

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 6, 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, Chief Academic Officer Anne Marie Cullinan, 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 6:39 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: Present.

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 J. Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Here.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here.

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. Demand for Arbitration dated February 11, 2014 from the American Arbitration Association regarding the School Administrators of Waterbury and Erik Brown.
2. Communication dated February 19, 2014 from Veda Mullai, Kennedy High School teacher, submitting letters from her students.
3. Communication dated February 19, 2014 from Kimberly Collini regarding her son.
4. Communication from Jonathan H. Dodd regarding action against Northeast Utilities.
5. Copy of communications dated February 19, 2014 from Civil Service certifying Christopher Parzych, Peter Berthiaume, and Eric Oulundson for the position of Maintainer I.
6. Copy of communication dated February 19, 2014 from Civil Service certifying Michele Sheehan for the position of Paraprofessional.
7. Copy of communication dated February 19, 2014 from Civil Service certifying Joan Nolan for the position of School Secretary.
8. Copy of communication dated February 20, 2014 from Civil Service certifying Sara Cabrera for the position of Library Page.
9. Copy of communications dated February 20, 2014 from Civil Service certifying Dennis Patnode and Joselito Algarin for the position of Maintainer I.
10. Email communication dated February 21, 2014 from the American Arbitration Association regarding School Administrators of Waterbury and Erik Brown.
11. Email communication dated February 21, 2014 from Anthony Santora regarding Bucks Hill School.
12. Email communication dated February 24, 2014 from Jimmie Griffin regarding Waterbury hiring practices in Civil Service System.
13. Communication dated February 26, 2014 from Phyllis Coviello regarding building a new school on Ferrone Avenue.
14. Email communication dated February 27, 2014 from Lisa Lessard regarding Common Core and deaf and hard of hearing.
15. Email communication dated March 3, 2014 from Jimmie Griffin regarding Charter Revision and appointments to boards and commissions.

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 Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner J. Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to allow the public to address the Board at 6:42 p.m.

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. 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.

Linoshka Quinones, 632 Baldwin Street, had the following comments: I am a bilingual student at Crosby High School. I want to express how happy and thankful I am that you have designated the Three Kings Day as a holiday for the Waterbury Public district. Thank you for taking the time to look at our culture, it show how much you value it and how much you are willing to make us feel accepted and at home. I would also like to thank Victor Lopez, Alderman of the City of Waterbury for the taking the leadership for making this happen. I can't wait to join my teachers and the bilingual staff to start planning this important day. Thank you.

Mrs. Ramos (WCA Spanish Teacher), 5 Stonehollow Road, had the following comments: I am representing our school, the Waterbury Career Academy High School and with me I have a representation of parents and students very excited with the official acceptance of the Three Kings celebration and we want to say thank you to everyone.

Diana Persuad/Donna Persuad, 101 Cornelius Avenue, had the following comments: I am here to represent the Waterbury Career Academy High School. I would like to read my letter thanking the Board of Education for accepting the Three Kings Day as a holiday. Dear Board of Education, I would like to thank you for approving the Three Kings Day as an official holiday in the City of Waterbury starting next year. Three Kings Day is very significant to all of the Hispanic communities just as Christmas, Kwanza, and Hanukah is for others. Although I am personally not Hispanic, my Spanish class has taught me about the importance of this holiday and I am honored to be a part of it. It is a wonderful tradition that is very well loved. People celebrate this holiday in many different ways and I'm happy that now we will be able to participate in this custom. Thank you for taking time out of your day to consider and approve the Three Kings Day as an official holiday; we truly appreciate this wonderful gesture. Sincerely, Diana Persuad. Thank you

Selena Soto, 55 Farrington Avenue, had the following comments: I'm representing Waterbury Career Academy. I'm reading my letter to show my gratitude for accepting Three Kings Day as an official holiday in Waterbury, Connecticut. Dear Board of Education, I am a native student; my parents are both Puerto Rican and speak fluent Spanish. Although I do not speak Spanish fluently or was raised and/or grew up in Puerto Rico, I have witnessed first-hand how important Three Kings Day is to my family; they hold it close to their hearts. Three Kings Day is a time of recognition, a time to celebrate, and a time to reminisce on past memories, a time of absolute joy. It's a holiday celebrated by all members of the Latino community and therefore it's important to me, now you have made it an official holiday in Waterbury, Connecticut. Waterbury is

my home and you have brought my culture to my home so me and so many others can celebrate it. I am truly grateful and looking forward to Three Kings Day. Thank you and have an amazing night.

