discussion we haven't had budget increase in a number of years. Some of the savings to offset not having budget increases have come from utilities, certainly over those years, the budgets in those years were quite higher, especially as you do energy improvements you want to see the actual effect before you begin to budget down. You have certain assumptions and try to put something in place, it might not achieve them so were kind of conservative, took measures, actually saw the expenditures go down and then we lowered our budgets in future years. Commissioner Sweeney was very nervous about that on a number of occasions but so far we've been able to make our projections.

T. VAN STONE: Last one, account #575, it's about three more pages in, this was actually the one for equipment. Again, it seems to be going in a nice down direction and then all of a sudden the budget is gonna jump up again.

GUIDONE: It seems very consistent with the last three years.

T. VAN STONE: Yah, but I'm going all the way back...

GUIDONE: You can see that it's been very consistent for one, two, three, likely this year four/five years so...

T. VAN STONE: And that's the last one I have, the reason I'm...

GUIDONE: There may have been a certain need . . . for certain equipment that were expended in those years with funds transferred from other accounts although my guess is the budget was likely, has been consistent over that time.

BIOLO: Yes.

T. VAN STONE: I highlighted a few of those because we know it's going to go downtown and the saw will be out and things are going to get cut. It's going to go to the Aldermen and we'll have to probably fight our way through whatever it is we feel we need, so I spiked out those because those seem to be things we should be able to predict. I mean things like natural gas, fuel, I saw car fuel in here too, you go to future markets you're gonna know what things are doing for the next year. So those are the things I have, I mean salaries are salaries, we're stuck with what we have, but these are the items that if we're gonna put forward a budget that we think is gonna get passed, these are the items I saw that just jumped out at me to say it would be nice to take a closer look. I'd hate to put \$500,000 in an account because we think and, again, I work more with proposals where you get a lot of rational. This, there were a couple of comments, but not a lot to give you details.

GUIDONE: We do spend a great deal of time and attention, especially projection of utilities, because there's such a large number in our budget. Obviously that can

fluctuate based on weather conditions either extreme winters or extreme summers. There have been changes in the system in particular over these last several years by bringing five or six buildings on literally over the last three years that are all air conditioned that weren't before. So we make those projects, some come on, some come off, but we do keep a close eye to it.

T. VAN STONE: There's gonna be things cut just to be cut so, you know, I'm not saying there's fat in it or not, I'm just saying if it's the realistic number that we feel we need to go forward with, I would hate to see something get cut that you're tight on and then something that maybe we're not as tight on doesn't get cut and then you're behind the eight ball again.

GUIDONE: I appreciate that. Remember, and we do go through this budget proposal ultimately in full detail with the Mayor's staff, in particular their budget staff, their finance staff, are very sophisticated and could recognize these things. At the end other motivation could occur in a final recommendation but remember that bottom line is an appropriation back to us and then ultimately you, with our recommendation, will actually adopt a budget using those exact concerns in June.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you. Thank you Mr. President.

STANGO: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Just sort to follow up, I think sort of an obvious question, if we had a freeze and we were able to only expend \$480,000 last year on maintenance service contracts and a million-seven on natural gas, why are we assuming we're gonna have to spend an extra half of a million on one and an extra 260,000 on the other?

GUIDONE: The freeze didn't affect utilities, we operated our buildings the best we could. Certainly we did, and I think I reported that to you at the end of the year, we did defer some maintenance items in particular where we have some discretion. That's not good to do over periods of time but with the freeze on we were trying to do the best we could and...

HAYES: So the natural gas we expended 1.7 and we're budget 2.2 so...

GUIDONE: We got two big buildings coming on line. That wasn't a function of the freeze, the gas/electricity we weren't freezing, we weren't changing our operating condition in our buildings and we also, with the exception quite honestly of the blizzard, we had a relatively mild winter temperature wise and the summer was not, the summer prior, to my recollection, was not extraordinary so we had relatively stable and mild conditions in weather. But that could change; we could go through a severe winter with very cold times and obviously expend more in natural gas. For example during the, and I've done this before, during the severe cold days when everybody was very concerned when it was below zero wind-chill factors, we do a number of things by bringing the temperatures up in our buildings on weekends and evenings to avoid broken pipes and things of that sort. We've got 30 buildings, even three or four or five degrees up for through a weekend is not in and of itself not gonna have a major effect but if you have a two or three week circumstance of that sort you'll see a major effect very quickly on a two or three million dollar account.

