

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Brown, Commissioners Harvey, Pagano, Rodriguez, Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone.

ABSENT: Commissioner Hernandez.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Kathleen Ouellette, Chief Academic Officer Darren Schwartz, Director of Personnel Robert Brenker, and Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold.

1. SILENT PRAYER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez (absent). Commissioner Pagano.

PAGANO: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner J. Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Brown.

BROWN: Present.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Communication dated May 10, 2017 from State Department of Education regarding petition for declaratory ruling.
2. Email communication dated May 18, 2017 from Danielle Albert regarding math teacher at Gilmartin School.
3. Copy of communications dated May 18, 2017 from Civil Service certifying Nicholas Liebler for the position of HVAC Technician, Sarah McKay for the position of ABA Behavioral Therapist, and Rachel DiLonardo for the position of ABA Behavioral Therapist.
4. Email communication dated May 26, 2017 from CABE regarding Policy Highlights.

BROWN: Discussion. All in favor, opposed. Motion carries.

5. PUBLIC ADDRESSES THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Stango, it was voted unanimously to suspend the regular order of business to allow the public to address the Board at 6:34 p.m.

BROWN: Motion made and seconded. All speakers are encouraged to submit prepared written statements to the Commissioners. Comments shall be limited to a maximum of five minutes. The Chairman will disallow a speaker from continuing to speak if slanderous or defamatory remarks are made. There will be no responses this evening to any questions or concerns raised; they will be referred to the Administration for review and response.

Danielle Albert had the following comments: I attended the Parent/Community Leadership Conference last Friday as a committee volunteer and as a past recipient. It was a fabulous way to support, encourage, and acknowledge parent engagement and connect parents with available resources in the City and in the schools. For as many things that need to be improved in this district, this district is extremely fortunate to have so many people in it that truly care about our children. With that said I want to speak specifically about the workshop portion of the conference. I chose to go to the Language Arts, Math and Science, K-12 Workshop. Although the title was a bit broad, I figured it would cover a lot of ground for me as a mom. What I found during that hour plus was essentially everything a parent would want to know about assessments, testing, and Common Core. To use a phrase of my own mothers, it was like soup to nuts. The workshop provided information on the following: assessment mechanisms were explained for the three major subject areas, words and acronyms like Benchmark, DIBELS, SBAC, CAPT test, SAT, weren't just thrown around they were actually explained. Progress reports for each subject were discussed and examples were shared. There was a Q and A of sorts on PSATs and SATs. Mr. Strand, Mr. Reed, Ms.

Frenis, and Ms. Mortenson, all four of your experts were in one room. They were willing to answer questions and engage in a very productive dialogue. There was discussion about this essentially being what I'll call a transition generation from the old school of paper and pencil, the way parents like myself learned, to the age of cellphones and technological skills taking over. That workshop brought everything together and served it on a platter to parents in a language that we all can understand. It was scheduled for half an hour but it went to an hour and if you had more parents there it could have gone on longer. I sat there and thought why is this not happening all the time. This information is key in connecting parents to what is going on in the classroom. Knowing all of this will help us help our children better. There was one other opportunity similar to this, months ago at the last SUC training at Gilmartin where Mrs. Frenis and Ms. Mortenson shared information on math and ELA, Common Core, and testing, and I thought at that time this information has got to be made more readily accessible to parents. This district needs to find a way to get your experts, their knowledge and information out to parents multiple times a year. Be it in an auditorium, here, different schools, different grades at a time, provide us with a forum to share the ways our children's progress is being monitored. Common Core needs to be explained literally in all languages to parents. Encourage parent engagement for our bilingual families even if that means having interpreters participate. Even though this information may be out there it's not getting to parents in ways we can all understand. And from my own experience directing parents to websites is not the best way to help us help our children. One of the things Mrs. Hayes mentioned in her speech on Friday was the perception of parents not caring. Every single child has someone in their life that cares. This district has to become better about making that connection with that person that cares. I get information because I come here. Many parents don't know they could come here. Some can't even make it to conferences because of circumstances. Conferences are wonderful however all of what I got on Friday could not be provided in a conference for ten minutes one or two nights a year. I think moving forward you need to make this a priority. Find ways like that workshop forum to ensure information and updates are made available to parents. Use your experts to provide us with the proper tools. If some type of connection can be made, if we know how to better help our children they will definitely succeed. Thank you.

