

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

ABSENT: Commissioner T. Van Stone.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Kathleen Ouellette, Chief Academic Officer Anne Marie Cullinan, 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 6:44 p.m. with a moment of silence.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner J. Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner T. Van Stone (absent). President Stango.

STANGO: Here. Commissioner Tom Van Stone sends his regrets; he has work related obligations.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Communication dated January 12, 2015 from the Brass City Ballet regarding their performance for Rotella students and use of Rotella School.
2. Communication dated January 14, 2015 from Joseph Macary supporting naming Crosby High School's gym in honor of Nicholas Augelli.
3. Email communication dated January 15, 2015 from Deborah Vassar supporting naming Crosby's gym in honor of Nicholas Augelli.
4. Email communication dated January 15, 2015 from Ed Generali supporting naming Crosby's gym in honor of Nick Augelli.
5. Email communication dated January 15, 2015 from Nancy supporting naming of Crosby's gym in honor of Nick Augelli.
6. Copy of communication dated January 16, 2015 from Civil Service certifying Amber Correia for the position of paraprofessional.
7. Communication dated January 16, 2015 from Daniel Noonan supporting the naming of Crosby's gym/basketball court in honor of Nick Augelli.
8. Copy of communications dated January 20, 2015 from Civil Service certifying Antoinette Yates and Sandra Eldredge for the position of Paraprofessional.
9. Communication dated January 21, 2015 from Anthony and Eileen Calli supporting the naming of Crosby's court in honor of Nick Augelli.
10. Copy of communications dated January 26, 2015 from Civil Service certifying Lori Kramarz and Robert Shagensky for the position of Supervising Vice Principal, Chase School.
11. Copy of communication dated January 26, 2015 from Civil Service certifying Kelly Pinho for the position of Teaching Vice Principal, Washington School.
12. Communication dated January 29, 2015 from Daniel Iarrapino supporting naming the Crosby gym in honor of Nicholas Augelli.
13. Email communication dated January 31, 2015 from Frank Perrella supporting naming the Crosby court in honor of Nicholas Augelli.
14. Email communication dated February 1, 2015 from Francine Romeo supporting naming the Crosby court after Coach Augelli.
15. Communication dated February 2, 2015 from William Pizzuto, Ph.D., supporting naming the Crosby court and gymnasium in honor of Nicholas Augelli.
16. Email communication dated February 3, 2015 from Syed Ather thanking the Board for their support of the petition for Muslim holidays.

17. Communication received February 3, 2015 from Peter McCasland supporting the naming of Crosby's gym in honor of Nicholas Augelli.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor, opposed, motion 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 6:49 p.m.

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries. All speakers are encouraged to submit prepared written statements to the Commissioners. Comments shall be limited to a maximum of five 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.

Richard Blanchard, 27 Vivian Street, had the following comments: I just want to let you know that your Waterbury Brass City Brawlers went down to De Leon, Florida and became the United States AA National Champions beating Michigan in overtime 34 to 28. Waterbury is now ranked number one in the country. There are 652 teams from California to Florida to Maine and wherever else and you guys are recognized as the number one team in the country and forever and ever, there's a plaque down in Florida and they have every team, this has been going on for 22 years and Waterbury will be on that plaque for eternity so I wanted to come here and thank all of you very much, every one of you have helped us in one way, shape, or form to get there, to get my guys. Remember 47 of my guys, 45 are Waterbury guys. Forty-five of my guys are from here, the other two went to school here and now moved out of town. So it's just a great accomplishment. I don't know if everyone grasped that being the best out of 652, but we are the absolute best team in the country right now and it has a lot to do with you believing in my program, with you letting me do what I begged everyone to do, and I want to thank you for that. There's a couple other real quick things I want to say is now all the accolades start coming in, we have just signed our first two players to a division I AA contract in college that will be playing for Central Connecticut next year. Two of our boys Travis Johnson and Ocardo Skeen have signed to play for Central next year. We had another gentleman get signed for the New York Giants. Although he did not play for us, he played in our league, but he lives in Waterbury, Jerome Curzi. So there's that possibility too. The possibilities are endless. We have a gentleman David Gondek who has been offered a contract to play over in Poland professionally oversees. So other than getting gentlemen jobs, working, doing all the volunteer work, it just goes on and on and on. And I want to thank you all very, very much – the Mayor's office, the gentlemen who worked in Parks and Rec, everybody has just been wonderful and you guys share this with us just like we share it with you and I hope to be back here one more year from today to say we did it two times in a row. Thank you very much for allowing us to be here and having it.

