

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

ABSENT: Commissioners Hayes, Hernandez, and J. 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 6:33 p.m. with a moment of silence.

CULLINAN: Good evening. Mrs. Olga Mirabel Martinez passed away Friday, May 9, 2014. She was a Bilingual teacher at Carrington School for 28 years. I had the privilege as Principal to work with Mrs. Martinez. During my time as Principal of Carrington Elementary School, I found Mrs. Martinez to be compassionate and caring as a kindergarten teacher who held her students to high academic standards. Olga motivated her students to excel and instilled in them a lifelong love of learning. She worked closely with parents to ensure they felt like equal partners in their children's' educational experience. Olga will long be remembered for the positive impact she had on so many lives. She was a wonderful teacher and a dear friend to many as well as a role model to her students and fellow teachers alike. As the quote from Henry Adams states "a teacher affects eternity; she can never tell where her influence stops". Olga Martinez leaves a legacy of empathy and excellence and will be greatly missed.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Coach Nicholas Augelli 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 (absent). Commissioner Hernandez (absent).
Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner J. Van Stone (absent). Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here. For the record Commissioner Hernandez, Commissioner Hayes, and Commissioner Van Stone all called to express their regrets for not being able to attend this evening.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Communication dated May 2, 2014 from Mike Backer regarding his daughter.
2. Communication dated May 7, 2014 from Atiya Sample regarding Michael Yamin.
3. Communication dated May 8, 2014 from the State Department of Education regarding notice of mediation and arbitration.
4. Email communication from MTTTS Athletics regarding their use of school facilities.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, it was voted unanimously to receive the minutes of the Committee Meeting of February 27, 2014 and Regular Meeting of March 6, 2014.

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

6. AWARD PRESENTATION

President Stango and Dr. Ouellette presented Mr. Nicholas Augelli an award for his 600th career win.

OUELLETTE: Coach Augelli, while we certainly all strive for excellence, few of us can quantify our success as easily as Nick Augelli and his Crosby Bulldogs. I can't discuss his success without relying on another great coach's wisdom, John Wooden; he once said that things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out. Nick, your strategic teaching, patience, and your resolve to build character as well as athletes has brought you to your 600th win, a truly remarkable achievement. You taught the students by example that what you are as a person is far more important than what you are as a basketball player. You taught the students to be quick but not to hurry. You taught them to not let what they could not do to interfere with what they could do. You taught them to be more concerned with their character than with their reputation because character is what you really are while reputation is what others think

you are. You taught them that failure is not fatal but failure to change might be. You always knew that success is never final. Failure is never fatal but it is courage that counts. You taught the students a great life lesson that it's not so important who starts the game but who finishes it. Nick, you have brought distinction to our district and to our hundreds and hundreds of students. Thank you all that you have done and all that you do in our future. Congratulations Coach Augelli.

(applause)

7. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Awwad 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 7:12 p.m.

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

M. Jose Soriano, 2537 North Main Street, had the following comments: This is my wife Maria and my daughter. We purchased a home at 2537 North Main and we enrolled our daughter in Regan Elementary School. Dasha likes her school, the school is near to our home is convenient for our daughter and us but there have been numerous incidents of bullying and we have already filled three bullying reports. My wife and I have spoken to the teacher Ms. Gutierrez, the Principal Noreen Buckley, and the Vice Principal Ms. Roden, also to the City Parent Liaison Mary Ann Marold. The incidents continue and we are very concerned since we have to send Dash back to Regan next year what you would suggest we do so our daughter can go to Regan School and be safe and get the education she deserves. Thank you.

Robert Wright, 627 Willow Street, had the following comments: Hello to the Board, I'm a retired Professor from the University of Wisconsin, also a product of the Waterbury Public School System, K – 12, and I'm here to speak in support of the Instructional Leadership Director's Program and to praise particularly the presentation that was raised and made by Dr. Aresta Johnson at the last Workshop meeting. I have taught every grade from pre-k to lecturing at Marquette University Law School to developing programs at Harvard University, that was one of the finest presentations on educational training I have heard in my 40 years of educational work and I do hope that the Board of Education appreciates and understands what they have in Dr. Johnson. Her presentation was fantastic, not only should it be made before this Board or Workshops of the Board, but the community could benefit from that and I make a suggestion given all the discussion that's being made about charter schools and parochial schools as an alternative to the public system, that she make such presentation to community groups that have become interested in what she is directing. Some of the remarks that were made at the Workshop on the \$871,000 that is spent on this program were misguided. I will not name names but we know who has said the remarks and we also know who has said these remarks in the newspaper. You do not take a hatchet to budget problems within the school system. This \$841,000 is nothing compared to what is spent on

training in the private sector, just look at Silicon Valley, without training there would be no Silicon Valley and I think we have to look at what is needed for reinforcing the abilities of our educational personnel to educate these children in our school system. So once again I salute Dr. Johnson for her presentation, I was very impressed about it and I hope her work in this area continues.

Now, I mentioned some negative things which I heard concerning the report but I do want to give positive remarks to what Commissioner Awwad had to say about overspending on the budget. Obviously she has read the budget, her remarks under 2.4 million dollars that is spent on architectural design work in the school system were on time, they're insightful, and obviously she has read the budget. That is how budget problems should be addressed, they should be insightful and they should be specific. I have known Commissioner Awwad for a number of years; I trust her judgment because at one time she was my pharmacist. The point being is she did her job, she looked at the budget, she did not make political points to the newspaper, she did not engage in a lot of factualism, you could tell that she studied the budget and made a very cogent point – do we need this expense? That is something I think the Board should be very, very evident of her abilities in this area; finance seems to be her area. Now one thing that is missing from this discussion on the budget, one thing that is missing concerning the ILD program, is the community, community groups. Given the alternatives that are propping up – charter schools, parochial schools, to the problems we have in the school system, I do think there is a need for the community to be involved more so than it is in these discussions that the School Board is having. If you look at the very low test scores which are happening in the Waterbury School System, this concerns the community because it concerns the future of their children. If we look at the police statistics, which I think are disastrous, I think there is a need to begin to speak to the community, to meet with the community to discuss how these things can be dealt with. I do not think a bureaucratic approach could solve these problems. So with that I would just like to leave you with some food for thought, there's this community out there, their kids go to your schools, these are their schools, so let's talk to them.

State Representative Larry Butler, 70 Blackman Road, had the following

comments: I wanted to also add my congratulations to not only the 600 wins but the difference he made in so many young men's lives over those years. Also because he had the most dominant high school basketball team I have ever seen in the whole state. So if you're watching Coach, congratulations.