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Stango, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:38 p.m.

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

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements:

Naugatuck Valley Community College President Daisy DeFilippis has informed us that the U.S. Department of Education has notified NVCC that all three of its US DOE Upward Bound grant applications have been selected for funding. These grants will support increased collaboration between NVCC and three Waterbury High Schools, Crosby, Kennedy and Wilby. Each grant is a five year award in the amount of \$257,500 per year, per school. Special thank you and acknowledgement to David Celotto, NVCC Bridge to College Director, who wrote the successful grant application and who will serve as the local project director for NVCC.

Two of our staff at Duggan Elementary School were among those honored May 24 at an awards banquet at Waterbury Hospital. Duggan's School Nurse Jennifer Voity saved the life of a kindergarten student who went into sudden cardiac arrest during lunch. She received a Lifesaving Award. She was assisted in her efforts by school Parent Liaison Tina St. Pierre. Other first responders from the fire department, police department and emergency medical services also received awards at the event.

We held our third annual Parent and Community Leadership Conference on Friday. Almost 200 people attended. The event included a keynote speech by Jahana Hayes, as well as workshops, lunch, and an afternoon awards ceremony, where parent leaders were recognized from each of our schools.

Yesterday was our annual Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony. This is always a special event where we have the opportunity to honor many of our staff for going above and beyond in their schools. This year's Waterbury Teacher of the Year is Yolanda Lee-Gorishti, a science teacher at Crosby High School. Just a few of the highlights from her career:

- Completed her coursework for a PhD.
- Teaches grade 9 Physical Science and grade 11 and 12 Human Biology.
- Previously taught Biology, and Meteorology and Astronomy.
- She is a professor of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut (2003 to present) and in the Earth Science Department at Southern Connecticut (2004 to present).
- Started Crosby's branch of the Science National Honor Society and the organization is thriving. Students perform community-service work, including tutoring other students at Crosby twice each week.
- Organized the STEM Fair at Crosby for the past four years.
- Supervises the Environmental Science Club at Crosby.
- Highly recommended by both her principal, Jade Gopie, and her department chair, David Ieronimo.
- Serves on the Science District Curriculum Committee and has helped write district assessments for science (mid-terms, final exam, and CFA's).
- Speaks both Spanish and Albanian, in addition to English.

(See the attached list of individual school winners.)

Today, approximately 2,500 students participated in the Neil M. O'Leary Waterbury Kids Marathon at Library Park. Students have been preparing by running small amounts each week that, when added up with today's distance run, completed a marathon distance.

Four local businesses worked together to donate a custom-designed school bus to Waterbury's Police Activity League. The bus was unveiled at a community ceremony yesterday at PAL. The bus will be used to transport students in the program to events and competitions. All-Star Transportation donated the full size bus, while WORX, a Prospect marketing firm, created a design using PAL participants as models to wrap around the bus. Sign-Pros, a Southington company, installed the wrap around the bus, and Zeller Tires donated new tires.

The Rivera Memorial Foundation is proud to announce the Grand Reopening of the Rivera-Hughes Memorial Park on West Dover Street in Waterbury on Saturday, June 3,

from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event will begin with a formal opening dedicated to the lives and services of Firefighters Heriberto Rivera and Howard Hughes, and the revealing of a brand new sign for the park. There will be free food, music and performances from the Rivera & Hughes South End Cheerleaders and others. The event will also be collecting monetary donations for the families of Lounsbury Street fires. All are welcome to join this special event as we honor our fallen heroes.