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 6:53 p.m.

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

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements:

We are pleased to announce that the State Board of Education approved our Turnaround Plan for Crosby High School yesterday. Our next step will be to provide the State Board with a more detailed list of deliverables that includes measurements and timetables. Individual members expressed enthusiasm in our proposal to develop academies as a way to help encourage better relationships between staff and students. A few noted that we will need to remain focused on addressing the chronic absenteeism in the school and the number of students who are over-age and under-credited. One other area of concern is sustainability, especially financial support for the program. I do wish to thank all of those who traveled to Hartford with us, especially Representatives Victor Cuevas and Larry Butler, Mayor Neil O'Leary, Board President Charles Stango, Board Vice President Karen Harvey, Commissioner Ann Sweeney, school and district administrators and staff, and the parents who came and spoke out in favor of the plan.

We have missed five days of school in the past two weeks for a total of seven days this school year as a result of snow storms and extreme weather. Unfortunately, we still have several weeks of winter weather ahead of us. I would like to ask parents to remind their children to please be careful when walking to and from school and/or school bus stops and to ask drivers to please exercise caution when driving during those hours when students are arriving or dismissing from school. Drivers especially need to be aware of glare from the sun on wet or icy pavement and to be cautious around large snow banks. Students should also dress in layers for the very cold temperatures we've been experiencing.

U.S. Representative Elizabeth Esty will be hosting a Black History event "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants", tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. in City Halls Veterans Memorial Hall. Among the honorees is Waterbury Police Chief Vernon Riddick Jr.

Connecticut Safe Routes to Schools will be hosting a regional workshop at Driggs School on Tuesday, February 10, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The workshop will allow participants the opportunity to explore how to develop a safe routes program for their own school. In addition, participants will learn about the health impacts and other benefits of walking or biking to school.

Also, Tuesday, February 10th is the snow date for the Black History Celebration at the WOW/NRZ Community Learning Center. Mrs. Jade Gopie, Crosby Principal, will be the guest speaker. The program begins at 6:00 p.m. On Wednesday, February 11th, Jade Gopie will be hosting a meet and greet at Crosby High School from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Library Media Center.

7. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

STANGO: I want to comment on the fact of going to the State Board of Education also yesterday, we attended with the Waterbury Delegation and aside from the Crosby

Turnaround Plan, I was taken up with the actual workings of the meeting itself, it was very interesting. I found it interesting how the State Board of Education meeting is run, much like our own sometimes, sometimes not. Observing their meeting they have nothing on us, I think we do a good job here, we run a good meeting. There's a couple of things I'd like to note, the difference between there's and ours, I think we have a nicer location for a meeting, for one thing, their room was smaller and more crowded. We have much better and convenient parking for our meeting. We have a whole ramp garage that we can just walk to where it was a little difficult yesterday. Our climate in this room was better, that room was warm and overheated but this room is always just right thanks to our school department staff. We have much more seating for the public here, they ran out of chairs yesterday at that conference room but some of us had to stand but it was okay. So I think we did a good job there. I also even caught a major breach of Robert's Rules on behalf of their Board and I won't discuss now what that breach was, all I can say is Commissioner Awwad it's a good thing you were not there, I think you would have stood up and shouted.

AWWAD: Thank you sir, I'll take that as a compliment.

STANGO: It is. But all in all, just to wrap it up, I think we do a good job here in what we try to do in conducting a meeting. And judging from theirs and ours, I'll go with ours any day. And that concludes my report for this evening.

Does anyone wish to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: I ask that Item 8.2 be removed from Consent. Anything else?

President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 8.1 and 8.3 through 8.11.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 8.1 and 8.3 through 8.11, as listed:

- 8.1 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the 2015/2016 school year calendar as attached.
- 8.3 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to participate in various Connecticut State Department of Education Interdistrict Cooperative Grants with the following applicants: The Discovery Center and Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut, Inc.
- 8.4 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval for Carrington School to apply for the Connecticut Community Foundation "Priscilla S. Whittemore fund for International Youth Travel Grant".