HAYES: Okay, the other question I have is, but I think there isn't enough money in the account for furniture. It's something that concerns me, I know we've been spending \$75,000 and it's something that concerns me. I know when we go to our new schools we all comments on how great the furniture is because a lot of our schools still have very old furniture that needs to be replaced and I don't know if that \$75,000 every year is getting us where we need to be. I know we had to get that special money from the State to buy a big amount of furniture, I'm not sure what the commitment was but I thought it was a higher number than that and I know every year I sort of make mention of that and I just think that's something that we. . .

GUIDONE: With budget increases we can do things of that sort but without a budget increase that's difficult. I don't disagree with you Pat, we'll look back into that.

HAYES: Thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner McEntee and then Commissioner Brown.

McENTEE: Thank you Mr. President. My question is about account 553/telephone, it's \$52,000 but under the current budget you're asking for an increase to \$170,000; it's \$118,000 increase, more than triple the amount. Can you explain that?

GUIDONE: I think we addressed this at the Finance Committee Meeting. Forever our telephone costs were born by an overall City account for telephones for all City departments. This past fiscal year the City asked, began to ask each department to bare its own cost and did so to us in this past fiscal year. I thought we had monies, because of the freeze we had some monies in other accounts and I committed to do that last year. That was however prior to us putting the current year's budget together so we didn't know that, that's why the budget is less than the actual expenditure. The City has asked that we do that, we projected that number in the budget. So what you had was not having our phone service in this account, paid in one year, budgeted however at the normal rate and now budgeted back up to what it should be.

McENTEE: And account 544/building rentals, we're spending \$600,000 for building rentals, why can't we use one of our old buildings?

GUIDONE: Obviously we are considering some of that in the future use of Barnard. These have been traditional buildings that we have used including St. Lucy's where our alternative ed program is, Harper Avenue where our maintenance facility is, and the Palace contribution. Right now the only facility we would have available, though needing significant renovation I believe for good purpose, I believe would be Barnard. We are looking at that.

McENTEE: Can we not move some of those programs to city-owned property so you don't have to pay the rent of the property?

GUIDONE: There are no city-owned properties to my knowledge, again with the exception of Barnard, that is being considered for various purposes.

McENTEE: Thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Well I don't see it, and I apologize, I didn't see out of placement students in this budget. Is it included in this budget? I was just curious to see what that amount was.

GUIDONE: Definitely, we'll point it to you in a second. It's one of largest single accounts.

BROWN: And I was curious as to, because I know we've been making a concerted effort to keep our students in our system and I was just curious as to how we're doing with that. I couldn't find it, I didn't see it.

GUIDONE: You can see it in summary right in the beginning of the book on page five, two-thirds of the way down, out of district tuition, it's an eight million dollar account. Again, this, and we do the best we can, difficult to make certain projections sometimes because it really has to do with how many students are being identified with that, you need to go out and literally one student could cost \$200,000 a year or greater than that as you probably know. This was an account that had grown in the past 10 years significantly, I mean by millions over a period of time. It stabilized out for the last two years, I don't know exactly why. Some of our staff are doing what you're describing, providing as much service as possible, this account we surplused in both last fiscal year and the one before. We're being conservative, we continue to project no increase in the budget, but this is, likewise is one, there are a few dangered things that can occur in some of these accounts that sometimes get beyond people's control, this is one that needs close monitoring but, as I said, one student or two students different could literally make a half of a million dollar difference.

BROWN: I think you should be congratulated because I know you've really been trying to look at the needs of the student and try to keep them in district and be mindful of the costs.

GUIDONE: Special ed staff has done a tremendous job.

BROWN: So you're to be commended with that. The other question I had, it's not really related to the figures before me, but in projecting this budget are we including anywhere here the mental health needs of the students? You see mental health is on the political radar screen both on the federal and state level and mental health services there might be dollars coming but I wasn't sure if we had included anything to beef up our mental health services.

GUIDONE: There's not anything to beef up our mental health services. Obviously a large number of positions that deal with that are in this budget. I think this, the area that we should be looking at for the growth reform portion of the Alliance, should that occur, for new programming, I think that's obviously a priority for everybody just as you described.