SCHOOL

Bucks Hill
Bucks Hill Pre-K
Bunker Hill
Carrington
Chase
W. Cross
Driggs
Duggan
Generali
Gilmartin
Hopeville
Kingsbury
Maloney
Reed
Regan
Rotella
Sprague
Tinker
Walsh
Washington
Wilson
Enlightenment
State St.
North End
Wallace
West Side
Crosby
Kennedy
Waterbury Arts Magnet
Waterbury Career Academy

TEACHER

Kristin Wheeler
Mary Ann Dzinski
Sonya Fleming
Carolyn Cancellaro
Laurie A. Moffo
Mary Lepper
Karen Griffin
Kathleen McKeeman
Kimberly Ruszcz Maffia
Krista Zaccagnini
Melissa Parisi
Lee DiBella
Kazumi Yamashita-Iverson**
Cindy Albizu
Blair Russell
Ashley L. McLaren
Debra Robinson
Jennifer Dimech
Ana Paris
Shannon Colby
Ressie Parker
Thomas Rund
Nancee Luciano
Kim Collette
Melissa Banks
Anne Olear
Yolanda Lee-Gorishti
Marlena Scialla
Cheryl N. Crossley
Carly Lindley

BROWN: Commissioner Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President, through you. I did just arrive; I was at the Awards Ceremony for academics at Crosby High School. They did ask about my appearance and just joked with the Mayor that I did joke actually at the ceremony that I could tell a great story on how the Mayor and I were talking about the budget but I told them it's not the truth so the only thing I'll say about that is I told the children use sunscreen and we'll talk about that more later. As you know how I am about the bill that's going forward. So I just want to let you know that they gave me many opportunities to talk about my 95 percenters. It was a very good, diverse crowd that

saw their students getting awarded. So Crosby stood tall tonight and I just want to congratulate you and your staff on that tonight.

7. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

BROWN: I don't have a lot of comments; I just want to echo the remarks of the fabulous leadership training and really thank Mary Ann Marold and her staff for their outstanding organization and Angela Holmes from Waterbury Hospital and all the volunteers, Danielle. Many, many parents were there, it was a real community event. And staff for your outstanding workshops and all the work that went into it. It was truly a collaborative effort.

Would anybody like to remove anything from the Consent Calendar?

President Brown proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 8.1 through 8.6.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, Items 8.1 through 8.6, as listed:

- 8.1 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the submission of the FY 2018 School Readiness application to the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood.
- 8.2 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to apply for the 2017-2019 School Readiness Grant- Local Application.
- 8.3 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Construction Contract with Silktown Roofing, Incorporated for West Side Middle School Roof Replacement.
- 8.4 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends permission be granted to Dino Pantoni, KHS, and 7 chaperones to take 80 students to Agawam, MA on June 3, 2017 (previously approved for 5/27/17) to visit Six Flags.
- 8.5 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
PTSO	WAMS café: Tuesday, May 30, 6:30 - 8:00 pm (senior grad night parents' informational meeting)
T. King-Johnson	WAMS apron stage: Monday, June 12 (Spanish Honor Society Induction)
L. Minervini	Chase gym: Wednesday, June 21, 2:00 - 5:15 pm (Pre-school graduation for Chase/Wilson FRC)
A. Edwards	Tinker gym/café: Thursday, June 1, 5:00 - 8:00 pm (Reading Night)

- 8.6 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

REQUESTING WAIVERS:

Hispanic Coalition WAMS atrium: Wednesday, May 31, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Sonia Cruz (CNA graduation) (\$556.)

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

Neighborhood Housing
Services of Waterbury Reed café: Wednesday, June 28, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Erika Cooper (meeting/catered food)

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

9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

There were no items removed from the Consent Calendar.

10. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- 10.1 **Upon a motion by Commissioner Pagano and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve of a Lease Agreement with Police Activity League of Waterbury, Inc., for a five-year period with an optional five-year period, for property located at 58 Griggs Street, Waterbury, CT.**

BROWN: Discussion. Commissioner Pagano.

PAGANO: In a nutshell I've been impressed with the process since we started this. It started with Michelle Baker and Will Zhuta's presentation on the criteria and the requirements on why we have to look at a facility such as, as long with the Procurement Process that Rocco and the City Procurement when they put out the RFP and we got this one response, it became sort of a . . . that we have to go forward with this to solve a near-term problem and to buy us time for the next five years. So I am supporting it and will vote yes for this.

BROWN: Thank you. Commissioner Stango.

STANGO: Thank you. We have been leasing the St. Lucy's/PAL building since 2008; that's over eight years now total and every year during those eight years the lease would come before this Board, greeted with great angst second only to the budget process discussions which we also subject ourselves every year, ourselves to. Each year we bemoan the fact that we have nowhere else to put our challenged special needs kids in this program and every year we ultimately vote to approve saying we really need to look at another plan, another location, so that we have all options on the table. At one point a few years ago and again this year we put out an RFP for a new facility. The first time we had two responses – we had PAL and another one for an

unsuitable building which did not fit our needs for a lot of reasons, no way a school could be put there. This year we did it again and only PAL responded with an RFP for a building that we are already using and that we already know fits our needs. So what other options do we have? Perhaps outsourcing students, sending them out of district for special schools. Put up portables maybe at who knows at what expense which we will never recover that money, too many issues with that. How about looking into one of these commercial steel buildings that I see advertised; they go up in a jiffy. Again, not suitable for a school. It's been mentioned using space in a current middle school or other schools to house our program and we were told also that this is not really an option. So we really don't have any other viable options at this time.

Now for my concerns, things I am uncomfortable with. When talking about a municipality it's always better to own than to lease. I would rather own the building than to lease the building. I had concerns that we could not break this lease year to year but those seem to have been rectified by our emails during the course of the last couple of days. And I also have concerns with the cost of the lease that seems to increase every year over five years.

Now the things that I am comfortable with. I am comfortable with the PAL building. I like the location, I like that it's in proximity to Reed, a neighborhood school which we have already invested heavily into. It's developed a whole educational community and that little corner of the neighborhood. I like the fact that there are fields and courts in a refurbished neighborhood. I like the fact that the administration confirms that the educational needs of the students can be met in the PAL building. That was confirmed at committee meetings that we had and workshop. I like the fact that with all our choices, or lack of choices, the PAL building will help our students succeed.

So in conclusion the things about this lease I am uncomfortable with do not rise to the level of the things that I am comfortable with. Therefore I'm going to vote to approve with the hopes that if PAL is the ultimate space for our program in need that we will hopefully work to own it at some point and not to continue to pay this lease for another eight years, or five years let alone ten years. Thank you.

BROWN: Thank you. Commissioner Van Stone.

JASON VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President, through you. Last week at Workshop I had asked Mr. Brenker for some answers, I didn't know if he happened to have the answers to the three questions I asked last week. I think one was taken care of with Commissioner Sweeney's query about the 90 day notice so I'm glad that's in there. But other questions included in negotiation process did we begin at a zero increase year over year at any point and you said you were going to check with Mr. Orso about that.

BROWN: Thank you Madam President, Commissioners.

BRENKER: Yes I checked with Mr. Orso and after I did I did discuss the issues with Deputy Chief Spagnolo and he felt the price was fair, that the increase in the cost of the lease would be tied to the lower level of consumer price index for similar buildings and that was the end of our discussion.

JASON VAN STONE: Whether we arrived at a fair price wasn't really my question. I could argue it is or it isn't. My question was did we start at zero which I think should be the beginning of any negotiation from our side. They should start high; we should start low and meet in the middle. That's how it works. Did you get to that answer or is that just we started with these numbers and everyone said great?

BRENKER: We started with those numbers and after our discussion last week I went back and those numbers remained.

