

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION Stamford, Connecticut January 26, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on January 26, 2010 at the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mrs. Heftman, President, with the following Board members present: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade (arrived at 7:10 pm). Absent: Mr. Limone and Mayor Pavia. Also in attendance: Dr. Starr, Dr. Hamilton, Dr. Bruno, Ms. Gagne, Ms. Karwan, Ms. Schiavino-Narvez, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Arnold, Mr. Barbarotta, Mr. DiBlasio, Ms. Bang, Ms. Siladi, Mr. Meyer, representatives from the SEA and EASA, Advocate reporter, and approximately 35 guests.

Salute to the flag.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. King presented the mission statement of the Board of Education.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The minutes of the following meetings were approved by unanimous consent:

Special Board Meeting – November 24, 2009 – pp. 106 - 108.
Regular Board Meeting – November 24, 2009 – pp. 109 - 118.
Special Board Meeting – December 1, 2009 – pp. 119 - 120.
Regular Board Meeting – December 1, 2009 – pp. 121 - 124.
Working Board Meeting – January 12, 2010 – pp. 125 - 134.

Ms. Wade arrived at 7:10 pm.

STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Students from KT Murphy Elementary School were honored for a book entitled *Demetrio's Short Tail, A Terrapin Story* which they wrote and illustrated. Also, honored was Jalen Holmes, Stamford HS, for receiving the NAACP's Geri Anderson award, Lisa Occhino, Westhill HS, who will be releasing her first pop album next month, and three Scofield Magnet students, Viraj Attre, Casey Zhu, and Jonathan Xu for Stamford Top Mathlete awards.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Starr reported the following:

- There is a link to US Census information on the home page of the Stamford Public Schools website.
- Tour Yours Schools day will be held on January 29 with a snow date of February 5.
- Barrel that was found at Scofield Magnet Middle School has been removed and contained mostly water with some residual oil.
- The Wright Tech Ad Hoc Committee has met several times. It is not clear whether there will be any funding dedicated to reopening this facility. It is not clear if they will be reopening and when and we have strongly been encouraging them to come to Stamford to see the needs of our community and neighboring communities and not make it just a State department effort.
- A special meeting with members of the Board of Representatives, Board of Finance, and Board of Education leadership to discuss various issues. The first meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 29th. Thus far only the Board of Representatives leadership has responded that they will be attending.
- Reviewed articles related to events going on in our schools that appeared in either the Stamford Advocate or Stamford Times.

Dr. Starr made a presentation on the 2008-2009 Report to the Community. This report will be posted on the Stamford Public Schools website and a postcard will be mailed to parents alerting them that this report is on the website. Dr. Rauh indicated that she would be interested in the information on closing the achievement gap since we say that our standards are measuring on our higher at or above goal and would like to have this information broken out to see if we are closing the gap at that level. Mrs. Heftman, on behalf of the Board, thanked all of the hard working teachers and educational assistants for making all of the high points in this report possible.

BOARD REPORT

Mrs. Heftman reported that the Board members met in their Retreat format this past Friday and Saturday to discuss where we are, where we are going, and our monitoring role that will tell us if we are on track to meet our goals of preparing each and every student for higher education and success in the 21st century. One item that came out of the Retreat was a consensus that we needed to make our Working Board meeting more efficient and more transparent to the public by not focusing the work of the six committees in one meeting format. Starting in March we will change the format and three of our committees will meet on the first Tuesday of the month and three committees will meet on the second Tuesday of the month. The fourth Tuesday will be our Regular Board meeting. On the first Tuesday the following committees will meet: Policy, Curriculum, and the Ad Hoc Family Engagement. For the second Tuesday the

Labor Relations, Fiscal, and Facilities committees will meet. She asked for public feedback in March and let the Board know if this format is meeting the needs of the public.

Mrs. Heftman stated that she toured the new Domus Foundation facilities located at the old Rogers Elementary School and invited Board members to take this tour as this program is accomplishing a lot for many children in Stamford.