Attorney Gary Broder, 205 Columbia Boulevard, had the following comments: I

reside at 205 Columbia Boulevard directly across the street from Kingsbury, Driggs class of '63, Wilby class of '67. I'm here to talk to you tonight about the serious parking problem caused by some of the parents at Kingsbury that is affecting the quality of my life and my neighborhood. I've lived in this house for 18 ½ years and there has been virtually no resolution of the problem. Some of you may think you know big deal you have a parking problem for a half hour in the morning and half hour when school lets out but there are three components of the problem that you need to understand. First of all it affects the quality of my life, myself and the other people in the neighborhood. Unfortunately the parents who are causing the problem are rude and crude and lazy and I will be specific as to what I mean about that. They have no regard for where they park, they park on, they block my driveway, they block my neighbor's driveway, I can't imagine my parents ever understanding how their son could park in front of somebody's driveway for even half a minute, that wasn't how I was raised. They park on the medium strip on Columbia Boulevard. In warmer weather there's an ice-cream truck and he pulls in to Joan Hartley's parking driveway and he stays there. One day I came there and he was parked up on the medium strip and I said to him what are you doing here, please remove your truck and he said I'm sorry I didn't know I couldn't park there, which is an outright lie because it is the same guy who's there periodically. So I have spent various times, some of my time, asking these parents to move their vehicles and most of them I get the attitude of either "who are you?", "what right do you have to tell me to move my car?", or they say "okay I'll move" and they circle around the block and when they think I'm gone they move back to exactly where they are. You all know that we in Overlook pay the highest taxes in the City of Waterbury and this is not what we bargained for.

Secondly, this continuing blockage of this area is dangerous because, as you know, next door to Kingsbury is Southmayd Home and unfortunately the number of ambulances that come to that facility is fairly large. You would have been lucky that God-forbid one day an ambulance had to rush through to there and they couldn't get through there because the parents are blocking the street. I guarantee you that if somebody dies because the ambulance couldn't get their quickly enough you will be on the hook.

Thirdly, there is the problem of the degradation of the medium strip itself. The Park Department spends a lot of time working on that medium strip and they are some of the good guys in this situation and as these parents continue to back up onto the edge more and more of the soil is being lost. We in Overlook, through our HOCC, have attempted to deal with that and at one time it was suggest well maybe we could place some large boulders all around the edge and that would keep them from parking on it. We were told that supposedly the Corporation Counsel's office said you can't do that because if somebody backed their vehicle onto those rocks and got damage they could pursue a claim against the City of Waterbury – that's nonsense, and I will tell you as a lawyer, that's nonsense.

STANGO: Mr. Broder, your time has expired a couple of minutes ago, are you just about done?

BRODER: I'm just about done. I have to tell you that on your website it does not say anything about a time limit so I wouldn't have known that. There has been no real cooperation between the school administration. I have heard in the past essentially it's not our problem; once they get out onto the sidewalk we're not responsible. I don't think that's true because you have school crossing guards there and if it's their responsibility to maintain the safety over there then it's their responsibility in the other part of the sidewalk. I have had great cooperation from the community police officers when we have had them and you're well aware of the financial problems that have caused that to be cut back at times. The problem is that sometimes they are not allowed to do what they need to do. There is only one solution to this problem – aggressive ticketing, the boot, and towing. I guarantee you that if you work with the Police Department cooperatively and insist that this be done, this problem will go away, it's gonna take a little while but in the past there was some of that and then I got the word that they were going to have to stop doing that because part of community policing is ingratiating yourself with the neighborhood and if they do that then there might be bad feelings. I don't think that's logical either. So it is your responsibility, I'm asking you to do something about it and if it means you have to work with the Police Department or whatever other part of the administration that's necessary to fix this problem, please do it. Thank you.

Andre Michaud, 175 Columbia Boulevard, had the following comments: I come before you tonight to once again speak about the school choice site here in the City. I pretty much think I know where we're going but I do want to give you some observations. As far as the public hearing the other night I thought it was a very, very good turnout, over 80 people, pretty much short notice, I think it was done within a week, but a lot of people did come out which whether you were in favor of what they said or not, it was good to hear them come out. I think there was a big difference from this public hearing for the school choice site this year and the once last year. Last year your choice for school site was the Hamilton Park/Goss Bird Sanctuary and most of the people that came out that evening were basically against the taking of the Bird Sanctuary, the use of Hamilton Park land, but the difference there was there really wasn't anybody specifically from the neighborhood saying don't build it in my neighborhood for various number of reasons. The other night people from the Ferrone Avenue area, most of those people lived, or they live, in the neighborhood and they do not want to see the school built in their neighborhood and you know hearing what you people said earlier I think that you know if it is built there over time they'll probably appreciate it but as of right now they don't want to see it there. I've had several people come up to me after the meeting the other night, after I spoke, and they said that I opened their eyes to the possibility of what could happen at Hamilton Park. Some of the people thought that the whole bird sanctuary was gonna be taken, some people thought the property was going to be leveled, they just didn't understand, for whatever reason, that only a portion of that property was going to be used for a school and the back half next to the highway could have been kept just the way it is now. What was very enlightening to me living in the City of Waterbury all these years was people coming out speaking in favor of something. I can't remember the last time I heard so many people speak in favor of anything in this City and there were many people the other night, myself included, speaking in favor of using the Hamilton Park site for the

