

## **WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### *MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING*

Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

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

**PRESENT:** President Stango, Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, McEntee, Rodriguez, Sweeney, J. Van Stone (6:38 p.m.), and T. Van Stone.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Hernandez.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent Kathleen Ouellette, Chief Academic Officer Anne Marie Cullinan, Chief Operating Officer & Chief of Staff Paul Guidone, and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

### **1. SILENT PRAYER**

President Stango called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with a moment of silence.

STANGO: In our prayer tonight I ask that we remember retired teacher Reid Biletz who died on March 31. Reid taught technology education for many years at Wallace Middle School until the time of his retirement. We'll remember Reid Biletz and his family in our prayer tonight.

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

Commissioner Sweeney led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **3. ROLL CALL**

CLERK: Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez (absent). Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner J. Van Stone (arrived at 6:38 p.m.) Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here. For the record Commissioner Hernandez sends her regrets that she is unable to attend tonight and Commissioner Van Stone is in route, he should be arriving momentarily.

#### **4. COMMUNICATIONS**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file the following communications:**

1. Copy of communication dated March 18, 2015 from Civil Service certifying Constance Gomes for the position of Administrative Support Specialist III.
2. Communication dated March 23, 2015 from Attorney Jonathan H. Dodd regarding Lavallee vs. Krantz.

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 Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to allow the public to address the Board at 6:35 p.m.**

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

#### **Alexandra Isaac Martinez, 185 Monmouth Avenue, had the following comments:**

The parent that I was going to translate for his not here, she just got out of work and that was the main reason I was here for, a parent that was having difficulty with her child and we sent a letter and so that letter will be received by the Commissioner and so I guess at that point we'll address it. I don't want to speak for her because she's not here; I was just going to translate.

Given that I'm here already, I am a parent educator and I've applied for a few jobs in the Department of Education to reach out to parents and I observed, one of the employments that I applied for has to do with dealing with child behavior without the component of parents. I don't know what the Board of Education has in planning in terms of that but I would encourage everyone to really take a good look at the issues that you guys are having in terms of kids being suspended because of fights and all the different issues that you guys are having because of what is happening at home. There has to be people in place in place in the schools to reach out to parents. Unfortunately there's a lot of stressors, schools have stressors, parents as well have stressors – economical, violence, all these different things. We have young kids having children and the development in their brain is really not at stage therefore their kids are learning all the wrong things. So I'm just basically encouraging everyone to really take a look at

what could be done to really help and encourage the community, the parents to get more engaged in school, to get to know what the schools are doing. Teachers shouldn't just be doing the job, parents should be doing it as well and it should be a combined effort. So I've just been observing as a parent and also as a parent-educator, I've been observing all the issues and it's getting out of hand at this point. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Awwad, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:38 p.m.**

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

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

*Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements:*

The Connecticut State Department of Education has just approved a \$24,990 award to the Waterbury Public Schools for a Planning Grant to Increase Representation of Black and Latino Educators.

Our Crosby High School LifeSmarts team will be representing the State of Connecticut in the 2015 National LifeSmarts competition in Seattle, Washington this month. The students have also created a YouTube video using some of the information they have been studying. Viewers are urged to log on to YouTube and search LifeSmarts National 2015 – "Don't Get Infected" and click like to help the team gain additional points. Congratulations to the students, teacher advisor Donna Mancuso and Crosby High School on another state championship.

O & G has been named to the Governor's Prevention Partnership's Corporate Mentoring Honor Roll for 2015 and will be among those recognized during the Partnership's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton in Rocky Hill. O & G has been a continuing partner in the Waterbury ACE Mentor Program since its inception here several years ago. The ACE Mentor Program focuses on students interested in architecture, construction or engineering or those who would like to explore these areas as a possible career option.

Fifteen of our students participated in CABE's Day on the Hill on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Instructional Leadership Director Kevin Walston assisted with organizing the field trip. Our students were great, definitely dressed to impress and representative of all of our High Schools.

Coach Nick Augelli was officially honored at the recent CIAC banquet as the recipient of the CIAC Boys Basketball Coaches Merit Award. The award recognizes coaches who have made great contributions to a high school basketball program over a number of years.

Monday night Jade Gopie, Principal of Crosby High School, was the guest speaker at the WOW/NRZ Youth Council's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Celebration. The topic

of her speech combined faith and education and how faith provides the force to push forward to improve the whole community.

