

# **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION Stamford, Connecticut May 27, 2008**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on May 27, 2008 at the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Mr. Freedman, President, with the following Board members present: Mr. Freedman, Mr. King, Ms. Lorenti, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade. Also in attendance: Dr. Starr, Mr. Dunn, Dr. Hamilton, Dr. Nicholson, Ms. Swerdlick, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Karwan, Ms. Thessin, representative from the Stamford Times, and approximately 60 guests.

Salute to the flag.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Ms. Nabel presented the mission statement of the Board of Education.

Mr. Mathews arrived at 7:11 p.m. and Mayor Malloy arrived at 7:15 p.m.

## **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

The Stamford High School Band Winter Percussion, under the direction of Hope Bagley, spoke about their program and showed a video of their competition at the WGI World Percussion Championship where they finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Open Class against 41 other groups. All students were presented with a certificate.

## **STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS**

Three Westhill High School students were recognized for receiving 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards in an essay contest sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Also, a Scofield Magnet Middle School student was honored by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth as being among the most academically gifted young students in the country.

Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak arrived at 7:25 p.m.

## **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. McManus, to accept the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – April 22, 2008 – pp. 151 - 161.

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

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Ms. Wade,  
to accept the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting –  
May 12, 2008 – pp. 162 - 181.

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

Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak moved, seconded by Ms. McManus,  
to accept the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting –  
May 12, 2008 – pp. 182.

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

Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino,  
to accept the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting –  
May 15, 2008 – pp. 183.

The minutes were accepted with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Mr. King, 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 –  
May 15, 2008 – pp. 184 - 192.

Mr. Freedman made a change on Page 190 where it states “Mr. Dunn responded \$470,000” which should read “Mr. Murphy responded \$470,000.

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

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Starr reported on the following:

- He attended both high school plays, Les Miserables and How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying and he congratulated staff, students, and parents who were responsible for those productions.

- Attended an event with teachers who were awarded mini-grants from the Chamber of Commerce. This is an annual program and they give out about \$13,000 in grant funds from \$200.00 to \$1,500.00 to support the types of things we are not able to fund. Newfield Elementary is making home made musical instruments out of every day objects (\$300.00), Roxbury students are learning how to use intermediate directions, compasses, and things like that (\$182.97), Westhill is working with specialized lab equipment pertaining to DNA \$900.00). The Chamber continues to be a great supporter of the Stamford Public Schools in helping to get some direct support to the classrooms.
- Continuing to expand ParentLink capabilities and will be doing some training for schools in the next few weeks so that starting in the fall of 2008 schools can use the automated call out features for important reminders and notifications. We use it for emergency communications, but as we said when we first started it we want to be able to expand the system as we go forward so schools can use it for reminders of PTO meetings, back to school reminders, and things of that nature. This will be a great opportunity and will increase communication.
- On Thursday, May 29, 2008, Dr. Mark Brackett from Yale will be here for our last Community Forum of the year. This is part of the Office of Family Engagement Living and Learning series and will be held in the Patio Café at 7:00 p.m. The forum is entitled “Maximizing Your Child’s Emotional Intelligence.” Dr. Brackett is a leader in the country on this matter.
- Stamford High School, Westhill High School, and AITE will all be receiving grants from the American Institute for Foreign Study on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Each school will be receiving a \$1,000.00 for demonstrating their commitment to international exchange by hosting foreign students and developing projects. AIFS awards 20 schools across the country with this grant and Stamford is receiving 3 of the 20.
- In Danbury, CT today there was a bomb threat and 3 schools were closed in Danbury and they actually found something. We found out about this around 3:30 p.m. and have taken precautions and are making sure that all of our night shift custodians are doing extra sweeps of the vicinity and before anyone enters the school tomorrow morning all of the morning shift custodians will do an extra sweep. We will be vigilant on all alarm systems and everything else given the propensity of somebody calling into our system. We are also taking extra precautions at the schools tonight and tomorrow just to make sure and reassure our families, teachers, and students that our schools continue to be extremely safe for everyone.

## **BOARD REPORT**

Mr. Freedman reported the following:

- The Board has the pleasure of meeting with the high schools reporters from both AITE and Westhill on May 15<sup>th</sup> and it was a lively discussion. Students had prepared some excellent questions and, as always, we

found out things that we did not know, which is one of the reasons that we meet with them. We shared some information that hopefully that they did not know.

