

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION Stamford, Connecticut March 25, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on March 25, 2008 at the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Mr. Freedman, President, with the following Board members present: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade. Absent: Mr. King and Mayor Malloy. Also in attendance: Dr. Starr, Mr. Dunn, Dr. Hamilton, Dr. Nicholson, Ms. Swerdlick, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Arnold, Ms. Karwan, Ms. Thessin, representatives from the Advocate and Stamford Times, and approximately 125 guests.

Salute to the flag.

STUDENT SHOWCASE

Rippowam Middle School shared some of the musical highlights from their upcoming May production of Disney's Aladdin.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. McManus, to accept the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting – February 14, 2008 – pp. 115 - 120.

Ms. Lorenti noted a correction to her name on page 118 from Mr. to Ms.

The minutes were accepted with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino, to accept the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – February 26, 2008 – pp. 121 - 132.

The minutes were accepted with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. McManus, to accept the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting – March 12, 2008 – pp. 133.

The minutes were accepted with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Two high school students were honored for being named National Merit Finalists and one was also named as a Presidential Scholar candidate. Newfield Elementary School's Odyssey of the Mind team was honored for placing third in the Division 1 category of the State Competition. A student from the Adult Education program and her teacher received awards from the Connecticut Association of Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE). The student received the honor of Student of the Year while her teacher was honored as Educator of the Year. Stamford and Westhill High School drama students earned top awards from the Connecticut Drama Association competition, and Stamford High marketing students earned several awards at the Connecticut DECA Career Development Conference.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Starr reported the following:

- Middle School Book Club which is a pilot program in every middle school except Scofield under Joanna Nicholson and Mary Jennings leadership. Two volunteers and an assistant principal from each middle school volunteered to try with one class after attending 16 hours of training. We are in the process of identifying books that need to be purchased. He reported that the results have been outstanding.
- The last community forum, which is part of a three part series on Teach Your Children Well, started with middle school conversations and how to talk to your middle school child. The next Community Forum is on Raising Your High Schooler on April 8, 2008 in the Patio Café of the Government Center, and the last will be for elementary students.
- Westhill High School, one of 10 schools in the State, has received a Project Open Door grant which is almost \$600,000 over five years. This grant will help increase the rigor of and access to AP courses.
- At the last Redistricting Committee meeting the magnet lottery was discussed and letters have been sent out indicating the date change. He thanked Sarah Arnold, Dr. Judy Singer and a whole bunch of other folks who pitched in to make sure that parents were informed. Only five people

showed up at 10:00 a.m. on Monday morning. We also used the Parent Link system and 93% of the calls were received. We are going to apply that technology to something to other than snow days.

- Reviewed information about upcoming shows that the schools will be performing. Also, a new program that has been started with Stamford Symphony for all Stamford public School 4th & 5th graders who will be going to a free concert by the Stamford Symphony at the Palace Theatre on April 10th. A curriculum was jointly designed which includes history and literature and it culminates in this event. A copy of this schedule will be in the Board package.

BOARD REPORT

Mr. Freedman reported that the Board has been very busy the last 4 weeks. The budget cycle which included the review and approval of the budget concluded at a Board meeting in the middle of February and has now moved on to the next stage which is presenting and discussing our budget with the other two Boards in Stamford. There was an initial presentation to the Board of Representative Fiscal Committee on March 10th and then presented in the first of two sessions to the Board of Finance on March 17th. There was a joint public hearing of both the Boards of Finance and Representatives at Turn of River on March 18th. He thanked everyone who came out and supported the school budget and everyone who spoke in support of the school budget. The message was uniform and quite clearly communicated by the public. He also thanked PT Council and all the parents who participated in that hearing. Mr. Freedman noted that we will be presenting to the Board of Finance in our second session which will be more focused on the actual dollars and numbers in the budget on April 1st and we will be presenting the budget to the full Board of Representatives on April 23rd.

A Board Retreat is scheduled for March 28th which the Board will use to review its own internal processes and how we can function better as a Board. The Board will also be discussing areas that they should be focusing on between now and the end of the year other than redistricting and the budget. The Board had dinner with the leadership of the teacher's union, the SEA, two weeks ago and it was a very pleasurable evening and is always enlightening and educational. This is something we do every year and it is a very fine tradition.

