

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

1. SILENT PRAYER

President Stango called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a moment of silence.

SUPERINTENDENT: As we take a moment to remember those who have passed today, please remember Mrs. Elmena Accetura who passed away April 1, 2014. Ms. Accetura worked for the city of Waterbury, Department of Education for 15 years until her retirement in 1982. Please keep her family in our thoughts and prayers this evening.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Awwad

AWWAD: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner J. Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Communication dated March 20, 2014 from Louise Allen Brown regarding Universal Service Fund Discounts for 2014-2015.
2. Copy of communication dated March 21, 2014 from Duggan School Governance Council regarding breakfast in the classroom.
3. Email communication dated March 24, 2013 from Lisa Lessard regarding Parents of Special Education children.
4. Copy of communication dated March 24, 2014 from Civil Service certifying Joseph Colaco for the position of Maintainer II.
5. Email communication dated March 19, 2014 from Jimmie Griffin regarding Waterbury NAACP Branch Reorganization.
6. Email communication dated March 20, 2014 from Jimmie Griffin regarding Waterbury NAACP Branch Reorganization.
7. Email communication dated March 21, 2014 from Vernon Riddick regarding Waterbury NAACP Branch Reorganization.
8. Email communication dated March 24, 2014 from Jimmie Griffin regarding Black Democrats and Karen Harvey.
9. Email communication dated March 25, 2014 from Jimmie Griffin regarding Black Democrats and Karen Harvey.
10. Email communication dated March 27, 2014 from the American Arbitration Association regarding SAW Brown grievance.
11. Email communication dated March 27, 2014 from Delores Turman regarding Duggan teacher.
12. Email communication dated March 28, 2014 from Delores Turman regarding Duggan teacher.

STANGO: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion?

AWWAD: I have a question. Could someone just tell me why the hearing date is six months from now? Is that common place for the arbitration hearing?

GUIDONE: Perhaps not six months but not uncommon to be spread over a long period of time. This particular arbitration happens to be with one arbitrator but they're traditionally tri-parite; three arbitrators, getting three arbitrators and two lawyers on each side to be able to be available on one given day is sometimes incredible. So they have been extended out, in many cases. . .

HAYES: I can just add to that because I deal with that sometimes, I think if there was a termination and he was no longer employed they might expedite it but since he's still making a living they put it behind the ones where someone is without any income at the time.

AWWAD: Any further discussion on communications? Seeing none - all in favor, opposed, motion carries.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the Rescheduled Committee Meeting of February 20, 2014 and Regular Meeting of February 20, 2014.

STANGO: Any discussion? All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

6. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

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

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. All in favor, opposed, motion carries. Do we have anyone?

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 6:35 p.m.

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

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements:

The State Department of Education has approved our flexibility request for our 2013-2014 district educator evaluation plans as outlined and submitted in March.

The graduation ceremony for the Spanish PEP (People Empowering People) and ParentsSEE (Parents Supporting Educational Excellence) will take place on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at Waterbury Hospital. The UCONN PEP and ParentsSEE courses are components of the Waterbury Parent Leadership programs offered at Waterbury Hospital in partnership with Waterbury Public Schools and the City of Waterbury. These programs provide training in leadership, advocacy, and community

engagement thus fostering positive change in our schools and communities. The parents have completed a combined total of 22 weeks learning about our educational setting from advocacy, policies and law that governs our children, school district and communities.

Earlier this week, School Governance Council members completed Module Four of training. This module was conducted by Patty Avallone, from the State Department of Education. Participants learned about the latest thinking on school compacts and began developing new compacts for their schools as part of the workshop.

Congratulations to Danielle Durso, who was selected to join the Connecticut Dream Team by the Connecticut State Department of Education and LearnZillion. Danielle was recently hired as a Language Arts teacher at Crosby and will join 99 other educators to create standards-based resources that will be available to teachers around the state.

Our schools participated in Light It Up Blue / World Autism Awareness Day by allowing students to wear blue with a minimal donation to Team Waterbury, who will be participating in an Autism Awareness Walk on Saturday, May 10th in Library Park.

Saturday, May 10th, has also been selected as the date for the city's Family and Housing Expo, which will be held at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This year's event is a combination of the Housing Expo that was held last year and the education department's Parent and Youth Fair, now entering its third year. This promises to be a big event with information booths, education workshops for parents, free raffle and give-aways as well as several items offered for sale at a low cost, such as CL&P's light bulb kits. Save the date.

