

## **WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### *MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING*

Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

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

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Harvey, Hayes, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone.

**ABSENT:** President Stango, Commissioners Awwad and Brown.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent Kathleen Ouellette, Chief Academic Officer Anne Marie Cullinan, Special Advisor to Superintendent Paul Sequeira, and Chief Operating Officer & Chief of Staff Paul Guidone.

### **1. SILENT PRAYER**

Vice President Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. with a moment of silence.

SUPERINTENDENT: As we take a moment to remember those who have passed, please remember Mrs. Kathleen Barry who passed away on February 5, 2014 and Ms. Linda Lanza who passed away on February 15, 2014.

Mrs. Barry retired from the city of Waterbury where she had taught at North End Middle School for almost 20 years.

Ms. Linda Lanza worked for the City of Waterbury Department of Education as a food service worker for over three years at State Street School.

Please keep Mrs. Barry and Ms. Lanza and their families 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 (absent). Commissioner Brown (absent). Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner J. Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Stango (absent).

HARVEY: I just want to say President Stango sends his regrets for his absence here this evening. Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Awwad also informed us that they would not be present at our regular meeting.

#### **4. COMMUNICATIONS**

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

1. Copy of communications dated February 5, 2014 from Civil Service certifying Michael Hickey and Michael D'Angelo for the position of Maintainer I.
2. Copy of communications dated February 6, 2014 from Civil Service certifying Jacqueline Edwards and Aviana McRae for the position of Paraprofessional.
3. Copy of email communication dated February 7, 2014 from Lisa Lessard regarding the Mayor speaking during discussion.
4. Copy of email communication dated February 7, 2014 from Jimmie Griffin regarding the Mayor speaking during discussion.
5. Copy of email communication dated February 8, 2014 from Mayor O'Leary regarding the Mayor speaking during discussion.
6. Copy of email communication dated February 8, 2014 from Jimmie Griffin regarding the Mayor speaking during discussion.
7. Copy of email communication dated February 11, 2014 from John Theriault, Walsh Tutor, regarding his job at Walsh.

HARVEY: All those in favor, opposed, thank you.

#### **5. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to allow the public to address the Board at 7:12 p.m.**

HARVEY: All those in favor, opposed. 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.

**Jimmie Griffin, 41 Pilgrim Avenue, had the following comments:** Before I start my three minutes I'd just like to suggest to this Board that maybe you consider expanding the public speaking to at least five minutes, that would at least be compatible with the Board of Aldermen. A few weeks ago I came before this Board during the public speaking session but after being the last speaker you called to order your regular meeting which should have excluded any further outside comments. I understand the Mayor is an ex-officio member of this Board but somehow he became official as he was allowed to address this Board. He started to discuss personal grievance committee reports in public. He invoked the name of Erik Brown and openly gave his personal evaluation of a board member and Brown prior to taking a vote which was clearly along racial lines with a senior member siding with the minority. He later involved himself to an exchange of shared emails between Lisa Lessard, myself, and members of the public and the press mocking the comments of a member of the public who is a parent of a student in the public school system. Not only was his appearance at the podium a violation of ethical standards of privacy concerning matters of personnel policy, it was also an embarrassment to Erik Brown and his family and his friends who see him differently than in the Mayor's capacity as ex-officio member of this Board. I really feel this Board showed extreme bias in the vote taken last week and felt the Mayor's comments influenced a negative vote against the entire grievance process and the members of the panel.

Second, there are rumors running rampant in our community concerning the safety of our children and the perception of favoritism given to some students over others who play sports. It is being alleged that there are certain members of the Board and coaches over the years who have altered policies that excused the academics of our students to satisfy the hunger of the sports department. It has also been rumored that our only remaining black principal in our system at Crosby High has handed in his resignation and then took it back. Many of you may recall that this system in the past has been alleged to have an extremely hostile environment as perceived by many when it comes to the teachers and administrators of color.

Finally, I ask on final question, is the student that was alleged to be abused sexually at Crosby High School black or white? If so, then why is it such a secret because color should not matter but for some reason, in this system, it always does. Thank you.

