

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Brown, Commissioners Harvey, Hernandez, Pagano, Rodriguez, Sweeney, Theriault, J. Van Stone (6:36 p.m.), and T. Van Stone.

ABSENT: Commissioner Stango.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Kathleen Ouellette and Director of Personnel Robert Brenker.

1. SILENT PRAYER

President Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with a moment of silence.

SUPERINTENDENT: In our moment of silence this evening let us remember Mr. Louis Ruggiero who passed away on Sunday, April 17. Mr. Ruggiero was a math and business teacher in the Waterbury Public School System for 32 years at Crosby High School retiring in 1988. He was a committed member of the staff and took pride every day in his work and was a tremendous asset to all the students. Let us remember Luis Ruggiero and recognize his service and dedication to the students at Crosby High School tonight.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez.

HERNANDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Pagano.

PAGANO: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Stango (absent). Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Jason Van Stone (arrived at 6:36 p.m.). Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Brown.

BROWN: Here.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Copy of communication dated April 7, 2016 from Civil Service certifying Nicol Warren for the position of Food Service Worker.
2. Civil summons dated April 8, 2016 regarding Tina Cruz versus City of Waterbury.
3. Communication dated April 11, 2016 from Wendi Kowarik regarding Notice of Intention to Make Claim.
4. Communication dated April 11, 2016 from Sean Mosley supporting the naming of Waterbury Career Academy's media center in honor of Catherine "Kay" Wyrick.
5. Copy of communication dated April 12, 2016 from Civil Service certifying Xiomara Martinez for the position of Lunch Aide.
6. Copy of communication dated April 12, 2016 from Civil Service certifying Tawana Jackson for the position of Paraprofessional.
7. Copy of communication dated April 15, 2016 from Civil Service certifying Barbara Kazlauskas for the position of Food Service Helper.
8. Copy of communication dated April 19, 2016 from Civil Service certifying William McEntee for the position of Painter II.
9. Copy of communication dated April 19, 2016 from Civil Service certifying Laqueshia McKenna for the position of Paraprofessional.
10. Email communication dated May 3, 2016 from Maria Giordano in support of naming the Waterbury Career Academy's media center in honor of Catherine "Kay" Wyrick.

BROWN: We also received a communication from James Sanders in support of the naming of Waterbury Career Academy in honor of Kay Warwick. Discussion. All those in favor, opposed, abstain, motion carries.

5. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney 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.

BROWN: Discussion. All those in favor, opposed, motion carries.

Joyce Petteway, 1680 Meriden Road, had the following comments: I was just sitting here thinking oh, I used to sit up there too. Well, you know what, it's a lot of hard work that you have to do and I realize that and I want to say to all of you thank you for your service, week in, week out, meeting in, meeting out, it's a hard job but when you're committed to civic and public service it's really not a job to you.

I'm here tonight speaking in honor and recognition of someone's life. That someone is Kay Wyrick. I don't know how many of you here already know her but if you knew her and if she called you, she would call you on Sunday morning to talk about something that was going on in the community and when you picked up the phone she would say "hey, coo". I don't know how many of you remember that but everybody was her friend and she really, really was sincere. When someone dedicates its life for the betterment of mankind they really, really need to be recognized, the same way we've recognized John F. Kennedy, John F. Kennedy High School. Lately Crosby High School, Nick Augelli, years and years of service and working with the community and the list goes on and on and on for that work that they do tirelessly they should be recognized.

A name on the library means much, she gave so much to the youth in our community, she gave so much to the community. A lot of lives were changed because of Kay Wyrick. Now in our community you have police officers, you have educators, you have CEO's, you have business people, you have attorneys, you have elected officials. And I must tell you Kay Wyrick was the creator or the founder of the Greater Waterbury National Congress of Black Women and that's a national organization and Kay started that organization and she had a really, really big influence on me. As a matter of fact that's how I got my start in civic engagement through Kay Wyrick. She always encouraged us and mostly women to get involved in your community and the organization of course is an organization that educates women on the importance of being involved, it educates women on how to run for office and it encourages women to run for office. I don't know how many of you remember Debra Lewis, she was an Alderman here in Waterbury. Debbie got her start from Kay Wyrick and I must give Kay the glory because she was the reason that I started in my journey of public service, what it means to be involved in civic activity, Kay really, really, really did show us that purpose. She worked with the youth an awful lot. She worked with the youth in educating them on how important it was to have good behavior, how important it was to go to school, stay in school and get your education. She educated the children on how important it was to have good behavior. And so many, many other things. So it is really fitting and proper that in our education halls at the Career Academy in Waterbury that her name be placed in a library where all the knowledge is through education. I think that her name should be put on that library because she should go down in history. Kay Wyrick was a warrior, an activist, and I'd like to say she crossed the street, she wasn't just for black folks, she was for everybody. And a lot of people have become good, law abiding citizens, politically active citizens, because of the influence of Kay Wyrick. You know you're sitting there and you're sitting there with a purpose and as an elected official, an experienced elected official, I can tell you when you have to make decisions the first decisions that comes in your mind is usually the right decision until you're interrupted by other's opinions and that type of thing. But usually when you're in service and you're committed and you're really sincere, that first thought that comes to mind is the right thought. I hope the first thought that comes to your mind moving forward is to put Kay Wyrick's name on that library in our beautiful Career Academy. Thank you.

Danielle Albert, 93 Kelsey Street, had the following comments: My search for information on talented and gifted programs began back in December as my third grade daughter was recommended for the National Youth Leadership Forum Pathways to STEM. I thought how fabulous, she's finally being recognized for being a such a smart