Approximately 150 high school students and their chaperones attended this year's Great Debate on Tuesday, courtesy of the state NAACP and the local GEAR UP program. All high school programs were represented.

Katlyn Doran, a junior at Wilby High School, was awarded a \$20,000 Girls, Inc. scholarship this year. She received the award at a special luncheon in New York on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Katlyn has been a Girls, Inc. member since the age of three and now serves as a facilitator for the afterschool program and a lead instructor for the dance program. She is one of 31 high school students nationwide who received a 2015 scholarship from the organization.

Five students from Wallace Middle School exhibited artwork at the recent Connecticut Art Education Association K-12 art show at the West Woods Upper Elementary School in Farmington. Art teacher Kathleen Zeranski explained that the students who represented Wallace are not only talented art students but also kind, respectful, hardworking and responsible.

Some of our students will have their art work displayed as part of a "Spring Fling and Fun Night" at Raymour & Flanagan on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The event will benefit Key Human Services and its efforts to improve the lives of local residents.

Many of our students are again participating in a Kids Marathon that will culminate in a final celebration on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Participants will run the length of a marathon over several sessions between now and then, running a final lap that day. Last year we had hundreds of students from several schools who participated and learned about nutrition, health, and the value and fun of exercise. The goal is to have more students participate in this fun and healthy activity this year.

Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a citywide Light it Up Blue Day/World Autism Awareness Day. Students can wear Blue t shirts for \$1.00. All proceeds will be given to Team Waterbury for the Autism Speaks Walk on Sat. May 9 at Library Park.

The third annual Family and Housing Expo will be held on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. More than thirty vendors are expected to participate and will provide information on housing, purchasing a first home, energy savings, education, and community organizations.

The Waterbury Earth Day Clean-Up is also on April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Those wishing to participate should meet in the Sears automotive parking lot at the mall at 8:30. Rain date is the following Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Wilby High School Culinary Arts FCCLA Club (Family Career and Community Leaders of America) competed at the FCCLA Spring Conference on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Manchester Community College. Students competing from Wilby received a total of \$36,000 in scholarships. Those students receiving recognition were:

- Culinary Arts: NASARIA BENNETT, CHRISTOPHER HOYTE, and KYLE GREEN placed second in the state and each received Bronze Medals along with \$6,000.00 scholarships, from the Culinary Institute of America.
- Garde Manger: NICOLE VENTURA, ISAIAH LOPEZ, and XAVIER MCLEOD-PETERS placed second in the state and each received Bronze Medals.
- Occupational Cake Production: LEANNA JAMISON placed first in the state receiving a Gold Medal and an \$8,000.00 scholarship from the Culinary Institute of America. CHASTADY PEREZ placed second in the state and received a Silver Medal and a \$6,000.00 scholarship from the Culinary Institute of America. DAVONNA CUMMINGS placed third in the state and received a Silver Medal and a \$3,000.00 scholarship from the Culinary Institute of America.
- Comprehensive Cupcake Production: TYJANIQUE MAYE placed first in the state and received a Gold Medal, JEFFREY CASTRO was third in the state and received a Silver Medal, and NADESIA BELCHER was fourth in the state and received a Silver Medal.
- Dining Room Service: COURTNEY WADE placed first in the state receiving a Gold Medal, MALIK RODRIGUEZ placed second in the state receiving a Bronze Medal, and DANIELLE ATKINSON placed third in the state receiving a Bronze Medal.

The Sixteenth Annual Margaret M. Generali Foundation Awards ceremony will be held this year on Sunday, May 3rd at 10:30 am at The Colonial Tavern in Oxford. The recipients for 2014-15 are:

- Carrington Elementary, staff Eileen McDonnel, Lori Riggi and Jennifer Taylor: "Little Learners Love Literacy."
- Carrington Elementary, staff Nancy McCullouch, Pamela Weed and Diane Mauceri: "Early Literacy through Classroom Books."
- West Side Middle School, staff Jenna Milo: "Convenient Technology to Create Powerful Presentations."
- Wallace Middle School, staff Evelyn LeVasseur: "Conflict and Resolution: What Can We Do About Bullying."
- North End Middle School, staff Michael Pannoni: "Chicken Soup for the North End Middle Schooler Soul."
- Children's Community School, staff Lyn Curless: "A Thirst for Home - A Story of Water Across the World."
- Walsh Elementary, staff Miriam Giskin, Angela Calo, Sheila Carey, Dia Gwizd, Kara Keenaghan and Colleen Rykowski: "So Many Opportunities to Read."