She also thanked Beth Schiavino-Narvez, an intern for Dr. Starr, who will be leaving us. She will be missed and we wish her a lot of success in her next venture. It has been a real pleasure having her with us.

TIME FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Seventeen people addressed the Board with matters related to the Mathlete Project, middle school transformation, maintaining Para educators for kindergarten teachers when doing budget deliberations, middle school scheduling, and a parent complaint.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS/RESOLUTIONS

FISCAL

Mr. Murphy reported under the 2009-2010 Budget that we are analyzing the numbers and getting some projections. A written report will be available very soon. Under 2010-2011, the budget books have been distributed and is now available on the website. There is no further report on audit results. The findings were very clean on the BOE side. Dr. Starr indicated that he will be meeting with PT Council on Thursday, January 28, 2010 to review the 2010-2011 proposed budget. Mr. Murphy confirmed that the money from the 4% discretionary freeze has been moved out of the accounts.

Resolution 01-26-10:175

Mr. Pia moved, seconded by Mr. King:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves payment to Stamford Achieves as a provider of SES for the amount up to \$156,468.00 per year.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 01-26-10:176

Mr. Pia moved, seconded by Dr. Rauh:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves payment to Professional Tutors of America as a provider of SES for the amount up to \$98,176.00 per year.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 01-26-10:177

Mr. Pia moved, seconded by Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves payment to Global Partnership Schools as a provider of SES for the amount up to \$245,440.00 per year.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 01-26-10:178

Mr. Pia moved, seconded by Dr. Rauh:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves payment to Scholastic for the amount up to \$951,013.00 for a one time purchase of Read 180 and System 44 Intervention programs, licenses, and materials for K-12 schools.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 01-26-10:179

Mr. Pia moved, seconded by Ms. Wade:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accepts the 2009-10 budget transfers per the document dated January 26, 2010.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 01-26-10:180

Mr. Pia moved, seconded by Mr. Polo:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves the above purchases of over \$100,000.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Mr. Pia left the meeting.

FACILITIES

Mr. King reported that the visit to Rogers and Murphy with Mayor Pavia, Mr. Tarzia, and Mr. Kolenberg was held on January 25th. Mr. Barbarotta indicated that the visits were very positive and everyone was supportive of the schools. There were questions regarding inter-district magnet schools and where the money comes from. Mayor Pavia will be meeting with Mayor DeStefano of New Haven, which has 31 magnet schools. Mr. Barbarotta prepared packages with the EMG Report and encouraged principals to speak up when this group visits to let them know what their priorities are with respect to the capital budget. The next schools to be toured will be Northeast and Turn of River on February 1, 2010.

Mr. Barbarotta reported that the 55 gallon drum found at Scofield was just a random disposal by a citizen. He noted that he monitors the water and soil and watches the site carefully because of its proximity to the dump.

Under the Capital Budget, Mr. Barbarotta believes that our \$24M request has been pared down to \$10.8M. The Planning Board's recommendations will be online in a couple of weeks.

Mrs. Heftman stated that she would like to encourage Mayor Pavia, if he has an interest in building additional inter-district or intra-district magnet schools, that the Board be part of that conversation. During the tour, there was conversation about possibly purchasing the rest of the Clairol property to build an additional school.

Mr. King indicated he had nothing further to report regarding Board Room Technology.

CURRICULUM

Dr. Rauh stated that there was no update on Enrollment other than what is in the proposed 2010-2011 budget book. Dr. Rauh noted that the Classroom Demographics Data is provided in the budget as well. Dr. Rauh asked to move this item to the Committee in terms of looking at our classroom demographics data. She noted that we did the redistricting based on SES and yet we are reporting it out on race. She realizes that is what NCLB requires and the State is still reporting it that way, but would like to discuss looking at it in terms of the goals that were set when we did redistricting. This will be discussed further in Committee. There was nothing further to report under Middle School Transformation.

