



# Waterbury Public Schools

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Dr. Kathleen M. Ouellette  
Superintendent

## **Superintendent's Report for February 16, 2012 Board of Education Meeting**

Members of a new education reform coalition issued a joint statement Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, in support of the Governor's proposed education reform package. The membership includes the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, the Connecticut Association of Schools, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Connecticut Business and Industry Association, the Connecticut Council for Education Reform, and Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (also known as ConnCAN). The joint statement detailed their agreement on educator preparation and certification, teacher evaluation and support, principal evaluation and support, the relationship between time and learning, school and district accountability, pre-kindergarten, and education contract negotiations. The coalition suggested that contract negotiations focus on student learning needs and that the state's binding arbitration laws be amended to reflect this as a priority. More details will be forthcoming as they become available.

Goodwill Lodge will host the Greater Waterbury African-American Mayor for a Day Celebration, with Vice President Karen E. Harvey as the honoree. The celebration will take place on Feb. 22 at the Goodwill Lodge of Elks, 238 North Elm St., at 6 p.m. This free event is sponsored by the African-American Mayor for a Day Committee and is open to the public. Any questions contact the Rev. Thomas Mallory 203-233-0782.

NBC-30 news anchor and reporter, Brad Drazen, visited Regan School and video-taped students working on the CMT TEST PREP FUN website. He also interviewed the students as well as Principal Noreen Buckley. Channel 30 will air this news report the week before our administration of the Connecticut Mastery Tests.

Rotella Art Teacher Suzanne Dionne reports that 116 pieces of art that she submitted on behalf of her students to the Artsonia program was displayed at the 2011 National Art Education Convention in Seattle. The art work was submitted by 27 students in first grade, 29 in second grade 2, and 26 in kindergarten. Some students had multiple pieces displayed.

Artsonia is an online student art gallery.

Ms. Dionne also reports that Rotella will be among the schools represented at the 2012 National Art Education Convention in New York City on March 2nd and 3rd. Through Artsonia, 500 teachers nationwide were selected to exhibit one piece of artwork which will be displayed at Big Screen Plaza on Avenue of the Americas. She selected a piece of artwork created by Rotella second grader Jaylen Drape.

Also, Artsonia extended an offer to Ms. Dionne to display the work of three students sometime in February or March, again at Big Screen Plaza. These students were chosen: Emma Plourde, Grade 1, Alanna Pais, Grade 2, and Nicholas Pleva, Grade 2.

On March 12-31 there will be a Youth Art Celebration through the Connecticut Art Education Association at West Woods Upper Elementary School in Farmington. Ms. Dionne will be entering art work from first graders Megan Prescott and Rachel Ortiz, and from first graders Vasile Cioana, Marie Sylva and Ayla Martin.

District staff, Board of Education Commissioners and representatives from O & G and the architectural firm the SLAM collaborative, met with neighbors of the Waterbury Career Academy High School site last evening. Neighbors expressed concerns about drainage, increased traffic, and lack of sidewalks in the area. After listening to their concerns, Paul Guidone assured them that the education department would review the issues raised and get back to them at a possible future meeting.

Today at Kennedy High School from 4:00-6:00 p.m., School Governance Council Module 3 Training took place. This is a collaboration between Waterbury Public Schools and CAFE. Our presenters were from the Waterbury Public Schools, Mr. Ron Frost, Director of Personnel, on Participating in the Hiring Process. CAFE sent Consultant Mr. Bob King, to discuss Lessons Learned from Previous Councils, which were presented as a webinar. Also, Mr. King discussed the Culturally Responsive Practice. Module 4 will be back at Wilby on April 24<sup>th</sup>, and this will complete our series of School Governance Council Trainings. Mrs. Mary Ann Marold has planned these training sessions with each of the high schools that had a School Governance Council to give parents equal access. All sessions have been videotaped. We thank Mrs. Marold for her fine work on keeping the community informed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kathleen M. Ouellette  
Superintendent of Schools