new school. I know there was reference made to the Goss letter from one of the individuals, George A. Goss, III, I have a copy of his letter, he starts off that he's not in favor of building a school there and it's not so much that he didn't want to see the land taken away from the Bird Sanctuary, it's just he came up with a number of reasons why it's not a good site to build. He thought it was too low in the front, too steep in the back, it was close to the highway, there could be noise issues, there could be pollution issues, several issues that really weren't pertinent to the idea of building a school on that site. And, finally, I still believe that that site is the best site for the City as a whole and for the education system as a whole. I think there's so many positives that could come out of building that school on that site such as repairing the park, enhancing the Bird Sanctuary, and building a school in a neighborhood. Thank you.

Lauren Patterson, 185 Lakeview Avenue, had the following comments: Dear Board of Education, thank you so much for making Three Kings Day an official holiday. I am not of Hispanic heritage but I do know a lot about the holiday itself and about the culture. I appreciate you taking the time to make this holiday known in Waterbury schools as an official holiday. This holiday has just as much value as any other holiday we celebrate at school. I know you spent many long hours in meetings discussing all of your options but I'm just letting you know, from a student, that I am glad that you did make it an official holiday. Now I'm probably going to learn five times more of the Spanish culture than I ever would. I can't wait for schools to celebrate it. Children will start noticing how important the Spanish culture really is. Thank you again for everything you have done and everything you are working, not only from me, but from every student in the Waterbury Public School System. God bless from a Waterbury student, Lauren Patterson.

Geraldo Reyes, Jr., 30 Madison Street, had the following comments: First of all I want to congratulate and thank all those young children that came out and spoke on behalf of the Three Kings Day celebration. I wanted to thank the Board for recognizing and having the strong discussion and the proper discussion in recognizing the Day of Epiphany which is as recognized in the Latin American countries as Three Kings Day. But the reason why I wanted to bring it up again is because I was pleased to see some of the children come here and actually recognize that the Board of Education has made a monumental change to their schedule and the reasons why. I will speak on behalf of the Hispanic Coalition which is already planning a Three Kings Day event which is, they do it every year and they already are integrating the plans on how to do it along with one or several of the public schools in the City of Waterbury.

The second issue I wanted to touch on tonight was the gun store at 546 South Main Street which, quite honestly, I really have to tell you I'm disenchanted with the fact that it appears it's gonna go forward, I know the Chief of Police, Mr. Riddick, has approved it, he has no legal grounds on which not to approve it and I understand that and, as I said before, it is not that I'm against guns or against economic growth anywhere in this City, it's just not a good look for that area and not a good look for the position it's in. I would like to have us take a look at what zoning couldn't stop with a more common sense approach.

Thirdly, I'd like to wish good luck to the Commissioners. I know you have a very difficult decision in front of you with the direly needed new school in the East End. Having said that, I think regardless the winners are the students that will end up with a new school in

the East End and I think at the end of the day, years down the road, this argument will be forgotten because I think the people that do get the new school will be happy and at the end of the day the East End children will benefit.

And, lastly, again, Mayor O'Leary has put a huge emphasis on children and getting all public education and parochial school involved in "The Gathering II" which is on May 17. The parade starts at 10 in the morning and should be done about 12 noon and then the festivities will start in the park, Library Park, from 12 noon until 8 o'clock at night. We had several meetings and we are definitely putting an emphasis on children so I'm asking the Board of Education to please get the memos out, get the information to these schools because we want to see more and more kids. Our expectation is in the area of 10,000 plus. Thank you.

Rebecca Shaw, 456 Willow Street, had the following comments: I've been trained as an educator, I have four children – I have two kids at Kingsbury and one at Bucks Hill Annex and one younger and I have always had a desire to be involved as a parent. I have with Parent Leadership Training Institute, I created a project to organize a PCT at Bucks Hill Annex and I'm still involved in that today and I started that six years ago. I also have created kindergarten lessons and taken them into the classrooms when my children were in kindergarten, to all the kindergarten classrooms. I've been a classroom volunteer and I have recently written an elementary school play about Frederick Douglas that I hope to be performed at Kingsbury this next year. And I list all these things not to just toot my own horn but to prove that I believe in public education and I believe in parent involvement. And I'm speaking specifically about Kingsbury but I believe that some of these things might relate to other schools. I recognize that there are some limiting factors to parent involvement, one of those things is time factors, there's factors in the classroom with the content and the curriculum that they have to cover, there's only limited time that parents can come in and volunteer. There are also limited time factors with parents, there's so many different working schedules and other commitments that parents have. Me, personally, I have limitations because I need to find a baby sitter when I go in to volunteer. There's also limited factors with space as it was kind of addressed last week with you. We have, and as Mr. Broder was indicating, we have several space issues; one is that we use the same space for a gym, an auditorium, and a cafeteria. Another thing is parking, that's a big space factor. We parents also feel like it's a problem and I know that, because I can't speak about limiting factors or problems without also speaking about solutions, I have some ideas. I don't know all the answers but I believe there are solutions that the community, the neighbors, and the parents and the school can agree on and in order to find that medium we need to have a group that allows us to discuss the parameters and the options that has parents on it, that has maybe neighbors on it, that has whatever people from the school or the school board that need to be on there to be there and their needs to be an action committee to be able to move those things forward. And I know that in half the schools, I think, maybe less or more, whatever, there are already governance councils or action committees and I was so excited to hear that they were coming into place and I was so disappointed when Kingsbury wasn't getting one and I really hope that that comes soon. And I know that there's even some things that limit that but I hope that we will get it soon. So other thing is that in order to build a community feeling I think that there needs to be more opportunities for discussion and more opportunities for socialization and I don't think that necessarily has to happen in more meetings or more events that happen at the school and maybe we need to broaden our horizons to