I'm here to talk about a couple of issues that I read about recently in the newspaper. One, the issue about the ILD's and I just wanted to come here to lend my support to that initiative because I just want to remind everyone that we actually brought our Superintendent Dr. Ouellette to this City to actually institute reforms. One of the biggest things to embrace her and what we were really happy about that we were looking for reforms and the ILD's are an integral part of that reform package so I'd like to give both the ILD initiative and the Superintendent and her reforms the opportunity to show the results so I would ask for your patience. My direct involvement was with Dr. Aresta Johnson at a workshop of principals and vice principals, right here, and I could tell you that in that presentation that Dr. Johnson actually invited Aldermen, State Representatives, State Senators, and we had a chance to talk with the principals, vice principals, to get a feel for what it was like actually being in charge of a school building and that was valuable because there was a very valuable exchange between elected

officials and the principals. I know that we generally have a chance to speak with you before the session on your priorities on upcoming year's agenda, but to actually talk to the people who are actually running the buildings was valuable as well. So I congratulate Dr. Aresta Johnson for putting that together. Not only that but the difference in the kids that are going from the high schools to Adult Ed, I believe that numbers been cut in half, I mean, talk about results. So as long as we're still getting results I want to put my full support behind that initiative.

Secondly, I wanted to talk about the new schools. Now, and I just want to bring a concern I have about the school itself. The Waterbury Career Academy, when it was built, there was some land acquisition and that didn't go well for the property owners so whatever you're considering for a new school I just hope that there's no property acquisition involved there and, if so, it's very minimum so we don't replay what happened in that school construction.

Also, in terms of the budget and dollars that we're faced with and the concerns we have I was just wondering after having built four K – 8 schools wouldn't there be just a little room left in our middle schools if we're building K – 8's it seems to me that there should be some room in the middle schools, can't we kind of work on moving some of the overcrowded children to the middle school system? Just a thought. I'll leave it to your capable hands; I just wanted to bring those items to your consideration. And I will end there. Again, thank you for your service.

Zilca Diaz, 64 East Dover Street, had the following comments: My concern here this evening is my kid's education. I am a mother of four kids in this school district, Christian kids, and it has been brought to my attention they have been taken off grades, scores for their grades cause of not being prepared. I had brought a letter to the school stating that my daughter could not wear pants for religion beliefs, she still gets points off. My other son, we believe in one god, my son as part of his history class he was asked to do a project about gods, to create his own god, and it was a project and he rejected to doing so which is part of our belief and I agree with him and he was given a zero for it. I'm also concerned that they have been told that they're not supposed to talk about god in school. I believe in freedom of speech. Another thing is my daughter would like to play basketball, I would like to know if there's a rule for her not wearing skirts to play basketball. She's very good and I would really appreciate she's being taken in consideration. And I would like to know what are my kid's rights as a Christian in school, how their beliefs are protected and how they're not being bullied since my son at the beginning of this school year he was bullied, he was hit, he was slapped, I had to make a report at school, actually the police officer said he was lying, afterwards we found out it was all true. But I believe that our Christian kid's rights are being violated and I would really like to know what's the code, the school code for that. Thank you.

STANGO: Mam, would you speak to Mrs. Marold before you leave.

Belinda Weaver, 224 Walnut Street, had the following comments: I too am here in support of the ILD's continuing with the school system. It seems like whenever the school systems gets something good they take it away; it's for our kids. I see on this that we're talking about approving new positions. The positions are higher level, they're going to be in an office, we need people in the schools for our kids. Dr. Johnson did an excellent job last week. It seems like whenever someone is doing a very good job

they're gone. The ones that are doing a so-so job, they always stay around. We need to keep good people associated with our children.

Number two, as far as the new school, we're spending all this money for schools and we're not taking care of the schools we have or we're gonna have all these empty schools all over the City. We need to start taking better care of the schools we have we wouldn't have to build all these schools. Case in point, Walsh School, no one did anything to Walsh School until it was dilapidated. You can't tell me that you have all these people in the maintenance department that should have known how bad that school was. We're paying these people every week, bi-weekly, they're not doing their jobs. So we're gonna get a new school in a couple years maybe, I was up at Reed School last night and that school is how old? The floors are terrible and no one's doing anything about it. We let these schools go down and all we think of, oh, we're building new schools, that will take care of the problem. Someone needs to take care of our schools. Thank you.

Vernial M. Walker, 94 Bentwood Drive, had the following comments: The reason why I'm here is to advocate and to show concern, be concerned about our schools and to advocate for Dr. Aresta Johnson. I wasn't at the meeting, I've become acquainted with her from the work she has done, how she performs in school at Crosby High School. I've seen a transition of the students how from students not respecting one another, coming into school with technology and earphones in their ears, the communication is foul, it was, I'm one of the people that stand at the door and let them know good morning, how are you, take your earphones out of your ear, are you talking that way this morning, have a beautiful day. And I know that some of our children they come in and they've had a terrible time getting there and you can tell just by their spirit alone that they've had a hard time in school. And it's best for us to be concerned with what's happening with our children because a lot of them aren't learning because the focus, their focus when they come in they're bringing other things with them and they're not focused in class. So it has to be what Dr. Aresta has done, the focus is there and there's a climate that has changed, it changed within Crosby because when I first got there, because I'm the Family Coordinator, and it began to change where a hello means a great deal even though a child or student may not speak to you but it enlightens them to look forward to going to class. They don't say anything, they just keep going, but the respect begins to come. Now if there's a transition where she's no longer there and things change, there's unrest, the transition, our children have been in a transition mode too many times and once they . . . adapted to who's there and gain the respect that they're supposed to have, here's another change. I think, everything takes time, motivation, learning, education, but we have to be focused on our students so they can learn because they are the new generation, a generation that's coming to be, and they're in trouble. Communication isn't proper, they aren't learning what they should learn, the focus has to be on them from when they come through the door, a greeting, hello, are you okay, . . . there's a lot of issues we have to look at how our students are influenced. If they have a good influence and good teachers that's communicating and very concerned about them and will outreach to parents as well and have parents come in to be a part, to help with the structure, the transition, to show concern and love our students because it's very important, like I said, their generation is in trouble and we have to do something about it and that's concern, that's the education, and that's putting rules and regulations in place for them to follow because if they don't have them to follow everybody's doing what they want to do and not following through, this is the

time, the important time to help our students to move forward and I believe from witnessing myself that Dr. Aresta Johnson has made a change within Crosby that's on a positive level and everything takes time, it takes time, the adjustment when our students adjust and then there's disruption so back the other way instead of going forward, we've got to give that some consideration. Thank you for your time.