**Alderman Lawrence DePillo, 11 Steuben Street, had the following comments:**

Tonight's Agenda you have 13.1 – preferred site for the proposed East End school, I believe you're putting the cart before the horse here. You made a presentation tonight with four different sites, you're not allowing the public to adequate time or notice to come before this Board and to evaluate for themselves the four sites and let them then tell you which site they recommend would be the best site for the school – not backwards. Had you done that before you had picked the Bird Sanctuary, you would have eliminated an awful lot of problems in the beginning. Now a lot of money was spent on this report, the public's money, and they have a right to address this Board for more than three minutes in order to let you know which of the four sites, or they may even have a fifth or sixth site so when this Board this time makes the decision they make it fully informed. So hopefully you're gonna postpone this vote tonight until after

you have a hearing where the public gets an opportunity to see this and comment on this and it is properly noticed in the newspaper that that's the purpose of the meeting. That was not in the newspaper that this was going to be voted on tonight.

In addition to that, I think we as taxpayers need to know what this Board's intentions are regarding Barnard School before we go building a new school. What is the situation regarding the State Street School, PAL, which was mentioned as a proposed purchase, the former St. Lucy's School? We have three middle schools that are in a negative growth situation as we continue to bring pre-k to eight schools on board. And at one time somebody had mentioned Rotella Magnet School, maybe the City of Waterbury could petition the State of Connecticut to make that into a pre-k to eight school and see what the cost would be to the City of Waterbury versus building a new school. But none of the public is gonna have the opportunity to speak to any of these issues because if you vote tonight then you've already said what your preference is without hearing from the public.

Also, there's the issue of the Crosby High School athletic field. I was up there this past summer when it was nothing but a dust bowl and I was informed by a number of people that they could not speak about it because the water to that field had been cut off several years earlier and they were specifically told that they could not talk about the fact that the reason the fields a dust bowl is because there's no water to maintain the field or the grass or anything else. And we have a semi-professional football team that day and it was a horrible situation. And I didn't bring it up because there's a concession stand there and the concession stand had to use portable water because there was not City water. What's going on with this Board that that would not only exist but continue and nobody would look into it? Well, 2 ½ million dollar later for that field, I think this Board owes the public some explanations. Thank you.

**Donna Scavone, 106 Ferrone Avenue, had the following comments:** I am very much opposed to the Ferrone Avenue site which conceivably could become the next elementary school and these are my concerns. The relationship to where the actual structure is to be erected, how visible will it be to my home? I'm at the very top of that hill where it all begins. Is the school in question to be built right over my head? My second concern – the fact that the slope to the property above me as well as the homes and property on Irene Ave, which is to the right of my property below me, are in jeopardy of water runoff of a severe nature as has been proven when the road was being built a few years back and they had to stop short because the people on Ferrone Avenue were being imploded with water problems. In fact, from what I understood, they were conceivably going to go into lawsuits over this because it was just a disaster. I, myself, and I'll get to that, I have spent \$6,000 to correct my water problem because of the road and also because it's completely ledge on that slope. My question is how much of the natural terrain, slope, and ledge will be disturbed? My third concern – pollution, having buses coming and going back and forth over our heads is going to create a problem. I am severely asthmatic and I'm aging and I fear the worst. Blasting ledge, which this said slope is mainly constructed of, will not only be noisy but destructive to our property and especially detrimental to the foundations of our homes, I can't have that, no one can. This has been a safe, quiet, private environment to live in, to raise our children in, to be proud to be a part of for more than 25 years on my own personal level. Why would we have to be, what would we have to be overjoyed about to have this wonderful peaceful existence taken away from us, please tell me. I would like

to add I am an early childhood educator having studied and worked at the Waterbury Hospital Children's Care and Nursery Center for quite some time and I wish to say that I genuinely love children and I have an interest in them especially for their education. However, I am also a senior who enjoys my privacy and peaceful surroundings and would appreciate continuing to do so for many years to come. Another foreseeable concern is the noise factor and also the traffic that this highly populated neighborhood will endure and I question how the expending traffic of cars and buses will impact our lives. Thank you for giving me your time and concern.

**Daniel Brenis, 1097 Hamilton Avenue, had the following comments:** I just wanted to take a moment to address the Board of Education and the Commissioners and just thank you for considering adding Three Kings as a holiday. I'll give you an easy one, I'll give you guys a break. So I just want to thank you for considering and possibly implementing that as a holiday. As most of you may not be aware, it's not only a Latino cultural event, in Europe it's also celebrated in many nations there as well. Thank you very much.

**Rubis Collado, 23 Elizabeth Street, had the following comments:** I have a beautiful story, on November 15, 2013 I had the honor to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at Kingsbury School and that's what I'm here thanking you for making Three Kings a holiday because I learned something amazing after . . . at Kingsbury School we have 160 family over there and since that day the increasing of family engagement has been really big. At our last PTO we had 30 families so bringing that culture together to celebrate and bringing all those parents and children that day they feel welcome, they feel identified, they've been more open in getting educated and to know each other, those parents being in different meetings and activities like Madre Latino, so bringing them to find themselves and bring the history from our country to where we live to our children to the dining table and to you. For me as a Hispanic woman I want to share with you how we grow up . . . our history, how we play, how we celebrate. Three Kings is not a holiday in our country, it's Christmas, it's our history, how we grow up . . . and what we share with our parents and grandparents. Thank you so much and have a good night.