maybe have an online forum in the school websites and have a communities page in the school website where we can submit activities that we are planning or that we are involved in or that the teachers, like I know that several teachers at Kingsbury have either performed in the band for a play or have had other events that they were involved in that I would like to know about. So those are some of the things that I have thought about and I hope that you can consider those and so I end. Thanks.

STANGO: Before we return back I want to thank the parents who brought their children down here tonight, it's great to see you and please come back again, we're always very happy to hear from parents and students. Thank you.

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 7:07 p.m.

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

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements:

Crosby High School won its second straight Naugatuck Valley League championship last night, defeating Sacred Heart 73 to 64. Crosby has dominated the league, winning the championship in ten out of the past eleven years. Congratulations to Coach Nick Augelli and the Bulldogs!

Also congratulations to Waterbury Arts Magnet School having been named a Magnet School of Distinction by the Magnet Schools of America. MSA will be holding its annual National Conference on Magnet Schools this year in Hartford, May 15th through the 18th. A post-conference training will provide schools with an opportunity to learn more about MSA's new National Standards. The new standards are part of a national magnet school certification program that will begin next year. This process will allow MSA to identify national demonstration schools that will serve as models for like-themed schools.

I would also like to recognize a Kennedy High School graduate who is now a student at Central Connecticut State University. Abby Spinella was recognized by Central as a student leader and was one of 150 students who were chosen to sit on the stage with President Obama on Wednesday.

Our students had a wonderful opportunity to speak live to Astronaut Rick Mastracchio at a special event held at the Palace on Monday, February 24th. We were connected to the International Space Station through NASA, and we were able to view Astronaut Rick Mastracchio in the space station as he answered students' questions. One special guest was a huge surprise for the astronaut, retired Crosby math teacher Rosalie Griffin, who, after announcing how proud she was of her former student, asked him to explain how he uses math in his job.

The testing window has opened for the new SBAC state assessments. Schools have an individual test schedule within a test window for most of the tests. We will be starting

with the CMT/CAPT science tests in Grade 5 and Grade 10 on March 12 and in Grade 8 and the second part of the test for Grade 10 on March 13. The Waterbury Arts Magnet School will conduct both science tests on March 13 with an early dismissal for high school students. The SBAC field tests will begin March 18 and end June 6.

The College Board has announced some changes to the SATs, the first since 2005. The newly revised test will be offered for the first time in 2016. The essay section will become optional and will be scored separately. Students will take the new exam on computers. The new test will also replace some of the vocabulary used in the old test with words that are used more often in today's modern classroom. The math portion will offer more of a focus on areas like algebra, and calculators will be banned from use during most of the test, a departure from the current system which allows calculators on the entire test.

STANGO: Any questions for the Superintendent? Yes, Commissioner Van Stone – Tom.

T. VAN STONE: I noticed you said the testing, the window has opened, I'm sure the next couple of months will be challenging which is why I need to ask a readiness plan, we've heard a lot over the last few months, meetings, in preparation for, we did receive one letter and I went out and researched it a little more and that would be for the students that have special needs when taking these tests. It's our first year, with changes, you guys have tested plenty before, but I just want to know how we're doing with special needs. I have also investigated, some friends of mine who also actually have three deaf children and they told me of the struggles of standardized testing. Although their children do fine in the classroom, which I'm sure this is a theme you always hear, and then the testing is very difficult. So I want to make sure we're ready for the, of course we want to be ready for all the students, but for the special need students that we are prepared, it makes your life much more difficult I'm sure but these students need the same attention and the parents that I've spoke to about it, although they can postpone them taking the test, or have different options in that regard, they don't want that, they want their child to take the test but they also want that child to have what they need to take the test. So if you could just let us know on how we are as far as readiness.