- On May 12<sup>th</sup> we had a Special Board meeting of the entire Board to discuss redistricting and vote plans for school closure. The result of the meeting was to form a committee which will study the transition of Rogers School and the committee will have its first meeting on Thursday, May 29, 2008 and there are some items related to moving ahead with redistricting that he will raise during that portion of the agenda this evening.
- The Board did an evaluation of the Superintendent at a Special Board meeting and resolutions related to that evaluation will be on the June 24, 2008 Regular Board meeting agenda.
- Mr. Freedman congratulated two Board members, Julia Wade and Rosanne McManus, who were nominated by their respective parties to run for re-election in November and wished them much luck.

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino to Suspend the Rules and add the next item on the agenda to be Time for the Public to be Heard.

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

## **TIME FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

Six people spoke regarding the Stamford High School Winter Percussion group, ParentLink, Boyle Stadium, Stamford High School band budget cuts, more support for the music and arts, Night Music scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> at Boyle Stadium and the need for an answer as to whether or not Boyle Stadium will be available, and a request from NAACP to have a representative from the NAACP to serve on the Redistricting Committee.

## **REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS/RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Freedman asked for a motion to take Labor Relations out of order and move it to the beginning part of the agenda.

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino to take Labor Relations out of order and move it to the beginning part of the agenda.

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

## **LABOR RELATIONS**

Ms. Nabel reported that the Labor Relations Committee met on May 20, 2008 and had a lengthy meeting that actually went into Executive Session on two occasions to discuss confidential personnel matters. The discussion of staffing basically involved the resolutions that are on the agenda this evening. Under Negotiations Update, Ms. Anderson brought us up to speed and alerted us to the fact that we need to be forming a committee to go into SAU negotiations and this will be added to our June meeting agenda for discussion on the Board's interest going into those negotiations and naming a committee. There was nothing pending under Arbitration and at the moment the Board is not waiting to hear any Level III grievances.

### **Resolution 05-27-08:133**

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Rodney Bass, to the position of High School Principal effective July 1, 2008.

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

### **Resolution 05-27-08:134**

Ms. Nabel 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 Dr. Michael Fernandes, to the position of Middle School Principal effective July 1, 2008.

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

### **Resolution 05-27-08:135**

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. McManus:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Gloria Manna, to the position of Elementary School Principal effective July 1, 2008.

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

**Resolution 05-27-08:136**

Ms. Nabel 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 the Educational Assistant – Science effective May 28, 2008.

Ms. McManus stated that Ms. Nabel read the resolution as May 21, 2008 into the minutes and the resolution reads May 28, 2008.

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

**Resolution 05-27-08:137**

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. McManus:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the posting/advertising and filling of the Stamford Excellence Team Coach effective May 28, 2008.

Mr. Freedman pointed out that these positions have been discussed since the beginning of the budget process which began back in January. Ms. Nabel commented that this was resolution was reviewed, discussed, and unanimously approved by the Committee.

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

**Resolution 05-27-08:138**

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. McManus:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Dr. Winifred Hamilton to the position of Deputy Superintendent effective May 28, 2008.

Ms. Nabel corrected the resolution to be effective July 1, 2008.

Dr. Starr noted that there are some changes that go along with this appointment. The five areas of critical focus are: consistent core

curriculum, support for every child to be college ready, accountability for all aspects of district and school operations and performance, increased engagement of families and community, and high quality professional development for staff. While Dr. Hamilton will now be the Deputy Superintendent overseeing all of the principals and he will be much more involved with the evaluation and supervision of principals, particularly at the lower performing schools, he has asked Ms. Swerdlick to step in and lead us into the last frontier of urban education reform which is our community and family engagement efforts.

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

**Resolution 05-27-08:139**

Ms. Nabel 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 Jane Anderson to the position of Director for Human Capital Development effective May 28, 2008.

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

**Resolution 05-27-08:140**

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. McManus:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the slate of 2008/2009 mentor/cooperating teacher and candidates recommended by the district BEST steering committee.

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

**Resolution 05-27-08:141**

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti:

**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 teachers: Berkeley Murray, Emmanuella Howley, Kelly Taraska, Debra Onorato, Cara Gregorio Reilly.

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

**Resolution 05-27-08:142**

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve a personal leave of absence for the 2008-2009 school year for the following teachers: Carol Jean Cliff-Robertson, Joanne Yarin.

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

**CURRICULUM**

Ms. Lorenti reported that the Committee met on May 6, 2008 and discussed the middle school math program, the advisories, and the middle years program proposal. Dr. Hamilton gave a review of the advisory programs that exist at Scofield, AITE, and the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade at Westhill HS. The Committee had a discussion regarding the middle years program which was a proposed by the principal at Rippowam who would like to start a cog and Dr. Starr walked us through the process. The Committee decided it would look further into that program after the Redistricting Committee meeting the following week. Dr. Nicholson gave a report on the middle school math program that will be commencing this September in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The Committee had chosen Connect Math for grades 6-7-8 and the program will start in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms this September.