Also, please save the dates for our annual Student Recognition Awards on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 20th and 21st 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and our annual Teacher of the Year Awards on Monday, June 9th at 4:00 p.m. More information will be forthcoming on those events.

STANGO: Any questions for the Superintendent?

8. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

STANGO: Reading the Republican-American this morning I noted this story, it's a brief story so I'd just like to read it. A club has few applications for \$500 scholarships, and it regards a scholarship program. A local community service club, J & J Incorporation, is looking to hand out \$500 scholarships to one deserving African-American senior for each local high school. With an April 11 deadline looming however the group has received few applications. Two Crosby High School students and one from Kaynor Tech have applied. There is an incomplete application packet from Waterbury Arts Magnet School student and no application from Wilby, Kennedy, Chase Collegiate, Sacred Heart, or Holy Cross. Applications can be found at the high school guidance offices and for more information the parents or the youth, seniors, can contact Greg Hadley, Alderman Greg Hadley, at 203-768-2396. This would be an unbelievable story to me except for the fact that two years ago a service groups which I belong to found the same lack of application issue with \$1,000 scholarships for each of our public high schools went unclaimed at two schools, at least two schools at that time. They had no

applications. I would like to ask Central Office to send a memo to our guidance counselors in our schools as a reminder to encourage eligible students to apply for all scholarships available. There's absolutely no good reason to leave scholarship money on the table when this district has generous donors willing to donate and we have families in need of college funds. We need to match these two entities together somehow, perhaps we need to establish a scholarship clearing house of some sort because there are many out there and many of them go unclaimed – unbelievable.

Also, a reminder that next Thursday will be a Workshop meeting of the Board at Hopeville School. There will not be a meeting on April 17 due to our school spring break. The Board's next meeting will be April 24 at Gilmartin. That meeting will begin with a regular meeting followed by a workshop.

The next thing I would like to talk about is I witnessed from last week's Workshop principal hiring timelines. There are many interviews taking place for various principal openings this and next week. Level two interviews for the Crosby principal, level two is the Board level interview, are being held on Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. I would like to invite any member of the Board of Education who can, I realize some of you cannot, but some of you can to attend the interviews as an observer. I say this because the Crosby principalship at this time is a high profile position and I would like members of the Board to meet and observe the candidates and to see the process that we go through for each of our candidates. And that concludes my comments.

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

President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 9.1 through 9.8.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 9.1 through 9.8, as listed:

- 9.1 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Partnership Agreement with Waterbury Bridge to Success Community Partnership, as attached.
- 9.2 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to participate in the Continuation of the Discovery Initiative Grant/William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund with Waterbury Bridge to Success
- 9.3 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Champion Ambulance Service, Inc. to provide transportation services for medically fragile students.
- 9.4 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Silver/Petrucci + Associates, Inc. to provide architectural/engineering design services for school district facility and security improvements.

- 9.5 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to John Reed, Crosby High School, and one chaperone to take 20 students to New York, NY on April 16, 2014 to visit Central Park Zoo, Museum of Natural History, and Madame Tussauds Wax Museum.
- 9.6 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Ken Ludwig, Kennedy High School, and three chaperones to take 40 students to Cambridge, MA on May 2, 2014 to visit the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- 9.7 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities and Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities, at no charge, by the following school organizations and/or City departments:

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES
Wtby. Adult Education Ray Byron	WSMS classroom: 4/7/14-6/6/14 Mon thru Thurs. 6:00-9:00 pm (culinary arts classes) Kennedy classrooms: 4/1/14-6/6/14 Mon. thru Thurs. 6:00-9:00 pm (various enrichment classes)
Mayor's Office G. Reyes, Jr.	Reed café: Tuesday, April 8, 6:00-8:00 pm (Meeting re: New Pac)
Ernest Racine, Jr. FRC Coordinator	Reed café: Monday, April 7, 5:00-6:30 pm (informational mtg. with Shakesperience Productions) Reed gym: 3/28-5/23/14, 2:50-4:00 pm (After school program)
J. Matthews	Chase café & gym: Thursday, April 10, 4:00-8:00 pm (Dinner with Easter Bunny and Easter egg hunt)
T. St. Pierre	Duggan café: Wednesday, April 2, 5:00-6:00 pm (Family improvement event)
J. Gopie	Crosby gym: Friday, April 25, 6:00-10:30 pm (Jr. class movie night) Crosby gym: Friday, May 16, 7:00-10:30 pm (Jr. Semi-formal dance) Crosby aud.: Tuesday, May 13, 5:00-8:30 pm (internet safety program)
R. O'Neill	Carrington café: Thursday, May 1, 3:45-9:00 pm (international dinner)
Liz Lopez	Rotella aud. & café: Tuesday, June 10, 5:00-9:00 pm (Drama troupe) Rotella aud. & café: Wednesday, June 11, 5:00-9:00 pm (Dance troupe) Rotella aud.: Thursday, June 12, 5:00-9:00 pm (Palette Awards)
C. Wirth	WAMS dance studio: April 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 3:10-4:45 pm (Rehearsals for spring dance cohort)
*Nancy Vaughan	Wilby Auditorium: Saturday, May 3, 1:00-6:00 pm (Parent Academy Program/performance)

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

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES
Taft Pointe Condo Assoc.	WSMS café: Monday, April 14, 6:30-8:30 pm

K. Smith	(condo owners mtg.)
Wtby. Chordsmen (rehearsal)	Rotella Auditorium: Thursday, November 13, 7:00-9:00 pm
Gabriel Riccio	and Saturday, November 15, 5:00-10:00 pm (performance)
Woodbury Ballet (rehearsal) and Randyl Errica	Kennedy Auditorium: Wednesday, June 11, 5:00-9:00 pm Saturday, June 14, 6:00-10:00 pm (performance)

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

Ct. Dept. of Transportation	Crosby aud.: Wednesday, May 14, 6:00-9:00 pm
Greg Soja	(public informational mtg. re: I-84)
YMCA-AAU	Maloney gym: Thursdays, 3/27-5/8/14, 7:00-9:00 pm
Shelly Howlett	(basketball practice)

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

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

11. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, it was voted, with Commissioner Awwad “abstaining”, to approve a CT Department of Labor Contract through Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board to receive funds in the amount of \$8,000.00 for the After-school STEM Program.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none – all in favor...

AWWAD: Abstain.

STANGO: Opposed, abstentions. One abstention.

11.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, yet the motion failed by a roll call vote of five to five, to approve Amendment Number 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with EBS Healthcare Services, Inc. d/b/a Educational Based Services Inc. (EBS).

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded – any discussion? Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President. As you guys may recall from our Workshop I had a number of questions on this. Last week we had some clarifications from Ms. Skoronski regarding the addition of a third person under this contract. I still had some questions though. If I recall when we were speaking last time, Mr. Yamin had said that internally we had hired a language pathologist, is that the same third person we're

talking here or is that a, we have one employee yet we're still looking to add something to this contract?

GUIDONE: My understanding, no, it's not that employee, I think what he was describing is that they were trying to hire another employee and if they were able to hire that employee then perhaps that would displace the third person. But they have not hired that person yet.

J. VAN STONE: Oh, they have not hired that person; they're just in the process of trying to land that person. I'm still a bit confused, quite frankly. If I recall last time he was saying that up until this point in the contract we have a surplus, we haven't touched what we needed, he never really explained what, going forward, is causing him to envision this extra person. And I don't necessarily know if you can speak for him, he's not here tonight.

GUIDONE: I think that, again, I think described that we actually have a couple of different firms that provide these contracted individuals going forward and they're adjusted base on need, if we're able to hire staff then perhaps we won't need one, in this particular case this additional one is replacing an individual that had been working under the other contract which is slightly more expensive on a per person rate.

J. VAN STONE: Thank you, thank you Mr. President.

STANGO: Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President. I'm not gonna ask any questions I think I was pretty clear last week. Although there is some more information in this with the three people, I started doing a little more math and putting in some assumptions because of the missing data that I'm still not receiving, and if you look at the approximate days left in the school year, it comes out to a billing of about 30 hours a day, is basically what it comes out to. So now with this number of three people, these teachers, these instructors work ten hours a day, the math just isn't there as Commissioner Van Stone was saying. Another thing, to go back, if we are projecting these types of issues, coming to us three, four weeks after the date, I don't understand. This should be something that a manager should be able to project months in advance, that if he or she is showing that the progression of money is going quicker than planned or the outlook is for additional, to come to us after the date, I can't believe we run our budgets like this. This should be identified months in advance that these sorts of things are gonna happen. Again, I'm gonna just make my statements cause, again, I think I was very clear last week on my frustration with this and a few other times where similar things like this have happened. I really think we need, we're spending the people's money and we really need to project better and know when we're gonna have situations like this. To come at this point in time to me is unacceptable and I think changes need to be made. Thank you Mr. President.