BROWN: Okay, thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Thank you President, through you. Paul, can you tell me in account 558/travel expenses – who are those travel expenses for? Is it out of state travel, conferences? I think I'm with Commissioner Tom Van Stone in terms of it would be nice to see a little blurb of what exactly these funds are going towards than just specifically a number.

GUIDONE: Yes, for conferences and professional development.

RODRIGUEZ: And that's for teachers, administrators?

GUIDONE: Teachers and administrators.

RODRIGUEZ: The other question I have is in reference to account 559/advertising. It appears that for this year \$62,000 and it stays for 14/15. Are we utilizing Hispanic media for advertising as well in that budget?

GUIDONE: They have in the past, yes.

STANGO: Further questions? Commissioner Van Stone.

JASON VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President, through you. Just essentially echoing some of the things I said last week. I think overall the budget kind of is what the budget is – it addresses the cost, I don't think there's a whole lot of hidden fat in there. I think we operated under a zero dollar increase for the general budget since '09 and I think to a degree the Education Department has done kind of yeomen's work to make that happen. My problems are more in the general, one, what I argued a little bit last week about how not really getting what I think is our deserving share of the ECS, in just traditional ECS to pay for these things and not have to ask the Waterbury taxpayers to reach into their pocket. I know the State Department of Education believes that it needs to help urban districts and underperforming districts more than some of the other more affluent districts and kind of has said that in the way it partials out ECS. At the same time through the Alliance District, kind of is somewhat hypocritical, making us jump through some extra hoops to get this money. And the money they're giving us, I'm not gonna turn my nose at that because it's a lot of money, but the flexibility I think we need now, I imagine a lot of the other municipalities in our shoes need, isn't always there so that's concerting in one aspect. And the second aspect now obviously is the one I think that weighs most heavily on my mind, is the Waterbury taxpayer. I had the opportunity to stand in line today for about 35 minutes to pay my car taxes and more than a couple of people figured out who I was and were up on the newspaper and said hey, by the way, you guys are voting on a budget, right, what do you want six point three, six point five, what's the story? And you know you see these people, and I'm one of them, that are doing all they can to survive in this climate here in this City and I think we need to take them into consideration as well. We have to operate this district, we have to give our teachers, our administrators, and our children every tool we can but at the same time we can't simply turn a blind eye to the people footing the bill. And I think too often, maybe we think that's the Board of Aldermen's job – they got the purse strings, let them shoot it down, we can be the nice guys and just throw money at everything. But I think it's incumbent on us as well to remember the taxpayer of Waterbury, the person that we

all work for, when we're casting our votes on things like this and anytime we're spending any of their dollars. Thank you Mr. President.

STANGO: Further discussion? Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Account number 539/report cards – in 11/12 it was \$21,894 and then it dropped in 12/13 to \$13,493, which makes a difference of \$8,401. Now in 13/14 it goes back up to \$22,000 which is an increase of \$8,507. I'm not understanding why that happened.

GUIDONE: I think IT Department was making changes in the method or manner that they were preparing the report cards in that timeframe, this number came from them. I don't have all the details but I can get back to you on it.

STANGO: Further questions?

J. VAN STONE: Just one last quick comment. Last week I challenged the Board to get into this book and understand it and I think by the questions tonight, some of which are pretty deep into the weeds, you did. So nice job while getting into this book and giving yourself an understanding of what this budget is and I commend you for doing that.

GUIDONE: Before they vote, Charles, I would like to thank likewise the Board for both their interest and support, this is just the beginning of our journey for this year. For those who have been around awhile I know sometimes it can be a very difficult period. We've got several months to proceed in and hopefully we'll get to a place where we need to be. But we, as staff, appreciate your support and interest.

STANGO: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: I wanted to thank you Paul, again, and Doreen. When we go through this it's almost like you know the parent who wants to get everything for their kids but you only have so many dollars to spend and now we've got money coming from other sources. I think, I know there's a lot of work involved, but at some point could we see exactly what dollars in this budget are being paid out of that 4.6 million dollar Alliance with some kind of designation?

GUIDONE: Definitely. We've done that for this year, obviously, we'll just carry over.

STANGO: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Just one more question, I'm sorry, messenger service, what type of messenger service is that?