## **FACILITIES**

Mr. Rubino indicated that the Facilities Committee met on May 20, 2008 and reported that Mr. Barbarotta gave an update on current projects and indicated that the Cloonan sprinkler project is about 66% complete and should be done in August. That leaves just two schools, Davenport and Rogers, which are not yet 100% sprinkled. He also reported on EMS and stated that the concrete floors had been poured and the wall framing is going up. The project is on schedule and we will be taking over energy costs when we receive a Certificate of Occupancy. Ms. Thessin also spoke on EMS and noted that we will need a final decision on furniture by August in order to have it open on schedule. That means that we need to decide by August whether it is going to be a K-5 or K-8 school so we can decide what kind of furniture needs to be ordered.

Further, Mr. Barbarotta reported under Facilities Usage and addressed Boyle Stadium and said that the field would be usable for graduation, but that we are prohibited from using the track at all. The next step would be for the Engineering Department to step in and it would take about 2-1/2 to 3 months for the construction project to happen and that is without the possible 60 day delay in getting the funding through. It is estimated at a \$1M project and there are capital projects that have available money. This would mean delaying those projects, but there is \$750,000 in Rippowam's Code Compliance, \$87,000 in Stamford Academy, and \$107,000 in Alternate Routes to Success. The process would be is that the Mayor would have to send a letter to the Planning Board to make these capital changes to free up the money for Boyle Stadium field project. After the funds are approved the 2-1/2 to 3 month project would start. We discussed possible ways to short circuiting the 60 to 75 day fiscal process and those discussions are ongoing. The Committee discussed energy prices and it was the consensus of the Committee to lock in as best we can.

Mr. Rubino indicated that there was a resolution in which he recused himself from discussions and voting regarding AFB Construction and the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the 5 year contract for their services. Mr. Rubino turned over the rest of the Facilities report to Mr. Freedman and recused himself and left the floor.

### **Resolution 05-27-08:129**

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 4<sup>th</sup> year of the five-year contract for Building Management Services for the Stamford Public Schools with AFB Construction for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Dr. Starr stated that Mr. Barbarotta continues to provide wonderful leadership and service in the area of facilities management. He does a

great job of not only responding to the day to day things that come up, but is also quite pro-active in his thinking about our long term strategy and ways we can try and save money or deal with ongoing facilities issues. His interface with other City departments and elected entities really helps enable us to get a lot of things done. There is almost nothing that Mr. Barbarotta is not able to figure out a way of doing so it really gives Dr. Starr great pleasure to recommend the approval of the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the 5 year contract for AFB Construction.

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

## **FISCAL**

Ms. McManus reported that the Fiscal Committee met for the regular monthly meeting on May 15, 2008. She reported on the agenda items and noted that there was a brief discussion on the Capital Budgeting Process and the Committee agreed to move this item to the Facilities Committee agenda and it will be reviewed regularly at future Facilities Committee meetings. There was a review of Contract and Grants and there are a couple of grants this evening coming to the Board for approval. One is for an acceptance of a grant and one is to apply for a grant that staff has recommended. There was an update on our current operating budget. While this spring our medical costs have gone up and, obviously bus fuel has gone up, most of the changes will be reflected in the transfers that are in a resolution this evening. The Committee reviewed the two transfers which one is to cover the cost of bus fuel and the other is to cover the cost of temporary help due to vacancies in some positions at Cloonan. The Committee agreed to add Mr. Dunn on as signatory for the Board and to sign a form for Norwalk Community College in order to receive reimbursement that says we are non-discriminatory. The major item of the evening was the 2008-2009 Operating Budget which was moved and passed at the Special Board meeting on May 22, 2008.

### **Resolution 05-27-08:130**

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Mr. King:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education apply for the SDE grant to establish a National External Diploma Program in the amount of \$40,000.

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

**Resolution 05-27-08:131**

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Nabel:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the budget transfers per the document dated May 27, 2008.

Mayor Malloy asked the reason for the excess money being available in the transportation account (\$275,000). Mr. Murphy responded that this had to do with out of district special education transportation. There were some out of district placements where we were able to get them onto existing vehicles and we ended up with a little extra money.

Mayor Malloy asked if this would have any implications for the operating year beginning July 1. Mr. Murphy responded that he did not think so. Mayor Malloy asked for a breakdown so we can examine if it would have any implications.

