

WATERBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ~ REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: President Stango, Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, McEntee, Rodriguez, Sweeney, J. Van Stone (7:02 p.m.), and T. Van Stone.

ABSENT: Commissioner Hernandez.

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

1. SILENT PRAYER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

3. ROLL CALL

CLERK: Commissioner Awwad

AWWAD: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Here.

CLERK: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hayes.

HAYES: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Hernandez (absent). CLERK: Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Commissioner J. Van Stone (arrived at 7:02 p.m.). Commissioner T. Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Present.

CLERK: President Stango.

STANGO: Here. For the record Commissioner Jason Van Stone is running late from his place of employment, he is stuck in traffic but he will come as soon as he can. And Commissioner Hernandez regrets the fact she will not be here tonight either.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. Citation and Administrative Appeal dated May 30, 2014 regarding Brian Goggin vs. Waterbury Board of Education.
2. Communication received June 5, 2014 from Commissioner Patrick J. Hayes, Jr. submitting his resignation from the Board effective June 6, 2014.
3. Copy of communication dated June 9, 2014 from Civil Service certifying Kristen Gaudiosi for the position of Supervising Vice Principal – Generali School.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? All in favor, opposed, 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 6:33 p.m.

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. All in favor, motion carries. All speakers are encouraged to submit prepared written statements to the Commissioners. Comments shall be limited to a maximum of five minutes. There will be no responses this evening to any questions or concerns raised; they will be referred to the Administration for review and response.

Andrea Young, 7 Colley Street, had the following comments: I have lived in Waterbury my entire life and attended Waterbury Public Schools as have my children and grandchildren. My comments are regarding the article in the June 9th newspaper regarding parents advocating for a graduation at Walsh School, a ceremony that the principal was denying the children. At first I got angry and then I started reminiscing of my own two daughter's graduation from fifth grade at Driggs School in 1983 and 1987 respectively. I even dug out the programs from memorabilia saved over the years. Make no mistake about it, it was a graduation where not only awards were given out but each child's name was called and acknowledged. The transition from fifth grade to sixth grade to a middle school is a big deal and should be marked as such. Graduation should not be an option it should be a requirement. The reasons the principal gave for not having a graduation were based on her opinions and views and not those of the parents and the values of the area and population in which she is an administrator; she is there to serve the community. I was glad to see that the parents did provide a graduation, they obviously are empowered by past history and advocate strongly for their children. These parents should be commended, not chastised. However, in a June 17th article regarding the parent's graduation the principal had a comment about flyers that were passed out in the school to notify people of the graduation, she comments about staff putting a halt to the distribution and is quoted as saying "they are not going to pass flyers out in my school without asking". Perhaps the parents should

have asked, however her words to me were caustic and confrontational. I hope that the new principal that was chosen has a sensitivity to the community she will be serving and respects the advocacy of those parents at Walsh. Also, where was the voice of this Board on this? I have not read every newspaper nor watched every Board meeting on public access, perhaps someone here did voice an opinion. I do remember however in the past when a former Board member was on Fox News National because a former principal celebrated a winter theme rather than a Christmas theme at his school. No one has the right to deny memories. Graduations, calling each child's name, being acknowledged evoke lifetime memories. Thank God the parents restored those moments because as we age memories often are what sustain us. Thank you.

Danielle Albert, 93 Kelsey Street, had the following comments: Thank you all for the opportunity to speak to you once again. My name is Danielle Albert and I have three daughters that attend Gilmartin School, I serve as President of the Parent Teacher Group and as Secretary on the School Governance Council. Mrs. Betancourt who is President of the Governance Council and I met with Superintendent Ouellette this week specifically regarding a school climate issue. This issue can potentially have a negative effect on the future of our school. I wanted to make sure that our concerns are clear as to how exactly this problem could inhibit the future success of our school. Gilmartin School can be the one that sets the standard for that community K through eight model. We have a Principal working with the Governance Council and the Parent/Teacher Group. There's an established relationship of trust, respect and collaboration between parents and teachers and most importantly we have a future plan to establish extended quality programs beyond this year. Gilmartin has been given an opportunity via a former Gilmartin School graduate, his name is Nicholas Dukas. He's an investment banker for Wells Fargo; he grew up in our community and now lives in Florida and wanted to give something back to our school, the school that he loved. He's formed a relationship with Dr. Burzler and the Governance Council. This year along he provided over \$4,000 in scholarships to our eighth graders with another \$6,000 available to fund additional programs and activities beyond this school year. Looking to next year we are investigating the creation of a non-profit foundation in Nick's name, it will expand educational resources and make them affordable most importantly to our families. The following are some ideas we have been planning for in place for next year: homework help podcasts in reading and math, podcasts produced by students covering current events and sports, extended theater arts and musicals to be available to all grades, joining other K – 8 schools and parochial schools for interscholastic sports, after school dance classes, setting up English/ language instruction for parents who don't speak English, and computer education classes for parents. We are intent on raising the bar for our school. Exposing children and families for these activities will help provide an appropriate outlet, keep our children safe, and give families somewhere to interact with each other. So, what do we need from you? We do not need financial resources; right now we need your support. It's essential that you look very closely at the positive school climate issue that was discussed; we ask that you help us secure leadership that's actively involved and committed to working as a team. Gilmartin School needs Donald Burzler's leadership to drive this plan forward. We need a cohesive administrative team that's willing to work collaboratively with the Governance Council and the Parent/Teacher Group, people who are willing to put in the extra time. You all understand that it takes going beyond the normal work day to provide quality programs to our children; you're all sitting here right now. The goal is to have this foundation continue long after our own children have graduated and moved on. We all focus our

actions and decisions on bettering the lives of our children. I expect my children to be treated with love and respect; there is no tolerance for them feeling afraid, anxious or bullied by anyone when they go to school. If this occurs, I as a concerned parent, expect that appropriate action be taken. First as a parent and then as a taxpayer, I do hold the Board of Education responsible for making changes in our school. If I sat in your seat Commissioner Harvey or Van Stone and one day Mrs. Betencourt and I may, I would take ownership of doing what is best for the children in our schools. It is your job to foster environments that will help protect our children, make them feel safe, and encourage them to reach their full potential. This all comes down to accountability. I teach it in my home with my children, I tell my girls be accountable and own your decisions. I'm accountable to my children and as elected officials you are all all accountable to us, the families. So let me ask you the following questions: Do you as a Board of Education want our K through eight schools to reach their full potential? Do you want our children given opportunities and engage in after-school activities that the creation of a Nick Dukas Foundation can offer them? Do you want to see our children interacting with their families? Do you choose to implement that foreign language and reading support that we so desperately need and asked for? Do you support the building of a strong administrative team, a principal working with a governance council and a parent/teacher group effectively in a respectful, healthy, positive environment? If you have said no to any of those questions our children are being set up for failure and failure is never an option. I feel like you are failing to have our children's best interest at heart if you are failing to support a safe and secure climate. I will continue to push forward for my children, advocate for my daughters, for our school, and for the children of Waterbury. Thank you very much.