**Melissa Serrano Adorno, 228 Fanning Street, had the following comments:** I would like to say hello again to all the Board of Ed Commissioners. I would like to remind you I attended the previous Board of Ed meeting on February 6 with the Parent Leaders. In regards to the Three Kings Day, it is popular in Puerto Rico and many Spanish speaking countries. To many Latin Americans Three Kings is Christmas like Ms. Collado had mentioned with families gathering and exchanging gifts, but in the US many Latino families have found January 6 is not observed as a regular holiday so children have to attend school rather than spend the day with their family but now more and more school districts, particularly ones in Latino neighborhoods, are observing Three Kings Day as an official holiday. So as you stated before, school boards in Hartford, East Hartford, Bridgeport, and New Haven, just to name a few, have designated Three Kings Day as a vacation day and some even said, like you have also state, that if classes were held attendance would have dipped as many children celebrated at home with their families as I have been doing for the past 18 years. So I would like to thank you for considering my request, as well as other community leaders, and vote to have the City of Waterbury join many Connecticut cities to recognize January 6 as a religious holiday. Thank you.

**Michael P. Ney, 66 Brewster Street, had the following comments:** My child goes to Reed School and he asked me to find out why, every day, the lunches are burnt. The principal, the vice principal, and the handicap isn't shoveled for wheelchair accessible and you want to build another school. You need to first learn how to take care of the ones you have before you do that. Thank you.

**Geraldo Reyes, Jr., 30 Madison Street, had the following comments:** I'd like to just take a few minutes just to talk, reflect on a few points. First of all as a server of the City of Waterbury I certainly want to extend congratulations to the Bucks Hill Principal Mrs. Ann Begley. I think 37 years of Civil Service when it comes to educating our children is more than admirable and I wanted to commend Mrs. Begley on that achievement.

Secondly, I wanted to not only congratulate but also applaud this administration, this leadership that I'm looking at before me, as Board of Aldermen and Alderwoman, for recognizing Three Kings Day as an important Christmas holiday regardless of ethnic group, it's a Christmas holiday and I want to applaud the leadership and all the folks that went in and all the effort that went into all this, there's been quite a bit of dialogue and I just wanted to congratulate this Board for taking the right steps and at the end of the day I'm sure we'll have our holiday.

Third, I do want to talk a little bit about the Crosby High football field, I spoke about it at the last Board of Education meeting. Our intent is to have the semi-pro football team, the Brass City Brawlers, have their second year up there. It's already been alluded to the fact that it did not show Waterbury at its best when you bring in teams from out of the district to play on our football field and it indeed was a dust bowl and everything Mr. DePillo said about the concession stand is definitely true. I'd like to see, if we're going to hold a semi-pro football team on that field, if we have the privilege of playing on that field, I'd like to show (tape ended) . . . we already need a plan in place so that we can, if we expect to have grass on that field in the spring we need to start thinking about what we're gonna do now and that's why I'm bringing it up again.

The last item that I have, I wanted to talk about the zoning regulations as it applies with school buildings and school in general. It seems painful to have to come before a board to speak about a school and a methadone clinic and a shooting range and school, and possible gun store and school and what else? It seems to me we have the cart in front of the horse. I would challenge this Board to be the driver to enforce those policy changes because the zoning regulations we have in place right now are not working. It's a shame we have to come to a Board of Education worried about our kids because of whatever and at that point I'm saying to myself that's amazing. Thank you.

**Andre Michaud, 175 Columbia Boulevard, had the following comments:** The reason I'm here tonight is because I want to see the best that can be done for Waterbury as far as the new school is concerned from the sites that you looked at tonight. It's my belief that the best site is the Hamilton Park site, also known as the Bird Sanctuary. To me it's tailored made for a school. Whoever developed that park originally, it looks like they saved that corner for a school. To me this would be an extension of the park, not just taking park land, but you'd be extending the park with the school. I understand the concerns of the people that spoke at the public hearing, I wrote some comments on each one of them last night after I reviewed the tape, there