STANGO: Thank you. Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Thank you. Commissioner Tom Van Stone, I totally agree with you. My concerns, I'm gonna hit it from a different angle, I know, I believe I know why we're at this point, there is another vendor, I'm just gonna, for a lack of a better word, that is

involved with this as far as speech pathology and I know that they have in hand this amendment before we voted on it and so what I'm questioning is why, we should be, the process, I thought, is that we vote on something first before we present it to our vendors. I thought that's the process but apparently not. So I'm questioning that. I'm also questioning, I think that there has been, we need to look at our inner processes in terms of payment to these vendors. I think we need to look at that a little bit closer, and Paul, we've had a discussion on this, I really think that we really need to look at these inner processes to make sure if something is submitted, a service order or whatever it's called, is submitted, the person or the company, the vendor, should receive payment within a reasonable time. I think, I'm not gonna say, I hate to use the word "lax" but I think we could be a little bit better with this process. So I'm gonna do like you, Commissioner Van Stone, I'm gonna just say that and just hope that this get better but I'm hearing that, it got better and now we're slipping back into, so I would hope whoever's responsible, I know there's been a lot of change, I know Mr. Yamin is changing jobs and we're in a transition state, but we really need to get a handle on this because this is too important to our kids.

GUIDONE: I'll be happy to bring that back to the Special Ed Department Karen. I think that, to your first point, normally we need to go over the item with the vendor to negotiate whatever it is before it is presently to you so the vendor has to see whatever the terms are that are going to be presented to you and that they're comfortable with whatever their end is. On this particular matter you're describing there was originally a lack of billing from the vendor to the department which caused some delay, that's my understanding, it's resolved. If there's another issue I'll continue to look at it.

HARVEY: Can you just stop right there. I understand that but I also understand there was some fault on our part as well and so we need to, because we're the ones kind of manning the fort, we're supposed to be manning the fort so we should be more proactive with making sure...

GUIDONE: I don't disagree with that.

HARVEY: not letting it, you know.

GUIDONE: I don't disagree with that and staff have been talked to. Thank you.

STANGO: Further discussion? Seeing none – all in favor, opposed, let's have a roll call.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #11.2:

Yeas: Commissioners Awwad, Brown, McEntee, Rodriguez, and
President Stango – 5

Nays: Commissioners Harvey, Hayes, Hernandez, J. Van Stone, and
T. Van Stone - 5

CLERK: Five/five.

STANGO: Which means motion fails.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

12.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve that permission be granted to Nicole Martone, Kennedy High School, and four chaperones to take 50 students Lenox, MA on April 11, 2014 to visit Shakespeare and Company.

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

J. VAN STONE: Just my usual question when stuff like this is non-consent, was this just timing issue, it didn't make Workshop?

CLERK: Yes.

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

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to add to the Agenda a voluntary transfer request.

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

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve the voluntary lateral transfer request of Gina Calabrese, Principal, Rotella Magnet School to Principal, Walsh School, effective at the onset of the 2014/2015 school year.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: The only question I have is how the Turnaround Committee is looking at this, us agreeing to bring someone in and continuing that program knowing they're not going to be there for the long-haul? I appreciate her willingness to stick with it until we hire somebody but I'm wondering how that impacts the whole Turnaround, wouldn't they prefer we try to hire somebody as soon as possible rather than late?

SUPERINTENDENT: Certainly they would. We will certainly continue with our search so that transition could happen. We're hoping that we are successful in our search again, I think this being the fourth one, and that Mrs. Calabrese could assist with that transition. So I think, from my understanding although I did not attend that faculty meeting I was attending the Rotella meeting for that announcement, but staff was relieved and thrilled, for the most part, for her staying.

HAYES: The other side of it I think too, well I read in the paper she mentioned it allows Rotella to move forward without leaving them hanging as well so that's the positive side. I was just wondering how the Turnaround Committee looked...