STANGO: Does anyone have any questions for the Superintendent at this point?

**Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business at 6:45 p.m. to allow the public to address the Board.**

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

**Rita Piaz, 54 Ramona Avenue, had the following comments:** (Ms. Martinez interpreted for Ms. Piaz) There's three bullet points here. She stated that on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March her daughter was jumped by five boys and girls and both her daughter and two of

the children that jumped her daughter got suspended. Since then her daughter has been receiving threats. She is very concerned about the safety of the children because the assault was known, some efforts were made to actually solve the problem but nothing came to conclusion and despite of that no other precautions were made to prevent the issue and the child ended up being jumped and it's actually on video. The issue that she has the most is she showed the video to the principal and I guess she said that the principal ignored it so she feels that, she's scared and she's not only afraid for her daughter but for everybody else and she's basically afraid of bringing her child back to school. So we already, I already spoke with Ms. Kathleen and we will be hopefully be meeting with her at some point to address the issue but this is something she wanted to start bringing awareness because it's something that is really touching her close now that it's actually happened to her child.

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:48 p.m.

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

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

STANGO: Just for the record, the Board of Education Workshop scheduled for April 9, 2015 is being rescheduled due to the district spring break. The Workshop will be held the following week instead on April 16 at the Waterbury Career Academy beginning at 5:30. Also, because of that, the Board's Regular Meeting of April 16<sup>th</sup> needs to be rescheduled to Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School right here. After that date we are back on schedule and the Workshop for April 30<sup>th</sup> will actually be held on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to wish the students and teachers and everyone a very happy Easter and an enjoyable and restful spring vacation and I wish the Board members the same thing. And coming back we will head into the final months of this academic year, we have turned our backs on winter and we look forward to the many spring activities in our schools. The year is flying by and we have a little way to go yet but the worst is behind us.

Does anyone have an item they would wish to remove from the Consent Calendar?

*President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 8.1 through 8.14.*

## **8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 8.1 through 8.14, as listed:**

- 8.1 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a new after-school program for Reed's Family Resource Center entitled "Girl Confidence".

- 8.2 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the 2015-16 School Readiness Grant – Local Application.
- 8.3 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities & Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with Montagno Construction, Inc. for Middle Schools/High Schools Finish Hardware Improvements.
- 8.4 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities & Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with Utility Communications, Inc. for School District Security Improvements.
- 8.5 With the approval of the Committee on Policy, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of revisions, as it relates to grants, to the Board of Education/Superintendent’s Classification of Duties, Policy #2000.1, as attached.
- 8.6 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Jeanne Sasso, KHS, and four chaperones to take 50 students to Jackson, NJ on April 30, 2015 to visit Six Flags.
- 8.7 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Cassandra Fann-Pierce, KHS, and five chaperones to take 50 students to New York, NY on May 27, 2015 to visit the Museum of FIT and Behind the Emerald Curtains.
- 8.8 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Joann D’Angelo, WAMS, and four chaperones to take 50 students to New York, NY on May 12, 2015 to visit The Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- 8.9 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Debbie Benjamin, WAMS, and four chaperones to take 45 students to New York, NY on May 15, 2015 to visit the Statute of Liberty, Macy’s Behind The Scenes Market Tour, and Uno Restaurant.
- 8.10 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Cheryl Wirth, WAMS, and four chaperones to take 50 students to New York, NY on April 30, 2015 to visit Radio City Music Hall.
- 8.11 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Heidi Doolan, WHS, and three chaperones to take 36 students to New York, NY on March 19, 2015 to attend a performance of “Phantom of the Opera”.