- 8.5 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the Department of Education's 2015-2016 Capital Budget request, as attached.
- 8.6 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the School Administrators of Waterbury (SAW) regarding the current positions of Supervising Vice Principal, Special Education for State Street School and Supervising Vice Principal, Special Education for Bucks Hill Pre-K Annex, as attached.
- 8.7 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an additional Supervising Vice Principal position effective February 6, 2015. The addition of this position shall provide Wilson School with a Supervising Vice Principal.
- 8.8 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Kyle Ondrush, WAMS, and three chaperones to take 36 students to Brooklyn, NY to visit the Brooklyn Academy of Music.
- 8.9 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Karen Silva, MMS, and 15 chaperones to take 86 students to Lyndhurst, NJ on May 18, 2015 to visit Medieval Times.
- 8.10 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

R. Augelli	Washington café: Wed., Feb. 18 th , 5-7 pm	(Family Movie Night)
M. Ieronimo	WAMS café: Wed., May 13 th , 5:30 - 7:30 pm	(Super Senior Supper)
K. Ondrush	WAMS atrium: Thurs., March 26 th , 4 - 9 pm	(school fundraiser)
M. Rocco	W. Cross lib.: Sat., Feb. 21 st (snow date 2/28), 8 am - 1 pm	(ParaPro test)
L. Lombardi	Rotella café: Thurs., Jan. 29 th , 5 - 7:30 pm	
	(Math Night/Sch.-Community mtg.)	(prior to meeting)
M. Rocco	W. Cross lib.: Tues., Jan. 27 th , 5:45 - 7:45 pm	
	(5th Grade meeting with parents)	(prior to meeting)
P. McHanden	Chase gym & café: Thurs. Feb. 12 th & Thurs., Mar. 26 th , 2:50 - 6:30 pm	
	(Healthy minds/Healthy bodies program)	
M. A. Petrillo	Bunker Hill gym: Thurs., Feb. 19 th , 6 - 7 pm	(Family Fitness night)
E. Strobel	Wilby aud.: Wed., June 3 rd , 5:00 - 9:00 pm	(Awards night)

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

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES
Oronoke Ridge	Kennedy rm. or café: Sat., Jan. 24 th 9 am - noon
Condo Association	Rescheduled to 02/21/15

REQUESTING WAIVERS:

Grandville Academy Reed computer Lab: 2/14/15-6/6/15 Saturdays 10 am to 2 p.m.
Maurice Mosley (CT. Urban Technology Collaborative) (\$3360.)

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

CT Girl Scouts Wilby café: Fri., Apr. 24th 4-9 pm (scout/special person dinner-dance)
Carole Roy

CT. Girl Scouts WSMS parking lot: Sat., Feb. 28th 6:00 am - noon
Allis Mongles (Girl Scout cookie pick-up/parking lot only)

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

9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

Committee of the Whole

Item #8.2

HARVEY: Ladies and gentlemen, the Committee of the Whole recommends approval to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to prepare a communication, at the beginning of every school year, to staff and parents regarding the recognition of cultural and religious occasions when scheduling major testing, school-wide events, etc., **so moved.**

J. VAN STONE: **Second.**

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. Do I have any discussion on that item?
Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move an amendment to that motion and have the motion read **that the Committee of the Whole recommends approval to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to prepare a communication, at the beginning of every school year, to staff and parents regarding the recognition of "of Eid-Al-Fitr and Eid-Al-Adha when scheduling major testing, school-wide events, etc.**

J. VAN STONE: **Second.**

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. All in in favor of that amendment.
Opposed. Motion carries

Now we will have discussion on the motion. Commissioner Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: I think the amendment to this motion was completely appropriate and I think it was important under this motion to recognize the hard work of the Muslim community who came out in one strong voice for their heritage and their beliefs and I think making this motion specific allows us to show the hard work put together by the Muslim community and fully support that amendment and will vote in favor of this.

STANGO: Any further discussion on this motion? Seeing none, I'll have a roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #8.2 AS AMENDED:

Yeas: Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, Sweeney, J. Van Stone, and President Stango - 9

STANGO: Motion carries.

10. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

10.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted by roll call vote to approve, YET THE MOTION FAILED, the 2015-2016 Department of Education's budget request, in the amount of \$163,125,000.00, to the Mayor.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Discussion on that. Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

JASON VAN STONE: I'd like to begin by thanking Mr. Guidone, Ms. Biolo, and the Superintendent for their work thus far. As I've said, what's going on, at least four or five meetings, this is the beginning of a long road. I think tonight in the Finance Committee we began a positive step along that road by cutting one million dollars off that budget proposal. The hard work will begin now. I think we need to do all that we can do, as I said in the last meeting, the balance the needs of the district with what the taxpayers in the City can handle and I look forward to heading down that road with the departments, Finance Department, with the Board of Aldermen, so we can make sure we do what is best not only for our students but for the taxpayers. Thank you Mr. President.