cookie. Sadly it was in Boston and cost a significant amount of money so she was unable to attend. I spoke with her teacher about other potential extra learning opportunities, to both of our dismays there were none other than the FOCUS and TAG Programs I heard about over the years. So I began to look into what specific program is available in our City to our top five percenters as I believe Commissioner Van Stone has referred. What I found was outdated information on FOCUS and TAG that included Dr. Sequeira's contact information. I then went to Mrs. Marold who then directed me to Bob Delaney. It was quite the roller coaster ride. Mr. Delaney was helpful and referred me to Michele Valenti as she is the FOCUS instructor at Gilmartin. During this process I became very irritated as to why this information was so difficult to find. I reached out to Michele via email, we discussed the selection process of children, class sizes and I was told the CogAT who are the initial assessment exams were given in the spring. I was disappointed that there were no clear program or curriculum descriptions available but most important when I asked how is this program advertised to parents I was told "I don't know". I thought best to wait to spring to follow-up so I did in March. I reached out again to Michele for additional information. I don't know if I became too much of an annoyance because I was referred to a link on the website. I was not very pleased. I had a parent approach me on the playground and state that she too was having similar difficulties finding any information on programs for strong learners. So I brought it up at our April School Governance Council Meeting at a table which included the building administrators. I explained the runaround I got and I asked what do we know about talented and gifted and how do parents know about this. Guess what the answer was - "I don't know". I was told there would be follow-up and as of today, a month later, I have none. We've been at Gilmartin for over three years and not once have I seen a flyer go home, information at open houses, conferences, no information sessions about Talented and Gifted have been provided – nothing. I hope that you can all understand my frustration because no one seems to know anything. And I have to be clear, this is not an attempt to place fault on anyone, it's just another system flaw that exists in this City and now it's affecting our most exceptional learners. Three years ago my eldest daughter was fortunate enough to participate in the Olympics of the Mind. Every so often I'll see her walking around the house with the medal she received just for being chosen to participate. Isn't that sense of pride something that this City should be reinforcing in all of our children? The Olympics of the Mind was an exceptional idea but it disappeared right along with Dr. Sequeira. It is my understanding that Talented and Gifted, exceptional learners in this City fall under the same umbrella as special education and pupil services. Are the exceptional learners now being cheated because there's not proper staffing, funding, or oversight? Speaking honestly if there was proper oversight to these programs I would have never been told the words "I don't know". This district is consumed with children that have such excessive social service needs on one end of the spectrum yet are we investing the same amount of resources in our exceptional learners on the other side? How can we be when gifted and talented programs are something that nobody knows anything about or is even talking about. Per the State Department of Education in Connecticut it is stated it is very important that boards of education realize that gifted and talented is just as important as our special needs children. How can our children be identified if nobody knows anything? Should the CogAT be ignored because of mandated testing or forgotten altogether hoping the no one will ask questions. My daughter may not be gifted but if her teacher, myself, her grades and test scores are pointing in the same direction, shame on the district for making it so difficult to get her and others like her into programs that challenge them. This isn't just about my children, it's about all the parents who are being told "I don't

know". It's exhausting to have to come here and fight, and talk and stir things up and become a detective and then we're left to sit and wait and hope that something changes. This really needs to be a top priority to this district, it's time to invest more in our exceptional learners. Help children like my own get to places like Boston so that they can be recognized for their skills and accomplishments. A Leadership Forum Pathway to STEM, that's a once in a lifetime opportunity for our kids. Thank you.

Margaret O'Brien, 22-4 Malone Drive, had the following comments: Being a private advocate for children here in Connecticut many of you would automatically associate me with just our special needs children; those that have medical and/or educational disabilities. But this is only one fragment of the Connecticut State Regulations that I fight for. State and Federal regulations were designed and are in existence to protect all children which include those that are gifted and talented. Connecticut State Regulations Section 10-76a(2), and I won't read it entirely, defines extraordinary learning ability, a child identified by the planning and placement team as a gifted and talented child. Gifted and talented – a child identified by the team as possessing, demonstrating, or showing potential abilities that give evidence of a higher intellect, creativity, specific academic capability, which would require different form of instruction or services beyond the normal daily structure. The US Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Section 54-61, the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act of 2001 states to initiate a coordinated program of scientific based research, demonstration of projects, innovative strategies, and similar activities designed to build and enhance the abilities of our elementary and secondary schools throughout the United States to meet the special education needs of the gifted and talented students. With the lack of this program parents may need to hire an advocate to help them fight for their child as others do, then so be it. This would mean holding special meetings with a PPT team as specified by state law. A certified personnel, parents, etc. to implement the process of another IEP, Individual Education Program, put into place. This process would follow through to help us determine the special strength a child is showing by the recommendations of their teacher. This would also include the parent's concern for their child's education moving forward. What types of evaluations have been made along with the academic development and functional needs the child would need to be challenged. Additional time spent out of the classroom then. Would it be so much easier to place a program and put it into place with teachers who wish this opportunity to utilize their top skills with other children who have been identified and recommended as gifted and talented? I would think this would be a wonderful teaching change during normal school week. Why is it we cannot take the time to identify our gifted and talented children and provide them with the same opportunities to reach for the stars further than they already have. In a school district where so much money is coming in, why is it we cannot utilize it towards a positive program? We use it, and I'm sure some of you know, we used it to pay higher salaries in the administrative level and yet we could utilize some of these funds instead for a true education and I'm sure we would have a better system which would be inclusive of all our children of all different levels to receive a free and appropriate education by the law. Thank you.

Ed Generali, 63 Eastridge Drive, had the following comments: Before, I'd like to have Dave Rossi who's the Athletic Director at Kennedy High School say a few words in support of the Charles "Ripper" Donato field. But before I do I would just like to also say a few words about Kay Wyrick who I had the opportunity to work with 45 or 50 years ago I'm gonna say as a young worker at the Boys Club and she was really a shining

star, guiding light in my early days working with the young kids. We had a lot of interactions and my daughter teaches at the Career Academy and my wife is the nurse and I can speak on behalf of them they would love to see the library named after Kay. So I would like to have Dave Rossi the Athletic Director say a few words.

David Rossi, Athletic Director, KHS, had the following comments: Thank you for this opportunity to speak. As you all are well aware, a lot of good things have been happening at Kennedy High School recently from the opening our beautiful new academic and athletic wing to the honor of having the nation's top teacher Jahana Hayes. We'd like to continue this trend by having your support for this proposal to name our new complex after Mr. Charles Donato. Mr. Donato was not only a coach and a mentor, but he was a father-figure to many, many young men under his tutelage at Kennedy High School and at Croft High School and at Leavenworth High School before that. Having his name attached to our new complex would forever cement his influence on Kennedy football and we at Kennedy are excited by this proposal and look forward to a positive vote from the Board. I also speak for Mr. Rob Johnston our Principal who happens to still be on his trip to Washington in support of Jahana. Thank you very much.

John Donato, 144 Windingbrook Farm Road, Watertown, had the following comments: I'd like to thank the Board of Education for considering my father, the honor of naming the field at Kennedy High. He would have been 100 years old in December, he passed away at 90, and he would be very proud and would love to have his name on that field. I'd like to thank Mr. Generali for bringing the opportunity to my father, he's a great coach himself, and I know most of you people know some of my father's history so I'm not going to go through all that but I can tell you that he loved Waterbury, he loved Kennedy, he loved his kids, he was the most loyal person I know, not because he's my father, I'm the kind of guy who tells it the way it is. He just loved this city and if you bestow that honor on him I know he'll be smiling back down on everybody. So that's all I have to say. Thank you very much.