TIME FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Seven people spoke regarding the following: criteria for redistricting, possible closing of K.T. Murphy Elementary School, support for all elementary schools to stay open, K.T. Murphy not a good choice for a pre-K facility, theatre arts at Dolan Middle School, and the 2-tiered criteria for the magnet lottery system set up specifically at Scofield.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS/RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Freedman asked for a motion to take Labor Relations out of order.

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to take Labor Relations out of order:

The motion was accepted with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

LABOR RELATIONS

Ms. Nabel reported that the Committee had met twice this month on March 11th and again on March 18th. At the March 11th meeting there was an update on staffing from Ms. Anderson, Interim Director of Human Capital Development. Ms. Anderson reported about administration's attendance at various recruiting job fairs at Teachers' College, Columbia University, Fairfield County organized by CES, a minority job fair in Brooklyn, and another one at Sacred Heart University. She also reviewed the tentative teacher vacancy list for the upcoming school year and she reported that the Educational Assistants have ratified their contract. That contract will be reviewed at the Board of Representatives Personnel Committee meeting on April 3rd and it will also come back to this Board for a vote as well. The Committee reviewed a grievance that it subsequently voted to approve at the Special Board meeting on March 19th. There was a review and discussion of the position description for Technology Educational Assistant and the Committee reviewed the resolutions that are on this evening's agenda.

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino to move Resolution 03-25-08:107 to the last on the Labor Relations agenda.

The motion was accepted with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 03-25-08:108

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the posting/advertising and filling of Curriculum Associate for Social Studies effective March 25, 2008.

Dr. Starr indicated that this position as well as the following two positions are subject to final approval of the budget.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 03-25-08:109

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the posting/advertising and filling of Curriculum Associate for Literacy effective March 25, 2008.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 03-25-08:110

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. Nabel:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the posting/advertising and filling of the Literacy Support Specialist effective March 25, 2008.

Ms. Nabel indicated that the posting is not part of the resolution. She asked for a discussion on the difference on the posting to make sure that the amended posting is part of what is approved in the minutes.

Dr. Starr noted that in the new job description we changed it to read that the Literacy Support Specialist will report and be evaluated by the Building Administration with professional development and support from district level administration.

Mr. Freedman asked, for the public's edification, Dr. Starr if there is one literacy support specialist per school? Dr. Starr responded that is correct and it is a grant funded position from the Priority School District grant. Mr. Freedman asked if these positions are replacing positions that were eliminated with the elimination of the Early Reading Success grant by the State. Dr. Starr stated that essentially yes and because they are different funding sources we actually need to create a new position that meets the parameters of the funding. There is actually a net increase in the amount of time spent directly with children with this position versus the previous position. There will be 12 positions (one at each elementary school.)

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 03-25-08:111

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Mr. Mathews:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education terminate the 2007-2008 interim teacher contracts of the staff members on the attached list.

Dr. Starr noted that this is essentially a formality that we need to terminate the interim teacher contracts and then most of the people end up being hired as permanent teachers. You can only have a one year interim contract.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 03-25-08:112

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Brendan Fox, to the position of District Project Manager – GE College Bound District Program effective March 25, 2008.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 03-25-08:113

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve an extended childcare leave for the 2008-2009 school year for the following teacher: Chandra Lynam-Habrecht.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino to go into Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. to discuss a confidential personnel matter.

The motion was accepted with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to go out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

The motion was accepted with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade

Resolution 03-25-08:107

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. Nabel:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve that the contract of employment of Jordan Zotter and Ronald Olszewski not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of 2007-2008 school year, and that the Superintendent is directed to advise such person(s) in writing of this action.

Ms. Wade made a correction to the resolution as it appeared in the agenda book as 03-25-07:107 and it should be 03-25-08:107.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

CURRICULUM

Ms. Lorenti reported that the Curriculum Committee met on March 4, 2008. Dr. Nicholson gave an update on the Every Day Math that will be implemented with the 3rd and 4th graders this coming September along with an update on the Every Day Math for K-Grade 2 and how it is progressing. She additionally gave an update on curriculum for Grades 6-12 for Language Arts. A committee has been put together and they are working on a curriculum, dependent on our budget, and she will get back to us with the implementation on Language Arts. Ms. Thessin gave an update on the Environmental Magnet School and reviewed the information she distributed regarding the curriculum and the program design along with the information she will be sending to the State. There were no resolutions.