STANGO: Thank you. Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: Yes Mr. Chairman thank you. As I had said earlier in the Committee meeting and I won't go through all the things that we went through there, this is 172 million dollar budget, significant increase over what we asked last year, the Education budget itself with all of the funds that we receive to administer on behalf of the district to educate our children is about a 278 million dollar budget. As I said earlier, we got, the Finance Committee met, received the budget, we had a Workshop last week and asked a few questions, we had a meeting that was about 45 minutes long a little while ago, and with all due respect I don't think this Board is given itself the time to make meaningful cuts and I appreciate the work of staff to bring the million dollars that they did but we're looking at a significant different in what we need, what we believe we need, what we believe we're gonna get, and I think that it's this Board's due diligence to roll up its shirtsleeves and be the ones that drive the bus, for a lack of a better work, as to what changes we're gonna make. I don't want to send this to anybody and have somebody else send it back to us and say this is what you're getting. I think we send over a product that comes back stamped approved, not rejected with changes. So with that in mind and having gone through the operating fund with significant questions that I posed earlier that I'll save for later, I can't support approving this tonight. I think we need to roll up our shirtsleeves and continue to work. I realize there's a timeframe but insomuch as the motion is to send it over, I won't be supporting that motion.

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

HARVEY: Thank you. I have to echo Commissioner Awwad's comments, I really, we're gonna vote on something pretty much ready to vote, I pretty much know how I'm going to vote, and I'm very squeamish about this budget regardless of what has occurred in the newspaper back and forth with the Mayor and I, I just do not feel comfortable, and again, I want to just congratulate the Superintendent and Paul Guidone and those involved with putting together this budget, but I just don't feel comfortable. We've only been given maybe two weeks to look at this budget, to make the cuts, we know how much this budget, the percentage of what goes into the City budget and I just do not feel comfortable, I don't feel enough time has been given for us to look at this so I echo Commissioner Awwad's comments and I will be voting against this budget.

STANGO: Thank you. Any further discussion? Seeing none – roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #10.1:

Yeas: Commissioners Brown, Sweeney, and President Stango – 3

Nays: Commissioners Awwad, Harvey, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez,
and J. Van Stone – 6

STANGO: Motion fails.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 11.1 through 11.6, Superintendent's Notification to the Board, as listed:

11.1 Grant funded appointments:

Angelo, Eileen – Substitute, SDE After-school Program, Driggs, salary according to contract.

Aviles, Ilaiza – Part-time Bilingual Instruction Aide, 10 months p/year, 19.5 hours p/week @ \$12.00 p/hour, non-union and without benefits, funded by Bilingual funds.

Griffin, Karen – Substitute, SDE After-school Program, Driggs, salary according to contract.

Harisi, Vanessa – Teacher/Sub, Walsh School's Afterschool Program 15-20 hours per week, salary per MOU, funded by Turnaround Funds, effective immediately.

Laird, Jennifer – Teacher/Sub, Walsh School's Afterschool Program 15-20 hours per week, salary per MOU, funded by Turnaround Funds, effective immediately.

Sheetz, Lucia – Substitute, 21st Century After School Program, Driggs, salary according to contract.

Sheetz, Lucia – Substitute, SDE After-school Program, Driggs, salary according to contract.

Wright, Valerie – Substitute, SDE After-school Program, Driggs, salary according to contract.

11.2 Waterbury Career Academy Student Selection Committee appointments, maximum of 30 hours, salary according to WTA contract:

Cremens, Lauren (School Counselor/NEMS)

Delaney, Jennifer (Teacher/WSMS)

Heigerd, Rohn (Special Ed Teacher/WMS)
Perkins, Melissa (School Counselor/WSMS)

Jordan, Ellen (School Counselor/WMS)
Rodriguez, Alberto (Bilingual Teacher/WSMS)

11.3 Extended School Hours (ESH) Program Appointments, salary according to individual's contract:

School	Last name	First name	Assignment
Kingsbury	Purvis	Anna	Substitute
Wilson	Marcano-Matthews	Daria	Substitute
	Reho	Jessica	Substitute

11.4 Teacher hires:

Name		Location	Position	Effective	Step
Aftowski	Michael	WMS	Computer Ed.	12/2/14	MA+15/6
Vitone	Tiffany	Enlightenment	Special Ed.	09/29/14	MA/4

11.5 Retirements:

Mauriello, Elise – MMS Teacher of Hearing Impaired, effective 03/01/15.
Vega, Jesus – WHS TESOL, effective 12/30/14.
~~Lawson, Denise – Bucks Hill grade 4, effective 02/03/15. s/b resignation~~
Giuditta, William – KHS Science/Biology, effective 06/30/15.
Marcucio, Barbara – KHS Family Consumer Science, effective 07/01/15.