Richard Wood, 62 Avalon Circle, had the following comments: We're all volunteers, okay, all of us here, even Bob now, we've recruited him as a volunteer, because what I'm about to go over includes all of us, the community itself, not just the Board. Three weeks ago I'm walking into the Library with one of my clients to teach him a few basics about job applications and it turns out he can't read or write and he's gonna get a diploma from Wilby High School next year, cannot read. I introduced him to one of our Board members as a basic thing, this gentleman came out, I said here's one of our students, he can't read or write, literally can't read or write. I happen to have a new car and there's a sleeve sticking out that says it has an airbag in it, I said read that for me, he couldn't read it. I brought him over to the Registrar of Voters after leaving the Library and he couldn't fill out his application as a voter. And I understand this is common practice that we graduate people who are illiterate. Now I don't know about you all, I was raised here, I never heard such a thing. And I asked the young man, do you know any others, he said oh yea, most of my class. Now I would imagine by 10 o'clock tomorrow morning Madam Ouellette will have better information than I do about this. But this seems to be a common practice not just in our town but it is a community problem, it isn't just a Board of Education problem, it's all of our problems here. I was talking to my friend Joyce Petteway about this that we have to work with everyone, our ministers have to work with us, we're gonna have to recruit volunteers . . . because you can't tell me having graduating 25 kids who can't read is going to be

solved very, very easily and it's not something we're gonna take care of next month, it's gonna take a long time to bring this from where it is to where it needs to be. Where are these kids gonna get a job? They can't come to work for us they have to fill out the application. We went over to the Library to look at the City of Waterbury application, I had the young lady there who's the computer technician, Sandy, help him and she said he can't read, he just doesn't know what it is. So we're gonna have to work together. I keep stressing that because everyone likes to come up here and say it's your fault and we know that's not the case, this goes back 15, 20, 25 years that we've allowed kids to do what we call social promotion but now it's our responsibility to make those changes. And there's some other things coming up, you know we have a drug program going on in town, a drug forum, well part of that is also learning how to educate the children and the dangers of drugs. I've been interviewing students trying to come up with some background on this and it turns out we have drug programs that they can get excused from very, very easily. So they sign up for it, they fulfill the obligation of having taken the course, but they have a headache or they have some other excuse and they're out the door. We may have to put the drug programs into middle school. Be prepared for that to come back as a recommendation from the drug process when . . . We have another meeting on the 26th, I'll bring you an update as to what we're doing at that time with that because we're trying to come up with programs that work. I interviewed two drug addicts today, what do you think, what do you think, how does this work for you. It turns out when they come out of treatment facility that's when they're weakest and that's where they have the most problems in addition to drugs. Their families have been ripped off because their drug habit has been so extensively financially debilitating. So these are some of the things we're going to have to look forward to to working with, around, and through . . . drug program that we put the kids in, plan on it for the middle school because I spent all day last Tuesday before the election for a student who went through what the students do with all this stuff that we think works. It turns out some of them work, most of them don't work because adults are looking at it and the children are not telling you or telling us how to make it work better. That's the message of the day, I hope it wasn't too annoying. Thank you very much.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:58 p.m.

BROWN: Discussion? All those in favor, opposed, abstain – motion carries.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements:

This week is National Teacher Appreciation Week. Tuesday, May 3rd, was National Teacher Appreciation Day. I was pleased to participate in ceremonies honoring teachers and our National Teacher of the Year at the White House that day. Jahana offered some eloquent comments on the need for community involvement in education and provided recognition to her students and colleagues in Waterbury. The video is posted on our website, for those who did not have the opportunity to view it live.

Crosby's LifeSmarts team recently competed at the Nationals in Denver. Junior Alyssa Simoes placed first on a 100 question written exam on personal finance. Klajdi Gjonaj placed first in the final Smarty Standing Competition, an individual buzzer round. Alyssa

placed second in that same round. Coach Donna Mancuso was named the 2016 National Coach of the Year. Congratulations.

Matthew Magda, a social studies teacher at Wilby High School and Wilby's Teacher of the Year, was recently named the winner of the Jan Pikul Award for Continued Excellence in Instruction, a very prestigious award to win. He previously won UConn's Outstanding Instructor Award in 2005.

Science Supervisor John Reed reported that this past Saturday forty-three Waterbury students in second through fifth grade presented their inventions at the State-wide Connecticut Invention Convention, held in the Gampel Pavilion at UCONN. Many families were in attendance. It was a great day for our students, who were among over 900 inventors present. They were interviewed by judges and heard a number of inspirational speeches. Waterbury took home six awards:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Invention</u>	<u>Award</u>
Aiden Puzzo	4	Bunker Hill	Bunk Bed Dog Crate	Recognized Inventor
Hamid Shahbaz	5	Buck's Hill	Sponge Hands	3M Purification Award
Nathaniel Ruiz	5	Driggs	The Worm Prison	Recognized Inventor
Catherine Fuentes	5	Kingsbury	Camera Scanner	Stanley Black & Decker Award
Abigail Pearson	5	Rotella	The Dress Mini	Recognized Inventor
Angel Velez	5	Kingsbury	Magnetic Gloves	Recognized Inventor

The fourth annual Family and Housing Expo, was held Saturday April 30th at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School, and featured a student contest this year. The winners were announced for categories in Poster grades K-5, Poetry grades 6-12, Essays grades 6 – 12 and Live Presentations for grades 9 – 12.

Winners:

Poster (grades K- 5):

- 1st Brendan Bouariss, Carrington
- 2nd Anjahilianna Daverso, Generali
- 3rd Oliver Kutschinski, Rotella

Essay (grades 6-12):

- 1st Brooke Tymosko, St. Peter and Paul
- 2nd Farhha Feroz, WAMS
- 3rd Emily Gardin, WCA

Poetry (Grades 6-12):

- 1st Fizza Alam, WCA
- 2nd Iqra Malik, Kennedy
- 3rd Akeisha Latch, WCA

Live Presentations (grades 9-12, tie for first place)

- Fizza Alam, WCA
- Aija Destiny Riley, WCA

As part of the activities for our after-school arts program, supported by a \$5,000 regional arts initiative grant from the Arts & Culture Collaborative, Waterbury Region, in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts, our students will be showcasing their art work in an exhibit at the Mattatuck Museum on Tuesday, May 10th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Individual schools will also conduct Project Art Nights, featuring five fun interactive art centers. They will take place on May 5th at Bunker Hill, and on May 16th at Wilson School.

There will be an Ice Cream Social event for our School Governance Council members on Wednesday, May 11, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., at Carrington School. This is an opportunity for members of all 19 School Governance Councils to meet and exchange ideas.

The Waterbury students in the Global Leadership Institute will be showing their presentations on May 16th and May 24th at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. There will be a reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by student presentations on both evenings.

Also on May 16th, School Governance Council members have been invited to provide feedback to representatives of the State Department of Education on the adoption of new arts standards and the new K-3 SEIH (Social, Emotional, and Intellectual Habits) framework. Wallace Middle School will host the event from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Our Superintendent's Student Recognition Awards are on May 17th for elementary school students and May 18th for secondary school students. Both evenings begin at 6:00 p.m. at Kennedy High School.

Also on May 18th, students who participated in a youth health photo project will be exhibiting their projects during the "Picture of Health" exhibit at the Mattatuck Museum featuring photographs created by Waterbury high school students. The "Picture of Health: A Youth Perspective" Opening Reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Artists will be present to discuss their projects with guests.

7. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

BROWN: I just wanted to note that we had the opportunity to go to Crosby High School and participate in the First Annual College Acceptance Day and I think those of us that were able to be there – Commissioner Van Stone was there, Vice President Rodriguez, Commissioner Harvey, Commissioner Hernandez, I think our work schedules allowed us to be there, it was a fantastic event and parents were there to really cheer on their students. One hundred-eighty seniors at Crosby High School were accepted into colleges across the country so it was a very exciting day for everyone. So kudos to Principal Gopie and the wonderful staff and faculty at Crosby High School. It was an amazing accomplishment and we're very proud of everybody. Thank you.