Dr. Rauh asked to place on the February 23, 2010 Board agenda a presentation by Dr. Bruno on Literacy and SRBI.

Resolution 01-26-10:181

Dr. Rauh moved, seconded by Mr. Polo:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves the School Trip to Italy April 7-April 17, 2010, by students from Stamford High School and Westhill High School.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 01-26-10:182

Dr. Rauh moved, seconded by Ms. Wade:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves the School Trip to Spain June 26, 2010-July 12, 2010, by students from Stamford High School.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Mr. Pia returned to the meeting.

AD HOC PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Ms. Olson requested that an agenda item be added under Information Items/Follow Up regarding registration to discuss the Registration Policy and how registration works now across all grades.

Ms. Wade gave a presentation on the 2010 Census. She reported that \$400B is allocated based on the census and Connecticut receives \$5B with \$1.6B going to Fairfield County. Census data is used to fund school construction, Title I funding, Free/Reduced Lunch, public transportation, building hospitals, social services, senior care, and many other services. She stressed how important it is for funding that everyone is counted. She is working with several partners to help get the word out about the importance of the census. Ms. Wade indicated that there is a story about the Census in the Classroom on the Census.gov website which has lesson plans for grades K-12. If we could get these lesson plans into the classroom so students could get the information to their parents it would be a tremendous help.

POLICY

Dr. Starr indicated there were no updates on the Curriculum and Bullying policies. He did note that he is starting to work on the regulations for the Bullying policy and a draft will be available in May for reasonable interpretation.

Resolution 01-26-10:183

Mr. Polo moved, seconded by Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves Policy 5131.911 Bullying Policy, 1st vote.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Ms. Heftman asked for a motion to remove Resolution 01-26-10:184 from the table as it was tabled at the last meeting.

Mr. Pia moved, seconded by Dr. Rauh to remove Resolution 01-26-10:184 from the table.

The motion passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 01-26-10:184

Ms. Wade moved, seconded by Mr. Polo:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves Policy 6121, Curriculum Management, Design and Delivery, 1st vote.

Dr. Rauh suggested that a pilot phase be added to A Plan for Curriculum Management Design, and Delivery in Stamford Public Schools. After discussion it was moved by Ms. Wade and seconded by Mr. Pia to strike from the policy the clause “as articulated in A Plan for Curriculum Management Design and Delivery in Stamford Public Schools”, Section 8.

The amendment passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, and Ms. Wade. Abstained: Dr. Rauh.

Ms. Wade moved, seconded by Mr. Polo to strike the word “annually” from Policy 6121, Section 8.

The amendment passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

The amended resolution passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, and Ms. Wade. Opposed: Dr. Rauh. Abstained: Ms. Olson.

Resolution 01-26-10:185

Ms. Wade moved, seconded by Mr. Pia:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves the final 2010-2011 school year calendar (vacation and holiday schedule previously approved September 22, 2009).

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Under Race to the Top, Ms. Wade noted that she had read that the State of Texas would not be applying. Dr. Starr indicated that some states don't want to do it, don't want the money, etc. Ms. Wade indicated that the Texas article stated that they were afraid that they would be required to continue funding and Dr. Starr was not sure of the legitimacy of that statement.

LABOR RELATIONS

Ms. Gagne noted that she did not have anything to report under Negotiations or under Grievance/Arbitration. Under Staffing she reported that the posting for the High School Principal position will close on January 31, 2010.

Resolution 01-26-10:186

Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak moved, seconded by Ms. Wade:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves a Childcare Leave for the 2009-2010 school year for the following teachers: Kathleen Quaglino, Amy Colandro, and Rebecca Velasquez.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Ms. Olson moved, seconded by Mr. King to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Dr. Joshua P. Starr
Superintendent of Schools
Executive Office