FACILITIES

Mr. Rubino reported that the Facilities Committee met on March 4, 2008. There was discussion on the portables at Rippowam and what we are going to do with them. Mr. Barbarotta indicated that he would be contacting the Town of

Greenwich because there might be a need at the Hamilton Avenue School and we do not have a report back yet. There was a flood at Dolan Middle School which affected several classrooms and the repairs were suppose to be effectuated within two weeks from March 4th. The auditorium was also flooded and this area will take 5-6 weeks from that date to repair. With respect to the K.T. Murphy playground Mr. Barbarotta reported that it will cost \$40,000 to make the improvements. New fencing is scheduled to be up around the playground around the end of April. The Rippowam baseball field will be done by April or May. There is a restoration project going on at Rippowam and GE will be paying for the cost of the backstop which will be about \$18K.

All modulars in the City are being checked for air quality and there is a district-wide radon test being done of all our facilities. Mr. Casolo, Engineering Department, reported on the Environmental Magnet School and indicated that the concrete work is done and the steel is being erected. This project is on track to be completed on schedule. He also gave a report on walking access to the Environmental Magnet School. There are three options. One is to use an existing sidewalk off Cove Road which is deemed to be too dangerous by Clairol because there is still a lot of traffic. Another is to build a walking path from Cove Road which would be parallel to the sidewalk and that would cost about \$700,000. The third option is to purchase a house that is for sale on Sylvan Knoll Road, which is a side street that also borders the property, and that would be about \$700,000 by the time we were done demolishing the house and building the walking path. Mr. Casolo is going to investigate all of these options with neighborhood groups and get back to us at the next meeting. He also reported that we received a \$263,000 credit for gas/electric energy efficiency. There was discussion on the HVAC problems at AITE and Mr. Casolo reported that they were basically software problems that are being worked on. Fusco, the general contractor, has fired Johnson Controls and hired a new contractor and hope that this will straighten the problem out. Currently the electrical cost at AITE is \$3.55 per sq. ft. compared to Stamford HS which is \$1.50 per sq. ft., \$1.73 at Westhill, and \$1.17 at Davenport Ridge so it's basically double and we are working on this. Mr. Barbarotta reported that he is collecting payments for Facilities Usage and Roscoe recently paid \$64,000 and he is expecting a check from the Board of Recreation in the amount of \$138,000. Mr. Barbarotta reported at Committee that going forward all commercial groups are going to be paying for the cost of their usage and everyone going forward is going to be paying something. Regarding the future use of the portable units, Mr. Barbarotta suggested that we prepare an RFP basically with a goal for selling or demolishing them. Mr. Freedman said that he believes Mr. Casolo was asked when he expected to have the magnet school completed and Mr. Rubino responded that there would be a Certificate of Occupancy by May 1, 2009 was his estimate and the building is on schedule.

FISCAL

Ms. McManus reported that the Committee met on March 13, 2008 and reviewed the Capital Budget and it was discussed that after the Capital Budget is

submitted to the City and approved, we pretty much lose oversight for many of the items within the Capital budget. The Committee decided that they would ask staff to review with the Committee any projects valued at \$350,000 or more from the planning stage, to RFP, to completion so that we can keep an eye on the projects and that we know that projects are being completed and that we are being fiscally responsive in looking at those individual budget.

The Committee reviewed Contracts & Grants and the Committee had a great deal of questions for staff. Mara Siladi primarily answered everyone's questions regarding what is involved in the contracts and within some of the grants. There was discussion regarding money being spent on a Grant Writer that we hire as consultants, various grants that have been applied for. Ms. Siladi will give the Committee a review in June of the results of those grant applications.