Moving onto the Consent Calendar. Would anybody like anything to be removed from the Consent Calendar?

President Brown proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 8.1 through 8.18, as listed.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, with Commissioner T. Van Stone voting "no", it was voted to approve the Consent Calendar, Items 8.1 through 8.18, as listed:

- 8.1 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a new after-school program for Reed School entitled "Video Club", funded by the Reed Family Resource Center.
- 8.2 With the approval of the Committee of the Whole, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the new hours for Waterbury Arts Magnet School, as attached, beginning with the 2016/17 school year.

- 8.3 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the revised Authorized Signatures Change Form for the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.
- 8.4 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Evergreen Center, Inc. to provide student services per their Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- 8.5 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the Connecticut State Department of Education 2016-2018 IDEA Grant.
- 8.6 With the approval of the Committee on Policy, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of revisions to the Discipline/Student Conduct Policy (5114), as attached.
- 8.7 With the approval of the Committee on Policy, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of revisions to the High School Grade/QPR Policy (6146.1), as attached.
- 8.8 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Northeast Building Group for Walsh Elementary School Nurse Suite Relocation and Cosmetic Restroom Upgrade, funded by Walsh Turnaround Grant Funds.
- 8.9 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of Agreement Amendment No. 1 with Newfield Construction, Inc. for the Kennedy High School Addition & Alterations – Athletic Field Improvement Project.
- 8.10 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of Educational Specifications for the Kennedy High School Phase III Fire Code Improvement Project, as attached.
- 8.11 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to LTC Jeffrey Adams, CHS, and four chaperones to take 46 students to Agawam, MA on June 3, 2016 to visit Six Flags.
- 8.12 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Kerry Coyle, CHS, and four chaperones to take 50 students to New York, NY on May 6, 2016 to visit the Anne Frank House and the Museum of Jewish Heritage.
- 8.13 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Melissa Banks, WMS, and five chaperones to take 45 students to Jersey City, NJ on May 25, 2016 to visit Ellis Island/Statute of Liberty.
- 8.14 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Zulma Santana, WHS, and one chaperone to take 16 students to New York, NY on May 13, 2016 to visit El Repertorio Spanish Theater.

- 8.15 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Laura Borges, KHS, and five chaperones to take 50 students to New York, NY on May 16, 2016 to visit the American Museum of Natural History.
- 8.16 With the approval of the Committee on School Facilities & Grounds, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Durham School Services to provide Regular Education Bus Transportation Services for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021.
- 8.17 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
N. Steck	WAMS atrium: Wed., May 11th 6:00-8:00 pm (new student orientation)
M. Vagnini	WAMS (use of Palace): Monday, May 16 th , (Spring Choral Concert)
M. Spesche	WAMS apron stage: Thurs., May 26 th , 5:30-8:00 pm (National Honor Society Induction ceremony)
Dance Dept.	WAMS large dance studio: Thurs., May 26 th , 7:00-9:00 pm (dance performance)
E. Racine FRC	Reed computer lab: Thursdays May 19th –June 9th 3-5 pm (after school Video Club program)
T. Rodriguez	Sprague gym: Fri., June 10th 5-7 pm (Pre-K graduation ceremony)
C. Damore	Wilson gym: Fri., May 6th 5-7 pm (Family project art night)
M. Parker	Rotella foyer: Thurs., May 19th 4-6 pm (Piano Recital)
M. Magda	Wilby gym: Thurs., May 26th 2-4 pm (self-defense class)
P. Moran	Sprague gym: Tues., May 10th 5-7 pm (Multi Cultural Family Night)
V. Vincenzi	Rotella café: Wed., May 11th 4-7 pm (UPSEU union meeting)
A. Phelan	NEMS common area: Wed., May 4th 5:30-7:30 pm (union meeting)
J. Pilicy	Duggan café: Thurs., May 19th 3:00-7:30 pm (m/s semi-formal dance)
R. Moffo	Generali gym: Thurs., Apr. 28th 3:30-8:00 pm (Family Spring Night) Generali gym: Wed., May 11th 3:30-7:30 pm (Family Reading Night)
R. M. Arroyo	Enlightenment café: Mondays, 5/9-6/13/16 1:30-5:30 pm (partnership with Hispanic Coalition)
D. Kalach	Wilby media ctr.: Tues., May 10th 6:30-8:00 pm (alumni association/Wilby's 100th anniv.)
D. Monti	Reed café: Tues., May 10th 5-7 pm (Family Literacy Night)

- 8.18 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
Wtby. 7th Day Adventists Church Ruben Martinez	Kennedy aud.: Wed., July 6th 6:00-9:00 pm (church meeting)

REQUESTING WAIVERS:

Waterbury Symphony Orchestra Daniel Rostan	Reed gym: Friday, June 3rd 4:00-8:00 pm (free to public concert)	(\$630.)
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Neighborhood Housing Services Eden Brown & Erika Cooper	Reed gym: June, 16, 17, and 18, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm (basketball fundraiser) (\$1,008.) Reed café, gym, field: Sat., June 11 th , 10:30 am - 2:00 pm (Youth Day) (\$378.)
Grandville Academy M. Mosley	Reed computer room, café, gym, library(when available): Saturdays, 6/18-8/13/16, 9 am – 2 pm (enrichment program) (\$2,268.)

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

Neighborhood Housing Services Eden Brown	Reed café: Tues., June 7 th 5:00-7:00 pm (Pizza with Police)
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BROWN: Discussion? All those in favor, opposed.

T. VAN STONE: No.

BROWN: Abstain? Thank you.

9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

10. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

10.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Rodriguez and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the request of James Gatling to name the media room at Waterbury Career Academy in honor of Catherine “Kay” Wyrick.

BROWN: Discussion. Commissioner Harvey

HARVEY: I see you folks leaving but if you can wait we're voting on Kay Wyrick. I think I see the family, Joyce, Debra. Would you guys mind standing so we can acknowledge. I really appreciate you being here. I have waited, I think it was 60 days, the process, to wait to name the library but I just want to say there's so much more that, I'm not gonna say we but I'm just gonna say the City as a whole needs to do to recognize Kay Wyrick and what she did. So hopefully this will jumpstart the process to do that. As mentioned before, I was gonna say Kay, but Ms. Wyrick was definitely a mentor to me. She advocated for my running for the Board of Education and she told me why I was gonna run for the Board of Education and then she reminded me. I remember those phone calls Joyce, 7:30 in the morning, pretty much after each meeting, reminding me of why I ran for the Board of Education. And she told me that you are going to be one of the advocates, you are one of the advocates for our kids and for the community. And I hope I never forget that. So it is indeed an honor for me to be able to vote on this for that fact but again I just hope that this will jumpstart advocacy to recognize Ms. Wyrick more particularly in this City. She did a lot for our kids, a lot of us are grown adults right now but she just planted the seed and did different things to make sure that we continue with our education, made sure we were off the streets and learning things. So I will vote "yes" for this and I look forward to us naming, putting the name on the library of Catherine "Kay" Wyrick. Thank you.

