

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Maloney Magnet School, 233 South Elm Street, Waterbury, Connecticut

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Sweeney.

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

SILENT PRAYER

President Stango called the special meeting to order at 7:58 p.m. with a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

President Stango led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Awwad

AWWAD: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

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

J. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here. For the record, Commissioner Sweeney is out of state and will not be attending this evening.

1. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- 1.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the Department of Education's 2015/2016 Operating Budget totaling \$171,501,340 (\$155,625,000/Board of Aldermen adopted appropriation; \$11,501,340/Alliance Year 4; \$2,200,000/Alliance Year 3; \$1,000,000/2014-15 surplus; \$675,000/2013-14 surplus; and \$500,000 non-lapsing contingency).**

STANGO: Motions been made and seconded. Discussion. Commissioner Tom Van Stone and then Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President. First off I would like to thank Central Office, I know for the creativity . . . and going behind the scenes and making this work, meetings with the State and so forth and piecing this together as well as you did. With that, what I'll add to that is for those talents we're going to miss you so thank you very much.

I've struggled with my vote tonight, there's some points in the final budget that obviously I've been vocal about and it still bothers me mainly the Palace Theater. I think we can do something a little different, the way the itemized dollars came to us, I did the math quickly, 70% just went to the administration of the Palace Theater or clean up folks or the ticket agents. With that said I think, and I also said this last year . . . is that I thought we needed to come together as a group and put forward on a positive note so right up until last night I was going to be voting no on this but for the reasons I just stated I will give my yes vote on this tonight. Thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

JASON VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President, through you, I also want to extend my thanks to the Superintendent, Mr. Guidone, Ms. Biolo, and all the staff who put in countless hours and the almost continual updates and sometimes non-guidance to the State, so thank you for doing that. I want to thank the members of the Committee who put in more committee minutes than I ever experienced on this Board. I want to thank you each for all of your hard work and all the members of the Board who pretty much sat through all of those committee meetings as well, I do appreciate it. This budget is not perfect, I don't think anyone pretends it is, but I think it is a solid document we put together to address the vast needs of this district. That being said, July 1 we need to start working on next year's budget immediately, it's, to a degree we're always chasing our tail, costs are escalating, revenues not as quickly and there's still a number of things that I know members of this Board, members of Central Office want that, at least as of today, we cannot afford. So I'll be supporting this budget tonight with the understanding that we still need to keep working to make sure that this process is an ongoing one and that we can continue to do our . . . best to make sure that we fund the schools properly too to make sure we take care of the obligations to our children and at the same time we are doing so in a most efficient manner to make sure we're taking care of the concerns of the taxpayers. So thank you all for your work.

STANGO: Anything further? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Yes, I too want to echo what has been said, thanking the Superintendent Paul, and staff for all the work that you've done on this. I want to also, thank the, as Commissioner Van Stone has said, thank the Finance Committee and the Board for working on this because we did spend a lot of time working on this and I hope that next year, which I don't think is going to be any easier, that we can hopefully work together positively, work with the City, with the Mayor, on this budget. I was a little taken back by some of the things said in the paper in regards to the work that we were doing so it was a little disheartening. I am pleased that we are not going to have the layoffs as anticipated, please with that, but I also believe, as I've stated before, that we on a yearly basis need to look at things such as what we pay for the Palace Theater and Mattatuck Museum for work that they do. So I just think that we need to constantly be on-guard about that and to constantly audit those figures. So with that, I will be voting yes on this budget. Thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Thank you. I am a little sad that we had to take out the Night School; I know the numbers weren't great for a lot of people but we did have, out of the 37 seniors, 35 graduated on time. I'm just hoping maybe that we could revisit Night School. Mostly every other city in the State of Connecticut does have a night school and I just can't, we have 18,000 plus students in the City of Waterbury and I really wish that we could still continue with night school. So I will support the budget but hopefully we could look into maybe not as big a magnitude as it had once been but look into doing something because I spoke with someone today and they were really kind of sad that we weren't having night school because a lot of students were anticipating attending night school this coming school year. So I'm a little sad about that and I hope that we could visit it again and maybe work something out because I would hate to see what is going to happen to those people that aren't able to get to school for whatever reason and not have an opportunity to be able to attend a night class in its place. Thank you.

STANGO: Thank you. Anything further?

SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. President, I'd just like to comment on Commissioner Hernandez's remarks. We do have an obligation for 30 juniors that are in the night program so we are looking at some type of transition to assist them. We do have an obligation to transition them . . . reviewing that.

STANGO: Anything further? We will have a roll call on that please.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #1.1:

Yeas: Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, Hernandez, Rodriguez,
J. Van Stone, T. Van Stone, and President Stango – 8
Nays: Commissioner McEntee – 1

CLERK: Eight/one.

1.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve Amendment Number 1 to Lease with Manufacturing Alliance Service Corporation, Inc.

for property located at 173 Interstate Lane, for the Adult Education's Manufacturing/Technical Center.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Discussion? Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

TOM VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President. This is something that Commissioner Awwad and I have worked on the Committee to try to enhance the usage of this building. The Committee kind of, over the last few meetings, have leaned a little more towards the curriculum at the Career Academy because that also had to be done and we really don't have a charter but we look at that as well. So I would like to look forward to better utilization of the building, I know we do have presence there and I think we just need to promote it maybe a little better, not necessarily just us but also the City of Waterbury and get better use. It may not be the best equipment in the facility but certainly the students that go through there are being taught a good trade to go back out into the public. So I look forward, with Commissioner Awwad, to continue the program. Thank you.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to convene into Executive Session for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee at 8:10 p.m.

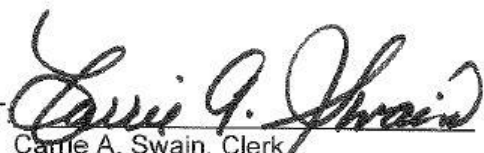
Present: President Stango, Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, Hernandez, McEntee, Rodriguez, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone. Also present was Mr. Guidone.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Awwad, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business 8:43 p.m. with no votes taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.

ATTEST


Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education