Jimmie Griffin, 41 Pilgrim Avenue, had the following comments: I had a meeting last month with the Superintendent and Dr. Tucker and we went over a wide-range of issues, specifically the CHRO Employment Practices in the Waterbury School District that happened some time ago and there were a number of recommendations in there that this district never, ever adhered to and that's been one of the problems that these recommendations were made for the same kinds of issues that we've been bringing forth concerning the hiring practices. The real problem I'm having with the perception of the schools right now is I'm hearing all kinds of stories. The stories I'm hearing are not the stories written in the newspaper, I'm hearing stories that are just contrary, opposite of what's been in the newspaper. On a headline story it says more school social workers needed, Superintendent hopes to improve behavior, front page, local section. The bottom of the page, Crosby gets temporary boost, principal prospect backs out, interim leader held for improvements. You know, Walsh School, what happened to Walsh School is happening to Crosby, it seems to be a change in the atmosphere immediately after there's a teacher that happens to be displaced or something, there's this attitude that there's miracles that have been created overnight and I'm hearing just the opposite about the reformatory kind of environment that goes on at Crosby High School, for instance, the Gestapo kind of attitude that's being prevailing up there, I'm hearing those kind of things, I'm not hearing what everybody else is hearing, I'm hearing just the opposite. I'm also hearing that there's a lot of interference with the School Board by the Mayor. One of the recommendations that I want to make to the Board tonight is that you eliminate the Mayor as ex-officio member of the Board of Education, pursuant section 2101 of the Charter of the City of Waterbury, the Mayor shall be chairman ex-officio as hereafter defined of all Boards and Commissions and authorities except the Board of Tax Review, the Zoning Board, the Civil Service Commission, and any other Board whose sole duties are those of the reviewing or appeal. The CHRO recommended during this whole process and last Charter Revision Commission, I think it was last Charter Revision Commission or the Charter Revision Commission before that, this question was put on the ballot but apparently it failed or didn't get anywhere or the Charter Revision Commission didn't act on it. The CHRO recommends that the Board of Education be added to the list of exemptions of boards which the Mayor is the ex-officio member; removal of the Mayor from such a position eliminates the appearance of impropriety and undue influence in decisions pertaining to the hiring and retention of school staff. There's just too much, too much interference with this Board of Education and this Board of Education itself should want to be a separate and equal. As a matter of fact we know this is the largest budget in the City of Waterbury, we know there's a lot of . . . and nepotism on the Board of Education, we know that, and we just want to make sure that this time around that the people in the City of Waterbury understand that education is the most important aspect of anything in the City. If we don't have that we don't have anything. And we just don't want the Mayor interfering with the Board of Education anymore, we're tired of it.

James Monroe, 250 Wood Street, had the following comments: Once again I chose to be last because you've heard of many people speak of Dr. Johnson and the job that

she did last week. I personally think that she hit a grand slam; she defended her job, she spoke up for her community, her kids and for the fellow people she works with. Everyone's talking about what a great job she did and that's part of it. But this young lady comes from a reputable family in the City of Waterbury. The Byrd family in our community is well known. Her uncle was one of the first firemen, black firemen hired. Her father was an excellent ball player, an excellent person in the community, did a lot of work for kids and she's homegrown and this gives us a lot of pride when your homegrown and you can come to the table and do such an excellent job. I would hope that people would take that under consideration and remember all the things that were said about her tonight – no lies, straight truth. She's a beautiful person and she's concerned and we feel that she's doing a great job. Thank you.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 7:12 p.m.

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

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements

I attended two great events on Saturday; the Autism Speaks Walk and the Family and Housing Expo. Both events were very well attended. I do want to congratulate our students and staff for the \$3,412.20 they raised for the Waterbury Autism Speaks team. Maloney was the top fundraiser among the elementary schools with \$552.23 raised, and Wallace was the top fundraiser for the middle/high schools, with \$723.20. Fifteen schools participated.

We were very pleased and proud to view the safe return of Astronaut Rick Mastracchio on Wednesday. PAL held a viewing party that evening. Everyone was relieved to hear of Mr. Mastracchio's safe return.

Our magnet schools will be showcased at the Magnet School of America Conference this week, May 15th through the 18th, in Hartford. Our students will be featured at several venues on Thursday and Saturday. On Friday, we will be hosting educators from across the country in a site visit and series of workshops that will be held at Maloney, WAMS and Rotella.

"The Gathering," a citywide ethnic festival, will be held this Saturday, May 17th at Library Park. This annual event celebrates Waterbury's rich cultural heritage, and showcases the city's great diversity.

Also, a quick reminder that we are hosting our annual Superintendent's Student Recognition Awards next week. The elementary school students will be honored on Tuesday evening (May 20th), and the middle and high school students, as well as one student from Adult Education, will be honored on Wednesday evening (May 21st). Both events start at 6 p.m. at Kennedy High School. Please do stop by and help us honor these students.

Madre Latina is hosting its annual Gala next Saturday, May 24th, at CocoKey. Doors open for networking at 6 p.m. There will be an awards program at 7 p.m., followed by dinner at 8 p.m.

The Parent Information Action Research (PIAR) team, in collaboration with Bridge to Success, is holding a Waterbury Community Conversation on Saturday, May 31st, at the PAL Learning Center, 58 Driggs Street, Waterbury, from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. This conversation is a follow-up to one held last year. This year's event will focus on an issue guide that was completed by ten parent co-researchers across the state, including two from Waterbury, and several colleagues at the University of Hartford. The project is funded by the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund and the Kettering Foundation.

The Waterbury School Readiness and Early Childhood Education programs are hosting a Family Festival for families with children aged birth to kindergarten on Saturday, May 31st, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Library Park. There will be free fun activities for the children as well as information for the parents.

STANGO: Thank you Dr. Ouellette. Any questions for the Superintendent this evening?

9. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

STANGO: Just briefly, just a few announcements. There will not be a Workshop meeting of the Board next Thursday on May 22 due to our five-Thursday schedule. So there will be no meeting, no workshop on the 22nd of May. However, our next Workshop meeting will be on the 29th of May at Wilson School at 5:30. Also of interest there will be a combined meeting of the Board of Aldermen and Board of Education on Wednesday, May 28 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be held at Chase School and it is concerned with the proposed East End School. And the public will be allowed to and are encouraged to speak at this meeting. Again, this is on May 28, next Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., Chase School, concerning the East End School Project.

10. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

10.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the lateral transfer request of Robin Henry from Principal, Wilson School to Principal, Rotella Magnet School, effective at the onset of the 2014/2015 school year.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion on that?