BROWN: Commissioner Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President, through you. It's gonna sound a little strange but I'm gonna speak even though I did not know Kay. However, I've been in Waterbury about 30 years, I grew up and my early adult life was in Bridgeport and we had a woman there named Margaret Morton who sounds so much like Kay it's amazing. She was an African American woman, business woman, advocate, and kind of like everyone's mom which is what I'm hearing tonight. So although I did not know her, from the passion I've read from the letters we received and I heard tonight, someone that I looked up to in Bridgeport was Margaret Morton and she sounds so much like her it's amazing. And these are the times when I grew up in the sixties that we need to remember this history, these are the people that really paved the way to where we are now when we talk about the better times. There's still things we need to get over. So I relate it to that so it did touch me a bit without even knowing the woman. So thank you, I think this is a great idea to keep our history going especially in a library, a room of knowledge and experience and moving forward. So thank you for bringing this forward to us, I think this is great, and without knowing the woman you have my absolute "yes" vote. Thank you. Thank you Madam President.

BROWN: I would just like to add my gratitude to Kay. I knew Kay as a State Representative and she was up in Hartford advocating for those kids and she was so upset about the closure of Long Lane and her experience, she thought these kids needed vocational education, they needed to be prepared for the world. She was an amazing advocate and she was a force, she was an absolute force in Waterbury. I remember marching for Kay and she just leaves such a legacy of hope for those kids and it was all about the kids, always, never about Kay and it's with gratitude and I thank the family for coming tonight. And you look just like your mom, just looking out in the audience. But really it is my privilege tonight to vote in favor of this. Roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #10.1:

YEAS: Commissioners Harvey, Hernandez, Pagano, Rodriguez, Sweeney, Theriault, J. Van Stone, T. Van Stone, and President Brown – 9

BROWN: Motion carries.

(applause)

RODRIGUEZ: Can I just say something real quick, that is the ultimate Mother's Day gift to honor such a wonderful woman.

10.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Rodriguez and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the request of Ed Generali to name the forthcoming Kennedy High School football field in honor of Coach Charles "Ripper" Donato.

BROWN: Discussion? Commissioner Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President, through you. It will be an honor to vote yes today to name the upcoming Kennedy High School football field in honor of Coach Donato. Growing up in Waterbury and at one time being an athlete, often times we forget how

impactful coaches can be in helping especially young men mature and become valued parts of the community. Often times a coach can make that connection to a kid that sometimes a teacher or even a parent could not. So for all the work Coach Donato had done in his time here in Waterbury it will be an honor and a privilege to vote "yes" today to name that football field after him. Thank you Madam President.

BROWN: Please call the roll.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #10.2:

YEAS: Commissioners Harvey, Hernandez, Pagano, Rodriguez, Sweeney, Theriault, J. Van Stone, T. Van Stone, and President Brown – 9

(applause)

11. COMMITTEE ON BUILDING

11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, with Commissioner T. Van Stone voting "no", it was voted to approve the Educational Specifications for the Gilmartin School Energy Conservation Project – Installation of Photovoltaic System, as attached.

BROWN: Discussion? Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: I wasn't around for some of this. I don't have a statement but rather a question. I just wanted to know why this wasn't done initially with the construction of the building, why is it being brought up now?

BROWN: I think we have some experts with us to answer any of your questions.

RAY WILEY: Good evening, I'm Ray Wiley with O & G. Gilmartin Ed Spec was written back in 2005. At that timeframe nobody was really thinking about photovoltaic. As we went through the construction process our budget came up, we bid the project, we had some additional funds. At that time the City elected to go ahead and put some photovoltaic on the building, the ed spec did not include that. At that time we did not have to have that kind of definition. As we got to audit we've been having a lot of discussions with the State about their audit findings, we've been able to chip away at a lot of their problems that they had with those and the only thing that's left open right now is the photovoltaic that we put on the roof. The State had come back and given us an option to go and put a new grant in and get it funded which is what you see in front of you now.

BROWN: Any other questions? Commissioner Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President, through you. See this is where when I read through the paperwork cause I certainly have been on record in the past that the return on investment on green energy doesn't support even doing it. Now it says construction, this school was constructed in 2006 and it included, and it lists a series of things that was included and in the included paragraph are these panels. So if that was the case why weren't they added then?

WILEY: The educational specifications talked about sustainability, it never really specifically addressed putting photovoltaic on the roof.

T. VAN STONE: But this definition of the construction in 2006 said we had them.

WILEY: We also went through our plans completion test with the State, we told them what we were doing, we got approval for plans completion test, however when we got to audit they did not find it in the ed spec so they decided to make it . . .

T. VAN STONE: So why then is it in the definition of the original construction?

WILEY: Why was it not?

T. VAN STONE: Why is it? It is in the paragraph that I'm reading. The original construction description in 2006 included these panels.

WILEY: In 2006 we were . . . to begin with and when we found money we were able to release it.

T. VAN STONE: And I have many questions because as far as I know this is the first time we're seeing this application. I'm a . . . we should do things in committee and in Workshop and this all of a sudden coming to us for a vote so once again I'll look like a bad guy because I have to say why are we not having time to evaluate this. I'll go back also to the project rationale where the second sentence refers to this audit revealed significant savings could be realized if the building has these panels. And then it goes on to tell us that it will provide approximately five percent of the building electricity. In my terminology five percent and significant should not go together. What is the cost of this addition and I don't care if it's federal money, I don't care if it's State money, what is the cost of doing this now?

MICHAEL LeBLANC: I think if I may, just for a point of clarification. I'm Michael LeBlanc, Director of Finance and we have very recently been engaged with the Department of Administrative Services School Construction Unit on the closeout of various projects and in relation to this, as Ray had mentioned, the installation of this solar component wasn't specifically identified in the original application that went forward for the construction of Gilmartin. The work itself on the installation of this has already been completed, the panels are on the roof. At this stage of the game we've taken direction from DAS who at the moment is considering these costs ineligible costs for reimbursement purposes unless we proceed forward with submitting a separate application to identify this component of the project that has been completed and to proceed forward through the audit process as it relates to just this component of the project. So we're going through essentially, to go back in time to process the application for this component of the project in accordance with the direction that we're taken from DAS. So again the monies, the cost, the installation, all of that has been done at this stage of the game and it's now just a matter of following through on the appropriate paperwork and application so that we can receive the near 80% reimbursement on the cost of this from the State.

T. VAN STONE: And to be honest that's what I thought was going to be the answer. So that means we made a project a few years ago, we had bills we must have paid that we wrote a check with no money in the account and now we're going back and looking

for that money. So when we talk about new building projects similar to Wendell Cross how many more bills will we have to pay that there's no money in the account?