- 8.12 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Robert Haxhi, WHS, and four chaperones to take 49 students to Philadelphia, PA from May 27 – 29, 2015 to visit various sites (see itinerary).
- 8.13 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities and Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities, at no charge, by the following school organizations and/or City departments:

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES</b>
L. Lombardi	Rotella Comm. Room: April 16 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> , all day (school book fair)
Andrew Midgen	Kennedy Café: Wednesday, April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3:00 - 6:00 pm (CSEA-SEIU meeting)
Joan Dooling	Rotella Lobby: Thursday, May 14 <sup>th</sup> , 3:35 - 5:00 pm (student piano recital)
Nancy Vaughan	Kennedy Aud.: Tuesday, May 19 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, May 20 <sup>th</sup> , 5:00-7:00 pm (Annual student recognition awards)
Cheryl Wirth	WAMS Dance Studio: Tues., June 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Wed., June 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 3:15-9:30 pm (Rehearsal & performance – choreography showcase)
Ryan McDonald	Career Academy: Saturdays, 3/24 through 6/1/15, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon (WCA baseball/softball teams practices)
T. Zimmerman	Wilby classrooms: Monday thru Thursday, 6/29 - 8/20/15, 8 am to 1 pm (Youth mentoring leadership program)
E. Racine	Reed gym: Tuesday, March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 5:00 - 7:00 pm (Student/teacher basketball game)

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

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES</b>
Woodbury Ballet	Kennedy aud.: 6/10/15, 5 to 9 p.m. (rehearsal) and
Randy Errica	6/13/15, 6 to 10 p.m. (recital)
Dancers Inc.	Rotella Aud., Café, Room: Fri., May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 5-11 pm; Sat., May 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Megan Talty	7 am–11 pm and Sun., May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 7 am–10 pm (Dance Competition)
Post University	WSMS parking lot: Saturday, May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
William Davis	(additional parking space for graduation)

**REQUESTING WAIVERS:**

Wtby. Special Olympics	Wilby pool: Mondays, 3/30 through 6/1/15, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Heather Minervini	(swim practice) (\$1971)
Long Hill Bible Church	Rotella aud.: Saturday, June 13 <sup>th</sup> , 3:00 - 8:00 pm
Eric Lott	(Church play) (\$504)
BAGS Scholarship Foundation	Crosby gym: Sat., March 28 <sup>th</sup> , 9 am-10 pm (prior to Board Meeting)
Nakia Reddick	(all-star basketball games for scholarship program) (\$1764)

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

Rivera Memorial Foundation	Duggan gym: July, 2015 - June, 2016, Mon., Wed., Fri.
Matthew Ocasio	4:00 - 9:00 pm (basketball program)
Wtby. Wizards	Carrington gym: 4/7 - 5/27/15, Tuesdays & Wednesdays
William D. Maisto	5:30 - 8:30 pm (basketball practice)
Wtby. Basketball Academy	Chase gym: 4/14 - 7/7/15, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 pm

Christopher Fisher	(basketball practice)
*Kingdom 1st Church	Reed field: Saturday, April 4 <sup>th</sup> , 11:45 am - 4:00 pm
Erika Cooper	(community Easter Egg Hunt)

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.*

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to add to the Agenda a field trip request of Donna Mancuso.**

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

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously that permission be granted to Donna Mancuso, CHS, and one chaperone, to take five students to Seattle, Washington from approximately April 15 through April 21, 2015, to attend the National LifeSmarts Competition.**

STANGO: Motion been made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none – all in favor, opposed, motion carries.

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to add to the Agenda a field trip request of Kevin Brennan.**

STANGO: Motions been made and seconded. Any discussion on the add? All in favor of adding, opposed, motion carries.

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously that permission be granted to Kevin Brennan, Carrington School, and nine chaperones to take 10 students to China from April 3 through 13, 2015 (see itinerary).**

STANGO: Motions been made and seconded. Discussion? All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

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

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file Superintendent's Notification to the board, Items 10.1 through 10.5, as listed:**

- 10.1 Appointments effective immediately:  
Begnall, Joseph Jr. – TEAM District Facilitator.  
Therault, Michael – SOAR to Success Summer School Coordinator.

10.2 Athletic appointments effective immediately:

Poulter, Craig – Assistant Baseball Coach, KHS.

10.3 Grant funded appointments:

Fengler, Kelly – Substitute, 21st Century After School Program.

McCann, Peter – Substitute, 21st Century After School Program.

Zimmerman, Tyrel – Behavior Technician, WHS, \$27.74 p/hour, 35 hours p/week for 10 months, non-union with benefits governed by UPSEU, funded by Title I.