Raven Betancourt, 440 Sylvan Avenue, had the following comments: I, like Ms. Albert, am a parent of a student at both Gilmartin School and I also have a son who's a student at Crosby. I'm not gonna repeat what she said because she pretty much said it all. Just a couple of things, the Student Governance Councils were mandated by the State with the intent of the councils being to enable parents, school staff, students and community to work together to improve student achievement. We are blessed to have teachers and parents who that are actively involved with many great ideas. Some of the plans the Gilmartin Student Government Council has for next year is to establish a Student Council. I have put together a proposal and am currently working with one of the eighth grade teachers. The ultimate goal will be to give the students a sense of order, pride, responsibility, and ownership. For the seventh and eighth graders from an educational perspective it will expose them to the voting process and the logic behind why we have laws in this country. We also have blueprints, so to speak, for a mentoring program and plans for a nutrition and recycling program as well as monthly community activities such as community service that they can be involved in on Earth Day. That's just one of the things we're thinking of. Hopefully our school can be used as the K through eight model, a real community school, that's what we're hoping for. Waterbury is a combination of many small diverse communities that together make the City great. Within the thousands of students that are educated throughout this City are our future leaders. Teachers and administrators are at the hallmark of the education system. We entrust them daily with our children, with the expectation that one, they will learn but also they will be respected and feel safe. Our children look to them as they do their parents, as role models. They should never be in fear, if they are uncomfortable going to school then their ability to learn and retain is compromised. Children learn by example, positive behaviors and good morals are qualities we want them to model. The

teach me/show me method works better than scolding any day. Parents, we need to listen to our kids, be active in their education, and advocate on their behalf. They deserve every opportunity available to them. We have to do our part to ensure that this happens. We as parents have every confidence that the sky is the limit and that anything they put their minds to can be achieved. We have to embrace and empower our kids to be the future leaders this City needs to assure that this city stays true to its name – the Great City of Waterbury. Thank you.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Awwad and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 6:46 p.m.

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

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Ouellette read and distributed the following announcements:

This year's graduation ceremonies were wonderful. It is always a pleasure to attend these ceremonies and observe the looks of pride and accomplishment on the faces of our graduates and their parents.

Congratulations to Rotella Magnet School. They have been designated a 2014-2016 Exemplary School by Arts Schools Network, the nation's largest professional membership organization of specialized arts schools. Created to highlight a school's commitment to excellence, this designation is presented to an Arts Schools Network member school in recognition of its efforts to evaluate strategically its purpose, operations, and educational programs. This honor signifies that Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School has successfully completed a self-evaluation in the following areas: strengths, areas for improvement, consistency with school-wide or program purposes, aspirations, and future challenges. This is a huge accomplishment for Rotella. They have never won before. The inclusion of special needs students in all of their arts integration was a distinction highlighted in this award. In fact Ellen Paolino has been asked to serve on a national panel to discuss our inclusive practices in Waterbury.

In addition, Suzanne Dionne, a visual arts teacher at Rotella, received the Teacher of the Year Award from the Arts Schools Network (ASN). She has presented workshops for the Connecticut Art Education Association, the National Art Education Association and Magnet Schools of America. She has been published in Arts and Activities Magazine and has written as the Monthly Mentor for the National Art Education Association. In the last two years, she has produced ten shadow puppet theater performances featuring students from kindergarten through second grade, and she is a regular contributor to Artsonia, a nation online gallery for student art work. The Teacher of the Year Award will be presented to her during the annual Arts Schools Network Conference, October 22-25, 2014, in Denver, Colorado.

Hopeville School received the "Heroes of the Community" award from the South Congregational Church in a ceremony this week.

The final results of last weekend's Greater Waterbury Relay For Life event are now available. Last weekend (June 7-8), some 91 teams and 1130 participants walked the Crosby High School Track to raise money for the American Cancer Society and the fight against cancer. The total amount raised was \$219,544.92. Crosby, Kennedy and Wilby High School faculty and students all walked the tracks and raised a combined total of \$13,815.50. Individually, the Wilby Team raised \$6,710.95; the Crosby Team raised \$4,018.50 and the Kennedy Team raised \$3,086.05. Of the 91 teams that participated, Wilby ranked 8th, Crosby ranked 16th and Kennedy ranked 23rd in the amount of money raised per team. That is, indeed, quite an impressive showing for all three high schools.

Several of our students participated in the city-wide Front Porch Day, many of them by working to clean up Hamilton Park. Elementary students were encouraged to participate around their own homes.

Save the Date: The 2014 Back to School Rally has been confirmed for August 20, 2014. The committee has already begun meeting to plan that event.

Our district website is changing its look. The company is currently in the process of transferring information from our old design to our new one, which should be ready for public viewing any day now. Some information may be lost in the transfer. Our staff will be working to update the site as soon as it becomes available.

Construction on the Kennedy High School renovation and addition project commenced on schedule last week. Site work, including excavation of the new addition footprint and topsoil removal on the field is now underway. Work will proceed through the summer, next school year and the following summer with the facility ready for the 2015 school year.

I'd like to move to a special announcement.

STANGO: Any questions for the Superintendent?

SUPERINTENDENT: Isn't it incredible that the show that accompanies ending a successful school career is always somewhat muted by the bitter sweet job of acknowledging the retirement of those who have devoted years of service to making the Waterbury Public Schools what it is today. After 16 years Dr. Paul Sequeira who has served both as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and more recently a very special, Special Advisor to the Superintendent of Schools, is retiring. If I were to review his contributions this evening I could assure you that we would be here for many, many hours. Needless to say Dr. Sequeira has helped create and maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect with all of his colleagues. He's . . . his work with the Adult Education Technical Center, and his work with NVCC and the GEAR UP Program are just a few of the highlights of his career and spectacular. Dr. Sequeira you have touched the lives of thousands of children, made their tomorrows better, and supported our faculty in so many of the transitions that accompany education and reform. You have certainly left an imprint on the Waterbury Public Schools and for that we are grateful. Now, as you actually "gear up" for retirement we want to take this opportunity to wish you the best. Having always been a believer that when one door closes another opens, I hope your new journey is just as fulfilling as the time you gave to Waterbury.

And I do want to thank you Paul, sincerely, for all your advice. As a Superintendent of Schools you've always been there and given me some advice as well as the Superintendent, as a former colleague. Also we have a plaque.

(applause)

STANGO: Now Dr. Sequeira handed me this on my way up, maybe it's a take-out order, I don't know. It says Dear President Stango, I am requesting that the Board of Education extend my retirement date to August 31, 2030, just one more time, please advise. Hash-tag okay Doctor, we'll do that for as long as I'm here you're here.