JASON VAN STONE: And the other question was, I know you said it was essentially for stability but where did the five-year magic number come from?

BRENKER: It was a discussion over the past six or seven months with our committee and it was based on stability. There's nothing in education law in which I'm aware it's just that the principal, as Commissioner Stango has pointed out, each year almost there's sort of pressure on the staff and the principal that we're gonna move somewhere although they don't know where. So it was intended to provide them with stability, an opportunity to construct a program that best suits the needs of those students over a five year period. With the change in the error so that we now have the ability to leave with 90 days' notice.

JASON VAN STONE: I get the idea of stability but you know we offer teachers three year contracts, superintendent, we've got four year terms, the mayor has a four year term, I just didn't know where the five came from.

BRENKER: It was just again, what I said to set stability, nothing more.

JASON VAN STONE: I'm not gonna bang my head against the wall on this one again. I'll be voting no tonight just cause I don't see the need to go to five. I think this year it makes sense to go back to PAL because we don't have any other options but to put this Board or the next Board on the hook five years out even with that out clause I don't think that's in our best interest. Thank you Madam President.

BROWN: Thank you. Commissioner Van Stone.

TOM VAN STONE: Thank you Madam President, through you. I do have questions. I'm gonna back up a little bit to the RFP because this is already before us to vote on the actual contract and I just want to check on a few things on the RFP. In the fairness to anyone who would have bid and what that RFP stated, I'm trying to find the actual page in the contract or the . . . of the RFP that I'm struggling to find right now, I made a lot of copies but not that one. One of the, which was and I think Mr. Brenker needs to stay close to us to answer these.

BROWN: If I could ask, is this pertaining to the lease before us?

TOM VAN STONE: It's pertaining to the RFP that got us to the lease before us because in my recollection until we saw the lease we never saw the RFP. So I think it's fair that I ask questions about the RFP. We never saw this RFP.

BROWN: Proceed. My understanding is it was public knowledge though.

TOM VAN STONE: It was never presented to this Board, the RFP that went out for this.

BROWN: I don't think that's the process but we'll check. Please proceed. Go ahead.

TOM VAN STONE: So we asked for 10 classrooms was the first thing we asked for. Now based on the information we received just in the last couple of days, that would mean we sent an RFP that would look for five students per classroom. And the math I did on say Chase School would mean we need approximately 180 classrooms in order for someone like Chase to have actually been able to apply or propose to this RFP. So if we're asking for 10 classrooms and we only average the numbers you gave us just a couple of days ago, five per classroom, why are we asking for 10 classrooms?

BRENKER: We asked for 10 classrooms because the attendance, the enrolled attendance is about 80, between 75 and 80.

TOM VAN STONE: Okay, eight per classroom.

BRENKER: And the difference between students in Chase Elementary School, if that's the Chase you're referring to, and this school, are quite drastic. These students need more space, they need an area to go where they have to deescalate if they're having issues.

TOM VAN STONE: Are you really telling me we're arguing between eight students per classroom...

BROWN: Point of order Commissioner Van Stone.

TOM VAN STONE: Point of order for what?

BROWN: Please do not argue with staff.

TOM VAN STONE: I'm not arguing, I'm asking a question.

BROWN: Well it sounds like you're argumentative. So ask the question...

TOM VAN STONE: The question is even if we go up to 80 which this school has never seen 80 students, are we really comparing eight students per classroom, and that is giving a lot of luxury, to 30 students per classroom?

BRENKER: We're not comparing apples to oranges if that's your question Commissioner. The students are quite different.

TOM VAN STONE: My next question is, seeing that I'm out of order, we've also asked about things like specialty rooms, and I'm gonna bring this back believe it Madam President even though you don't want to hear what I have to say...

BROWN: Point of order, Commissioner Van Stone, please remember your decorum this evening.