10.4 Rod Dixon Kid’s Marathon Run Club Mentor/Coordinator appointments, \$500 stipend funded by the U.S. Conference of Mayor’s Grant:

Barbieri, Katharine – Maloney

DeFazio, Alana – Kingsbury

DeFazio, Ron – Chase

Dunn, Michael – Chase

Grabowski, Terri – Maloney

Hanley, Jessica – Wendell Cross

Heidgerd, Angela – Rotella

Heintz, Jeffrey – Bunker Hill

Martinez, Kristina – Sprague

Nowacki, Jennifer – WMS

Sidella, David – WMS

Tucker, Ann – Sprague

Vernucci, Jennifer – WSMS

10.5 Teacher hires:

Name		Location	Assignment	Eff.	Salary
Abraham	Roxanne L.	WMS	Phys. Educ.	3/2/15	BA/1
Howard	Emily A.	Bucks Hill	Pre-K	3/2/15	BA/2
Hokanson	Jamie L.	NEMS, WMS, WHS	Social Worker	3/30/15	6 <sup>th</sup> /3
Murphy	Heather L.	Maloney	Tchr. Hearing Imp.	3/23/15	MA/10
O’Flaherty	Carol A.	Duggan	Spec. Educ.	3/20/15	MA/6

STANGO: Motion been made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries. Item #11 – Unfinished Business of the Preceding Meeting Only. Seeing none – moving onto Item #12 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: I just wanted to point out for the Board that in the documents that Carrie left us is the Director of Personnel – Education description that was approved by the Civil Service Commission and I know that I had sent out an email when this first came across our desks that they unilaterally, without discussion, removed the PHR certificate that we debated here at length that now I’m understanding, if I’m correct, that Civil Service has removed that potential job description from the agenda of the Board of Aldermen and will put that certificate back. Am I correct in that, that that was the understanding?

GUIDONE: I’m not sure whether there had been a request to remove the item from the Board of Aldermen since that item is range only but yes my understanding is that the City Human Resources Director is bringing that item back for reconsideration to the Civil Service Commission.

AWWAD: So would it be possible for you to let us know when that Commission is going to meet because I’d like to attend that meeting.

GUIDONE: I'd be happy to do that.

STANGO: Any other new and miscellaneous business this evening? Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: I just want to mention that this week Rachel Handyeside from Germany is in Waterbury filming English/Language Arts Classes at Carrington School grade two and West Side Middle School grade eight as an example of Concept Based Curriculum Exemplary Lessons to be used in teacher professional development and training films in Europe and the United States. Dr. Lois Lanning who worked in the district for two years on ELA curriculum development recommended Waterbury as a filming site because of the work we have done in concept-based curriculum and instruction. This will truly put Waterbury on the map. A special thank you to Mrs. Melissa Thompson, grade two/Carrington, Ms. Jen Delaney, grade eight/WSMS, and Mrs. Dena Mortenson. Yesterday several of us were interviewed by the filmmakers and discussed the curriculum work in Waterbury and this was an email from our Chief Academic Officer Anne Marie Cullinan and kudos and I know there's been a lot of work in this area so it's nice to be recognized. So congratulations to all of you.

STANGO: Thank you Commissioner Brown. Any other new and miscellaneous? Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President. To continue with the good news of our students, then I'll go onto everything else I want to say, last weekend I was right here in this building and saw a marvelous play, *I, Don Quixote* by the WAMS students. It was a couple and a half hours of just joy, the kids are just fantastic in that production, it was actually the first WAMS production I've ever been to, it was amazing, it was absolutely amazing. So I just want to tell them thank you, I actually sent the Principal a note telling her how much I enjoyed it and I look forward to getting to another one and plays at all the schools but this was just outstanding.

Also, we've already mentioned LifeSmarts going off to the Nationals once again, that's more good news especially there's a lot of good energy is what I said in a note to the Principal at Crosby and I'd just like to think we could talk about the good energy there a lot more often.

Another point was last week and I thought I was gonna go to another robotics competition in Hartford but unfortunately Kennedy did not go to that competition, I guess we're still on pins and needles if we're gonna make it to the regionals. However, what I ended up finding out although they were not at the competition Saturday, those students, and their tournaments may be over and they know that, were scheduled to work on all their projects, their business projects, their robotics, on a Saturday morning starting at eight o'clock working through 4:30 in the afternoon. I'm not sure how many of our students are willing to get up on a Saturday morning at 8 a.m. to go continue this work so as always that program is outstanding and I look forward to next year when we have a second program at Wilby. Maybe we'll follow up at some point with Crosby as well but we'll take two next year and hopefully three the year after.