SUPERINTENDENT: They understand the circumstances and they understand that we continue to search and conduct the search. Dr. Tucker is working very closely with the State Department of Education and Mr. Whyte, the Turnaround Supervisor, they understand the opt-in and opt-out requirements, they're in the process right now so I can't comment any more until the end date of April 30 but at least they know the information at hand and can make a decision.

HAYES: So if by some chance we end up hiring somebody at the end of this school year or the beginning of next school year, who's gonna cover the cost of two principals?

SUPERINTENDENT: We would have to look at the budget for the Turnaround, that's grant funding as well, I mean it's a great item to bring up Commissioner and we will certainly look at that. Mrs. Calabrese made it clear that she'll only stay until January 1. If we need her I don't know if we could twist her arm.

HAYES: I was just wondering the impact on the budget, whether we could use those Turnaround funds for both positions...

SUPERINTENDENT: We could certainly look at that.

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

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hayes and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 13.1 through 13.8, Superintendent's Notification to the Board, as listed:

13.1 Appointments:

Petteway, Sonya – Guidance Department Chair, CHS, effective immediately.

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

Jaime Bao – NEMS

Mary Colgan – NEMS

Benjamin Germain – State Street

Brian Gilmore – Washington

Sara Guerrera – Wilson

Christine MacDonald – Carrington

Jason Martinez – NEMS

Marcy Peschke – Bucks Hill

Cassandra Salemme – Duggan

Jennifer Stone – Hopeville

Stephen Tansley – NEMS

Timothy St. Pierre – Driggs

Timothy Terenzi – WMS

13.3 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:

Borges, Laura – Teacher, High School Credit Retrieval, KHS, funded by Alliance Grant.

Brown, Cassandra – Teacher, High School Credit Retrieval, CHS, funded by Alliance Grant.

Brown, Heather – Lead Teacher, Middle School Credit Retrieval, WSMS, funded by Improvement/Alliance Funds.

Deptula, Joseph – Math Teacher, Middle School Credit Retrieval, WSMS, funded by Improvement/Alliance Funds.

Elsemore, Lisa – ELA Teacher, Middle School Credit Retrieval, WSMS, funded by Improvement/Alliance Funds.

Harisi, Vanessa – Substitute Teacher, Walsh School’s ESH Program.

Harisi, Vanessa – Substitute Teacher, Walsh School’s Turnaround Afterschool Program, salary per MOU, funded by Turnaround Funds.

Lindley, Carly – Teacher, High School Credit Retrieval, WCA, funded by Alliance Grant.

Maysonet, Carmen – Bilingual Receptionist, Intake Center, 12 months per year, \$21,000 annually with benefits governed by the UPSEU Union, funded by the Bilingual Grant.

Monnerat, Mary Jean – Title I Tutor, Bucks Hill School, \$30 p/hour, maximum of 18 hours p/week, non-union and without benefits, funded by Title I.

Spring, Frank – Teacher, High School Credit Retrieval, WHS, funded by Alliance Grant.

13.4 Teacher new hires:

Name		Location	Assignment	Grade/Step	Effective
McGrath	Andie	Crosby-temp	Guidance	MA+15/1	3/24/14
Lillian	Jennifer	Bucks Hill	Kindergarten	MA/1	3/24/14
Shule-Sejolores	Benjola	WCA	Science	BA/2	2/26/14
Mancini	Dana	Wilby	English	MA/1	3/17/14

13.5 Transfers:

Biello, Claudia – from Title I Literacy/Carrington to Literacy Facilitator/Reed & Tinker, effective 03/31/14.

13.6 Resignations:

French, Gina – Art Teacher, WSMS, effective 03/31/14.

Schmitt, Danielle – Art Teacher, Washington/Bucks Hill Annex, eff. 06/30/14.

13.7 Retirements:

Cafasso, Judith B. – CHS Social Studies, effective July 1, 2014.