11.6 Resignations:

Walton, William – WHS Social Studies, effective 01/31/15.
Lawson, Denise – Bucks Hill Grade 4, effective 02/03/15. CORRECTION

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries. Next item on the Agenda is Item #12 – Unfinished Business of the Preceding Meeting Only. Anyone have anything on Item #12? Moving on them to Item #13 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Thank you Mr. President. I just wanted to bring to the Board's notice, I had passed out some information, I was privileged to be part of the CABE Delegation that went to the National School Board Association Lobby Day at the Capitol and we were able to meet with our entire delegation so it was exciting. The main agenda, it's kind of timely, as we're struggling with our budget locally, that the major funding for elementary and secondary education has not been reauthorized in quite a few years and we depend a lot on that money so part of our lobby day was for the reauthorization of the ESEA and with trying to give the states flexibility and not really impose a lot of things that might not work for each state; to allow for each state to kind of come up with its own accountability system, its own evaluation system, and I think Connecticut has done a good job with doing that. The other item that's dear to our hearts as a Board is the funding of the IDEA and I found out, which I didn't realize, that Connecticut, the formula is based on a wealth formula so we only get about seven percent of the IDEA. The highest reimbursement rate for some states is 17% so we're really, because of our high wealth it's skewed so we asked to go to a needs formula instead of a wealth formula. And then the last one that was part of the whole lobby was, again, the reauthorization of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act and we all recognize that healthy food is important but it does have a cost to the districts and to the state so we asked for reimbursement

commiserate to the healthy food that we need to buy. Of course, I think our delegation was very receptive, we have a long way to go though I think so stay tuned.

STANGO: Thank you Commissioner. Anyone else? Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: I have a couple of items. First of all, back on December 11th when we got the initial update on the Turnaround, I know that I left the meeting early but I had asked for an update on the impact of the Career Academy applications as it relates to ATOMS, ACES, and SOAR and what kind of impact has the Career Academy had on students staying in their middle school complex and moving into an aggressive academic program in their comprehensive high school outside of going to the Career Academy. I'm concerned about that, I'm hearing things that I don't like but I don't want to speculate, I just would appreciate it, and I believe the application timeframe is now closed for those programs and I believe for the Career Academy, I could be wrong, but if I could just get a look at, if the Board could get a look please, as to how many kids applied to ATOMS, how many to ACES, and how many to SOAR this year and in years past prior to the Career Academy, and how many kids applied to the Career Academy from each of those middle school complexes so we can gage the impact of Career on our comprehensive high schools. And I'm saying this because Career was set up as an opportunity for those students who may not be your traditional college-bound student to matriculate to Career to graduate with a career path. And I'm concerned that with the implementation of AP courses at Career that we're drawing some of the students that would have stayed in ACES, ATOMS, or SOARS to the Career Academy. We aren't gonna accomplish the industry-based workforce initiatives that we set out to and that, as Kaynor does, they see a large number of graduates matriculate to college instead of into their vocational trades. Not that that's a bad thing but I'm concerned about the impact to the comprehensive high schools. So if we could get some ideas of what those numbers look like, and soon, it would be very helpful.

SUPERINTENDENT: I do have those numbers.

AWWAD: That's my first request. The second request that I have is now that the Turnaround Plan up at Crosby has been submitted and approved it's my understanding that there will be negotiations with the State as to funding and I want to make sure that this Board is aware of the funding, the impact of the funding upon the closure of those funds being allocated to the district and what this district might be on the hook for in the out years which will be three years from now. There's significant staff time to teachers for the expanded day. We talked earlier about the cost of busing because the day is extended and it's gonna to throw a huge kink into what I believe Paul referred to as a tiered bussing schedule which that cost which is gonna be an immediate cost next year to the district and also in light of what Turnaround calls for at Crosby, what's the likelihood that we have kids or parents, is there an option for these kids to not go to Crosby, does that drive more kids someplace else because incoming freshman don't want to go to summer school because they don't want to be in school for the extended day, and I'm not against it so don't misunderstand, I'm just asking for what's the impact of that fiscally and on the district in terms of enrollment of kids coming from Wallace to Crosby in light of what we determined as the Turnaround project that we're gonna take there. Oh, one last thing, since we just shot down the budget maybe we should schedule a meeting to roll up our shirtsleeves.