TOM VAN STONE: Call the cops and arrest me. We are asking for things like specialty rooms for whatever whether it be psychologists or whatever. I will again bring us back to Chase School where our psychologists are in a locker room, they're supplies are in a shower room, and their file cabinets are sitting next to a working toilet. So why do we special locations for those items?

BRENKER: We need special locations for these students to provide the services that are required in their IEP.

TOM VAN STONE: So these students deserve better accommodations than the other 17,000 students that we have in the school district?

BRENKER: No Commissioner, they should get the same treatment based on their needs and they each have an IEP and each student at a minimum in State Street School has 32 ½ hours of special education required. The students in Chase are not that way. I know Chase is tight but it is tight, that's how it is. These students have a requirement, each and every one, of 32 ½ hours.

TOM VAN STONE: I mean it really doesn't matter what I say because this...

BROWN: Commissioner Van Stone, please do not argue with staff, ask your questions please.

TOM VAN STONE: I'm not arguing, stop it.

BROWN: You are argumentative...

TOM VAN STONE: We're asking for things like principal offices. The, I will use Walsh School as an example where the principal's office is no more than a closet. So, again, I'm bringing it back to I feel this RFP went out with only one eligible candidate able to bid. Cause I'm pointing out our schools that would not have been able to bid on this proposal, that's my point. And in the past I've brought up utilizing space and now with this contract when you include the extras which is utilities, etc., a million dollars would certainly revamp any one of our middle schools. And I know the presentation we saw said otherwise, that would give them cafeterias, that would give them principal space, would give them in the case of two of our middle schools a tremendous location for nurses and medical staff seeing we have basically a mini hospital in two of our middle schools. My point is that the RFP I do not feel was able to be bid by anyone but one lease. That's my point in all of this. I am not comfortable with the study we did, we never asked for 100% of our special education students to be shipped out of city, never did we say that, and that was the comparison we were given. My point through all this is, my opinion, we did not do what I would call a valid survey of our options. Now I do not want this to become anything to say I'm anti-PAL because it couldn't be anything further from the truth. This has nothing to do with PAL. We have other local organizations like WOW, like the Boys Club, like Girls Inc., like the YMCA, that offer us great services also, okay, and maybe they don't have the requirements that this RFP sent out and it's probably true. I just want a fair playing field for people to respond and I feel that the RFP was written as such that no one would have been able to bid on this contract. Thank you.