SUPERINTENDENT: I'm very pleased to recommend this evening the return of Ms. Robin Henry for the position of Rotella. As everyone knows she truly has a passion for the arts, she had been acting in capacity as a supervising principal at Rotella many years ago and her credentials absolutely support her return to the position of principal at Rotella. She sends her regrets this evening, she had a prior commitment, she may come by a little bit later to address the Board. She had a very strong interview that was given between Mrs. Cullinan and myself and we're very fortunate to have her return to Rotella School.

STANGO: Any further discussion that? Seeing none I will entertain a roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #10.1:

Yeas: Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, McEntee, Rodriguez,
T. Van Stone, and President Stango

10.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner McEntee, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the appointment of Michael Theriault as Principal, Driggs School, effective at the onset of the 2014/15 school year.

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

SUPERINTENDENT: I'm very pleased to recommend to the Board of Education this evening the approval of Mr. Michael Theriault to the position of Principal of Driggs Elementary School and he's got a big smile on his face. Mr. Theriault's teaching career began in Waterbury as a grade three teacher at Generali School. In 2010 he became Teaching Vice Principal at Wilson Elementary School and then returned to Generali as a Supervising Vice Principal. He held many leadership positions including Summer School Coordinator, presented professional development to both teachers and administrators in the district focusing on the integration of technology into the curriculum, reading improvement and team collaboration. His credentials include an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Mattatuck Community College, a Bachelors in Sociology, and Master's Degree in Elementary Education and his Sixth Year Certificate from the University of Bridgeport. In his letter of reference colleagues describe him as fair, trustworthy, collaborative, and knows how to engage all stakeholders, committed to the students assuring they achieve excellence in all they do. I am pleased to present Mr. Michael Theriault as Principal and I believe we have Driggs staff with us this evening.

STANGO: Is there further discussion? Seeing none – roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #10.2:

Yeas: Commissioners Awwad, Brown, McEntee, Rodriguez, T. Van Stone, and
President Stango – 6

Nays: Commissioner Harvey – 1

CLERK: Six/one – motion passes.

(applause)

THERIAULT: This is very exciting for me. I'm sitting there and I'm thinking of all the different things I'd like to say and I think, I actually, this flashed in my mind, eighth grade at West Side Middle School I think it was the first time I felt empowered as a learner and that made me very excited because it changed my life forever as a learner, going to college, still learning to this day. Now I think about how I treat my students and my staff and I push that empowerment that I have received from the Waterbury Public Schools and I want to continue to pass it on to the students and I have for last 15 years but I'm

very proud to continue that service to my students. Working for the City of Waterbury has been extremely prideful for me and everyone knows I'm all about Waterbury. When my parents come in and say how are you doing Mr. Theriault, I say you know what, never better. They laugh at first but the truth is I have the best job in the world and I want to continue my service here with the City of Waterbury. Another 10, 25 maybe. I thank you for this opportunity and thank you to everyone that's been part of this whole process. Thank you to my new family here, thank you for coming. And to the Board.

(applause)

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

AWWAD: Eleven point two and 11.3.

STANGO: Anyone else?

President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 11.1 and 11.4 through 11.7.

11. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner McEntee, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, items 11.1 and 11.4 through 11.7, as listed:

- 11.1 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the 2014-2015 Connecticut State Department of Education IDEA Grant.
- 11.4 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Domenic Quattrociocchi, WAMS, and four chaperones to take 40 students to Gettysburg, PA from May 19 through 21, 2014 to visit Gettysburg National Battlefield.
- 11.5 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Linda Demirali, WMS, and seven chaperones to take 35 students to New York, NY on May 21, 2014 to visit Ellis Island and Statute of Liberty.
- 11.6 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities and Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the use of school facilities, at no charge, by the following school organizations and/or City departments:

GROUP	FACILITIES AND DATES/TIMES
R. Moffo	Generali gym: Thursday, May 29 th , 5:00 - 8:00 pm (Spring concert & art show)
Supt.'s Office	WAMS atrium: Monday, May 12 th , 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Joint mtg. of Bd. Of Educ. & Bd. Of Aldermen)
L. Janowitz	Sprague gym: Thursday, June 12 th , 4:00 - 7:30 pm (School readiness graduation ceremony)
*Azzalee Edwards	Tinker café: Fri., June 6 th , 5:00-7:30 pm

	(ESL pot luck dinner)
*E. Wrona	WAMS café: Mon., June 9 th , 5:00 - 8:00 pm (SPPT grad/award ceremony)
*Supt.'s Office	Chase gym: Wed., May 28 th , 6:00-9:00 pm (Joint meeting of Bd. of Education & Bd. of Aldermen)

- 11.7 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
Crusader Basketball F. Lombardo	WSMS gym: Monday thru Thursday 6/30/14 -7/10/14 8:30 am - 4:00 pm (basketball clinic)
Elite Academy of Dance Samantha Aquavia	Rotella aud. & rm.: Sat., June 21 st , 2:00 - 6:00 pm (dance recital)

REQUESTING WAIVERS:

*American Cancer Society Thomas DiPietro	Crosby track & rm.: Friday, June 6 th thru Sunday, June 8 th (Relay for Life) (\$3362.) Rotella gym: Saturday, June 7 th thru Sunday, June 8 th (Relay for Life) (\$1025.)
*MITTS Athletics Randy Brooks	Wilby gym/lobby: Sat. & Sun. June 7 th & 8 th , 8:00 am - 10:00 pm (Pro Exposure Camp) (\$3690. & \$4800.)

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

CT Dept. of Banking Kathleen Titsworth	Kennedy aud.: Wed., May 28 th , 5:00 - 8:00 pm (public meeting)
*Wtby. Neighborhood Assoc. David Therault	Reed classroom: Tues., May 13 th and every 2nd Tues. of the month through June, 2015, 5:30 - 9:00 pm (meetings) Kingsbury classroom: Tues., May 20 th and every 2nd Tues of the month through June, 2015, 6:00 - 9:00 pm (meetings)
*Wtby. Ballers AAU Phil Lott	Crosby gym: Mon., Wed., and Thurs. during May & June, 2014 5:30 - 7:30 pm (basketball practice) (when gym is available)

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

12. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

Committee on School Personnel

- 11.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Brown, it was voted, with Commissioners Awwad and McEntee voting “no”, to approve of the job specifications for, and new position of, Director of Human Capital, as attached. Said position shall replace the current position of Talent & Professional Development Supervisor.

(Clerk’s note: Mayor Neil M. O’Leary vetoed the above action on May 22, 2014)

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: I asked this to be removed from Consent because I want to explain that I won't be supporting the creating of the position in light of the fact we won't be posting the position for opening. It goes against, it's a new position, it has new duties, it's got an increase in salary and I think it's a disservice to the district to not post it. This is not about any one individual, it's about the position itself and the continuing of a precedent, or setting of a precedent, whichever it is, that we create a position and we slide someone into it without posting it for a competitive process. I realize it's not a Civil Service position but it's still a significant position in the City, it's an expensive position in the City, and it should be posted.