Now the other side, that was the part about being a Commissioner that's great. I attend last night's Board of Aldermen's Special meeting about the budget and I'll take what was stated at face-value. The bottom line is the same dollar figure is coming our way, it appears. If anything it may go down, who knows at this point. There was a statement saying we do have additional dollars coming our way to cover insurance costs, not the budget we're talking about but we do have money coming that way. I'll take it at face-value that those figures were correct. Many of us cautioned this Board months ago, weeks ago also, that the number we received last night was going to come our way and we made a pretty good effort to do our part to bring it down from where the proposal went in but we knew this was going to happen but now we have to take some hard looks on where we're going with this budget. We brought out many things, I'll just speak to the ones I did, out-of-district tuition is through the roof, we've discussed it here but I think we're the only ones talking about it. There was an article in the paper how some of the towns around us were complaining about \$50,000 out-of-district, \$100,000, \$200,000; the article never mentioned that our costs out-of-district is \$6,000,000. So hopefully the word gets out other than those of us sitting here that, now we're a little behind the eight ball, there was a law passed way back with Gerald Ford and the law passed by Governor Jodi Rell that made a lot of this happen so we can't change things overnight but things have to change because that's a big line-item piece for us. Children Services, we don't get much help from them, the Department of Corrections, we don't get much help from them. We also brought out some minor things that we're, at least I was trying to make a point with taking away the use of our facilities. Now as my fellow Commissioner know I said from the get-go, I knew that wasn't something that we really wanted to do but I made the point and the point was cut your budget until you're in my backyard and that obviously rang true because that was taken and run with totally out of proportion saying we're gonna cut off the Girl Scouts who we never mentioned and they did not fall into the rule. So we need to look at everything. I don't think we'll go there again. But we do need to look, one of the things I brought up that we really seriously need to look at is we have a very high number of vacancies and I know we need to fill vacancies however I did ask for a critical needs list so that we can make a determination of what jobs we absolutely definitely have to fill now. I don't think we could fill 88 jobs in a year if tried. So let's at least make the effort to realize what dollars we can spend on the jobs that are critical need fills. So jobs went everywhere from management positions to crossing guards so we need to take a realistic look on what we can control because obviously we did not have the ability to control the dollar figure. So we need to just now, you know what, accept it and figure out what we're gonna do. So as a team, whatever help we could do for Central Office please let us know because it's reality now, let's face the fact and go do it and make it work. Thank you Mr. President.

STANGO: Thank you Commissioners. Anything further? Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: First of all I want to speak about the CABA Day on the Hill and the wonderful representation that we had from our high school students here in Waterbury. We took students from all three of our comprehensive high schools – Wilby, Kennedy, and Crosby. We took kids from WAMS, we took kids from Career, and we took kids from the alternative school and they all did us very, very proud. They sat very quietly and intently paying attention as members of the State Education Committee came forward to speak to us. I encouraged them to ask questions if they had questions to ask and they did not let us down. Two of our students very articulately questioned members

of that Board and asked them very pertinent questions regarding the new high school reform that's coming through, the regulations that are going to come down on those kids. Very articulate young lady from WAMS who was extremely concerned about the fact that the physical education credit is to be taken in their junior year at a time when she wants to be focused on her advanced placement courses and she will need to drop an advanced placement course in order to get that credit in. And yet with the wisdom of youth they have a freshman year in which they cannot take advanced placement courses and they do have time to get that physical education credit in and she was wondering exactly why they didn't put that phys ed credit into that freshman year. Very articulate young lady. We had a young man from Career who took his time to question why the State was not giving us sufficient funding for the type of career education that students at the Career Academy feel that they should have in order to leave that school fully prepared for the career paths they have chosen and that again brought a State Rep to speechlessness because she did not have an answer for that young man. So we have some extremely intelligent, bright youth in this City, we don't get to see them perform as often as I would like to but would like everybody to be aware of exactly what a wealth of intelligence we have in this City and in this district. It's absolutely amazing and I couldn't be prouder of the young group we took with us that day. Excellent, excellent, it was just a wonderful experience all around for us.