Dr. Sequeira, you always loved being an educator, that's plain and simple, always had a smiling face, no one can deny that. Never had a bad day on the job, you always would say "I'm doing great, how are you?". Dr. Sequeira is a well-rounded individual, interests from beyond education. He's known all around the world regarding water issues, in Kenya and so on, has written many papers and has given many talks. He's well respected in the district. This morning we were at the memorial for the retired teachers who have passed this past year, we were at the church, and upon leaving Dr. Sequeira could not get out of the church because all of the retired teachers who were there to celebrate this mass had to come up and shake his hand and say goodbye and say how you're doing because Dr. Sequeira touched many of those retired teachers in the past. I knew Dr. Sequeira on a personal basis also, on a professional basis before I knew him on a personal basis because I was a teacher and he was the Assistant Superintendent and one of his hallmarks was the Curriculum on the Wall. Everyone remembers that who was in education at the time. I have to admit Dr. Sequeira on certain bad days the teachers in my hall would say that curriculum is "off the wall" and I had to agree with them certain times. Above all else Dr. Sequeira you are a true gentleman first, last, and always. My concern is they don't make them like you anymore. So we wish you good luck and as you always said at the end of, each of your correspondences, one word and that was "best", Dr. Sequeira, and we wish you the best.

SEQUEIRA: I'm kind of speechless, I'm never short of words, but I want to thank each and every one of you. In life people fall in love with their wives, their pets, whatever project, etc., I fell in love with Waterbury – 18,000 students and that's one of the reasons why I didn't leave when I had many opportunities, the last opportunity occurred two years and I came and said can you give me two years so I can leave and nobody would, so here I am whether you like it or not. But Waterbury grows on you and it was not an easy ride when I first came on Board, it was tough, I'd hate to say it President Stango it looked like the Wild Wild West when I came here, it really did, people were doing their own thing, I had to mold it all together and form a system of school and to bring it into a school system was not an easy task but I did it, I fought the unions, I fought everybody, but one thing that carried me through and has always carried me through, through four superintendencies, because I put children first, and I think each and every one of you, I'm proud to have served with you because you have put children first and that's important. During the time I've been here I really am pleased to say Waterbury has been a very progressive school district, very creative, very innovative, and you're right President Stango, the Curriculum on the Wall, we had to have it, you know why, my 46 years of experience, you didn't know I was in education for 46 years, right, served in the Army, did other things, want to calculate my age? You'll probably get it right and that would be embarrassing. The nice part about it is that to get up every

morning and come to work and that was my message to the students at the commencement at Kennedy, I said choose your vocation well, wisely, because you're going to be doing it for the next 40/50 years and I said the way you're going you'd be living a long time so, and it's true, you've got to get up every morning and say I really want to go to work instead of saying do I have to go to work today. It's been a great time, Mrs. Cullinan you were a principal at that time and she worked with me closely and I put her in charge of a lot of things and she always delivered. Ann, I'm so happy to see you back, to see each and every one of you. Cathy, you've been a great supporter, you were the one that was there when we were working for the last six, seven years on the Career Academy High School. Commissioner Van Stone, I'm a little nervous, why am I nervous, I'm never nervous, this is ridiculous. Commissioner Van Stone is really working hard towards getting the Career Academy up with a think-tank and I think that's important because we have a jewel in the City of Waterbury with the school and I would strongly recommend to all of you, to Superintendent Ouellette, make sure that that school lives up to its name because our kids, we built that, if you recall six years ago when you gave me the task you said our kids are not getting to Kaynor because they raised the bar, that's why their test scores, CAPT scores look great, and so we have built a school and our students are fortunate enough. So I want to thank each and every one of you, Karen Harvey, thank you for all your support, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner McEntee, you're a new member but it's such a pleasure to have you, Commissioner Rodriguez, thank you. President Stango, I remember you when you were in the class, you were giving me a hard time, I do remember that. I'm gonna leave early so I'm not gonna attack you outside. But to have somebody who was teacher of the year, we were so proud of you, you made it special for our youngsters, you started it and now you have a big school, they should have named the school after you, Stango Academy, Career Academy. Dr. Ouellette, keep up the good work, you have a job ahead of you and I think that's important. The children are special but I'll tell you, I have been successful, I have, and whether some of you shake your head in the right direction wrong direction, it's immaterial right now because come the 30th I'm leaving. So shake your head in the right direction so we'll all feel good about it. Again, we have a task ahead of us, you have a task ahead of us, keep up the good work and you know one thing, I have seen this gentlemen, ten years, Paul, more, here's a man who's a Superintendent's Superintendent, he really is, he's one of the finest people that I've known, he's given me a hard time too, no he hasn't, he's always there, he's worked with us well, so thank you Paul for your support, thanks for everything. And as I ride into the sunset, that's not gonna happen because I have other plans, there's a lot of things I need to do and sometimes things happen and my years in Waterbury have been just great, nothing would have been successful without those teachers. That's why Charles, today, President Stango, seeing all those teachers, you know, it's not easy, it brought tears to my eyes and so, they were wonderful, they made it happen for me. And by the way Curriculum on the Wall had to be done, I'll tell you why, you can take curriculum, in all the 46 years I've seen people put curriculum in binders and you know where it stays, in the binder, nobody opens those things, put it on the wall and it's there. And we gave parents a copy, a third grade teacher had a second grade curriculum and fourth grade so they knew what the kids were gonna face in the future and what they learned before or they didn't learn before. So it's been a great time and I was really happy to see at Robyn's retirement Mike Andolina was there, he hired me when I first came on board, they would have loved to fire me too, but they had no choice. But I thank you all. And Cathy, we need you with that Career Academy High School, the Adult Ed Tech Center,

so don't let me down. And Ann, as I said, good person to have back. Thank you, enjoy, I really appreciate it.

(applause)

STANGO: The next item is President's Comments, I'm going to execute a personal privilege, I think Mr. Tom Van Stone would like to speak.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President. Dr. Sequeira, before you leave, I don't think we'll roast you but I do have a few comments. I came on this Board about seven months ago and I certainly had many conversations, post-meetings, with Dr. Sequeira and it just seems my time here so far our paths continue to cross. We've done a number of things together in my short period of time here. I think we're doing good things especially with the Adult Education and the Tech Center and of course Career School is all a gem to all of us. We've also crossed paths where we seem to have the same graduation ceremonies together where we've gotten to speak. I've only been here a short time, much shorter than most of you, but my time with Dr. Sequeira has been tremendous and I think the only final thing to say is when you do look up the word gentleman in the dictionary there's absolutely a picture of Dr. Sequeira right next to the word gentleman. Thank you Dr., it's been a pleasure, and I certainly hope we continue to cross paths. Thank you very much.