were 22 comments, I know I don't have enough time to read some of them because I only have three minutes. Some of the people that spoke that night will say no to anything, if you built a dog house in your yard they're gonna say no, they don't want to see a dog house and all those people live in houses that were built on open space. At one time all our houses were built on open space. To me the perspective school was not properly sold to the people. People feel it was underhanded with how it was being handled. Even the district state rep was not notified; he said he read it in the paper. Someone didn't read How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie in promoting this project – people were not part of the process. Reasons for Hamilton Park school – to me it would be Hamilton Park Elementary School, the City owns the land, there's no acquisition costs, most schools have to create fields for use, Reed School has one field, Career Academy has one field, Gilmartin has one field, Duggan has none. Hamilton Park has four fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, a pool, and Seven Angel's Theatre. Have the park repaired and cleaned up as part of this project. Add lighting and security. You'll only be using seven out of 19 acres. Some thoughts on the development of the new school. Most people that spoke at the public hearing were concerned about the bird sanctuary, develop the bird sanctuary, create walking trails behind the school, clear out some of the brush, create observation posts for people who want to look at the birds, have someone like Dom Rinaldi, I call him Mr. Flowers, who plants, have him plant wildflowers over there, have the students build birdhouses and put them on the site, have park benches, solar lighting, develop a bird sanctuary. Many people were upset that you were dishonoring the Goss Family – honor the Goss Family by creating a granite statute of Mrs. Goss in the front of the school so they know where the property came from. Have a bird theme throughout the school like was done with Reed when you had all those metal things on the outside of the building, have them in the shape of birds. With the school part of the park there will be a greater security and police presence which may help to alleviate some of the nightly illicit activities in the bushes during the hot summer nights. To me I would contact the people from the public hearing and anyone else for input on the planning and development of the park school. Form a citizens committee. The Goss Family donated raw land to the City, they didn't lay out the park, they gave it to the City to use how they saw fit and to me putting a school on that property would be the best use of it. It is an extension of the park. Finally, if Ms. Goss was alive today what would she say about a school being built for the children in the neighborhood so they can walk to school instead of being bused. Make the right decision, thank you.

**Ann Sweeney, 24 Driggs Street, had the following comments:** As I said, you would see me from the other side of the table, here I am. I want to speak to you tonight in support of the Ferrone Avenue site. I sat in on the Building Committee meeting, I saw the presentation, and I'm stunned – after eight years on this Board and as a member of the Building Committee, we diligently searched for a site in the East End for a badly needed school to serve that area and time and time again came up empty handed. I grew up in the East End in that area, I didn't know that site was there. It's a hidden jewel that you have managed to find. You have a potential of currently of about 300 students who live within that half-mile radius of that site who attend Chase and Generali Schools, that just about populates that school pre-k through six on its opening. Those children will walk to school; they are within that half-mile. You will reduce busing at all the East End schools. The site the way it is situated has the opportunity for multiple pathways for walkers and the opportunity if you do a good traffic study to segregate the traffic flow from the walkers. You have a huge opportunity with that site to put a real

neighborhood school in to provide the community with a center in the heart of that neighborhood. I can't think of a better place. I have seen every single site that was again vetted this time around by this study and I can tell you that none of them measures up like the Ferrone Avenue site does. It needs to be well vetted, we need to hear from the community, we need to make sure we're diligent about a traffic study making sure that we don't overburden that neighborhood but it's an absolutely wonderful site. I took the time to drive up there both on the Ferrone Avenue side and the National Avenue side and I'm amazed we just didn't know that that was tucked in there. So I would support, encourage you to support that site and give you my support for that site as well.

On another note, Mr. Reyes brought it up, I have been to the Board of Aldermen last two meetings around, with the help of Alderman DePillo, the Aldermen did pass a resolution in support of the refusal, of the denial of the site for the methadone clinic on Meriden Road. I have also asked the Aldermen to please use whatever authority they have to request that the city look at its zoning in relationship to close proximity to our schools so that we don't continue to have to fight every time a business wants to locate by one of our schools. So I thank you for the time, I thank you for the extra time, I apologize for going over. Thank you, have a good night.

**Josephine Bennett, 76 Transit Street, had the following comments:** Tonight I'm here to speak about two topics – one is Bucks Hill in which I want to commend Mrs. Ann Begley for the hard work and dedication she has given to that school, she's also principal, and she's one that goes the extra mile, goes from class to class to insure the teachers are doing their job. Secondly, it's Wilby High School. I am requesting that for the graphic arts department, if we could have proper equipment for the children because they are complaining. They need color printers, they need cameras, software, they need just about everything. And also if we could have the teacher have a professional course to get her ahead of what's going on in society today. Also the Wilby football field is in deplorable condition and we would love for that to be renovated. And if we could get everything for the graphic arts department, a total renovation, I'm going to speak to Mrs. Apicella sometime next week but I just got an opportunity here so I just make it be known. So we'd love to have that and the kids would learn better because they're becoming frustrated because they don't have the equipment to work. Thank you very much, have a good night.

**Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 7:43 p.m.**

HARVEY: All those in favor, opposed. We will move onto the Superintendent's Announcements.

## **6. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Yesterday's African American Mayor for the Day was Jeffrey Hunter, our Transportation Coordinator. Jeff was honored for his many contributions to the community, including a six-year term as Exalted Ruler of Goodwill Lodge of Elks, and president of the J & J, Inc. social club, an organization that has provided scholarships to Waterbury students. Jeff received a community service award from the local NAACP in 2012 and helped the

city organize The Gathering last year. Jeff is a graduate of Crosby High School and often credits the Wilson School Follow-Through after school program for helping him achieve and succeed in life. He is a wonderful part of our Central Office team in always keeping our students safe to and from school. I wish to again personally recognize his service and contributions to the Waterbury learning community.

Waterbury Hospital is now accepting applications for its newest People Empowering People, or PEP, class designed to develop parent leadership and advocacy for those who speak Albanian. A Spanish version of PEP started several weeks ago and has proven very successful. Both PEP programs are similar to the popular Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) and Parents SEE (Parents Supporting Education Excellence), both of which are offered in English only. The two PEP classes are part of the Parents Academy grant the district received from the state. For those who are interested, the Albanian PEP class will meet on Tuesdays, March 25th to June 3rd, from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m., and includes child care, dinner and transportation assistance. Angela Holmes is the coordinator, 203 573-7012.

Waterbury Hospital is also seeking students in sixth through eighth grades who are interested in health careers for its annual Spring Break Health Career Exploration Camp, April 15th to 17th. This free program offers students CPR training and a full day trip to Mystic in addition to health career exploration opportunities. It is limited to sixty students.

The Wilson School Family Resource Center is offering a new five week parent workshop program for parents and guardians, as part of the Parent Academy grant. "Parenting for Academic Success" is open to parents throughout the district. The five workshops include information on helping children succeed in school, celebrating reading and family learning, creating family literacy activities, learning the value of sharing family stories with your child, and communicating effectively during parent teacher meetings. Two sessions are offered: Mondays mornings, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and Wednesday evenings, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Wilson School Family Resource Center at 203 573-6664.

## **7. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

HARVEY: Since I am Acting President, I'm going to introduce something a little new here and that is in regards to keep with the fact that this month is Black History Month. Black History Month, just to read a little something on that, Black History Month was developed by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the son of former slaves in 1926, to celebrate the achievement of Blacks and the importance of historical events impacting on Black American. Originally called Negro History Week, it is now a month-long celebration. Dr. Woodson has also founded the Association of the Study of Negro Life and History, now the Association of the Study of African American Life and History. Black History Month is now celebrated around the world. Now just to bring it home to Waterbury, yes yesterday we did celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mayor for the Day African American Black History Mayor for the Day and our 30<sup>th</sup> Mayor for the day was indicated by having Jeffrey A. Hunter as our African American Mayor for the Day. I've known Mr. Hunter for a while and I think one of the things I was surprised to learn is that he has 98 nieces and nephews; he has a very big family. The award was very well deserved. But I also want to point out that in the evening, first of all let me just back up, we take, we in the