GUIDONE: We have a service which essentially picks up from Central Office materials and then delivers them to each school throughout the school year and now, because we're so busy during the summer, during summer also. It also does picking up of certain receipts from our Food Service operation at each school.

HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

STANGO: Any other further discussion? Seeing none – I'd like a roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #8.2:

Yeas: Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, Hayes, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, and President Stango - 8

Nays: Commissioners J. Van Stone and T. Van Stone – 2

CLERK: Eight to two, motion passes.

8.4 Committee on School Personnel

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner J. Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve of the job specifications for, and the new position of, Vice Principal for the Waterbury Career Academy (funded by the General Fund), as attached.

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

HARVEY: I just wanted to thank those who were involved with the modification that was requested in adding, in addition to having, and this is already in there, experience in an urban school district, etc., but experience in one or more of the following programs: allied health, manufacturing technology, computer systems, human services, and grant writing. So I am somewhat pleased with this and will be interested in seeing what we receive in regards, when we post this position. So I wanted to thank those who were involved.

STANGO: Any other discussion? Seeing none – all in favor, opposed, motion carries.

10. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

10.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, with Commissioner Awwad “abstaining”, it was voted to approve for Waterbury Public Schools to participate in the U.S. Department of Labor “Youth Career Connect Grant Program” with Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board/applicant.

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

AWWAD: Abstain.

STANGO: One. Motion carries.

11. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FACILITIES & GROUNDS

11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner J. Van Stone, it was voted, with Commissioner Harvey “abstaining”, to approve the use of school facilities by outside organizations and/or waiver requests, subject to fees and insurance as required:

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES
Ms. Naugatuck Valley Pageant	Rotella aud.: Sat., Jan. 18th 10am-10pm, (scholarship pageant)
Ashley Nordby	CANCELLED

REQUESTING WAIVERS:

Mt. Olive A.M.E. Zion Church	Crosby Auditorium: Sunday, June 15 th , 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Rev. Dr. Leroy Perry	(annual conference) (\$1,107.)

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

Girl Scouts of CT.	WSMS side parking lot: Sat., March 1, 2014, 6 am - noon
Allison Mangks	(cookie pick-up)

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

HARVEY: I would like it noted that I will not vote on this due to close affiliation with one of the organizations stated.

STANGO: Very well. All in favor, opposed, abstentions.

HARVEY: Yes.

STANGO: One abstention.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 12.1 through 12.8, Superintendent's Notification to the Board, as listed:

- 12.1 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:
Newell, Kierstin A. – Prevention Specialist, West Side Middle School, 10 months per year, 35 hours per week at \$18.14 per hour, non-union position with benefits governed by the SEIU Agreement.
- 12.2 Extended School Hours (ESH) Program appointments, salary according to individual's contract:
Regan: O'Brien, Lindsey – Teacher
Giammatteo, Timothy – Teacher
Poulter, Patty – Aide
Stribling, Denise – Secretary
Walsh: Season, Tamresa - Teacher
- 12.3 Middle School Credit Retrieval Program appointments, salary according to individual's contract, funded by Improvement/Alliance Grant, effective immediately:
WMS: Williams, Richard – Substitute Teacher

12.4 Rotella Magnet School's After-school Program appointments, Session 2, January 21 through April 10th, 2014 – Monday through Thursday, salary according to individual's contract:

Administrators:	Ellen Paolino (Wednesday)	
	Dawn Biolo (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday)	
	Kelly Pinho (sub as needed)	
	Rosalie Veneziano (sub as needed)	
A/V Tech:	Bryan Michaud	
Grants Facilitator:	Jean Zastaury	
Teachers:	Barrett, Ellen	Biolo, Erica
	Cipriano, Nancyjean	Decerbo, Lauren
	Dooling, Joan	Ecke, Lisa
	Lee, Ellen	Lillian, Jennifer
	Maldonado, Joanne	McLaren, Ashley
	Pinho, Kelly	Rashiti, Iuljeta
	Santiago, Koulla	Veneziano, Rosalie
Aides:	Lloret, Melissa	Lopez, Elizabeth
	Santos, Jeannine	Vicenzi, Valerie
	Walters, Kimberly	

12.5 Teacher new hires:

Name		Location	Assignment	Grade/Step	Effective
Augelli	Katie	Kingsbury	Grade 5	BA/4	01/02/14
Bumci	Ilirjan	Crosby	Math Inter	BA/4	12/09/13
Morales	Carlos	Crosby	Spanish	BA/2	12/02/13
Zeskand	Vanessa	Crosby	Lit. Inter	MA+15/5	01/02/14

12.6 Teacher transfers:

Harisi, Vanessa – from Bucks Hill Bilingual grade 5 to Walsh Math Specialist, effective 01/27/14.