STANGO: Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: Thank you Mr. President, I won't let the moment go either. In 1998 Paul came to the district and I'll call him Paul because we've got that type of relationship, but Paul came to the district and I happened to be seated at the time as the Majority Leader of the Board of Aldermen. In 2000 Paul sought the leadership position for the school district and he finished in the top three and unfortunately the Board of Education then selected a different candidate to lead the district. But undaunted Paul went back to work for the district. I'm certainly sure he was disappointed but he didn't let that stop him and he went on to do great things with the Curriculum on the Wall and the Literacy Academy and probably his greatest accomplishment that I had the pleasure to help him with was the Career Academy. So he will be missed. We're not renewing your contract Paul, go home and relax.

STANGO: Commissioner Rodriguez.

RODRIGUEZ: Thank you President Stango, through you. Dr. Sequeira thank you, thank you for your years of service, your dedication to the students of the City of Waterbury. And I too remember when I came on the Board and you learned of my admiration of Muhammad Ali, I remember you coming to me the second meeting that I was on the Board with a photo of I believe two of your classmates or friends you grew up with who were actually in the same Olympics that Muhammad Ali was in 1960 and while you were describing your friendship you talked a little bit deflated about how you wish you were also in that Olympics with Muhammad Ali. But I just want to tell you we got the better bargain because you are an Olympic gold medalist human being and for our district and for our community. Thank you and you'll be remembered for many years and God bless.

STANGO: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Thank you very much. Dr. Sequeira, I want to touch upon something that many of these Commissioners are not aware of and that is when you came, first of all you are definitely for the community, one of the administrators that on a regular basis comes out to the community, but you took the time out of your busy schedule to talk to the Mt. Olive AME Zion Church, the kids there, regarding your trip to Kenya, your recent trip, and although we didn't have pictures, just your talk was just very uplifting for the kids something, when we talk about being a role model and having role models for our children, that's what we're talking about, those that take the time out of their busy schedule to go into the community and not just do it once, but do it on a regular basis. So I want to thank you because the community, the church that you attended, is not only in the community but it's the oldest black institution in the City of Waterbury and one of the largest and so we appreciated that, the kids always talk about it, so I want you to continue to do that, continue to talk to the kids, continue to go out into the community because it is needed and just know that I really appreciate that personally and I want to wish the best of luck to you, you were there sometimes when I needed to vent and you let me vent on certain things and it was a pleasure spending time on interviews, I know I almost needed to get a cot down Central Office because I'm there so much but it just was a pleasure working with you during the interviews and I'm very concerned about what we're gonna do with GEAR-UP; your oversight on that was just remarkable, Waterbury Career Academy, and our dealing with the Naugatuck Valley Community College. So you will be missed but you go home and you rest. Thank you very much.

STANGO: Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Doc, just a few years ago now when I was a newbie on this Board and I was full of questions and asking people everything I could to try to catch up to speed and I remember, maybe I was on the Board a month or so and we started talking a little bit about what summer school looked like and I had tons of questions surrounding that, and as that school year ended and summer school was getting right in the full swing I came back at you again and I asked you a number of more questions and you said listen, we can look at all the paper we need to, why don't you come down, we'll hop in the car and we'll drive around to some of these things and you can just see what summer school looks like and I think that will help paint the picture and it clearly did. That day I spent with you bouncing around, we hit three or four schools that day and I saw a summer school that I didn't necessarily think existed, I always had visions of summer school being this drudgery, this prison for kids that no one wanted to be at and the excitement of which you talked about it and then the excitement of the kids that we saw on their faces on those days we went, really reflected that and you among the few people were kind of the first allies I made when I came down here on the Board was very comfortable of coming to talk to and get straight answers from and I will always remember that and I wish you nothing but the best in all your days to come.

STANGO: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Dr. Sequeira, I want to echo all the comments made today, I have to say my personal, I remember going to 30-B Church Street and going up the stairs to your office and what I'll always remember is you always had such enthusiasm, it never dies, it's

unbelievable, no matter what came your way you were enthusiastic and you really believed in Waterbury and the students and I had the pleasure of working with you and seeing you and Dr. Padua, all the work you did on that Career Academy and going to the advisory groups, bring in the community, the manufacturing community, your patience, you're just inspiring. Never ever, in all the dealings going through hard stuff making choices, did ever lack your professionalism and I take that, we learn from that, and I hope you realize how important you are to this district and I wish you well. And I always remember that famous quote "do not go gently into that good night", Dylan Thomas. I know you will not and you will rage, rage against the darkness. So good luck to you.

STANGO: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Dr. Sequeira if there's anything bittersweet about my return to this Board it's that I return to tell you goodbye and good luck on your retirement. You know there's so many things, so many memories of things you have advocated for that maybe people have forgotten about but I could remember some of the more unpopular ones where you stood your ground. When we raised the bar for our student athletes, when we raised the bar and raised the passing grade for our high school students, that was a big thorny issue and that one took us awhile but we got there and we got there with the kind of support that you gave because you knew it was the right thing to do for kids and you never wavered from your belief in that. Middle School Accelerated Academy – remember how long we fought for that, how many times I came to you, we need to do something for this group of kids in our middle schools and we need to do it and we need to do it now and you got it done. And you stuck with it; you were here for every parent orientation for middle school's accelerated academy. It boggles my mind, you didn't just get there, you followed it through, you stayed with it. The same with the Waterbury Career Academy, you know how many years we talked about that before it actually came to fruition and today you're still running with that ball. And that is the value of Dr. Sequeira that this district is going to miss so greatly. But I agree with what some of the others have said, I do not see you just sitting back in the hammock, which is where you should be, but I see that you will be a purposeful asset somewhere else and I hope that you'll just send us a little notice, a little newsletter, a little update once in a while so that we know what you're doing. I will sadly miss you my friend.

SEQUEIRA: I just want to say thank you for remembering...

(applause)

7. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

STANGO: Just a quick announcement. The Board of Education will not meet for its Regular Meeting on July 3rd, that is the night before the fourth of July and long weekend. We will instead hold a Special Meeting in conjunction with the Workshop of June 26th. The Special Meeting will be for the purpose of voting on any action item which may be needed before our July/August Workshop and Meeting. So we wish everyone to have a great holiday and a restful July but we will be here next week for Workshop, not here, we will be at Maloney. And that concludes my comments.

8. COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PERSONNEL

- 8.1 Upon a motion by Vice President Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner J. Van Stone, it was voted, by roll call vote, to approve the appointment of Michele M. Buerkle as Principal, Wilby High School, effective July 1, 2014.**

STANGO: Motion has been made seconded. Discussion – Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT: Thank you Mr. President. I'm very pleased to recommend to the Board of Education this evening the approval of Michele Buerkle for the position of Wilby High School Principal. Mrs. Buerkle's education career began 34 years ago in Waterbury as a special education and regular education teacher. During her tenure in Waterbury she has served as Teaching Vice Principal at Tinker, Supervising Vice Principal at Rotella, Supervising Vice Principal at State Street, Supervisor of Special Education, Night School Principal at Wilby, and Principal of Alternative Programs since 2002. Mrs. Buerkle's credentials include a Sixth Year at Southern Connecticut State University; she holds numerous certifications and is currently the President of SAW. Mrs. Buerkle serves on the District School Improvement Committee, Night School Development Committee, and Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens Committee. Her honors and awards include Superintendent Nomination for Connecticut Association of Schools, CAS Outstanding Middle Schools, Waterbury Champion for Youth Certificate, and Partners In Education Appreciation Award for Outstanding Services. She's an active member of the Connecticut Association of Schools. Her colleagues describe her as a collaborative leader who embodies the spirit of resiliency, a strategic planner and professional, one who empowers teachers and students to develop to their full potential. I'm very pleased to present Mrs. Michele Buerkle as the Wilby High School Principal.

(applause)

STANGO: Any further discussion? Roll call vote please.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #8.1:

Yeas: Awwad, Brown, Harvey, McEntee, Rodriguez, Sweeney, J. Van Stone, T. Van Stone, and President Stango – 9

(applause)

BUERKLE: Thank you so much, you could see how excited I am, I couldn't wait to come up here. I am just so excited and thrilled to have this wonderful opportunity and I am very honored to join the Wilby family. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

STANGO: Item number nine, Consent Calendar, does anyone wish to remove and item? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Item #9.7 please.

STANGO: Alright. Anyone else. Alright, then I shall read the Consent Calendar.

President Stango proceeded to read the Consent Calendar, Items 9.1 through 9.6 and 9.8 through 9.12.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey and duly seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, it was voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, Items 9.1 through 9.6 and 9.8 through 9.12, as listed:

- 9.1 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Professional Services Agreement with EBS Healthcare Services, Inc. d/b/a Educational Based Services, Inc. (EBS) for speech therapy services for students.
- 9.2 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Access Rehab Centers, LLC, to provide speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy services required for students.
- 9.3 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Rob Davis d/b/a Summit Support Services to provide clinical coordinator services to staff and identified students.
- 9.4 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of a Sub-recipient Agreement with The Ark Child Development Center, Inc. for the administration of State of Connecticut Department of Education Early Childhood Bond Funds Grant Program.
- 9.5 With the approval of the Committee on Finance, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to participate in the Healthy Food Certification as outlined in Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 and *will* exclude from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.
- 9.6 With the approval of the Committee on Building, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of an Agreement with Independent Materials Testing Laboratories, Inc. for Material Testing and Inspection Services for the Kennedy High School Addition and Alterations Project.
- 9.8 With the approval of the Committee on Policy, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval for Waterbury Career Academy to implement the following pilot Dress Code for the 2014/15 school year:

Mandatory Dress Code Policy, Waterbury Career Academy: The following Dress Code Policy is mandatory for the Waterbury Career Academy for the 2014/15 school year:

1. BOYS:

- a. Pants or shorts in solid khaki (with black optional); worn completely covering undergarments and worn no more than 3 inches above knee.
- b. Polo style tops in solid black with long or short sleeves and a collar.

2. GIRLS:

- a. Pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, dresses, or jumpers in solid khaki (with black optional); worn completely covering undergarments no more than 3 inches above knee. Note: Leggings, stockings or other stretch/form fitting leg coverings may only be worn under shorts, skirts, skorts, dresses or jumpers.
- b. Polo style tops in solid black with long or short sleeves and a collar; worn completely covering undergarments, cleavage and midribs.

9.9 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the new Middle School Computer Education Curriculum, as attached.

9.10 With the approval of the Committee on Curriculum, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the new Smaller Learning Community Exploratory Course Curriculum for Crosby High School Turnaround, as attached.

9.11 With the approval of the Committee on School Personnel, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval of the two-year, beginning August 2014 and ending June 2016, "special leave" of absence request of Melissa Davino.

9.12 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
S. Porzio	Kennedy aud.: Wed., June 25th 6:00-9:00 pm
DPW	(public information meeting re: Greenway Project)
Dr. Burzler	Gilmartin café & gym: Nov. 9th – 23rd 6:00-9:00 pm
	(Perform community service)
Gladys Wright	WAMS café: Monday, Oct. 6th 3:30-8:30 pm
	(District Title I annual parents meeting)
N. Jones	Reed café: Tues., Aug. 12th 10:00-11:00 am
	(Crossing guards meeting)

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

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT

Item #9.7

BROWN: Ladies and gentlemen, with the approval of the Commissioner on Legislation, the Superintendent of Schools recommends approval to request of the Charter Revision

Commission to remove the position of Superintendent of Schools from the authority of Civil Service, **SO MOVED.**

SWEENEY: **Second.**

STANGO: Motion has been made and seconded. Discussion? Commissioner Awwad then Vice President Harvey.

AWWAD: Mr. Chairman, in light of the communication that we received from Corporation Counsel today in response to the concern that was raised by Alderwoman Phelan and the fact that Attorney/Counsel Wihbey has received this and yet to, I believe, answer it, I think that we should suspend the moving on this and table this item until such time as we receive an answer to the concern that Alderwoman Phelan has brought to us.

STANGO: Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: Yes, I agree with that, I think we should table this until such time we receive it.

AWWAD: **I would move to table.**

HARVEY: **Second.**

STANGO: Before we do that, Commissioner Sweeney, discussion on the first part.

SWEENEY: I would respectfully request to find out what the timeline is for submittal to the Committee because if we're gonna miss that submittal it would be better to put the submittal in and pull it then to miss the deadline because it's another 10 years before you have the opportunity to do.

STANGO: Paul, could you clarify that.

GUIDONE: Motion to table isn't debatable but to quickly answer the question I'm not aware of any tight schedule right now for submission of any proposal. I will get one by the next Workshop.

AWWAD: There's a motion on the floor to table.

STANGO: Right.

AWWAD: There's no discussion on a motion to table.

STANGO: I know that but I was wondering if we could get all the discussion in on the original one first.

HARVEY: Call the question.

STANGO: Okay. Repeat your motion Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: The motion is to table.

HARVEY: Second.

STANGO: Motion is to table and there's a second.

BROWN: Roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE Item #9.7:

Yeas: Awwad, Harvey, Rodriguez, and T. Van Stone – 4

Nays: Brown, McEntee, Sweeney, J. Van Stone, and Stango – 5

CLERK: Motion to table fails.

STANGO: Motion to table has failed so we will return back to the original motion.
Commissioner Jason Van Stone.

J. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President, while I think Commission Awwad's concerns are valid and I could understand going that route, I think we can pursue two parallel courses and ask for a submission for this and if the findings of Corporation Counsel show us we can go in another direction we can simply remove that. Not to belabor this point, we spoke on it probably four or five times, I think this is the right thing to do. I would rather this Board be directly responsible for all the candidates to come before us and eventually hire a Superintendent as that is our charge as a Board of Education and that's what the voters expect us to do so I think this is an appropriate request to the Charter Revision Commission.