I, at this point, would like to acknowledge my fellow Commissioners for the work that they did put in to looking at the budget as it came forward. It is very difficult to sit here and know in your heart that what you want to do is advocate for students in this district and often times that means being unpopular and asking for money from your fellow taxpayers. And there was a good effort to bring down those numbers in deference to my fellow taxpayers and to say an effort was not made is just false, it was made, and it was a good coming together, we have ten people sitting around this table and we all have different ideas of exactly what it is that is in the best interest of students and we came together and we compromised on some things, there were things that were proposed that I was not in favor of. I proposed things that others were not in favor of. We came together and at least put together a package of cuts that we felt that we could live with and I think that that was monumental work and I applaud every single one of you for participating in that work.

I have one other request, we just recently signed an agreement to begin to move some of our youth into Juvenile Review Board. The Juvenile Review Board in order to handle what we expect will be an uptick in referrals will be looking at convening some additional boards and they will need in particular, and I've made this plea before, parents, this is your chance to come forward and help the youth of this City. This is your chance. We will be looking for parents they have asked for, we also seem to have a very low participation rate in police/law enforcement on those Boards and those are our key piece to those boards. So anybody who would be interested in serving on a Board I would ask you to contact Youth Services at 203-573-0264, ask for extension 232 and Ms. . . . would be more than happy to give you the information that you need to apply to sit on a Juvenile Review Board. And I can tell you that there is not much else in life that you will do that will give you as much pleasure and respect for yourself as sitting on one of those boards and helping a youth in crisis. So, again, I urge you all, in particular parents and law enforcement, if you have the time, a few hours a month to spend on a juvenile review board and help our youth I encourage you to please contact Youth Services and do that. And that's all I have tonight.

STANGO: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Thank you, I was kind of hanging back because there were some things I wanted to announce but just to . . . comments that Commissioner Sweeney, I think we need to do a little bit more if we are truly dedicated to this with the Juvenile Review Board then just announce, I appreciate the announcement, on the Board of Education meeting, could we put this on the website? Can we put this wherever announcements we have? We need to get to the community. I'll do that. But we need to do a little bit more than just announce it here. So I'll talk to my contacts out in the community and get this information out. The community is engaged particularly with the recent talks regarding arrests, etc., and I'm just pointing over to you Commissioner Sweeney but I'm talking to everyone, and they want to get involved but they just need to know how to get involved. So we need to really just get this information out and just announcing it here is not enough to do that.

I was kind of hanging back to see, we have two opportunities here which the Superintendent announced, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Sweeney, there was one with the Day on the Hill, how many students did we have attend that?

SWEENEY: Fifteen

HARVEY: Okay, and how the students were engaged and that was just great. But I also want to talk a little bit more about the NAACP Great Debate. We had 155 students in total there were 2,000 students that attended throughout the State and they were very engaged as well. This is a historical event, it dates back to 1935, the Great Debate was between a small, we call it HBCU – historically black college university, that debated a predominantly white college and won. That debate, that tradition has continued. So each year, I think it's gone on for three or four years that the NAACP has donated tickets and we have our students attend the event. They were very well behaved, 155 students from various schools – Waterbury Career Academy, the middle schools, the high schools, I think it's our opportunity to, I mean we have our workshops, take 10 minutes out of our Workshop, let them come down and talk about their experience. We don't need a cast of thousands but those who, you talked about there were some that were very, very articulate, let them come down and talk to us about that. The Great Debate, we do that, the past four years and that's it, we mention it and that's it. Let's bring the students down and let them talk about their experience, so that's my request that we do that.

Also I want to talk about, we also mentioned Ms. Gopie who addressed the WOW/NRZ Black History event. This was an event that was postponed a couple of times due to snow. Yes she did bring the house down and she definitely has the community behind her. So I want to congratulate her on that. In addition we talked about good vibes coming from Crosby, we had a meeting and I'm sure that we will hopefully get in a Workshop, the first annual walk for success, Crosby High School; I attended that meeting on Tuesday. It was well attended, it was a planning meeting, well attended by the community, there are other community organizations that will be assisting and it's just basically getting volunteers to go out to our ninth graders, our eighth grade going into ninth grade, visiting them, making contact so that the transition is smooth into high school. So we'll be having more meetings, I know we were invited, a lot of you work

during the day but just to know that this is coming about and that it's being welcomed by the community and that's all I have. Thank you.

***ADJOURNMENT***

**Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:17 p.m.**

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