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

**Resolution 05-27-08:132**

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Nabel:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the two General Electric Grants for Rippowam Middle School (\$4,500) and KT Murphy Elementary School (\$5,000) for a combined total of \$9,500.00.

Ms. McManus indicated that while this was discussed and passed in Committee, the KT Murphy budget is attached to say what the money is being spent on and the Rippowam budget is being redone by Mr. Barbarotta to incorporate any use of the Building Use Fund and that budget will be put into our package. Dr. Starr noted that not only is GE providing financial support, but through their volunteers program, which is extremely extensive, they are also providing some labor to help both sites.

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

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to Suspend the Rules to add an additional resolution to the Fiscal Committee agenda with regard to the

additional appropriation regarding energy funds from the Board of Finance and Board of Representatives.

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

Ms. McManus stated that in order for the Board of Education to move forward with asking for the additional appropriation with regards to the \$600,000 in the energy contingency fund the Board must first vote to move to actually ask for the money and she has a resolution which would do that. The Steering Committee of the Board of Representatives meets on June 9, 2008 so we want this request put together before that.

**Resolution 05-27-08:145**

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Board of Education that the Superintendent and the President of the Board develop a request for an additional appropriation of \$600,000 to cover increased energy costs from both the Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives to be submitted with appropriate backup before June 9, 2008.

Ms. McManus noted that the Steering Committee meeting for the Board of Representatives is June 9, 2008 and the Fiscal Committee of the Board of Representatives meets June 30, 2008, and their Board meets on July 7, 2008, but they can't take it up at their general Board meeting until it has already been appropriated by the Board of Finance. Her assumption is that it would probably be at the August 7, 2008 Board of Representatives meeting, but is not sure yet since they have not been able to hook up on the dates with the Board of Finance.

Mr. Rubino stated that he thought that it was important that we do this now so that we know as soon as possible whether or not that contingency money is ours so that we can make adjustments in the budget if it is not to minimize any layoffs that have to occur.

Ms. Nabel noted that a specific amount was not cited in the resolution. Ms. McManus will add.

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

## **POLICY**

Ms. McManus reported that the Policy Committee met on May 20, 2008. Two items were discussed. The Committee moved that the Policy section series 4000 – Personnel which had been reviewed extensively in Committee and by staff to bring it to the full Board for its first of two votes. The Committee indicated that Series 3000 – Business will be discussed at the next Policy Committee meeting. The 2<sup>nd</sup> vote of the Nutrition policy will be brought to the full Board. The Committee is in discussion with the SEA and staff to see if we can change the week of April 2009 vacation from the week of April 20, 2009 to April 13, 2009 which is the week that most other, but not all, Fairfield County school systems are off. We have a large number of staff who live in other cities in Fairfield County and this way families would be off at the same time. We would like to bring this to the Board for a vote in June. If anyone has any disagreements with this they should let either Sarah Arnold or Rosanne McManus know.

### **Resolution 05-27-08:143**

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee, that the Board of Education approve Policy 3542: Stamford Public Schools Nutrition Policy, 2nd Vote.

Dr. Starr thanked Mr. Murphy for his leadership in this area.

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

### **Resolution 05-27-08:144**

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

**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 4000 – Personnel and all the 4000 series regulations as is with only the numbers changed to new policy numbers, 1<sup>st</sup> vote.

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

## **REDISTRICTING**

Mr. Freedman stated that the Redistricting Committee has not met and the meeting on redistricting was a Special Board meeting and he will give the report. He also formally recognized what has been informally in effect for at least two months which is that the Redistricting Committee is defunct and all of the redistricting work that has been done for the last two months and will be done going forward will be done by a Committee of the Whole of the entire Board.

Mr. Freedman reported that there was a Special Board meeting on redistricting on May 12, 2008 and there were six resolutions to consider, 2 for Rogers, 1 for Stark, and 3 for Toquam. Four of the resolutions were rejected by the Committee, one was tabled regarding Toquam, and one of the Rogers motions was amended to create a working group to study the possible transition of Rogers School in its relationship to the grade configuration at EMS. The Board directed the Superintendent and the President of the Board to convene that committee, which he did by a letter to the Superintendent and the Board, and Ms. Nabel has been named the chair of that committee and the first meeting will be on May 29, 2008. The composition of the committee was as directed in the resolution – there are members of the Board, administration, Mayor Malloy, parents from Rogers School, principal of Rogers School, and teachers from Rogers School. All members have been named to the committee. Ms. Nabel indicated that she has the names of the parents, Board members are herself, Julia Wade, and Monica Lahiri-Hoherchak, and Mayor Malloy. Also, Cathy Cummings Ms. Swerdlick, Dr. Singer. She did not have the names of the Rogers teachers. She took advantage of an opening on the Mayor's calendar for Thursday afternoon to call the first meeting and as far as she is aware everyone will be able to be there at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Freedman noted that this committee will function like a typical committee of the Board of Education where meetings will be noticed, posted, and will be open to the public. Mr. King asked if we wanted to add someone to the committee would that be possible by amending the original list. Mr. Freedman noted that there was a quorum of the Board and if he wanted to make a motion to go ahead.