12.7 Resignations:

Caouette, Crystal – CHS Physics, effective 01/20/14.
Lopriore, Marnie – NEMS grade 7 math, effective 01/03/14.
Walker, Michele – CHS English, effective 01/31/14.

12.8 Retirements:

Wilkowski, Laura – CHS Art, effective 02/01/14.

STANGO: All in favor, opposed, motion carries. Item #13 – Unfinished Business of the Preceding Meeting Only. Item #14 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Commissioner Van Stone then Vice President Harvey.

J. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President, through you. It was quickly touched upon tonight the subject of the changing of the mid-term schedules, elicited some response from our children which one, I was excited about just to get them reaching out and a number of them did a fantastic job vocalizing that they had some concerns that they want to talk to the Superintendent and the Board about. Some of them went to the

degree of collecting signatures. I want to thank them for their participation in the process and I think their voices were heard and I think that, I know that the Superintendent reached out to them, had conversations with them and made sure that they knew they were heard and this was kind of an evolutionary process and you know we'll continue looking at this. And I think once the two parties kind of got together and talked about it everyone knew where everyone was coming from and I think at the end of the day it showed a very nice give and take between the Central Office, the Superintendent's Office, and the children who we are charged with. So I just want to thank you for reaching out, I want to thank the students for reaching out, and I think it came to the optimal conclusion.

STANGO: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: I, too, unfortunately they just left, what we're talking about just in case for the public, there were rumors of a change in the mid-term exam schedule and those rumors were floating around and then the schedule came out. I received comments from students initially and then the schedule came out and the students, and I thought it was just the WAMS students but apparently it was Crosby, Kennedy, and Wilby and I, too, want to thank our students. We should encourage our students to, when they disagree with something, to speak up and they were very organized in the process. There was one student that approached me a couple of times in regards to it and spoke very eloquently on why she opposed it. And, frankly, she's a senior and she felt that the schedule kind of hindered the senior class and we did receive petitions, so that you know, and the Superintendent did, from what I understand, talk to one of the representatives. So again I want to encourage students, I just love to hear from the students, so I want to encourage them, if there's something that they don't like, I'd like for them to talk to us about it and you know lots of times we impose things on them and we don't ask them how they feel. Just like we were talking the other week at the Workshop regarding attendance at our basketball games. So let's ask the students, when we get an opportunity let's ask the students how they feel about things and get their input. But I just want to just say I really, really appreciate their being outspoken, the petition, etc., so keep that up, keep up the good work. Thank you.

STANGO: Anyone else? Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Just to follow up on that, the Policy Committee will be looking at that policy, the mid-term policy, to see if, and working with the Superintendent and staff as well as students to see if we can tweak it, what would be fair to all the students. So we're so glad that they did raise this issue and we are going to be looking at it at the Policy Committee.

STANGO: Further discussion? Commissioner Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Something Vice President Harvey just mentioned jogged a memory, Joe Palladino in the Waterbury Republican American had kind of done a nice piece on the change of admission and they ran some numbers I guess they got from Steve Baldwin and for the Crosby/Wilby game the other night I guess they had already done what they had done last year in that single game. I'm sure a lot of that has to do with Crosby is a pretty good basketball team and people just want to come out and see them but I'm sure some of it had to do with our change. They had noted something along the

line of 250 kids got in for free on the PBIS Program part but another couple hundred came in for the dollar. Not to mention a number of people came for the \$5.00 full price, the non-students, just to see the game. So in a very, very small sample at least thus far, it's working out pretty well.

STANGO: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Just to add to that, while they want to come out to see Crosby, we've got pretty good teams at Wilby and Kennedy as well. It would be well worth kids taking their time to come and visit those games as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. into Executive Session for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

Present were: President Stango, Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, Hayes, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone, Dr. Ouellette, and Paul Guidone.

The Executive Session ended at 8:24 p.m. with no votes taken.

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