BROWN: Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: I sense you were hoping I would not speak. But actually, you don't have to stand there Mr. Brenker, I don't have any questions, unless other people do. First of all President Brown I owe you an apology, an apology because I inadvertently referred to the number of students enrolled at State Street . . . information I was previously given, to be about 90. It was bantered about, bantered about, yea, we got 90 students. Last week we were told we have 73% attendance out of 90 so that would be 65.7 kids. I want to be able to do this without being rude, without being out of order, I hope nobody calls the cops on me, but we're all here to present light on the information. I requested the enrollment data for the past 30 days at State Street School and the actual enrollment right now is 67 students, 67 as of 5/25. And the actual attendance is 41. Forty-one? I was hearing . . . at the Enlightenment Program as being 200 or more. But the actual enrollment as of 5/25 is actually 183 and the actual attendance on the 183 was 127 students. So we couldn't take these programs and combine them to 167 students? Maybe we could if we wanted to, if we had the will, if we had the initiative. I was delighted to hear that we have an opt-out policy because right now we don't have any choice, we don't have any other place to go because we haven't really explored any other place to go. But I feel a bit deceived, I feel a bit angered that I was given information that may or may not have been true. And I'm not pointing an accusatory finger or getting involved in an argument. I just want the facts, just the facts ma'am as Friday would say, right. You remember the show those of you that are old enough. Just the facts ma'am. But I don't feel like I got all the facts. I'm happy that we have an opportunity for an opt-out lease within a certain amount of time and I would urge the Board and other people on this Board to look for various options out of the PAL lease unless, unless, unless the PAL lease could turn into a program that turned into a regional facility where not only recalcitrant students from Waterbury go but kids from Wolcott, kids from Watertown, kids from Naugatuck, they could be sent to us and we could reap the rewards of educating those kids. You'd need a specialized staff. When we send kids to ACES, yes we do spend hundreds and thousands. So if the State Street program, through the Waterbury Board of Ed, could be changed and evolved into a facility that was regionalized I would be the first one to raise the banner and the flag. I'd be the first one to jump up and down. So I hope as we go further we explore this option because I think it's a very viable option for the surrounding towns. I think it's a tremendous way for us to reap the rewards and put a special facility in place that could encourage those surrounding districts to send our students here to get the proper remedial education and the proper behavioral training that they need. As usual I go on and on. So when I really look at this lease I know some people will say you know it's only 150,000, it's only 165,000, but in actuality it's closer to 350/400 thousand dollars a year. When we count our custodians, we count our overtime, we count all these other things, it's really closer to \$400,000 and five times 400,000 is two million. So every five years we're dishing out two million dollars, to a great organization, nothing to be said that PAL isn't a great organization. I mean we saw that this morning by the bus. Now I can't wait to ride the new bus. Great bus, great program, kudos to the Mayor and his staff for the absolutely phenomenal job, not only state recognition, recognition in New England, recognition nationally. So we're on the drawing boards, we're recognized as one of the founding places of taking a program that was defunct and bringing it back to its vibrancy and helping thousands and thousands of kids. So as we go forward I hope we are able to do some revitalization and if nothing else, and I know we have to count the shadows. You know if we have 100 kids and only 80 of them show up we still have

to count the other 20; I know that's the nature of the situation here, it's the nature of the program. But I certainly would like to see that program really expand to about 150 kids, take some stress and strain off the other schools in Waterbury that are having very, very difficult problems with their students and put those students in a place, a safe place, they can be properly educated. And even if we had the 150, maybe you want 120 in attendance, that would work out better for me. So at this point, reluctantly, I'm gonna vote for it because of the opt-out portion. But I really think if we had looked a little harder we could have found some space for 41 kids. Thank you very much.

BROWN: Any other comments? Call the roll call please.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #10.1:

Yeas: Commissioners Harvey, Pagano, Rodriguez, Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, and President Brown – 7

Nays: Commissioners Jason Van Stone and Tom Van Stone – 2

BROWN: Motion passes. Thank you.

11. COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES

11.1 Upon a motion by Commissioner Rodriguez and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, with Tom Van Stone voting “no”, it was voted approve that WTA Grievance 16-17-28, heard by the Committee on May 23, 2017, be denied.

BROWN: Discussion. If you could just please summarize.

RODRIGUEZ: On February 17, 2017, the grievant alleges she was physically assaulted by a student resulting in a physical injury. The district subsequently failed to follow Board disciplinary procedures due to failing to appropriately conduct an investigation and immediately suspend the student. Furthermore the student was returned to the teachers' classroom placing the grievant in an unsafe working environment. This conduct by the district is a violation of the safety and health provisions of article 24 and 27 of the 2016/2018 CBA. During the grievance it was identified that the student had an IEP. He has a particular behavior disorder and it was believed by the district that the incident was a manifestation of the student's IEP and he was basically, this is a behavior that he tended to have in the past and they are currently working with him. And so based on, we met with, well the expert testimony was provided by Michelle Baker for the district in terms of the special education requirements for this particular student and that the district followed guidelines according to our state laws.

BROWN: Thank you. All in favor, opposed.

T. VAN STONE: No.

BROWN: Abstain. One no. Motion carries.

11.2 Upon a motion by Commissioner Rodriguez and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to approve that WTA Grievance 16-17-30, heard by the Committee on May 23, 2017, be denied.