STANGO: Any other discussion? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: I just want to say that we have done this in the past with our Chief Operating Officer Paul Guidone, Chief Academic Officer. This position, and the person, you're saying we're not talking about persons but, has been the person we have slated for this position has been performing this position, performing five jobs literally before we have been able to vote on this. I think it would be a big disservice to that person for us not to vote this in so I will be voting in favor of it. I fully respect Commissioner Awwad's feelings but, and there's time to look at that perhaps in the future, but this is going right along with what we have been doing all along for our very, very top officials, very close to the Superintendent. So I think we should maintain that so I will be voting for this. Thank you.

STANGO: Further discussion? Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Just to add to Commissioner Harvey, I will be supporting this because it's been part of our Central Office reorganization, it's been well thought out, it's been part of our Blueprint, and I think that it's a much needed position regardless of the title. I just think that we came into this district, I know when I came into office there was a real lack of staff in Central Office, it was barebones, things, we had the Human Resource Research Plan, and really said wow, we are so behind the eight ball in terms of management and being able to run a district this size. So I am in favor of it and I think a lot of, there's a lot of background to this as well as I think the current staff, it's more of a lateral move, to me, rather than a brand new position, I think it's more of a new title. So I will be supporting it.

STANGO: Anyone else for discussion on that. Seeing none – all in favor, opposed.

AWWAD: No.

McENTEE: No.

STANGO: Two "no's".

11.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, it was voted unanimously to approve the job specifications for, and new position of, Manager, Labor Relations – Education, as attached.

(Clerk's note: Mayor Neil M. O'Leary vetoed the above action on May 22, 2014)

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Discussion? Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: This one I would just like some clarification on the record. This is a Civil Service position that will be posted?

GUIDONE: Yes it will be.

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

13. COMMITTEE ON BUILDING

13.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the filing of a grant application (ED049), in the total amount of \$49,646,125.00 for the proposed East End Elementary School Project, as attached.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion on that? Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: I'd just like to say that the amount that is being proposed today is a revised amount based on the discussion at the Workshop last week. The original amount proposed was \$51,300,000.00. After discussion with staff, many items were reduced; specifically we are removing the photovoltaic roof panels for \$546,147.00, that's one of the biggest ones. We've reduced project management fees and architectural fees. The total amount that's reduced from last week's budget is about 1.7 million dollars. We also voted in the Building Committee to move this forward with the caveat that we would be looking at the architectural proposal and trying to mitigate the costs as much as possible by looking at other templates for our new schools and also looking at other ways for energy efficiency to be obtained as we move forward. So with that, and I think basically the other issue is this has been an eight year project we've been looking at, we've looked at the Wallace Middle School site, we've looked at the Hamilton Avenue site, and I think the need has been clearly outlined. We have had an increase in population in the student body of over 2,000 students over the past five or six years, there's been discussion of, we have a 20 year plan of really moving to the pre-k to eight scenario for neighborhood schools that the community wanted, this is part of a broader school construction project that we've been embarking on with Gilmartin, Carrington, and Duggan, and new Career Academy so this is the last school on the drawing board. And I particularly feel that the East End needs a school and we shouldn't stop. We need to do a better job of educating the public because I don't think that they understand the need for this school and the population and that you just can't change. Our middle school population has not been reduced but we are just treading water here in trying to meet the needs of the student. We don't have one free classroom in any of our schools and I just think this is needed and I really urge the Committee to move this forward. Thank you.

STANGO: Any further discussion? Commissioner Van Stone and then Vice President Harvey.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President. I think our challenges we threw out to the team last week netting almost 1.7 million is a nice feat. I applaud them, I continue to challenge them through the process in both looking at the way we're going to move forward on this project as well as when we start negotiations but I think in just one week time to show the public that we have looked and found some savings and it's not easy when you really look in the weeds on this budget. There's things to be looked at, there's still a few more golden nuggets but I applaud the group for finding some savings so thank you.

STANGO: Vice President Harvey and then Commissioner Awwad.

HARVEY: I think that as we move forward with this I will be voting for this with trepidation but I think we need to just keep in mind where the public is coming from on this and I'm sure we will hear from them because there is a hearing that we have scheduled, we will also have a joint meeting with the Board of Aldermen. The public is looking at this as how this will affect their taxes. So I want to make sure that we're doing the responsible thing in making sure that we're looking at all avenues, all things that we can look at to bring this school to the East End. I don't think there's any debate as far as whether or not we need the school, I think it's just what school and how we're going to do that and which plan. Now Mr. Guidone in the Building Committee meeting said this was Plan "D" so I just hope we just keep in mind these concerns that the public has. And, again, I will urge the public to come out to the hearing and to express how they feel about this. But if there's any other way that we can cut some costs moving forward, I hope we will continue to do so. Thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner Awwad.

(tape ended)

AWWAD: . . . few days before the election and I'll tell you that it's been a long time coming for the East End residents. The students out there deserve the ability to uncrowd Chase School, they deserve an appropriate learning environment, and I think the East End has waited long enough and it's time for us to deliver. I do, again, as I raised before, have great concerns about the cost of the building. I understand that for whatever happened we waited and the cost has escalated. We had a good dialogue with the Building Committee and the folks from O & G about costs. I still hope that we take under serious consideration the opportunity to not recreate testaments to architectural wonders that we look at like furniture and keep things as trim as possible without impacting the kids' experience. But as somebody said, or I read it someplace, it isn't about what the building looks like, it's about what goes on inside it. And so I would again encourage us to be diligent as the things come forward to us in the future. We're going to go across to the Board of Aldermen and probably have a bit of a dialogue and a bit of a challenge convincing them of the things we know and I hope that we're all together on that page convincing them this is in fact the right thing to do and we should bond the money to give the citizens of the East End of the City the same thing that the other residents of the City have, the ability to send their children to. Thank you.

STANGO: Anyone else? Seeing none – roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #13.1:

Yeas: Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, McEntee, Rodriguez,
T. Van Stone, and President Stango – 7

13.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve of the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed East End Elementary School Project.

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

13.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve of the formation of a Building Committee for the proposed East End Elementary School Project. Such Committee shall consist of Jason Van Stone, Elizabeth C. Brown, Patrick J. Hayes, Jr., Karen E. Harvey, and Thomas Van Stone, Sr.

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

13.4 Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the Educational Specifications for the proposed East End Elementary School Project, as attached.