STANGO: Commissioner Tom Van Stone.

T. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President. I too agree but I understand where we're going with this motion, first off, whatever we decide is only a recommendation anyway, it really doesn't hold any water whatsoever as far as what the Commission does, they'll just, would like to hear what we have to say. But if the way it was presented to us by the Alderwoman it may not need to go to the Commission until we know better so I'm fine with it being removed, that's fine with me, I also think it should be taken out of the Charter, that's not why I voted for this motion. I would like to hear in the future what the right path is on how we remove this or how it gets out of the Charter. So that is the reason I did go forward and vote "yes" for this motion. Thank you.

STANGO: Further discussion? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: I will be voting against this, first of all I don't think we had enough discussion on this, there was discussion in Committee but when it came out of Committee we just kind of glossed over it. But, first of all, the process is not broken so why try to fix it. Secondly, Civil Service curves against political influence; it's the speed bump in the process and politics is no place for education. I have had many discussions with parents and they believe that this is a political move rather than for the good of the kids. So for the good of the kids I will not be voting for this. Thank you.

STANGO: Any further discussion? Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: I will be joining Commissioner Harvey in voting against removing this from the Civil Service process. As I said in the Committee meeting, I believe that the Civil Service process is there to literally protect us from ourselves and I don't advocate removing that check and balance.

STANGO: Anyone else? Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: Just to clarify, the current process is that the top five candidates after they take the exam are put before the Board of Education?

GUIDONE: The current process is the top five scoring candidates on the Civil Service test are forwarded to the Board of Education for their consideration.

McENTEE: So if this is removed from Civil Service then every candidate that applied will be presented to the Board?

GUIDONE: The Board would develop its own process of how it would want to proceed at that point. The Board may have either staff or consultants screen applicants, determine how many candidates should move forward in the interview process, and then ultimately decide on the final steps of the selection. So it would essentially be up to the Board and whoever the Board wants to employ to work with them in the recruitment and selection of a superintendent.

McENTEE: So the Board would have to vote if they wanted someone else to kind of weed out some of the candidates before they were presented?

GUIDONE: Traditionally Boards of Education throughout the State and including this one have hired consultants to work with them in their superintendent search and selection. This Board did so, also help the system identifying criteria, they have a network of recruitment and prepare questions that the Board may choose to ask, things of that sort. Traditionally boards have done that, it's not required, most boards in the state have employed that purpose.

(tape ended)

McENTEE: . . . went that way we wouldn't see every application?

GUIDONE: It would be up to the process that the Board works on with the consultant. The Board may say screen all these applications and bring forward the top ten, bring forward those you deem absolutely at the top of the pile for interview, it would really be up to the Board and the consultants or whoever is staffing the Board's superintendent search.

McENTEE: Okay, thank you.

STANGO: Anyone else? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: I just want to add something to that Commissioner McEntee, the process, because you weren't here the last time we chose our last Superintendent, the current

Superintendent, it was a more open process, people were able to watch the process, it was more open to the public, the candidates had to present what they planned to do to the district and it got the community and parents and everyone involved. If we remove this from Civil Service chances are we won't have that openness and I think we need that. In other words we would have to develop a process where Civil Service there is a process. So that openness I think was really good not only for the Board of Education but also for the parents, the community, and really the candidates had to really debate and to show their good, their bad, and we were able to keep that open and I think that's the main thing, that was an open process. So that's what I think Civil Service affords us. Thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner Jason Van Stone then Commissioner Sweeney.

J. VAN STONE: Thank you Mr. President. To echo a little bit what Vice President Harvey just said, that is all true, we had a great open discussion last time with the top three candidates but that really had nothing to do with Civil Service, that all happened well after the Civil Service process was open, that was determined by this Board, well that Board of Education in conjunction with the consultants we had hired to figure out okay now we have a top five, from that we weaned it down to three, and then at that point we said this is what we are going to decide as a Board now, we're gonna have 300 people down here and you're gonna have to present your vision to the district. It was a fantastic exercise but removing this from Civil Service would have no bearing necessarily on what happens after Civil Service is over. The concern I had, when we went through the Superintendent search last time, the consultants we hired were very pointedly said listen, there's some very good candidates out there that could be fantastic opportunities for your district, they're not taking a test, they have the credentials, they have the history, they have the background to prove that they're qualified, they don't need a Civil Service test to prove that they're qualified. When you're dealing with some of the people who have the abilities that I think we are searching for, I think they deserve that respect that we can just, as a Board, interview them, talk to them, look at their credentials, and make our determination on whether they're qualified or not. To make them go sit in a room and fill out a test and bubble in little circles might be a little beneath some of the candidates. So the biggest concern I had with Civil Service was that it opened up, or it shrunk immediately the pool of potential candidates we had and if it's our job at the end it to always make sure we hire the best person that we think possible, if we can't even get them to apply there's no way we're ever going to hire them.

STANGO: Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Commissioner Jason Van Stone is correct, the process of the public meetings and bringing candidates forward to the public was the wish and the will of this Board and the recommendation that we made for our process after Civil Service. The issue with Civil Service is two-fold; my issue anyways is two-fold in that this most recent Civil Service Director freely admitted that because Waterbury is one of, if not the only city in the United States that still uses Civil Service for its superintendents, there is no test out there for a superintendent, that needed to be developed. This particular Civil Service Director was very willing to work with this Board and our consultants to develop an interview process to cull that list of candidates to the top five that we eventually saw. In the previous superintendent search some 12 years ago, 15 years ago that was not

the case and there was bitter, a bitter fight between the Board and the Civil Service Commission and the Director at that time as to who was going to have the authority to hire that Superintendent and even at that time the issue, the biggest issue was how would Civil Service test candidates because there was no standard blueprint for a test for superintendents. An education moves at the speed of light, it changes on a moment's notice. Far better to have Boards of Education research the avenues for hiring a superintendent and cull their information from best practices of superintendent hires across the United States then to depend on a civil service system that, quite frankly, is already overwhelmed with the wealth of hiring's that they do in this city on a normal daily basis and the tests that they have to give. You know a superintendent can be here for three years, could be here for five years, could be here for 10 years, could be here for 12 years, in that length of time those requirements, what you're looking for in a superintendent are going to change and that means that Civil Service has to be prepared to keep up on all those changes so that they give a test that is meaningful and it gives you the best candidates possible. I don't believe that a Civil Service function best speaks to picking a superintendent, I do not. So I would support not only this going to the Commission but if they put it on the ballot I would support it as well.