African American community, take this very seriously, this is, as I said 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we have a program which is printed out and went back and researched the number of African Americans in the community that have been given this designation, this honor, and we have the ceremony not only in the morning but also in the evening. In the evening we not only highlight the person that we have designated with the honor but we also highlight those honorees – youth and adults. Last evening, there were, I have to get all the names so I'm not going to mention any names as far as the youth, but we honored youth who we felt have made contributions not only scholastically but also in the community. So I'll get those names and hopefully, Superintendent, you can acknowledge that. We also highlighted for our adults Joyce Petteway who is our former Alderwoman as well as served in my capacity as Vice President of the Board of Education. We also honored Mr. Michael Tripp who is the Resource Officer at Crosby High School. We also in the evening pointed out the names, read the names of those who we have honored in the past and in looking over the list, first of all I'm very glad to be considered in the number here, but in looking over the list we had highlighted a lot of educators. As a matter of fact the past three recipients – myself, Alderman Greg Hadley, and Mr. Hunter, are all either directly associated or indirectly associated with the Education Department. This indicates that education is very important to the African American community. So I hope that I can start something with the diversity that we have in our community, in our schools, that we can once a month take out time to indicate and to highlight different ethnical heritages and to point this out. What I would like to see, Dr. Ouellette, next year is to, first of all I thank you for this book which highlights what we're doing in the schools, but as I read 1926 this month observation began so it's not something that we planned starting last week. So I'd like to see it, first of all the first of February. If I had the power to go back in time I would say to Dr. Woodson don't pick February because it's the shortest month of the year and secondly, with the luck we've been having with snow and our weather, February is not the month to select. But nonetheless, it's laid in stone know, so we will do that. But I'd like to see this information, that we plan ahead. Also, I would like to see that our newsletters indicate what we are celebrating each month. I have just been monitoring what we put in our newsletters, I saw Valentine's Day, I saw Presidents Day, some schools did mention that it's Black History Month, others did not. So I would like to see that consistent as we move forward. Not only for Black History Month but whatever month it is that we're celebrating, I think that's the fair way to do it and if we're in, we are truly in a diverse population so we need to do that, send this information home to the parents so that they know what we're doing. I will rest my case right now.

## **8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to convene into Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee and return at 8:03 p.m. with no votes taken.**

HARVEY: All in favor, opposed.

Present were: Commissioners Harvey, Hayes, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone, Dr. Ouellette, Dr. Sequeira, Mrs. Cullinan, and Mr. Guidone.

**Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to return to the Regular Order of Business at 8:03 p.m. with no votes taken.**

HARVEY: All in favor, opposed.

**9. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

**9.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Rodriguez and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the appointment of John S. Reed as Supervisor of Science and Technology, effective immediately.**

HARVEY: Discussion.

SUPERINTENDENT: I'm very pleased to recommend to the Board of Education the approval of John Reed for the position of Science and Technology Supervisor. This has been an extremely long search for us and lo and behold our Supervisor was sitting right in our hometown so we're thrilled with that. Mr. Reed began his career as an Environmental Engineer in private industry. From there he began his teaching career in Waterbury Public Schools 26 years ago. During his tenure he advanced himself and became the Science Department Chair for the past 11 years and earned the respect of his colleagues. He's passionate about integrating science, technology, and engineering by providing students with various opportunities in the STEM fields namely internships at several companies. Mr. Reed has a Bachelors of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania, a Masters from the State University of Newark, and his 6<sup>th</sup> year from Southern Connecticut State University. His certifications and endorsements are very impressive, including the 092; he has a biology, chemistry, and a general science degree. And just something to note, in his letters of reference his colleagues praised his leadership, professional demeanor, and knowledge of science and how he relates to students. His involvement in curriculum committees, data teams, and advance placement curriculum has helped to prepare him for the position. It gives me great pleasure this evening to present to you an outstanding educator and future administrator for the Waterbury Public Schools.

HARVEY: Thank you Dr. Ouellette. Any further discussion? We're gonna have a roll call vote please.

***ROLL CALL ON ITEM #9.1:***

Yeas: Commissioners Harvey, Hayes, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone.

*(applause)*

REED: Dr. Ouellette, thank you for those kind words. I'm very excited to accept this position, and Vice President Harvey as well, it's a very exciting opportunity for me, it's a period when education is changing very rapidly, there's a lot of new initiatives and I believe those initiatives are really going to help our kids because they're gonna connect their education to the real world, to things that they care about and raise the bar in terms of their reasoning skills, problem solving skills, so I think it's an exciting time and I think

Waterbury is gonna be a prime beneficiary of these changes and I thank all the Board members for entrusting me with this and I hope I do it justice for you. Thank you very much.

HARVEY: Thank you. Come shake our hands please.

**10. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**10.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner J. Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve of the 2014-2015 school year calendar, as attached, with the replacement of October 14th as a school day and January 5th as a 7-hour Professional Development Day.**

HARVEY: Discussion? All those in favor, opposed, abstaining – motion passes.

**11. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to approve that permission be granted to apply for the U. S. Tennis Association “New England Region Equipment Grant”.**

HARVEY: Motion made and seconded. Discussion? All those in favor, opposed, abstaining – motion passes.

**11.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to approve that permission be granted to apply for the U. S. Tennis Association “Connecticut Chapter Grant”.**

HARVEY: Motion made and seconded. Discussion? All those in favor, opposed, abstaining – motion passes.

**11.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to approve that permission be granted to apply for the U. S. Tennis Association “New England Region Grant”.**

HARVEY: Motion made and seconded. Discussion? All those in favor, opposed, abstaining – motion passes.