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

14. COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES

14.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Rodriguez and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, with Commissioner McEntee voting “no”, to approve that WTA Grievance 13-14-09, heard by the Committee on May 6, 2014, be DENIED.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Yes, Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Could we hear some of the details of this grievance please.

RODRIGUEZ: A grievance was presented to us by Mary Lou Rose in reference to a letter submitted to her during her transfer to Enlightenment School and in that letter there were three areas of improvement that was highlighted in that letter dated February 19 and the three areas of improvement was 1) classroom safety; 2) classroom management; and 3) effective communication with staff, students, and parents. Mrs. Lou Rose had filed a grievance stating that this letter was disciplinary in nature and the Committee had this conversation during our Grievance Hearing as well as Mrs. Rose

being present and a WTA representative being present and we felt as a Committee that this letter was not disciplinary in nature. Thank you.

HARVEY: So what is it that we're doing?

RODRIGUEZ: The recommendation is to deny the grievance, that the letter stays as it's written.

STANGO: Any further discussion? All in favor, opposed.

McENTEE: No.

STANGO: One no.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to add to the agenda the following field trip requests:

- Item #A1: Field trip request of Anthony Mango, Wilby High School.
- Item #A2: Field trip request of Reina Irizarry and Emanuel Martinez, Wilby High School.
- Item #A3: Field trip request of Luanne Rosin-Capolupo, Kennedy High School.
- Item #A4: Field trip request of Karlyn Thompson, Kennedy High School.
- Item #A5: Field trip request of Dino Pantoni, Kennedy High School.
- Item #A6: Field trip request of Doree Makl, Crosby High School.

STANGO: All in favor, opposed. We have added those items to the Agenda.

A1. Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the field trip request of Anthony Mango, Wilby High School, and four chaperones to take 50 students to Providence and Newport, RI on June 6, 2014 to visit Johnson & Wales University, Breakers Mansion, and Canfield House Restaurant.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Is there a reason why we didn't receive these earlier?

BROWN: My understanding is that the paperwork was just not done on time and the next meeting will be too late.

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

A2. Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the field trip request of Reina Irizarry and Emanuel Martinez, Wilby High School, and one chaperone to take 24 students to New York, NY from June 6 through 7, 2014 to visit Ellis Island, Statute of Liberty, and Natural History Museum.

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

A3. Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the field trip request of Luanne Rosin-Capolupo, Kennedy High School, and four chaperones to take 50 students to New York, NY on May 27, 2014 to visit the Intrepid Museum.

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

A4. Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the field trip request of Karlyn Thompson, Kennedy High School, and four chaperones to take 42 students to New York, NY, on June 4, 2014.

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

A5. Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the field trip request of Dino Pantoni, Kennedy High School, and six chaperones to take 40 students to Agawam, MA on May 31, 2014 to visit Six Flags New England.

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

A6. Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve the field trip request of Doree Makl, Crosby High School, and one chaperone to take 20 students to New York, NY on May 27, 2014 to visit the Tenement Museum.

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

15. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner McEntee, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 15.1 through 15.12, Superintendent's Notification to the Board, as listed:

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

Tim St. Pierre	Jillian Cipriano	Susan Field
Ricardo Gibson	Byron Danziger	Joseph Bandurski

15.2 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:
Regan, Brittany – Behavior Technician, CHS, \$40,000 annually, non-union position with benefits governed by the UPSEU, funded by Turnaround Funds.

Serrano-Palazzo, Maria – Family Intervention Specialist, ECEP, \$30,000 annually, non-union with benefits governed by the UPSEU, funded by Title I.

15.3 Rotella Magnet School's Summer School Program appointments, salary according to individuals' contract:

Poulin, Mark – Network Specialist, entire summer, 35 hours per week.
Michaud, Bryan – A/V Tech, July 7-31, four hours per day.

15.4 Waterbury Arts Magnet School's Summer School Program appointments, salary according to individual's contract:

Administrator - Newmark, Cathi	Paraprofessional - Harris, Toni
Teachers: Bosman, Ana	Gumbulevich, Jeanette
Haxhi, Rami	Leblanc, Michele
Maxen, Heather	Post, Bruce
Schulte, Scott	Spescha, Michael
Thompson, Brigid	Vagnini, Marianna

15.5 Pre-kindergarten Summer School Program appointments, salary according to individual's contract, funded by the Alliance Grant:

<u>Teachers:</u>	<u>Teacher Assistants:</u>	<u>ECEP Bus Drivers:</u>
Jean Lyons	Ivana Vega	Ana Rivera
Jennifer Miller	Janet Beaudoin	Babbette Rodriguez
Karen Sullivan	Janice Finke	Ivelissa Agosto
Katie Vensel	Jeanette Sinclair-Shaw	Laura Guarino
Maureen Giuffre	Maritza Morales	Leticia Irizarry
Jill Murphy Gilmore	Yolanda Velez	

Coaches:

Gina Morrisroe	Karen Hanas
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15.6 CSI Summer Middle School Forensic Science Summer Program appointments contingent upon enrollment, salary according to individual's contract:

Theresa Matthews	Jocelyn Person
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15.7 Summer School appointments contingent upon enrollment, salary according to individual's contract:

Site-Administrators:

Gilmartin – Robin Henry	Duggan – Melissa Gugliotti
Reed – Diurca Tomasella	Rotella Soar To Success – Jennifer Egan
Carrington – Claudia Biello	Maloney – Donna Cullen
Rotella Integrated – Ellen Paolino	Bucks Hill – Ann Begley/Donna Phoenix

Lead Teachers

Gilmartin – Jennifer Deeley	Duggan - Kristen Gaudiosi
Reed – Stephanie Rock	Carrington – JoAnne Piccirillo

Teachers – Carrington:

Albino, Christine	Bisaillon, Bret	Cardella, Rachel
Cavanaugh, Karen	Davino, Melissa	DePalma, Valerie
Fleming, Sonya	Gay, Rebecca	Giacomi, Elizabeth
Greene, Cathleen	Kontulis Trentacosta, Krista	Lanouette, Cody

Liguz, Anna
Parks, Eric

Lindquist, Marlene

Maghini, Michele

Teachers – Duggan:

Abarzua, Lauren
Brown, Roberta
DeSanto, Christine
Gaudiosi Angurio, Karen
Kalita, Jackie
McCasland, Maureen
Perez, Josefa
Weed, Stephanie

Bachman, Jennifer
Card, Katherine
Dika, Flora
Lee DiBella
Martinelli, Terri
Moffo, Laurie
Scursso, Laurie

Brittingham, Michele
Crane, Evan
Finkenzeller, Frances
Homewood, Gregory
Matarazzo, Kristen
Ouellette, Fran
Walent, Cheyenne