The 2007-2008 operating budget is tight. A hold has been placed on all purchase orders coming out of Central Office, but we have not yet put a hold on anything at school level and we don't think we will need to but, at this point, there is a hold on everything at Central Office until we get to the end of the year and make sure that we are going to stay within budget. Dr. Starr indicated that we budgeted AITE utilities based on an estimate that was off. When we are looking at the rest of the year there is no cushion whatsoever in the budget. The freeze was effective February 1, 2008 due to information that we might be a few hundred thousand in the hole in that area and special education is the other area. Ms. McManus indicated that we are pretty much on target with salaries, a little bit positive on health insurance, but as everyone knows, we are way over in special education and over in utilities so there is a balancing act going on there. Ms. McManus stated that it looks like we will probably come in just on the dime come June 30th. The Committee also reviewed the budgeting process for 2008-2009 and Mr. Freedman covered that in the Board report. We asked staff to give us a report as we do every month on Special education forecasts. Mr. Holland had a goal by the end of February to try and bring back 10 students who were placed in out-of-district schools that he felt we could bring back into our district and offer a better education. He achieved 50% of his goal and by the end of the month was able to bring back 5 students back to our own schools. He is working on increasing that as well as with respect to Special Education Medicaid reimbursements. She reported that certain programs and certain students receive services that are reimbursed by Medicaid, but lots of paperwork has to be filled out to go to the government to get the reimbursement and school based staff (teachers, psychologists, social workers) are doing their best to get the paperwork in so we can get that reimbursement. Currently we have received \$240,000 this year in reimbursables and are hoping to receive another \$170,000 by the end of April. The Committee discussed Internal Audits and Mr. Dunn reported that we started with our first consultant at the cost of \$4,000 who is in and looking at Special Education and going through line by line along with some of their operations to see if the numbers are correct and if we budgeted appropriately for next year. The Committee reviewed and discussed the \$150,000 interest budget from the GE grant.

POLICY

Ms. McManus reported that the Policy Committee met on March 13, 2008 and primarily reviewed where we were in the Policy book update. The Committee at this point has shifted a lot of the responsibility on to staff and, hopefully, at the end of the budget and redistricting process we will be able to take some of that work back on ourselves. She noted that we do have tonight the second vote for the 2000 Series. The most in-depth conversation was regarding the Nutrition Policy which was presented to the Committee. We discussed and reviewed and Mr. Murphy, who is head of the Nutrition Committee of the Health & Wellness Committee, as well as the Director of Sodexo, John White, reviewed what Sodexo is doing for us with regard to the Nutrition policy. Since a Nutrition policy is not required by the State, some cities in Connecticut don't have it yet, the Committee thought it would be best that it be reviewed by counsel first before it was brought to a vote since there are not a lot nutrition policies to compare it to and it is new for everyone on staff. This will come back to Committee next month with legal comments as well as staff's comments. The nutrition policy covers food that we sell, birthday parties within a school, health and wellness curriculum and is comprehensive. If in April the Policy Committee moves it forward then everyone on the Board will get a chance to review.

Resolution 03-25-08:114

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. Wade:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee, that the Board of Education accept the revised policy section Series 2000 – Administration and all the 2000 series regulations as is with only the numbers changed to new policy numbers, 2nd vote.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 03-25-08:115

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. McManus:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee, that the Board of Education accept the revised Community Relations – General Regulations for Use of School Facilities as is, 2nd vote.

Dr. Starr noted that Mr. Barbarotta, working with Mr. Dunn, who really sphere headed the effort to respond to the Board's request to change this policy and Mr. Barbarotta did so in a very comprehensive way by talking to

a whole bunch of users of our fields and different interested parties and came up with something that makes sense. He extended his appreciation to Mr. Barbarotta for his hard work.

Ms. McManus indicated that Mr. Barbarotta and Mr. Dunn spent the better part of the year (since the middle of last summer) working on this and also that this is the start of bringing into the Stamford Public Schools control of the building use for both policies and regulations of our buildings and our fields. We finally have control over it and we can keep an eye on it and make sure they are being used appropriately, charge people appropriately, make sure it is not interfering with anything educationally based.

Dr. Starr added that the Board of Education assumed these responsibilities due to the fact that it was cut out of the City budget and Mr. Barbarotta took this on with no additional investment.