**11.4 Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to approve an Agreement with Ambassador Wheelchair Services, Inc., to provide transportation services for medically fragile students (General Fund funded).**

HARVEY: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor, opposed, abstaining – motion passes.

- 11.5 Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, with Commissioners Hayes and J. Van Stone voting “no”, it was voted to approve an Agreement with Lois A. Lanning, PhD, to provide training and certification of educators in Concept-based Curriculum and Instruction (Alliance Grant funded).**

HARVEY: Motion made and seconded. Discussion? All those in favor, opposed.

HAYES: No.

J. VAN STONE: No.

HARVEY: Two opposed – motion passes.

## **12. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FACILITIES & GROUNDS**

- 12.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner J. Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve the use of school facilities, at no charge, by the following school organizations and/or City departments:**

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES</b>
R. O’Neil	Carrington café: Wed., February 26 <sup>th</sup> , 5:45-8:30pm (Book Club Mtg.) Mon., March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5:45-8:30pm (Science Family Night)
Human Resources Peter Abare Brown	Wtby. Career Academy: Thurs., Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup> , 10am-noon (SEIU elections)
K. Galullo	WAMS classrooms: Thursday, Sept. 27, 2014 8:30 am-5:00 pm (Special Olympics Summit) WAMS atrium: Fri., Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:00 pm (Black History Program)
D. Mortensen	Rotella comm. rm.: Feb. 26, Apr. 2, 9, May 7, June 4 1:30-3:30 pm (Reading Department meetings)

HARVEY: Discussion? All those in favor, opposed, abstaining – motion passes.

- 12.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner J. Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve the use of school facilities by outside organizations and/or waiver requests, subject to fees and insurance as required:**

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES</b>
Nationals, Inc. Sally Blough	Kennedy Auditorium: Sat. & Sun. April 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00am-9:00pm (2014 Miss Tech Hartford/New Haven pageant)

HARVEY: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor, opposed, abstaining – motion passes.

### **13. COMMITTEE ON BUILDING**

**13.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted unanimously to approve of the Ferrone Avenue site, as outlined in Silver/Petrucelli & Associates Pre-k – 8 East End Elementary School Site Selection Study, as the preferred site for a proposed Pre-k through 8 elementary school.**

HARVEY: Motion made and seconded – discussion?

T. VAN STONE: My short time on this Board and also on the Committee for Building, I do want the public to understand we have looked at quite a bit of information, I know I have, I know the veterans here have looked at much more than I have, I do feel this is a good plan to go forward, it still got a long way to go before we're putting a shovel in the ground that's for sure. I think we are doing our job by bringing this forward, it is a valuable site to look at and I just want to let the public be aware that we are doing our job, we are looking at things, we have a long way to go but this is certainly a site that I think we should put forward. Thank you.

HARVEY: Any further discussion? Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Thank you Madam Vice President. I think the Ferrone Avenue site is, of the four that were noted as our top four sites, is head and shoulders above the others. To some of the points we heard tonight, this is the first of many steps, there will be a public hearing to further discuss that, we're probably going to schedule that I would imagine the first week in March so keep an ear out for that. We're gonna be so in touch with the neighborhood you're gonna kick us out and not want to see us for a long time. If we are to go forward with this school at that location, we will do it hand in hand with the neighborhood and the residents and we'll be willing partners to work with you, you can take my word for that. One of the speakers spoke about the Plank Road/Hamilton Park site, that is a lot of merit to that site and a number of us went through that process last time around and heard voices of dissent and a lot of them were very valid. I personally think a school there would benefit the park, myself. The sticky point I have however is while it is City maintained and City owned, it's deed restricted and someone at some point in time who owned that land said I will give it to you, the City, but it needs to be used for this purpose. And in the public hearing last time around members of that family said we do not, specifically, do not want you to do that. I think it behooves us as a Board to respect the wishes of someone who gave us the gift of that park and that land to carry out what the family wants. So while I agree there are a number of benefits to that site, the fact that the family has deed restricted it and the living heirs today, at least some of them, have chosen not to lift that restriction. I think it's incumbent upon us to listen to that family who at one time owned that property. The other two sites as we talked about tonight, Scott Road, between the traffic on Scott Road and the fact it really doesn't serve the true neighborhood school, I think that kind of crosses that out and I think the site on Route 69 is great except it doesn't help us with the Chase problem. I think this school directly impacts Chase, takes out nearly 300 kids immediately at that school, which Chase is dying for. We've heard the concerns about traffic and it's something I share. I imagine to some degree you'll probably see less buses through the neighborhood now, well not now but in 2018 or whenever we finally get the school open, and you'll see more and more kids walking which I think benefits

everybody, quite frankly. Again, this is the first step, there might be a bump in the road or two, but we're gonna do this the right way to make sure at the end of the day not only the kids at the East End have a school they're gonna be proud to go to but the neighborhood surrounding it is bettered by this project not worsened. Thank you Madam Vice President.