SUPERINTENDENT: I'd be happy to give you an update a future point in time. I'm sure Chief Academic Officer Cullinan would be happy to, she might be able to share a little bit tonight, but I think you probably want a little bit more in depth and I assure you that there will be accommodations made. Mrs. Cullinan, I don't know if you want to quickly just briefly talk about the SBAC accommodations but you know it's a new, certainly a field test for us, there's quite a bit of anxiousness throughout the population there's been much preparation work with regards to this and so it's a learning process for us. Mrs. Cullinan, just quickly on the special ed piece for accommodations.

CULLINAN: We are holding PPT meetings to address accommodations and modifications that will need to be implemented for the SBAC which is starting this week and going through June 6. So we're very aware of it, we've been working closely with the State Department of Ed on what those modification sheets look like because for our special ed students we have to do them for students who are taking the CMT's and CAPT still and modifications for the new SBAC. So we're very aware of it, it is a pilot

year and I think the State will be learning from all the districts that are implementing it for their students with disabilities and what changes may need to be made in the future. It is a concern of ours too and we've really have been having to hold additional PPT's to address those concerns and what changes need to be made. So it's hundreds of PPT's that we are holding because remember we made lots of the choices for accommodations throughout the last year and then some more changes were sent down to us from the State Department that we've now had to incorporate so we've had to hold additional PPT's or use an addendum.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you for that and that's why I phrase it as readiness because it's almost how I would think how you need to approach it. I'm talking not just with personnel and that assistance but there's also equipment, specialized equipment. I went through the checklist you're talking about that's on the State website, it was much longer than I thought I was going to see when I opened it up so I'm not questioning what we're doing, by any means, I just want to know that and be assured that we are prepared to support our students, which I'm sure we are, but if there's anything also in the way you supporting, I think as a Board we need to hear that. So if you could just keep us up to date as the next two months go just to make sure that we do have what we need.

CULLINAN: Okay.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you.

STANGO: Anything else for the Superintendent?

7. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

STANGO: As the Superintendent stated, and I will give another, not an opposing view, the same view, but personal on-site view, the Connecticut Boards of Education Association held their annual Day on the Hill yesterday at the State Capital. Waterbury Board of Education is a member of CABE and every year we send students, teachers, administrators, and Board members to represent our district On the Hill at the State Capital. Yesterday we sent 14 of our students to Hartford and they represented Waterbury well. There two students from West Side, Wallace, and North End. Also two from WAMS, Gilmartin, Duggan, and Reed Schools. The boys and girls were accompanied by Mr. William Rice and Ms. Linda Riddick Barron from Central Office. Commissioner Brown and myself were also in attendance. I'm proud to report that our students were excellent, they were well behaved, they were attentive, they were polite, they were appropriate, and they asked meaningful questions. They heard remarks by CABE staff, Senators, and Governor Malloy. I was stopped by two different Board Chairs that I know from throughout Connecticut from other districts to tell me how impressed they were with our kids. Not every district brings kids, a few do and we were one and they stood out, they stood out because they were so good. I was also impressed by them but I wasn't really surprised by them because I come to expect that from our kids. Some points and reflections I took from the day came from the Governor and others. And yes we are experiencing challenging changes; some changes are changed before they can change. This boils down to change is hard. I know that Waterbury, as do other districts in Connecticut, offer our students a very high level opportunity to learn. We have top notch teachers and curriculums and equipment and

administrators and we are giving our students access to success. If they are not taking advantage of those opportunities to learn then we must find out why. We also learned and talked about how a student's zip code should not determine their degree of learning. Educational opportunities are, and should be, equal across the State. By now we as a district knows what works and we must be bold enough to make that happen going forward. Also of particular interest to our kids was a plea from another board chair to not forget about the arts, do not let the arts be a casualty of the Smarter Balanced Testing he reported and our kids were very tuned into that. And now we have a couple who would like to write letters in making that concern known. In any rate, our kids made us proud yesterday and we have wonderful students here. These boys and girls will be our success stories in the future. I congratulate them; I congratulate their parents and their teachers – excellent job. And that concludes my comments.

Does anyone have anything they wish to remove from the Consent Calendar?

President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, items 8.1 through 8.3.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- 8.1 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Stanley Convergent Security Solutions, Inc., to provide monitoring and servicing of security systems for the Education Department.
- 8.2 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities & Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities, at no charge, by the following school organizations and/or City departments:

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES
J. Gopie	Crosby aud.: Tues., June 3 rd , 2:00-9:30 pm (school concert) Crosby aud.: Thursday, May 29 th , 2:00-9:30 pm (music dept. event)
E. Racine FRC Coord.	Reed classroom: March thru May 2:50-4:00 pm (After school program)
Angela Razza	Chase café: Thurs., Feb. 27 th & Thurs., Mar. 13 th 4:00-5:00pm (ESH program/Gr. 4 students and parents)
Blue Collar Union P. Pastore	Kennedy aud.: Sundays, 3/16 & 3/23/14 9:00 am-Noon (Local 353 nominations & election)
D. Currier	Chase café: Thurs., March 27 th 5:30-7:30 pm, (Family Reading night) Chase café: March. 20 th , April 3 rd , & May 7 th , 5-7pm (Literacy Workshop)
P. Poulter	Regan all-purpose room: Thurs., March 6 th , 6:00-7:00 pm (PTO Meeting) Regan all-purpose room: Thurs., March 13 th , 5:30-7:30 pm (Book Bingo Night)
Supt.'s Office P. Guidone	Chase gym: Tues., March 4 th , 6:30-9:00 pm (public hearing of a school in the East End of the city)
K. Effes	Tinker gym & café: Friday, March 7 th , 5:00-7:00 pm (Valentine Dance)
L. Lombardi	Rotella comm. rm.: Apr. 11 th -25 th all day (Book Fair set-up)

- 8.3 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities & 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

REQUESTING WAIVERS:

Ballers Basketball Andre Johnson	Reed gym: 3/1/14-6/29-14, Sat. 5:30 - 8:00 pm and Sun. Noon - 7:00 pm	(\$7544.)
Wtby. Parochial League John Egan	Kennedy gym: Sat. & Sun. Mar. 1st & 2nd (basketball tournament)	Noon-6:00pm (\$574.)
Special Olympics John Egan	Kennedy gym: Saturday, March 15, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm (basketball tournament)	(\$410.)

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

Wtby. Special Olympics Heather Minervini	Wilby pool: Tuesdays 3/18 – 6/3/14 (swim program)	5:00 - 8:00 pm
Ballers Basketball Andre Johnson	Reed gym: 3/4/14-6/26/14 (basketball program)	6:00-9:00 pm

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

9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

10. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

- 10.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner J. Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve of the extension of the position of Special Advisor to the Superintendent, currently occupied by Dr. Paul V. Sequeira, until June 30, 2014.

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

11. COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

- 11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner J. Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to REMOVE Item #11.1, Resolution regarding proposed gun shop, from the Agenda.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. All in favor. Discussion. Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: I think we should say why we're removing this so that the public knows because they were expecting us to vote on this.

BROWN: Yes, in the Legislative Committee we decided to move forward with the request to have a joint meeting with the Corporation Counsel and Board of Aldermen

and the City Planner to discuss how we can look at the current zoning laws and how some changes could be made to make sure that we're not reacting to every incident that comes up, that we want to look at the zoning laws in general to see appropriate businesses located near our schools. So instead of a resolution we're going to take an action step to move forward with kind of a comprehensive look at the zoning laws.

BROWN: Further discussion? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Yes, and we should also add that we are doing this in response to the public coming out and speaking against, in opposition of this gun shop. Just so that the citizens of the South End, all citizens in Waterbury know that that's what we're gonna do. And I'd just like to add that the citizens need, we need to keep, they need to keep our feet to the fire in regards to this so that we move quickly to see, realistically, what we can do, what input we would have to remedy this situation.

BROWN: So noted. Thank you.

STANGO: Further discussion? Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Thank you President Stango. I just want to echo Vice President Harvey's comments. Many folks opposed the gun shop at the Board of Aldermen meeting. I was one of those who opposed and spoke on behalf of folks who reached out to me. I also want to make it clear that this has never been sort of an opposition because I'm against a gun shop. What I am against is the proposed location of the gun shop and I also want to make it clear that specifically because I'm Latino and that this proposed gun shop is in the South End to pigeonhole me to say that I'm doing this specifically because I'm Latino and it's a Latino community, is sadly misinformed and misrepresented because if this gun shop was being proposed near Tinker, near Carrington, near North End, near Chase, I would oppose it. And so I just want to make that clear that I think we had three controversial issues that all impacted schools and for me our children's safety is paramount, is paramount, that we had the proposed gun range near Sprague, we had a methadone clinic near Chase, and now we have a gun shop being proposed near Maloney Magnet, Sacred Heart High School, and the Waterbury Adult Education. And I think as representatives of the community that we need to send a clear message that the safety of our children, there is no option, it's not on the table, for me it's zero tolerance and it's plain and simple. Thank you.

STANGO: Anyone else? Seeing none – this will be a vote in favor to remove this item from the Agenda. All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

12. 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 the Superintendent's Notification to the Board, Items 12.1 through 12.5, as listed:

- 12.1 Athletic appointments effective immediately:
 Bao, Jamie – Intramural Boys' Basketball Coach, Gilmartin.
 Bao, Jamie – Intramural Co-ed Soccer Coach, Gilmartin.
 Bao, Jamie – Intramural Co-ed Volleyball Coach, Gilmartin.