RODRIGUEZ: I will voluntarily provide the description. In 2017 the Board has reduced a number of assistant track coaches approved in prior school years. This has resulted in an unsafe environment for assisting teachers serving as track coaches and students due to the lack of supervision as the result of significant increases in track team sizes at all high schools in the district. There is no limitation in the collective bargaining agreement on the number of assistant track coaches that can serve in high schools. This is a violation of article 24, 27, and appendix b. The grievance came to a conclusion after hearing from the district, Bob and former track coach Michael LoRusso, that currently the track coaches, there's two, there's a head coach and an assistant coach, they were looking to secure another track coach to have three coaches and you know due to budget constraints that we're currently facing, the Grievance Committee felt that it was not warranted so we denied the grievance. Thank you.

BROWN: All in favor, opposed, abstain. Motion carries. Thank you.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner Jason Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 12.1 through 12.3, Superintendent's Notification to the Board, as listed:

12.1 Appointments:

Irrera, Ray – Summer School Secondary Coordinator.

Tomasella, Diurica – SOAR to Success Summer School Site Coordinator, Reed School.

Blakeslee, Marissa – SOAR to Success Summer School Site Coordinator, Bucks Hill School.

DiGiovanni, Melissa – SOAR to Success Summer School Site Coordinator, Duggan School.

Rosser, Jennifer – SOAR to Success Summer School Site Coordinator, Gilmartin School.

12.2 Retirements:

Hill, Lina – Hopeville Grade 2, effective 06/30/17.

12.3 Resignations

Medeiros, Victoria – Reed Music, effective 06/30/17.

Merriman, Caitlin – WMS Social Worker, effective 06/30/17.

Morse, Nicole – WSMS Social Worker, effective 06/30/17.

Swanson, Kimberly – Bunker Hill Art, effective 06/30/17.

Wall, Kaitlyn – WMS School Counselor, effective 06/30/17.

BROWN: Discussion? All in favor, opposed, abstain. Motion carries. Thirteen – Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting Only. Number 14 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Commissioner Harvey.

HARVEY: Thank you Madam President. I just want to comment on the Parent and Community Leadership Conference that was held last Friday. Unfortunately I was unable to attend, but actually it was fortunate because I got a chance to see a historical landmark, Harriet Tubman home and etcetera, the place where she was buried,

etcetera. So unfortunately this landed on the same day. But I just wanted to, I did work with the committee on planning the event and I just wanted to congratulate them. I understand, as I've heard, that it was a very, very successful event, one that we need to continue as it relates to our parents and community involvement. I did hear the comments of Danielle Albert; I hope that Danielle took an opportunity to make her comments known also in the evaluation that was handed out. I will also make sure that these recommendations are brought forward and that we look at them because it is very important to do all that we can to insure that our parents feel welcome and that they are involved in our children's education. So again I appreciate working with the committee, they did work hard and I want to give them kudos to all their planning and all their work that was involved in planning this event. Thank you.

BROWN: Thank you Commissioner. Commissioner Theriault.

THERIAULT: The other evening I was able to attend my alma mater Wilby because I am a Wilby Wildcat and I did tell, Mr. Pagano also a Wilby Wildcat, and I did tell the group in so many words that I had graduated from Wilby 54 years ago and proceeded to tell them that I had looked in the mirror that morning and I said to myself if I knew you were going to live so long I would have taken better care of you. But just as a pun aside, it was a wonderful evening to see such a great diversity of kids and some with full scholarships, four year scholarships to Yale and University of Connecticut and other places. I mean you talk about the top five percent I mean these kids were absolutely outstanding, manners, dress, articulate, I mean we should be so proud of our students; not just those kids but all of our students too. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 7:17 p.m. for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

Present were President Brown, Commissioners Harvey, Pagano, Rodriguez, Stango, Sweeney, Theriault, J. Van Stone, and T. Van Stone. Also present were Dr. Ouellette and Robert Brenker.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 7:22 p.m. with no votes taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney and duly seconded by Commissioner Jason Van Stone, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:22 p.m.

ATTEST 
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education