LeBLANC: Well in regards to this, the money was in the account, there was available funds within the total appropriation for the project to cover this component and that's where, my understanding is that there was an earlier discussion and decision be it several years ago to move forward with the installation of the solar panels knowing that there was available funding within the project authorization. And, again, at this stage of the game we are taking direction from DAS so that we can get reimbursement and I will add that the position of DAS, they've gone through some changes themselves with the relocation of the School Construction Unit from the Department of Education over to the Department of Administrative Services and some directions and guidelines are changing a little bit on the fly and this is one area where this project in particular is being impacted. And I think, as Ray has mentioned in his comments, I think they were under the impression at the time through their discussions with the School Construction Unit that it was okay to proceed forward with this. Again it was money available and built into the overall project cost and it's now just at this point as the City and Board of Education in conjunction with O & G, they're on the home stretch from the audit standpoint and this has been identified as something that needs to be done in order to reclassify these costs that are currently in an ineligible bucket over to a eligible bucket so that we can appropriately get reimbursed.

T. VAN STONE: Okay, so we paid \$2,006 for these tiles to be put on for a tremendous five percent of the building electricity so we're paying regular rates for the other 95% and we're gonna get \$2,016 to attempt to cover that cost?

LeBLANC: I believe the cost was more in, do you happen to recollect?

RAY WILEY: \$427,000.

T. VAN STONE: \$427,000 was the cost in 2006. What is the reimbursement we are looking to get now?

RAY WILEY: Seventy-eight point two-one percentage.

T. VAN STONE: Seventy-eight percent. Do we know at the time of construction, maybe you weren't here, but did we know at the time of construction that we would only receive 78% of that fee, that cost?

LeBLANC: The 78% is the standard reimbursement rate that's set...

T. VAN STONE: Same with the building amount.

LeBLANC: Correct.

T. VAN STONE: So it is the same as the building amount. Again, going forward, I wasn't here and as the folks that have been on this Board with me know very well when I do a return on investment I will guarantee you in these 10 years we've had these tiles we have not come close to a return on investment on these tiles. To get five percent electricity on something we're gonna pay that kind of money for, almost a half million dollars, we got to start thinking. I don't care about these mandates that we have to make these buildings, and you're gonna hear from me especially with Wendell Cross

because I was obviously outvoted that these costs better start returning on investment because you know what we'll grow another tree. We can't afford in the City of Waterbury to not have return on investment. So we better think very hard when we do Wendell Cross because I'll get outvoted again so it won't matter, when we build these buildings that we need to spend a dollar for a dollar and not save a tree and spend 95% more than we should be spending. So you will hear from me in the future on this. Thank you for your explanation and we really, we can't afford this anymore and to take ten years to get our money back, it's just ridiculous. Thank you Madam President.

BROWN: Thank you. Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Thank you Madam Chair. Just a brief historical, Commissioner Harvey may recall some of this, Commissioner Theriault may recall some of this, when the Board voted to do Gilmartin one of the things that we insisted on was solar panels at Gilmartin. At that time the State under building construction grants did not cover solar panels, you had to put the building up, put a roof up that would support the solar panels and then apply for a grant separately for the solar panels. That was what was done. The State dropped the ball on the grant for the solar panels and did not fund that at that time. The new State authority is now asking us to reapply for that grant funding that they feel we should have gotten back when we applied the first time. Just asking us to reapply for that funding. It was the wish of the Board at that time to do the solar panels on Gilmartin. It was not an afterthought, it was, the conditions at the time were that you put up the building, you put up a roof that would support the solar panels, and after the building was up then you would apply for the grant funding for the solar panels. That was the way that that went at that time, that's the historical on that. Thank you.

BROWN: Thank you. Commissioner Pagano.

PAGANO: Thank you Madam President. This is the engineer in me. When were those panels actually specked, in what year?

WILEY: Two-thousand, nine.

PAGANO: Two-thousand, nine. So to follow through on the path that Commissioner Tom Van Stone had gone down, the state of technology has changed significantly in efficiency of how much photons generate how much power so to get five percent seems like, this is one of those things I look at from my . . . pure technical solution in search of a problem, this is still evolving. Who pays for the change in technology coming down in five years when we want to get a 30% reduction in our utility bill from photo and has anyone thought that out far or is this just a feel-good activity to say that we're doing something grand?

BRENKER: The reason we're here tonight is not to plan on new solar panels, it's to justify to the State what we did back in 09 and to catch up with it.

PAGANO: So this is just dotting the "i's" and crossing the "t's"?

BRENKER: That's correct. If we're to go forward then we would follow the path of Commissioner Tom Van Stone to get a higher rate of renewal on our electric, the photons as you put it, I'm not an engineer.

PAGANO: Technology is evolving, solar in my opinion isn't there yet and many a solar city salesman is probably knocking at my door only to get barked at by my cat but it's evolution, it will be at some point where the return . . . I just, along with Commissioner Tom Van Stone, I'm concerned on the ROI, why are we spending so much money to get so very little.

BRENKER: The point where we decide to spend the money then we'd have to consider that. This is money that was already spent and we're looking for reimbursement.

PAGANO: I understand. Thank you.

BROWN: Thank you. Do I need a roll call vote? All those in favor, opposed.

T. VAN STONE: No.

BROWN: Abstain? Motion carries. Thank you.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

12.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve that permission be granted to Donna Mancuso, CHS, and one chaperone to take 12 students to Philadelphia, PA from May 17 through 19, 2016.

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain, motion carries.

12.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve that permission be granted to Luanne Rosin-Capolupo and 11 chaperones to take 100 students to Agawam, MA on Friday, May 13 to attend Six Flags New England Senior Grad Night.

BROWN: All in favor, opposed, abstain, motion carries.

12.3 Upon a motion by Commissioner Hernandez and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to approve that permission be granted to P. Whyte/Jamella Lee, Global Leadership Institute, to take a total of 10 Waterbury students to New York, NY on May 19, 2016 to visit United Nations.

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain, motion carries.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 13.1 through 13.12, as listed:

13.1 Athletic resignations:

Armstrong, Tracy – JV Soccer Coach, CHS, effective 2/15/2016

Sullivan, Michael – Head Soccer Coach, CHS, effective 2/15/2016

- 13.2 Athletic appointments effective immediately:
 Chabot, Albert – Boys Tennis Coach, CHS.
 Flammia, Peter – Varsity Football Coach, WCA.
 Guarda, Vincent – Freshman Baseball Coach, WCA.
 Iannantuoni, David – Assistant Football Coach, WCA.
 Mannetti, Michael – Freshman Baseball Coach, KHS.
 McKenna, Patricia – Assistant Outdoor Track Coach, KHS.
 Polaco, Alexander – Assistant Swim Coach, KHS.
- 13.3 Grant funded appointments effective immediately:
 Marold, Mary Ann – Part-time Waterbury Family Resource Center Central Coordinator (replacing Charlotte Shocki), \$3,000 annual stipend (2015-16 stipend prorated to \$500.00), non-union and without benefits, funded by FRC grants.
 Reho, Jessica – Part-time Waterbury Family Resource Center Central Coordinator (replacing Charlotte Shocki), \$32.00 p/hour, maximum of five hours per week, non-union and without benefits, funded by FRC grants.
 Rosado, Jonathan – Prevention Specialist, Walsh School, 10 months per year, 35 hours p/week @ \$18.14 p/hour, non-union with benefits governed by the UPSEU, funded by Consolidated Grants.
- 13.4 Chase Family Resource Center Arts After-school Program appointments, salary according to individual's contract, funded by the Chase FRC Grant:
 Cavallo, Angelica – Assistant Teacher, four days per week for six weeks.
 Stanziano, Dina – Teacher, four days per week for six weeks.
 Torres, Jacqueline – Coordinator, four days per week for six weeks.
 Vinca, Shipe – Substitute, as needed.
- 13.5 Reed Family Resource Center "Video club" After-school Program appointments, salary according to individual's contract, funded by the Reed FRC Grant:
 Racine, Ernie – Supervisor/Assistant, two hours per week for four weeks.
 Coma, Vebi – two hours per week for four weeks.
- 13.6 SOAR to Success Summer School appointments, salary according to individuals' contract, subject to enrollment:

Biello, Claudia	Administrator - Carrington
Gugliotti, Melissa	Administrator – Duggan
Rosser, Jennifer	Administrator – Gilmartin
Therault, Michael	Coordinator
Tomasella, Diurca	Administrator – Reed
- 13.7 Teacher transfers:
 Densmore, Amy – from WSMS Grade 7 ELS to Middle School Literacy Facilitator, effective 01/04/16.
- 13.8 Academic Achievements effective March 1, 2016:

<u>Name</u>		<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>College/University</u>
Albino	Christine	MA/6	MA+15/6	U of Bgpt.
Dorso	Thomas	MA+15/5	6th Yr/5	U of Bgpt.

Files	Cara	MA/7	MA+15/7	Graduate Inst./Morningside College
Fusco	Cody	MA+15/3	6th Yr/3	U of Bgpt.
Germaine	Benjamin	BA/3	BA+15/3	Southern New Hamp.
Ghiglia	Nicholas	BA/7	MA/7	Ashford University
Gibbons	Melissa	BA+15/5	MA/5	Boston University
Hayes	Gabrielle	MA+15/2	6th Yr/2	Southern
Jimenez	Irene	MA+15/5	6th Yr/5	Southern
Khalsa	Siri	MA+15/7	6th Yr/7	Central
Nath	Chayna	6th Yr/9	6th+15/9	City University of Seattle
Nolisa	Ifunanya	BA+15/3	MA+15/3	University of St. Joseph
Page	Jennifer	BA/4	BA+15/4	Western/Concordia U
Reed	Laura	MA/7	MA+15/7	Morningside College/Central
Richter	Tania	BA+15/3	MA/3	U of Bgpt.
Rossi	Jaison	MA/7	MA+15/7	Southern
Schmied	Christine	BA/2	BA+15/2	U of Bgpt./Mass College of LA
Slade	Chelsea	MA/4	MA+15/4	Augustana University
Veronneau	Michael	BA/7	BA+15/7	Post University
Zinno	Amanda	BA+15/3	MA/3	Southern

13.9 Teacher new hires:

Name		Assignment		Step	Effective
Campbell	Stuart	WMS	Sp. Ed.	MA/2	02/29/16
Malusa	Stephen A.	WHS	Tech Ed	B+15/2	02/25/16
Pelletier	Matthew	State Street	Art	MA/1	02/09/16
O'Toole	Kaitlyn	Bunker Hill	Sp. Ed.	MA/2	03/28/16

13.10 Retirements:

Jette, Stephen – WSMS Science, effective 07/01/16.

Rodriguez, Dolores – Washington Grade 1, effective 08/01/16.

Tsacoyeanes, Cathy – Sprague SVP, effective 08/12/16.

13.11 Resignations:

Nared, Glen – Enlightenment Math, effective 06/30/16.

13.12 Leave of absence requests:

Toma, Brenda – Bunker Hill, requesting an unpaid childrearing leave of absence from May 16, 2016 through the end of the school year.

Beaton, Renata – Rotella grade 1, requesting an unpaid childrearing leave of absence from April 6, 2016 through the end of the school year.

BROWN: Discussion? All those in favor, opposed, abstain, motion carries. Thank you. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting Only. Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: As I look through this Committee on Curriculum and the field trips I was wondering how we, the City, and the parents and the children that were denied the opportunity to go on the trip how that reimbursement process is going and just how much is it gonna cost the City. I'm not so concerned about the cost to the City, I'm more concerned about the reimbursement and the additional expenses that the parents have incurred. And the second part of my question, part "b", would be what are we going to do in the future with regard to international travel. Are we gonna get completely out of that business temporarily, permanently or discuss it further? But I think it's something

that needs to be taken up by us because I'm sure there are students and parents out there, it's almost towards the end of the school year, we're gonna be coming into another school year and parents and students are gonna be looking for additional opportunities to go abroad and as they do I think we need to be absolutely clear with regard to what our intent is, what are the dangers, if we're gonna be out of it we're gonna have to tell them they're gonna have to set up their own LLC or your own group and you're gonna have to go on your own. If we're gonna be into it and the world has calmed down hopefully and we're gonna look at it as an opportunity once again where students can go and learn and explore so be that too. My main concern is with the cost, it wasn't just the flights it was other things and parents were looking for additional expenses that they incurred and it was really tragic the way we had to cancel the trips but judging from the parley that we had with the attorneys and the Corporation Counsel and the Mayor it was inevitable that these trips could not go forward. So it's unfortunate, regretful, but that's the way it came out. So I just wanted to make that statement because I think the parents deserve some reimbursement for their costs and I don't know how much the airlines would be cooperating with them in terms of reimbursement. Thank you.

BROWN: I think we could ask the Superintendent to find out about the reimbursements. I think that's good information and maybe we can refer the issue to the Policy Committee because I think it's important that we discuss it. Thank you. Commissioner Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President. Just to dovetail on Commissioner Theriault's comment, one just point of fact over the spring break nothing happened in Rome or Paris or Machu Picchu. Luckily the kids at WAMS were able to cobble together a trip and I think 18 of the 22/23 were able to go without any Waterbury School personnel, a truly private trip. One of the organizers sent a very nice email to Commissioner Harvey and myself and sent actually a wonderful picture of the kids standing in front of Machu Picchu and reported no hassles at the airport, no issues from local street tuffs, and said that each of the kids had a memorable time and were very thankful for the opportunity to get there, albeit not under their normal circumstance. So I was happy that at least some of the kids were able to still salvage a trip they had been working towards a little over a year and secure that experience which I know many of them likely will never have again. So I'm glad that was able to happen. I would concur with Commissioner Theriault, I want to make sure that all the promises that were made from that podium a couple of weeks ago have been fulfilled even though we didn't make them and to make sure that that process is happening swimmingly. I have a couple other comments but I think that's under the next portion. Thank you Madam President.