13.8 Adult Education Enrichment Program appointments (tuition based) effective April 4, 2014:

<u>NAME</u>		<u>POSITION</u>	<u>HRS/RATE</u>
Arroyo	Robert	Googles App	3 hrs p/wk @ \$32.00 p/hr
Cavallo	Angelica	Beginning Crochet	2 hrs p/wk @ \$32.00 p/hr
Edmonds	Jeremy	Tackling Debt & Budgeting & Planning	4 hrs p/wk @ \$24.00 p/hr
Gallon	Joyce	Knitting Your Own Boa Scarf	3 hrs p/wk @ \$24.00 p/hr
Wolski	Damien	Cupcake Mania	3 hrs p/wk @ \$24.00 p/hr

STANGO: All in favor, opposed, motion carries. Now we are up to Item #14 – Unfinished Business of the Preceding Meeting Only. Seeing none – Item #15 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Thank you. Two quick items – one is, in fact I probably should have brought this up at the last item but anyway, I see that the Curriculum Committee had their meeting on March 24 and I looked at the scribbling of Commissioner Tom Van Stone,

who I always tease about his writing, but I was a little bit disappointed that we did not, there was no discussion regarding Common Core and as it relates to our parents because at the time I recall bringing up that we really need to have this information given to our parents on an ongoing basis and I thought that that discussion would be at the Curriculum Committee meeting and I felt, in fact I did not attend the meeting because I had another meeting attend, but I felt confident that this would be part of the discussion at this 3/24 meeting and I see that it was not. So I'm simply going to say that we need to keep this on an ongoing basis, information that we feed to our parents, yes, we've done a good job, yes, we received information from Mrs. Marold regarding something that was, a presentation that was given in October of last year and that's fine, but the parents require more than one dose of information on Common Core. In fact, I was talking to the Principal of Kingsbury School and she has had a workshop, two workshops with her parents in regards to Common Core and she said she expected there not to be many participants and she said she was pleasantly surprised because there were over 40 parents that attended looking for information on Common Core. So I'm just going to say that we need to make sure that we're feeding, on a constant basis, as often as possible, information to our parents in regards to Common Core.

Last evening at the Policy Committee meeting we, I thought it was a good meeting, it was good in that we had a student who I think was very courageous in bringing forth an issue that she wrote about, I'm gonna call her Ms. Passmore, and she is a senior at Kennedy High School, she is also on the school newspaper, I believe she's an honor student, she announced to us that she will be attending St. Joseph's College in the fall when she graduates from this school year and she brought an issue forward and yes there are rules governing certain things as it relates to the scoreboard and keeping score and students doing that but she did bring this issue forward in two articles in the school newspaper and I thought she was very brave, I was trying to get her to come down and speak and address the Board here at a regular meeting, but I thought it would be a good learning experience for her to address us. What I was a little bit disappointed with was that, to me, it seemed like there was some tension in the room in regards to her being there and you know we are in the business, if we didn't have students we wouldn't be in the business, number one. Number two, this was a good learning experience for her in that she could come before the Board, present her issues, and learn from that and she is also going to write about her experience addressing the Board. So I thought that was good. So I'm just saying this to say, first of all I want to thank her for coming forward, she was there with her parents, she was invited by me to come and address the Policy Committee meeting because she's the one that we were meeting about, her issue, and I felt that it would be good for her to follow-through on this. But I think, I just hope that in the future, we've had a couple of issues that have come forward to us from students, and I'm not saying that we're not user friendly, but I would like for us to be a little bit more user friendly to our students. They have issues, we had for example 48 letters that came to us, it took us a while to decide what we're gonna do with it then we learned that President Stango and the Superintendent went and addressed the classroom. I would have liked to have known about that because I would have probably liked to have joined them. So I think we just need to get a handle on how we're gonna deal with things as it relates to our students. I would personally like to see, you know, we if we can have a spot on the Board, they don't vote, they won't have a vote, but just students, on the Board, so we could hear their concerns. They brought up the issue on dress code so just to give them credit. So anyway, just getting back I'd like to personally thank Miss Passmore for coming forward bringing this issue

before us and to encourage other students to do the same. And that's all I have. Thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Yes, thank you President Stango. Commissioner Harvey, I think that what we decided to do was have another presentation to the full Board on the Common Core because I think people; it's a pertinent issue that a lot of people want to hear. But my understanding is that they did send out to all the Board members what the outreach and education program was and indeed it was quite extensive. Mrs. Marold has been conducting meetings and there's a whole list of the meetings. I thought everybody had gotten that but if not I'll make sure everybody gets it. Every principal has been meeting with parents, all the teachers have been in communication, so there is a comprehensive program that's rolled out in the district that has been, and we can always do better, but I think at this point, and I'm sorry Anne Marie isn't here tonight because she did share with us a very comprehensive roll-out of the educational, but I think we're going to try to get it on a Workshop so that everybody is on the same page and knows what the district has been doing. So we'll do that.