STANGO: Jason Van Stone.

JASON VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President, through you, taking off what Commissioner Awwad said, given that tonight we did shoot down the budget and I welcome my fellow Commissioners to the side of the lone wolf that often times I'm on shooting it down, but as I said in my earlier prepared remarks this is still the beginning. So we all have our budget book, all of us who, especially voted no for this, be prepared to come to a Finance Committee meeting I imagine next week and possibly a special meeting cause we're still under the gun, as far as the timeframe, the proposal to the Mayor. So be prepared, I've asked, going on a month now to come armed with cuts and we kind of nibbled a little bit, we did a nice job getting to that first one million, but to talk about the cuts I think we've all been talking about in the committee meetings, everyone has to come armed with what they're looking at. So I will expedite a meeting to get this together and to echo what Commissioner Awwad said, don't even wear shirtsleeves because we got to do more than roll them up.

STANGO: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Just to echo, not to echo but just piggyback, I believe that the Commissioners are ready. I think the reason, one of the reasons I know why I voted this down is because I don't feel we had enough time. So I think we're ready, some of us have been involved in the budget process for many years so I think we're ready to roll up our sleeves and to get to work so I look forward to that.

Just a few things, sorry, just getting over this cold that Jason Van Stone passed on his germs to me, statewide arrests, there was an article in the paper regarding the trending-down of arrests in the State of students of which Waterbury had to submit their results for the 2013/14 school year. Our results were 263 arrests for that year and that was a very large number, by the way, for statewide. What I'm looking is, since we're on the, I guess this is the night for requests Commissioner Awwad, I'm looking to see if we as a district is trending in the same fashion as the State is, are we trending-down? So I'm looking forward to saying what we're doing now in terms of a trend and I'm looking forward to that trend heading downward. No rush to this but I'd just like to see that.

Yesterday the State Board of Education meeting, it was a very proud moment, ladies and gentlemen. I think that, first of all it was quite different, although I did not attend, I was able to listen into the Board meeting from last year and quite a different atmosphere, quite a different atmosphere. I think there was a lesson to be learned from us in that we need to show support, we need to work together, not only because of our legislatures – State Representative Butler and Cuevas attended, but also from the parents. We had a leader, Jade Gopie, who's our principal, the Mayor, and I think all of that, yes, the room was packed largely due to the fact that we were there from Waterbury and I think it was just a proud moment for Waterbury and I was very pleased with the outcome and I think we should continue to work together to keep this ball rolling because it's very positive and it's rolling in the right direction. So I just wanted to state that, I was very proud to be a member of the Waterbury School District.

Now February is, just in case you didn't know, February is Black History month. Commissioners, you have received electronically a copy of the calendar for Black History Month. The purpose of you receiving those calendars is hopefully for you to

attend some of the functions. Alderman Greg Hagley and myself worked together with the Museum in coordinating these efforts and we're gonna have some very serious discussions in the community particularly police relations and the community and our youth. So I would hope that you would take the time out. If you have not received a copy of it let me know I'll make sure you receive a copy but our secretary did send that out but I would hope to see some of your faces there at some of these functions.

Lastly, Item #8.2, I am very proud of that as well, passing of that, the Muslim religious holidays, but as I expressed last week we know the demographics of our school district and this is something that I would hope that we would be ahead of so we have the demographics, we are an urban district, I would hope that someone, Dr. Ouellette, in the district would be looking at this. We still have to, yes, get the request, but I would hope that we would be looking at this and being ahead of this in anticipation so that we can do what we can to accommodate these requests. So, again, I'm just putting that request in as a second time. That's all I have. Thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Dr. Ouellette, recent history of incident reports have shown, at least I have seen, an uptick in our young ladies fighting. It has become much more apparent to me as I sit on the Juvenile Review Board because we are currently seeing a ratio of two to one of young ladies coming forward. I don't know what we as a district can do, I know we take on more and more every year of what comes through in social issues. I can tell you that the majority of what the Juvenile Review Board is seeing is based in social media, that's the trigger, but we need to get to our young ladies, we need to get to them early, we need to get to them in that sixth grade level and try to give them some more support in terms of conflict resolution wherever we can. I don't know if we can do that through, and it really needs to be targeted to our young ladies, it's a whole different dynamic than what we see with our young men and we really need something much more targeted in order to try and defray some of this. It's becoming very concerning, very frightening in what I'm seeing. So if there is anything we can do as a school district to lend some support to our young ladies I think we need to do that.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Awwad, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education