BROWN: Thank you. Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: No, what Commissioner Van Stone said.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President, through you, I have a couple of things I'd like to do from tonight's meeting. The first one is although we don't normally talk back at speakers this evening, you know I talk all the time about my 95 percenters and although I do feel we do a great deal of work with robotics, we had a great evening a few nights ago with the young inventors who I understand will be our guest here in a week or two or whatever it may be, we have the trickle-down effect from robotics with the different blocks and different things for all age students and we do do quite a bit and

I'm proud of everything we do through STEM education. But however I do think we need to sit back sometimes and realize that we need to make sure that we benefit those students that are doing the right thing. We need to make sure that the information is out there. We spend an awful lot of time on discipline, arrests, second chances, we need to spend more time I think on our 95 percenters. I appreciate the comments tonight and we need to make sure parents are aware. I think we do a very good job of making parents aware but maybe we need to do a little better. So that was my first thought.

The second thought is there was a reason tonight that I did vote "no" on the Consent Calendar and I'm going to do so for here on in. A few months back I tried to remove one item from outside organizations utilizing our facilities and we almost, we pretty much did not know how to handle that so I'm not going to go through that then and I'll just continue to vote "no" on the Consent Calendar. And the reason I do so is we had a meeting a couple of weeks ago with the Facilities Committee, I'm not a member but I did attend the meeting, and we discussed many things about it and again the same comment I've heard from my two years on the Board is we'll continue to talk about it. So that will be my stand on the Consent Calendar, I'll continue to vote "no". When I heard some of the things at the Facilities Committee meeting, not only am I disappointed at the number of people we charge for use of our facilities, only to find out after our operating expenses pay the utilities, the overtime, etc. for these events that take place, guess what, we don't get the check like many things it goes to City Hall so we pay the bill and we get no reimbursement whatsoever. And if you look at the other side of the coin we're averaging about \$250,000 a year in waived fees. So we're waiving the fees, we're paying the overtime, we're charging folks and we're getting zero back in our bank account and this needs to change. I'm getting really tired of we'll continue to talk about it because I've been hearing it for over two years. I will not name the group tonight but there is actually on the list, the list that I have in front of me that actually had \$912,000 waived since 2010. We need to stop this. We can't afford it, I'm tired of the rhetoric from my fellow Board members that we need to have a policy and a policy that will stand firm. So I will continue to vote "no" on the entire Consent Calendar so that I don't sit here and grandstand by removing facilities or one piece of facilities off of the Agenda. We need to move forward on this. We can't afford it any longer. Thank you.

BROWN: Any other comments? Other Unfinished, New, or Miscellaneous Business?
Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Thank you. First of all I'm gonna ask while it's fresh in my mind that we change our, reconfigure our seating because you can't see me when I raise my hand. We need to make sure that this table is moved down so that you have full site of folks you know when they want to comment. If we can move this table down so that you have full site of not only that side but this side and I don't have to reach over the table to get your attention that would be great.

I want to compliment Crosby High School students, Crosby Bulldog students, for the First Annual College Appreciation Day. I was just so pleased with the, not only the execution of the program, the organization, just so pleased with the students and just happy to know that there are plans, that our students have plans when they graduate. So I want to compliment Jade Gopie, Principal of Crosby High School, I'm so proud of what she's doing at Crosby. I was very pleased with the way Crosby actually looked and I was just very pleased with the students with their recognition. I look forward to

graduation and I just wanted say that I was just really, really very proud not only as a Crosbyite but also as a Commissioner on this Board with what we witnessed yesterday.

Lastly, I was, I don't know about the other Commissioners but I was very disturbed by what we heard this evening in regards to a student not being able to read. And you know yes it was pointed out that everybody is responsible, I would think the ultimate responsibility would be to at least let us know who that student is. I understand working with Literacy Volunteers that there is some apprehension with someone letting you know that they have issues with not being able to read. When we are talking about our students I think the responsibility is to not only encourage that person to at least say something so that we can provide resources but to find out exactly what so that we can track and see what's going on in our school system and why someone cannot read. I just can't, I'm just shaking my head because I heard about growing up in the school system about these promotions, these social promotions, and I've hoped that we have come further ahead of the game on this. So, you know I notice everybody is gone now but I just hope that the speaker did share that information. Dr. Ouellette, I don't know if you had a chance to talk to him but, want to keep it confidential, but it just bothers me when I hear that. So I hope that there will be follow-up, I know that I'm gonna follow-up with him just to see what, first of all if there's any truth to this but secondly what was done following that. And that's all I have. Thank you.

BROWN: Commissioner Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: . . . Commissioner Harvey stole my first point. I too wanted to note the kids up at Crosby and what a tremendous event it was. It's my hope that that becomes the norm. I think a lot of times we point to graduation and we say look, we've done it, but we often times don't do enough to really commend the kids who have taken that next step to secondary education or in Crosby's case there were a number of kids who are entering our armed forces, we were represented in each of the branches. So all those kids who are continuing their journey past high school are to be commended and I would love to see that become a regular staple at all of the high schools, I think that was a tremendous event.

To a couple of things that were mentioned tonight. To out myself I was the Commissioner that Mr. Wood bumped into outside the Library, I happened to be leaving that day when a number of us were down at the Library reading to the students. Juanita read like the *Iliad*, she was reading for like 45 minutes to these kids. If you were just to speak to the boy you'd have no idea there were any issues there, he was eloquent, he was upstanding, he was, at the same time you could see in his eyes that you know he was a bit embarrassed to be there and while I don't pretend to know any of the details of what brought him there that day it's clearly something that needs to be addressed. While I'm sure it's not the norm, anytime a kid gets that far along in his academic career and he doesn't have the ability to fill out a job application, you know we're culpable for that. So we need to do something about that. And on the other side of the coin the conversations tonight about the Talented and Gifted you know that is something I brought up every time, it's usually in a budget discussion because often times we're talking about where a lot of our money goes and it goes to the kids with a lot of special needs and I've often asked the question you know are we still making sure that all the kids of every need is something that we're taking care of in here and you know I think too often, we all do in our own lives, the person you think is doing fine on their own you

let them on their own but those kids need to be challenged as much as anyone and I would hate to not make sure we were given all the services and the opportunities for each of those kids to strive beyond what they're getting in their normal everyday classroom. I think it's incumbent on us to make sure that those services are provided as well. Madam President, thank you very much.

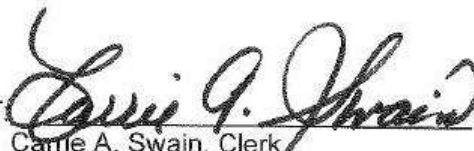
BROWN: Thank you. Any other comments? I just want to make an announcement that Neighborhood Housing Services is sponsoring Big Hats and Bowties on Saturday, May 21 at the Courtyard Marriott. It's an opportunity to hear a special guest speaker Revered Kevin Staton and the purpose as I understand it from Erika Cooper is to really talk about the importance of family engagement in education. So it looks like a nice event. I did send it out to everybody.

I too have always been in favor of Talented and Gifted education and I do think we need to look at it. I will commit to having a Curriculum Meeting to look at it and we really need to look at the budget. I guess sometimes we assume these things are happening but we want to make sure we are more deliberate about it. So I make that commitment and I know Dr. Ouellette is very interested and committed to it as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

ATTEST


Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education