Teachers – Gilmartin:

Capobianco, Marnee
Diorio, Christine
Grasso, Courtney
Maldonado, Joanne
Quatrano, Diane
Wells, Kelley

Dauscher, Anne
Donnarumma, Caroline
Justs, Patricia
Mosher, Judith
Tracy, Andrew

DiBella, Lisa
Evans-Foster, Shernett
Macharelli, Kara
Polletta, Lori
Trudeau, Lorraine

Teachers – Rotella:

Ciuffo, Anthony
Harisi, Vanesa
Parks, Michele
Tasimi, Doruntina

Coughlin, Timothy
Harrison, Rebecca
Rybczyk, Christy

Della Camera, Ashley
Manning, Amy
Strumi, Manuela

Teachers – Reed:

Albizu, Cindy
Canady, Chakisha
Gomez, Bridgette
Ijomah, Kathryn
Vega, Betzaida
Zuheill, Aviles

Bala, Elana
Dojnia, Melissa
Greene, David
Lopez, Doreen
Weber, Ashley

Blake, Zita
Fernandez, Andrea
Hosking, Elizabeth
Sheetz, Lucia
Zabin, Tracy

Teachers – Bucks Hill:

Drewry, Megan
Corbo, Cherie
Cichowlaz, Kaja

Brown, Susan
Cicone, Melissa
Damon, Alison

Montes, Michelle
Nemense, Lisa
Sconziano, Jessica

15.8 Grade 5 to Grade 6 Summer Transition Program appointments dependent upon student enrollment, salary according to individual's contract:

Debra Devito	English/LA	Kathleen Ferrucci	English/LA
Tanya Hudobenko	English/LA	Sybil Wynne P. Jones	English/LA
Catherine Leogrande	English/LA	Geralyn Mastrianni	English/LA
Kara Mazurek	English/LA	Lori Medina	English/LA
Jacqueline Nadeau	English/LA	Natasha Rivera	English/LA
Lucille Spinelli	English/LA	Christina Stolfi	English/LA
Brian Sullivan	English/LA	Kaycee Baransky	Mathematics
Ronald Brandes	Mathematics	Lisa Camilleri	Mathematics
Stephanie Cole	Mathematics	Michelle Bramble	Mathematics
Kara Macharelli	Mathematics	Terri Martinelli	Mathematics
Wesley Miller	Mathematics		

15.9 Grade 8 to Grade 9 Summer Transition Program appointments dependent upon student enrollment, salary according to individual's contract:

Anthony Caruso	English/LA		
Diana Lawrence	English/LA	Krista Ormai	English/LA
Lucille Spinelli	English/LA	Christina Stolfi	English/LA
Brian Sullivan	English/LA	Kara Sullivan	English/LA
Kristin Winstanley	English/LA	Kaycee Baransky	Mathematics
Stephanie Cole	Mathematics	Jennifer Franceskino	Mathematics
Nikoleta Kollchaku	Mathematics	Mark Palladino	Mathematics
Brigitt Szwaba	Mathematics	Antonio Ursino	Mathematics

15.10 High School Summer School appointments dependent upon student enrollment, salary according to individual's contract:

Danielle Durso	English/LA	Lauren Franks-Blanchard	English/LA
Emily Griffin	English/LA	Robert Jeffrey Maley	English/LA
Christopher Murphy	English/LA	Krista Ormai	English/LA
Stephen Rossi	English/LA	Marnie Valletta	English/LA
Elena Cumbo	PE/Health	Kaycee Baransky	Mathematics
Marlena Scialla	Mathematics	Carly Sullivan	Mathematics
Elizabeth Bartley	Science	Laura Borges	Science
Ira Caplan	Science	Gilman Cyr	Science
Kathy Gaydosh	Science	Donald Lafayette	Science
Jocelyn Person	Science	Christine Perugini	Science
Alan Piccolo	Science	Benjola Shule-Sejdaras	Science
Brenda Washington	Science	Tracy Armstrong	Social Studies
Jeanine Bazzano	Social Studies	Ira Caplan	Social Studies
Jahana Hayes	Social Studies	Cazzie Iverson	Social Studies
Shea Moriarty	Social Studies	Christopher Sarlo	Social Studies
Michael Veronneau	Social Studies	Tracy King	Spanish
Robert Lopez	Spanish	Maria L. Rodriguez	Secretary

15.11 Teacher new hires:

Name		Location	Assignment	Grade/Step	Effective
Richardson	Melissa	Crosby	English	MA/1	03/18/14
Hicock	Robyn	Kennedy	English	MA/1	03/18/14
Miller	Keisha	Crosby	Social Worker	6 th /1	05/05/14

15.12 Retirements:

Apicella, Robyn – Principal, WHS, effective June 30, 2014.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. That will be items 15.1 through 15.12. All in favor, opposed, motion carries.

SUPERINTENDENT: I would just like to once again remark about Item #15.12 in recognition of Ms. Robyn Apicella. For over three decades Robyn Apicella has graced Waterbury Public Schools with her talents and dedication. She saw it as a privilege to serve the families and children of Waterbury. Robyn began as a Math teacher and

while she served in several administrative capacities for the district she is always and always will be a teacher. The families with whom she worked began as acquaintances became her partners in education and eventually they became her friends. Her role as she always perceived it was to be the voice for the children until the children could find their own voices. After that her mission became listening carefully to the messages the children sent and doing everything possible to ensure that their hopes and dreams were embedded in her work. She has indicated in our conversation that she has always found the messages from her students to be comprehensive in scope, creative in design, and compassionate in nature. She has now decided to listen from a distance and so her retirement is at hand. Robyn, on behalf of the Commissioners and myself, we thank you for your years of dedication to the Waterbury Schools and to the community and especially to Wilby High School. You will be missed but your legacy will remain. As your retirement begins I can only wish you the most of what you want in retirement will be the least of what you get. Thank you.

STANGO: Certainly we echo those thoughts. Item #16 – Unfinished Business of the Preceding Meeting Only. Anything on that? Seeing none – Item #17 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Vice President Harvey and then Commissioner Van Stone and then Commissioner Rodriguez and then Commissioner McEntee.

HARVEY: I just want to echo, I'll have more to say about Principal Robyn Apicella but she informed me that she wanted to retire, I don't think she's gonna be retiring, she'll retire from what her position is now but she will still be in the works, in the means of things with education. I'm just gonna tell you this, this is a big loss to the district in terms of wisdom, but I think she will stay in touch with us and again I just hate to see, I saw Wilby when she arrived where she has taken Wilby and where Wilby is now and again it's gonna be a big loss but I'm sure she will be available to help us out.