STANGO: Anything further? Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: First of all, Civil Service I believe, and other people believe, that we wouldn't have been as open had it gone through Civil Service. Politics move at the speed of light as well. This process, Civil Service, again is the speed bump in the process. You see how we do things now when we select our principals we go into executive session, you know what happens in executive session. This made it, regardless of what anyone says, it made it a little bit more open. In the paper we knew who the candidates were, we knew who was first, we knew who was second, we knew who was third, so I don't think it would have been an open process had it not gone through Civil Service. Is it archaic? Yes. But again the political element that's involved in our process right now in the Waterbury School District it kind of puts a stop to that, it kind of holds that, it kind of yields it so that's why I am voting against removing it, the Superintendent from the Civil Service process.

STANGO: Anything else? Roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM #9.7:

Yeas: Brown, Sweeney, J. Van Stone, T. Van Stone, and Stango – 5

Nays: Awwad, Harvey, McEntee, and Rodriguez – 4

CLERK: Motion passes five to four.

STANGO: Thank you.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD

Upon a motion by Commissioner J. Van Stone and duly seconded by Commissioner Harvey, it was voted unanimously to receive and place on file items 11.1 through 11.6, as listed:

11.1 Maloney Magnet School Summer School appointments, contingent upon enrollment, salary according to individual's contract:

Administrator-Donna Cullen
 Teacher Leader/Admin Substitute-Ann Drewry
 Curriculum Support Teacher- Margaret Palomba
 Kindergarten Assistant- Michael Rearson
 Secretary- Anna Perugini
 Administrative Support Specialist-Shanna Zawislak
 Computer Tech – James Accousti
 Substitute Teacher – Susan Maloney

Teachers-

Terri Daly	Siobhan Kalnins	Jennifer Hibbs
Jennifer Bussey	Cherie Couture	David Couture
Marlene Madera	Alzira Egan	Katie Pino
Haley McBride	Barbara Moulthrop	Branden Strileckis
Esther D'Esposito	Andrew Dunn	Erin Fogarty

11.2 Summer School appointments, contingent upon enrollment, salary according to individual's contract:

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Position</i>
Mendoza	Tania	Reed	Secretary
Stribling	Denise	Bucks Hill	Secretary
Morytko	Jessica	Duggan	Secretary
Rinaldi	Janice	Gilmartin	Secretary
Alexander	Lisa	Rotella	Secretary
Conway	Jamie	Carrington	Secretary
Fitzgerald	Kris	Coordinator	Secretary
Sparwell	Cynthia	Teacher	Reed
Garafola	Denise	Teacher	Gilmartin
Chasse	Douglas	Teacher replacing Anne Dauscher	Gilmartin

11.3 Extended School Year appointments, contingent upon enrollment, salary according to individual's contract:

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>School Assigned</i>
Collangelo	Sharon	Carrington-Para (8–3)
Harrison	Arthur	State Street/Reed-Para (8–3)
Ramos	Maria	Paraprofessional resigned
Santiago	Genevieve	Reed-Para (8-12)
Stamp	Shelly	Bucks Hill Annex resigned
Santa Maria	Yvonne	Duggan Para EESY (8-1)
Santiago	Maritza	WCA Para (23 hrs/week)
Garafola	Denise	Paraprofessional resigned

11.4 Summer Transition Program appointments dependent upon student enrollment, salary according to individual's contract:

Grade 5 to Grade 6 – Donald Shulenburg (math teacher)
 Grade 8 to Grade 9 – Ellen Perugini (math teacher)

Grade 8 to Grade 9 – Rodney Yatsenick (math teacher)
Grade 8 to Grade 9 – Ashley Freitas (math teacher)
Grade 5 to Grade 6 – Luanelly Iglesias EL support at North End Middle School
Grade 5 to Grade 6 – Mildred Martinez math at Wallace Middle School
Grade 5 to Grade 6 – Julio Bosques EL support at Wallace Middle School
Grade 5 to Grade 6 – Alberto Rodriguez EL support at West Side Middle School

11.5 21st Century Learning Centers Summer Program appointments, salary according to individual's contract, effective immediately:

Wallace Middle School:

Froese, Justin	Gluz, Debra	Pogodzienski, Marcy
Sidella, David	Terenzi, Tim	

Teen Idol/WSMS:

Clark, Michael	Griffin, Emily
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11.6 Resignations:

Aronheim, Lindsay – WAMS Psychologist, effective 08/01/13.
Carlson, Stacey – NEMS Math, effective 06/17/14.
Carolan, Elizabeth – KHS SLP, effective 06/30/14.
Cook, Brandy – NEMS English/Language Arts, effective 06/18/14.
Crane, Michael – KHS Psychologist/Acting Supervisor of Special Education, effective 06/30/14.
Griffin, Meghan – WAMS Science, effective 06/30/14.
Lang, Christine – Duggan Special Education, effective 06/17/14

STANGO: Items will be 11.1 to 11.6. All in favor? Motion carries. Item #12 on the Agenda is Unfinished Business of the Preceding Meeting Only.

J. VAN STONE: It just occurred to me, and I'm speaking now as the last Workshop as my last meeting, just from a housekeeping perspective I think we need to do a little better job of not jamming the agenda of 14 hours of stuff. Everything we saw there was very important to listen to and I think sometimes once we get into hour seven of our meetings it's hard for any human being to always be giving 100% of our attention. So, I know sometimes things happen like that but if we can go forward for a little bit leaner/meaner agenda to give all our presenters the possibility of being heard to the fullest I would ask that we try that.

SUPERINTENDENT: I agree, I definitely agree.

STANGO: Okay. Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: And as it regards to the last meeting too I would just like to note, I don't know how many of you got calls but I got four or five, I don't want to say tons of them, regarding the comments in the paper by the new principal at Bucks Hill about her return to the state and to the district to increase her retirement. It was unfortunate and it resulted in me getting four phone calls asking what was I doing. It was an unfortunate comment.

STANGO: Anyone else. Vice President Harvey.

HARVEY: I just want to echo cause I did send an email out regarding that we need to, first of all I believe, I love the presentations but I think we need to put some time limits on these presentations and to pretty much prioritize what we're gonna do in the Workshop. We're elected officials so we have to devote the time but that was like information overload so if we can kind of do that a little bit better that would be great. Thank you.

STANGO: Commissioner Brown.

BROWN: Yes I agree but I think we also have to keep in mind that as Commissioners we ask the staff for updates on a lot of these issues and I think maybe we could look at another process so that we don't have to have all the updates at one meeting, maybe prioritize the updates because I think the staff works very hard to make those presentations meaningful and give us the information that we need so they're important but I think we as Commissioners have to decide what information we want and in what form. The whole staff doesn't have to come out; it could just be a report or an update. So maybe look at that as a way to get the information but not have to have everybody there. Just for a further end of the year, I would be interested to know how our kids did, how many were promoted, just kind of an update on student progress and where we are with that. Thanks.

STANGO: Anyone else on that item. For my own self to add on that it did happen and it's a fluke that there's so many on one thing. I don't anticipate that happening again and we will keep an eye on it. So having said that, Commissioner Brown too, your point that the whole staff doesn't have to come out but you know what I find after a while that they're so proud of what they do they want to be there and they want to support their supervisor and they want to support their administrator on what they're doing and they want to be there to see it and they want to see our reaction to it. So I understand that and I don't begrudge that.