Jurewicz, David – Strength and Conditioning Coach, CHS.
O’Toole, John – Varsity Softball Coach, CHS.
O’Toole, John – Assistant Swim Coach, WMS.

12.2 Appointments effective immediately:

Therault, Michael – Soar to Success Summer Program Director.

12.3 Teacher new hires:

Name		Location	Assignment	Grade/Step	Effective
Della Camera	Ashley	Generali	Grade 1	BA/1	2/4/14
De Simone	Nadia	Generali	Speech/LP	6 th +15/3	2/14/14

12.4 Retirements:

Albini, Kim – Special Education Teacher, CHS, effective 07/01/14.
Arrindell, Harold W. – Automotive Tech Teacher, KHS, effective 10/31/14.
Brown, Carol – Special Education Teacher, KHS, effective 07/01/14.
Callahan, William J. – History Teacher, CHS, effective 02/07/14.
Cátala, Mercedes – Reading Teacher, Chase, effective 01/01/15.
Connors, Phyllis G. – Projects Coordinator, United States Department of Education Smaller Learning Communities Grant and 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant, effective 06/30/14.
Crudele, Teresa – World Language Teacher, KHS, effective 07/01/14.
DeGruttola, Carol – Special Education Teacher, Rotella, effective 07/01/14.
DeStefano, Carmella – World Language Department Chair, CHS, effective 07/01/14.
Galvin, Helen R. – Elementary Math Coach, Chase/W. Cross, effective 06/30/14.
Martinez, Lillian E. – Reading/Language Arts Teacher, WSMS, effective 07/01/14.
Murphy, Kathleen M. – Guidance Counselor, WHS, effective 06/30/14.
Nardozi, William A. – Math Teacher, KHS, effective 07/01/14.
O’Brien, Margaret R. – Tech. Educ. Department Chair, CHS, effective 06/30/14.
Padula, Karen A. – Grade 4, Tinker, effective 06/30/14.
Pannone, Roberta – Grade 5, Gilmartin, effective 06/30/14.
Perugini, Lucia – World Language Teacher, CHS, effective 06/30/14.
Pizzuto, Michele – Social Studies Teacher, WAMS, effective 06/30/14.
Rosa, Rosanne – Special Education Teacher, WHS, effective 07/01/14.
Ruby, Mary D. – Family & Consumer Science Teacher, WAMS, effective 07/01/14.
Rynn, Sheryl A. – Business Teacher, KHS, effective 06/30/14.
Santos, Maria G. – Bilingual Reading Teacher, Chase, 06/30/14.
Sequeira, Paul V. Ed.D. – Special Advisor to the Superintendent, effective date change to 06/30/14.
Tibbals, Gail – Math Teacher, KHS, effective 07/01/14.
White, Kathryn – Family & Consumer Science Teacher, WSMS, 07/01/14.
Wise, Rose G. – Grade 1, Washington School, effective 06/30/14.

12.5 Resignations:

Liberty, Jennifer – School Psychologist, effective 02/14/14.
Machial-Arcari, Anna – Literacy Facilitator, Reed School, effective 02/14/14.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries.
Next item on the Agenda is Item #13 – Unfinished Business from the Preceding Meeting

Only. Next item on the Agenda is Item #14 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Hopefully I won't need my glasses considering it's my birthday and I've been teased about my age. I wish that the parents and the students were still here from Waterbury Career Academy because I wanted to publically thank them for their tribute to Black History Month on Friday, February 28. When I walked into the Academy I thought that I was at Waterbury Arts Magnet School, they were rehearsing and they sounded pretty good. In fact, I think might give Waterbury Arts Magnet School a little run for their money in regards to talent. But it was very, very good, they had ten chairs Commissioners for us, set out for us, so I just said that I would mention that. But I just really appreciated the tribute, the speeches, the songs. We even had the little ones come out from the daycare center and participated. Commissioner Hernandez was there, Dr. Sequeira, Mrs. Cullinan was there later one, so I just really, really appreciated that and I just want to let the Waterbury Career Academy, just say a job well done on this event.

Next, we all received in our packet the 48 letters from Kennedy, Kennedy High School, from a class from Kennedy High School and I hope that we are going to respond to this, these letters. Most of them seem to address the dress code but there are some other issues, I was just trying to take a tally on what issues exist that they brought before us. So I hope President Stango that you have a plan for us to address these matters because I think it would be a disservice for us not to address these issues. So, again, I throw that out.

I also would like to recommend, President Stango, that we, as a Board, that we receive a review on FOI rules and what is prompting me to request that is it's my understanding that various Commissioners have been schooled on what they should do or should not do in regards to email, emails that are sent out, responses made, etc. And I think it would behoove us, we've done this before, I think it would be a good idea at one of our Workshops to have a review on what is legal and what is not legal.