I just wanted to make mention to the Board of a scholarship banquet that was held in the community recognizing some folks here in our district. The first one I'm gonna mention is a former Commissioner Thelma Williams, this was an event that was given by the National Congress of Black Women and this was last week this was given and Thelma Williams, who, again, a former Commissioner during the 90's was awarded the 2014 Shirley Chisholm Award for all of her service that she has given not only to the Waterbury School District but also just to the Waterbury community in general and it was well deserved. The next award that was given was an education award and that was given to Jade Gopie who is our Vice Principal at Crosby High School and that was given for her work that she has done in this school district and what she is doing now so I congratulate her. We also had a community service award given to Officer Edwin Soto for the work that he is doing in our school district. So we congratulate him on his award. We also had J & J Inc. of which half of that partnership is Jeffrey A. Hunter who not only is the reigning Black Mayor for the Day but also oversees our transportation department. He and his partner received an award for all that they do in the community. So congratulations there. We also had a scholarship given to Ms. Nichols. Ms. Nichols is a senior at Crosby High School, that was a pleasant surprise, we always here about what's going on at Crosby somewhat negatively but there are things that are going on positively at Crosby and one of them is this young lady receiving a scholarship so I want to congratulate her as well.

Now, I know that we, the 22nd we do not have a Workshop but I will send this request in the form of an email. I know that I asked for some oversight on the report from WAMS in regards to the NEASC, so I hope we could do that for our next Workshop. And I hope also that we will have someone here from Corporation Counsel to talk about FOI rules, if we can book that that will be great. And I think that ends it for me.

STANGO: Vice President Harvey, the FOI was scheduled for last workshop but Corporation Counsel could not make it so that certainly is coming.

T. VAN STONE: I would like to know in the coming weeks if we could find out, I saw in the paper there was an event last night at the Career Academy and I don't recall that coming through the Committee on School Facilities and Grounds so I would like to know if that came before us, if it did I do not remember it and neither do a couple of other Commissioners I talked to. So I would like to go back into the records and see if that did come before the Committee and then of course before the Board. Thank you.

MCENTEE: Several months ago when we raised the compensation for the substitute teachers we were going to have a report to show what kind of impact it might have had on our ability to obtain the subs that we need and I was wondering if that report was forthcoming?

SUPERINTENDENT: Yes, we can do that.

MCENTEE: And also we had discussed I think in the Building Committee about with the methadone clinic and the gun shops opening up near the schools we were going to discuss I think maybe a joint meeting with the Board of Zoning or we could maybe have the Corporation Counsel come to a Workshop about whether we could change those zoning laws and I haven't heard anything on that.

STANGO: We were going to kind of see what the Board of Aldermen were doing. You have a good memory Mr. McEntee. Yes, we will look into that.

RODRIGUEZ: Thank you President Stango, through you, so I got this pamphlet, we all got this pamphlet, for Waterbury Career Academy, the student and parent orientation which seems like a wonderful place to be but unfortunately it appears it conflicts with our joint meeting with the Board of Aldermen so I was wondering one, is it being rescheduled because a lot of our Commissioners here appear to be conducting some remarks or speaking and then secondly, I'm not trying to be the typo police but we have here, it's May 2014, and I'm not sure who's responsible for it, but we have listed Jose Morales as a Board of Education Commissioner when in fact it's been over five or six months and we should be including our colleague who tends to contribute quite often, Cathy Awwad in his place. So I would hope that someone really look at this carefully before they start producing and distributing to folks because it's really important that credit is given to folks that are really active and contributing. Thank you.

STANGO: I'm sure it was an oversight; we will talk to Dr. Padua and make sure that that's straightened out. Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: I have a couple of things. First of all I saw the same thing; I have two things that I just wanted to let you know. This is a picture of a young man, his name is Orlando

Alejandro Ortega and he's a product of our Adult Ed system. He dropped out of our local high schools, went to Adult Ed, and he is now completing a Workforce Investment Act Program at Naugatuck Valley Community College and will be leaving for the University of South Carolina to major in chemistry on a full ride in the fall and at the graduation when we see a number of our Crosby, Wilby, Kennedy College Connection students walk across the stage to get their certificates in Advanced Manufacturing, before they get their high school diplomas I might add, this young man will be receiving the President's Medal of Honor for his successes. So when we talk about the products, and Commissioner Harvey's point is well taken, there's a lot of good that goes on and there's a lot of talent in this district that we tend to forget about. And in that same vein, the only other thing I just wanted to mention was not many of the Commissioners knew and I happened to find out by accident but a week ago Wednesday there was an amazing event at the Palace Theater that we forgot to mention. Crystal Taliefero who is a percussionist, sound engineer, and performs in the touring band with Billy Joel presented five of her associates took the time to watch our kids come on stage and perform for a four-hour period. I know at one point the Superintendent came and joined her on stage with the Mayor, but I wanted to give recognition to the people in the district that pulled that off. It was Ray Santovasi, Gina Pisani Loomis, Heidi Doolan, and Kevin Egan are four of the people that know that had months and months of work that they put into having our kids there. Carrie won't tell you but Dallas Swain performed on the stage at the Palace Theater and did a duet with a young lady from Crosby that was phenomenal and it was really an opportunity, we had our bands there, we had our drum lines there, we had students singing, we had kids from the middle school playing the piano and singing John Legend's current hit that I swear if you closed your eyes you thought John Legend was on the stage. So not enough gets said about the good things that our district does and I know I'm all about basketball from November to March but the arts that we have in our community and the children and the talent that they have really, it was an amazing thing. I believe it was videotaped and I would encourage all of you to sit down. It's probably three hours long but it was, you didn't realize it was three hours long, it was a tremendous thing and I just wanted to let everybody know how wonderful it was and that those folks from the district that took that time and the commitment that this woman showed to come and spend that kind of time and bring some of her colleagues, I don't believe it was at any expense to the district for their time and talent, it was just a wonderful day.

STANGO: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Now that you sparked all the good things Commissioner Awwad I just wanted to let everybody know that our School Readiness community has really stepped up to the plate and we are now serving, we are at 99% capacity. We had some setbacks earlier on in the year where we weren't able to fill the slots but everybody really stepped up to the plate – our providers, our school district, and I have to say we're 99% filled given many, many children over 1,000, I think we're up to almost 1,500 kids, the opportunity for preschool in the Waterbury area. So we're very excited about that.

STANGO: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: I'm not trying to prolong the meeting but I honestly don't think we gave justice to Commissioner Awwad's announcement of that young man who went to Adult

Ed and is getting a full ride to University of South Carolina. I think that deserves a round of applause from the Board.

(applause)

RODRIGUEZ: Thank you for sharing that with us, that is so important.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

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