HARVEY: If I may, the issue here is yes, we know what we've done, okay past tense...

BROWN: No, we're doing it ongoing...

HARVEY: I work very closely with Mrs. Marold, okay, with the parents and what prompted my comment was due to a meeting I attended on GEAR UP at WOW/NRZ and just some parents expressing concern about they don't know about Common Core or they haven't heard, so I just brought that forward as a suggestion that we need to have this on an ongoing basis. I know we have different things, in fact you recommended that we put this in the newsletters and things like that so it needs to be, my point is it needs to be on an ongoing basis to put maybe in newsletters, put it, so that parents know if they have concerns about Common Core they can go to their school, just so we keep the lines of communication open

STANGO: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Thank you President. I just want to piggyback on what President Stango had said about the scholarships. I also feel that we need to come up with a better system with our guidance counselors, principals, whoever is in charge of getting this information out to the students because I do know for a fact that the scholarship that J & J Organization had sent out they sent it out in December of last year and for the turnaround to be two students from Crosby and one from Kaynor Tech, I'm not understanding how that information did not get to the kids where they could apply for these scholarships. That's \$500 – that's a book. We really do need to have a better system as far as when these applications come in for scholarships they get right out to our seniors so that they could be able to apply for them in a timely manner.

Also, I had heard, and I did speak to the Superintendent about an incident I guess at Crosby where the dress code was changed. A couple of kids had come to me and said that you know they were told they could now wear jeans to school and I told them I did

not think so because that is a policy and that we did not change it. So I just wanted to know what came of that little incident. Thank you.

STANGO: Thank you. Any other discussion? Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Yes, I'd like some feedback on that, I heard the same thing, we decided to relax the dress code at Crosby. I don't know what impact that would have but I'd like to dispel that rumor if it's a rumor or if it has somehow been floated out there as an idea, I think we need to have some discussion and rein it back in. And the other thing is, guidance I know we've questioned what's happened in guidance and it's very disturbing to me to hear that there's money sitting there and they're not even, they should be seeking out kids that they know should apply for it, not waiting for somebody to ask. I know we've raised this issue before, I went through it with my kids and it's like . . . and nobody ever applied for it. One of my kids was like at the last minute and there were still all these applications and nobody even applied for. Then all of a sudden you see a handful of kids get a lot of the scholarships because they apply for them. I think a clear message has to go out, I know the President made some comments about it, I think a clear message has to go out to the principal at those schools to inform the guidance staff that they should, if there's any applications that aren't being applied for, first of all they should make sure everyone knows what's available and secondly anything that's not applied for go out and seek applicants.

STANGO: Thank you. Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT: That correspondence with regards to Commissioner Hernandez's point that was sent again to principals strongly urging their participation, just for the record. And, secondly, we do have a Principal's forum on Monday so I will certainly make my presence known and be able to state your concerns.

STANGO: Further discussion? I would just like to ask our Alderman Liaison a question. Mr. Hadley, is there any chance of your deadline, I think it was the 11th or something, to be extended?

HADLEY: We're meeting on Saturday; I can talk to the organization about extending it. I can't say yea or nay. I do want to say that the, I think the message is out there, it's just our students have to be more responsible in responding. I know the guidance is overwhelmed. December 3 is when I actually sent the notices out to the principals, guidance, ILD's, the ones that are in charge of the high schools, I can suggest that. Jeff Hunter is the President so we'll see.

STANGO: Thank you Mr. Hadley. I would trust, and I'm sure that you do this already with the word being out in the community and within the churches and the rec centers and places like that. Okay. The Superintendent will look into that rumor of the dress code. Anything else? Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: The only point I'd like to make about the scholarship issue is the responsibility falls to the child to do the application so we're kind of assuming that they didn't get told about it and I'm probably gonna bet that they did and just nobody follow through. Having raised four of my own if I didn't fill out the paperwork it didn't get done.

So I think we just need to make sure that we weight equally who's responsible in the end for the lack of applications that might have made its way forward.

HERNANDEZ: I agree, some fault does lie with the students themselves but I know when my son was going to school it was like did you hear about the application, no, my guidance counselor told me I had to wait, wait, wait – it got too late. So, equal, 50/50. Thank you.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to convene into Executive Session at 7:15 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, and Paul Guidone.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 7:28 p.m. with no votes taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:29 p.m.

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