Mr. Freedman thanked Mr. Barbarotta and Mr. Dunn for their excellent work on this. This was voted on at the last meeting as a 1st vote and was discussed at length in Committee and the policy that was developed reflected the wishes of the Board which was that we formally and systematically grant a favorable rate to youth organizations doing outstanding work in the City and that we collect money in a more systematized way. He pointed out that the policy, even though it has not been voted in until this evening, has been the policy being used by the district for at least the last 6 months and has been working quite well.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

REDISTRICTING

Ms. Nabel reported that the Redistricting Committee met on February 27, 2008, attended a Public Hearing at Toquam Magnet Elementary School on March 5, 2008, and met again on March 19, 2008.

The minutes from February 27th and March 5th meetings have been posted on the website and if the Board had no objections she would review the highlights in the interest of transparency of these meetings.

February 27th

- a review of data by Dr. Singer which was presented in order to review questions the Committee had posed on January 30th. The data review included a description of the K-5 student population in each of the polygons on the district map; walking to the Environmental Magnet

- School, reviewed crossing guard assignments and locations and numbers for bilingual programs at magnet and districted elementary schools.
- Reviewed information on the feeder pattern for current and new Board members, discussed the question of the Toquam lottery and dates for how that lottery can be managed around decisions that the Redistricting Committee has yet to make.
 - Dr. Singer also reviewed a chart of changes that the Redistricting Committee has already voted on and implemented for the school year beginning in September 2009.
 - Mayor Malloy also attended this meeting and asked several questions regarding the State policy on enrollment and lottery at the Environmental Magnet School. We proceeded to discuss those policies as well as review a proposal to extend Rogers Magnet Elementary School to accommodate the IB Middle Years program.
 - The Committee expressed a desire not to consider making Rogers a K-8 school due to enrollment considerations and capital budget considerations so that discussion was taken off the Redistricting Committee agenda.
 - We went on again to discuss options for Toquam Magnet Elementary School and details involving the potential and proposed transition of Toquam students into the Environmental Magnet School. The closing discussion was to outline the four options for transitioning Toquam Magnet Elementary School students and those options were then presented and discussed at the Public Hearing at Toquam on March 5th.
 - Those options were then presented in resolution form and became the agenda for our meeting on March 19th. She apologized again for taking a fair amount of time to read those minutes very carefully and indicated the minutes would be available to the public tomorrow. There were 5 resolutions on our agenda. One resolution failed in Committee and the other resolutions regarding possible transitioning of Toquam students were tabled and held by the Committee pending a discussion with the Mayor and Superintendent regarding the attendance and preferred and lottery procedures at the new Environmental Magnet School. Mr. Freedman at that meeting commented that Mayor Malloy had basically employed the Charter powers given to him and suggested through his use of capital budgeting allotments that the Board of Education take a different look at its fiscal and enrollment plans for the Environmental Magnet School. The Committee agreed that we would spend approximately the next 4 weeks to give the Superintendent and the Mayor time to continue discussions with the State on possible configurations of the Environmental Magnet School to make this school fit more smoothly into our enrollment and fiscal plans for the 2009-2010 school year. These were our discussions on March 19th.
 - We tentatively scheduled a Redistricting Committee on April 24th so that Mayor Malloy can report back to us on developments with the State and we attempted at that meeting to reassure the public that we don't want to prolong anyone's tension and uncertainty and once those discussions have been concluded we hope to be able to proceed and to make good on

our commitment to have a redistricting plan available by the end of this school year.

SPEF/School Readiness Council

No report.

CES

Ms. Wade indicated that she had attended the meeting, but did not have a report ready.

STAMFORD ACHIEVES

Ms. Nabel indicated that she was unable to attend the Stamford Achieves meeting that was held in the middle of the day. It may be that another Board member is more available to attend those meetings.

STAMFORD PARTNERSHIP

No report.

STEERING

The following Committee meetings were set for April:

Policy	April 7 th	6:30 p.m.
Fiscal	April 7 th	7:30 p.m.
Labor Relations	April 21 st	6:00 p.m.
Facilities	April 21 st	7:00 p.m.
Curriculum	April 21 st	8:00 p.m.
Redistricting	April 24 th	6:30 p.m.

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Dr. Joshua P. Starr
Superintendent of Schools
Executive Office