HARVEY: Any further discussion? Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: I just want to add, I know with regard to the Hamilton Park site, quite honestly I don't agree with the rankings, I believe Ferrone is better than the Hamilton Park site for the impact that it would have on the Chase School population. And also gonna be in a neighborhood that probably has as many buses running through it now as it will then because those kids are all being bused to Chase School or to parochial schools from that area. So I just think that that is clearly our best option, I'm surprised that it hadn't surfaced prior to that. But the only thing I would add is that, I know Alderman DePillo spoke about us maybe not making a decision, I have no problem with us making a recommendation at this point but I think it might behoove us to when we make the presentation at the public hearing have a similar presentation that we had tonight, everything that's on the table so the public can have input on that, but I have no problem with us clearly recommending Ferrone Avenue at that point, I think that's, as Commissioner other Van Stone, right-hand Van Stone, said we have an obligation to do our homework, we've done it, and I think this is the, it's our obligation to make a recommendation and hear from the public and if they give us some reasons to change or minds, that's alright, we should listen to them. But like I said we should listen to them on all the projects not necessarily the one we recommended. So I would ask that we make that presentation.

HARVEY: Any further discussion? Any further discussion? All those in favor, opposed, abstaining – motion passes.

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

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner J. Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 14.1 through 14.6, Superintendent's Notification to the board, as listed:**

- 14.1 Athletic appointments effective immediately:  
Mauro, Jennifer – Assistant Cheerleading Coach, WHS.
- 14.2 Appointments:  
Corcoran, Matthew – English Department Chair, CHS, effective 02/03/14.  
Franks-Blanchard, Lauren – English Department Chair, WHS, effective 02/03/14.
- 14.3 Extended School Hours (ESH) Program Appointments, salary according to individual's contract:
- |               |                   |                    |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Regan:</i> | Homewood, Gregory | Substitute Teacher |
|               | Dombrowski, Jason | Substitute Teacher |
|               | Parks, Michele    | Substitute Teacher |
| <i>Walsh:</i> | Fenn, Myra        | Teacher            |

14.4 Teacher new hires:

<b>Name</b>		<b>Location</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Grade/Step</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Kolek	Ricardo	WAMS	Tech. Ed	MA/8	1/31/14
Rosa	David	WMS	Social Studies	BA/4	1/2/14
Page	Jennifer	NEMS	Science-6	BA/2	1/31/14
Audibert	Andrew	Gilmartin	Math-7/8	BA/1	2/10/14

14.5 Retirements:

Begley, Ann – Bucks Hill Principal, effective 07/31/14.

Martinez, Olga – Bucks Hill, Bilingual, effective 11/01/13.

Vendetti, Roberta – Bucks Hill Pre-K, Special Ed Preschool, effective 06/30/14.

14.6 Resignations:

Geddes, Jessica – Bucks Hill, Co-taught Kindergarten, effective 02/28/14.

Guidone, Marc – CHS, Guidance Department Chair, effective 02/21/14.

HARVEY: Motion made and seconded. All those favor, opposed, abstaining – motion passes. Item #15 – Unfinished Business of Proceeding Meeting Only. Hearing none – Item #16 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Last week I visited the two Turnaround Schools. I went to Crosby and I saw a lot of good things going on at Crosby. I spoke to the students there, I spoke to a couple of teachers, the students, I asked them what they thought of the new things that were going on at Crosby, they were very positive about the changes that were going on at Crosby as were some of the teachers. I didn't see a lot of negative things. Everything that the students talked about were positive, they were ready for it. So I thought that was a good thing. I also visited Walsh School, Walsh School was great, the kids were great, little congested because they have to be into the cafeteria waiting to go to class and eating breakfast, but it went well. Very maintained, quiet, as possible as it could be, I actually enjoyed myself. The Interim Principal there, she had a lot of great ideas with what she would like to see happen at Walsh and I'm hoping that whoever the principal that takes over Walsh listens to her and gets some feedback from her as to what she thinks should happen there. All in all I had a very great visit at both schools.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.**

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk  
Board of Education