Lastly, I would like to recommend, and other Commissioners can speak about this, but we as Commissioners need more of an avenue to be able to bring up issues that are out there. For one the issue of the resolution. At a Workshop typically that's where we should be able to speak but we seem to be confined with if it's not on the Agenda then we can't bring it up so we have to bring things up now at this point in the meeting. The Workshop is designed for us to bring up issues. So I am, otherwise we wind up sending emails and then we wind up if we respond to the emails, oh no, you're not supposed to do that which is correct but we are elected officials and if issues come up we should address those issues. So I'm suggesting that we perhaps look at our Workshops and the way that it's constructed and that there be an avenue for Commissioners if things come up during the week or if there are issues that come up that we be able to address those.

Lastly, there is an issue that has been floating around, it's been quiet but it's an issue that we need to address. In fact I may start with calling the Superintendent tomorrow on this, it is in regards to, it was brought up by a student, it happens to be a student from Kennedy High School, she wrote about this in the newspaper, it's in regards to students manning the scoreboards and things of that nature. We have kind of dragged our feet

on this and when a student brings up an issue, if it's a legitimate issue, we need to look at it. So I may need to refer this to the Policy Committee. I think either way we need to address this issue and say yes we're going to do this or no we're not going to do this and have reasons why but I just hate when an issue is out there, especially if a student brings it up and we just kind of sit and not do anything about it and right now we're kind, I'm not blaming the Board, I'm just saying, I did refer this to someone and I haven't heard anything about it so I'm bringing it out now, making it public. So that's all I have. Thank you.

STANGO: Anything further on #14? Yes, Commission Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President. A couple of things to Vice President Harvey's point, I think it's a good idea to have the FOI talk, I remember when I was new to the Board we did a full-blown retreat that talked about a bunch of things. Since that time we've turned over a pretty fair amount of this Board. I know CAFE was able to help us organize that last time. That might be a way to not only take care of any FOI issues but a bunch of kind of welcome to the Board orientation type of issues. I know you and Commissioner Brown specifically have a number of friends up at CAFE, maybe we can take a look at making that happen again.

Secondly, as far as kind of getting things on the Agenda, and I'm not a parliamentarian so anyone correct me, I'm pretty sure with a 2/3rds vote we can add something to the Agenda at that moment. I know we play fast and loose with the Workshop rules a little bit, but I think that is something you can do.

Lastly, over the past couple of weeks, I've had the opportunity to go to Hopeville, Maloney, and Carrington to participate in some of the Dr. Seuss read to the children type things and as much as I like you guys those are the most rewarding parts of this gig, it's always good to get in there and see the kids and see how delighted they are to see someone taller than them to walk in who's new and read them a story. If you ever get the opportunity and I know we work and it's not always the easiest thing to do to get out, but I know I've seen a number of ya at those things, see if you can get there, it's really a rewarding experience. I always ask the teacher to kind of keep me in third grade or lower so it matches my reading level and I've always been able to muddle through. That is all I had Mr. President, thank you.

STANGO: Anyone else on #14? Commissioner Hernandez and then Commissioner Rodriguez.

HERNANDEZ: I just wanted to talk about Waterbury Career Academy's event that they held on the 28th. Just to reiterate what Karen said, it was spectacular, they had students dressed in different gear from every country that you can imagine possible. They did skits, they did dancing, which I did a little jig with the teachers, it was just fantastic and I really, really wish that more of the Commissioners were there because they really were expecting all of us to show up to the event. They had two guest speakers that told them to reach for the stars and never say never, never give up on their dream. One of the speakers actually offered the students that were in the allied health portion of the Career Academy to come and see her when they got out because she would give them a job. So they were really excited about that and they were asking her questions about what to do when I got my LPN or whatever, and she just told them

just come and see me and I will give you a job. So I thought that that was just fantastic and I really did wish that more of you guys could of attended the event, it was really great.

STANGO: Yes, Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Thank you President Stango, through you, I just wanted to share that I had the pleasure on Tuesday night and unfortunately could not have attended the School Building hearing that Building Committee Chairman Van Stone was hosting but I was with Bucks Hill and I want to give credit to Ryan Gomes and his Earn While You Learn Program, it is fantastic friends and I encourage you to take a visit to Bucks Hill and get to meet some of the students that are involved in that program and those parents. I spent time, there was about 20 students that are in the program, spoke with about 10 parents that were there, and what they do is tend to follow the progress of their child, they're really invested in their kids and are truly engaged in the children's education. But I was also impressed to see dads in the room. So we tend overlook that but that is so crucial to the child's success is having a father that's engaged and so I just wanted to give credit to Bucks Hill School Principal Begley as well as Ryan Gomes with his Earn While You Learn and those students that are participating. Thank you.

STANGO: Anything else on #14? Seeing none, I'll entertain a motion from Commissioner Van Stone, Jason.

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 7:39 p.m. 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, Dr. Sequeira, A. M. Cullinan, and Paul Guidone.

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 7:55 p.m. with no votes taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner T. Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.

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