BROWN: I absolutely agree; it's to their credit that they do want to come and they give up their time.

STANGO: Okay, moving on now to Item #13 – Other Unfinished, New, and Miscellaneous Business. Vice President Harvey and then Commissioner Awwad.

HARVEY: I am pleased to announce that the air conditioning is working at Wilby High School in the auditorium and kudos to Mr. Cross; I told him I would publically thank him because I made such a big stink last year because it wasn't working. In fact I was comfortable, I was comfortable because the parents were comfortable, no one was fanning, everyone was fine, all smiles. So I want to thank Mr. Cross for that and I told him I would do that publically so kudos to him and his staff.

For the community folks, Commissioners, you should know that on Saturday we had a dedication of a park on Pearl Street known in the community as the ABC Park. The park was renamed the Reverend Dr. Harrison Douglas Bonner Park. What significance does that have to education? Reverend Bonner is a champion of education. Dr. Portia Bonner is the daughter of Harrison Douglas Bonner. The Mayor was there, community folks were there, everyone came out, it is a wonderful park. If you get the opportunity

you should go buy it because it is now a park that our kids can play in safely. I know how old I am and I played in the old park and I remember cutting my finger and having to go to the hospital to get a tetanus shot because the equipment was so old. So if you get an opportunity it's a beautiful, beautiful park, it's directly across the street from Mt. Olive AME Zion Church and it was a wonderful, wonderful event.

Lastly, and I know that we say in the beginning that we're not going to address things from public speaking but first of all I want to compliment the parents, folks that spoke, but particularly Gilmartin. Maybe I'm wrong but I'm sensing, I'm reading something between the lines in what you said, okay, and when our parents come down we need to listen to them so I would like to meet with you and hear your concerns particularly about climate. It just kind of has me curious on what exactly you're talking about. You also talked about some money you're getting or something so I want to hear this so I'd like to set up a meeting with you, any other Commissioner that would like to come along that's fine, we have to be careful that a lot of us are not assembling so that it's not considered a meeting, but I would like to hear your concerns. So I'll give you my card and we can set up something and you pick the location and we'll meet.

Also, just so you know, I did receive an anonymous letter; it was concerning Gilmartin, so maybe that's the connection there. So thank you very much and that's all I have.

STANGO: Thank you Vice President Harvey and thank you for noting that we're not supposed to answer things tonight and also we have a regulation on anonymous letters too.

HARVEY: I've been here as long as you President Stango so I just wanted you to know and I think the letter went to the Superintendent as a matter of fact.

STANGO: Okay, we're all on the same page. Commissioner Awwad.

AWWAD: Now that school has come to an end I wanted to ask that consideration be made before the beginning of the new school year that we look at consolidating the night school into one location for kids that want to be there that are juniors and seniors. Back in April and May the Mayor and I took some time and went around and visited the night schools on two occasions. I won't bore you with the report tonight, if you'd like I'd be happy to discuss it with you perhaps in the Committee level, but on average the attendance is running between 40 and 60%; we have kids suspended and arrested, we have no shows, we have in-school suspension in the Night School. I think we could do better for the kids that are benefiting from the program and reduce the cost to the district dramatically by consolidating it into one location. Just as an example, there's usually four classes going on at any time throughout the night, they're in different parts of the building, they're upstairs, they're downstairs, they're in an annex, they're in portables, the SRO is in the office, it's very disjointed and I believe that if you're looking for a school environment that creates a community for these kids to go to it should be in one facility with reduced costs, you're paying for three administrators, three SRO's, three social workers, it's I believe something that could be done beneficially for the students that need to be there, in a manner that could be more cost effective to the district, we have freshman and sophomore at Crosby's Night School, this program is not for freshman and sophomores, it's for juniors and seniors. So I would ask that there's serious consideration being looked at and that a plan be brought forth to consolidate

that and save some money. I would like to see that by the end of July so we can implement it for the new school year.

STANGO: I think we will bring that to a Workshop this summer and address those concerns. Yes, Commissioner McEntee.

McENTEE: It was my understanding that for the 2014/2015 school year that the Superintendent was going to direct Mr. Yamin to return Crosby to the Board approved dress code. Can you confirm that that conversation took place?

SUPERINTENDENT: That's has been . . .

McENTEE: How were the family and students made aware of that.

SUPERINTENDENT: By a memo.

STANGO: Anyone else? Commissioner Sweeney.

SWEENEY: Paul, I have a request, a rather huge request. I have some serious concern around how we portray adequate school space to the public. My issue with it is that in the public it is constantly, almost consistently portrayed as anything with four walls and a door is good enough for our kids and quite frankly for me it's not. We have a wide range of any size of a room in terms of square footage whether or not they have adequate ventilation or heat, whether they have adequate electrical outlets and technology outlets. I would like to see, and I know Mr. Cross is gonna kill me, but as we're doing our summer projects if we could get some sense of what schools have what square footage for rooms and what they have in terms of support for actual, viable educational space. Because I would like for our School Facilities Committee to look at that and possibly recommend at least a minimum square footage so that we never again have people going in and hacking a room in half from 30 students to two rooms of 30 students each and now 60 students in the same space. And that is what occurred over the late 80's and early 90's and that is what our district, quite frankly right now is comprised of and it's educational facility inequality for our students and they deserve better and we need a better path to look at that. We have a master facilities plan that talks to buildings but we don't have anything that really talks to dedicated space for classrooms. So if we look at a building and we say yea, we got 50 classrooms in there, well we may have 50 classrooms but 10 of those classrooms may be the size of a broom closet and we just can't continue to allow the public to think that we have 50 viable educationally sound classrooms in a building when we don't. So I would like to present that as a . . . and I know that it's a lot to ask but at least they're in the buildings during the summer doing summer work when they're empty and they may have the opportunity to just take a square footage and take a look around and see what each classroom offers.

GUIDONE: I understand the question, let me work with Mr. Cross and see what we come up with as a response, responsive I should say, to your request.

SWEENEY: Okay. Thank you.

STANGO: Anyone else?

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sweeney, and duly seconded by Commissioner McEntee, it was voted unanimously to convene into Executive Session at 7:58 p.m. for discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

Present: President Stango, Commissioners Awwad, Brown, Harvey, McEntee, Rodriguez (left at 8:40), Sweeney, J. Van Stone (left at 9:00), and T. Van Stone. Also present were Dr. Ouellette (left at 8:30) and Paul Guidone (left at 8:15).

Upon a motion by Commissioners Awwad and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to return to the regular order of business at 10:20 p.m. with the record reflecting that no votes were taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Awwad and duly seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:20 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Carrie A. Swain, Clerk
Board of Education