Mr. King moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to amend the original grouping and add representation from the NAACP.

Mr. Rubino asked who would designate this person. Mr. Freedman indicated that the only members that were chosen by him were the members of the Board. The parents he delegated the choice of parents to the Rogers PTO, the teachers he delegated to the SEA. He would delegate this selection to the president of the NAACP, local chapter.

Ms. Nabel indicated that she is a little uncomfortable, not with the notion of amending the resolution, but the resolution was not on our agenda for discussion and asked if the Board should make a motion to Suspend the Rules. Mr. Freedman was not sure if the Board should be amending the

original resolution anyway, but thought we should just be making a motion to add a member to the committee.

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to Suspend the Rules

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

Mr. Freedman stated that we have an amendment to a resolution on the floor and he would actually like to ask Mr. King to withdraw it and repropose it. Mr. King withdrew the amendment and started over again.

Mr. King indicated that he would like to make a motion that we go to the NAACP president so that they can appoint a person to represent the NAACP on the committee. Mr. Freedman stated that there is a motion on the floor to add a member of the local chapter of the NAACP as designated by the president of the NAACP to the Rogers Working Group.

Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Mathews to go to the NAACP president so that they can appoint a person to represent the NAACP on the Rogers Working Group Committee.

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

Ms. Nabel asked that when this is communicated to the president of the NAACP that we get the name and e-mail address as quickly as possible so the designee can be notified of the first meeting. Mr. Freedman noted that there is a representative from the NAACP here this evening and advised the representative that there is a meeting on Thursday, May 29, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the 5N Conference Room and he will send an official letter.

Ms. Wade indicated that she had spoken with Representative Carlo Leone and he thought that he was on the Committee. Mr. Freedman stated that was not in the resolution and the resolution was very clear as to who was on the Committee and who was not and is actually in the minutes. Dr. Starr stated that he did ask Representative Carlo Leone to be on the Advisory Board of the Environmental Magnet School and perhaps there is some confusion. Ms. Wade indicated that the Representative was not suggesting that he should be on it; he just thought he was on it and was there any point in discussing whether or not the Representative should be on this Committee. Mr. Rubino thought that it doesn't necessarily represent a distinct group that needs a voice there. Mr. Freedman thought the resolution was crafted with all of the necessary constituents in mind.

Ms. Lorenti asked for clarification on redistricting and the resolutions that the Board has passed in the past and moving forward. She asked that everything the Redistricting Committee presented to the Board and we approved as with Meadowpark, Hart, Stillmeadow, and Davenport those resolutions going forward are effective for 2009 correct. Mr. Freedman responded that is correct. She just wanted to make sure that the public is aware that any changes to those schools will happen in 2009 and not this September.

Ms. Wade understands that this meeting is being held to accommodate the Mayor's schedule, but in the future will we be holding some or all of the meetings at Rogers to accommodate some of those parents who have difficulty getting over to the Government Center. Ms. Nabel stated that in the original e-mail that she sent out notifying people that we for this first meeting would take advantage of the opportunity on the Mayor's calendar and that future meetings would be scheduled at different times and in different places to accommodate everyone as much as possible because given the wide range of occupations and work schedules for the members of the committee, the meetings are always going to be at an inconvenient time for someone.

Mr. Freedman noted that the question of the larger redistricting was left hanging in the air and he has detected an expressed desire among the Board to move ahead with the redistricting process while the committee is doing its work. He opened up for discussion the idea of asking the administration to design three redistricting plans that could accommodate any possible outcome of the committee so that the process of developing redistricting plans could continue in parallel now while the working group is further doing its work on determining how the magnet school would be configured.

Ms. McManus stated that while she hates to ask staff to do this she just did not see how we can slow down on the redistricting process which has already been going on for so long. We have so much to discuss and with those plans developed we can discuss grandfathering, sibling policies, etc. and we need to have this plan set as quickly as possible with the best plan we can come up with. If we wait until September or October, she knows people on the Committee think they will be able to come to us with a recommendation in 30 or 45 days, but she did not see how this would be possible especially with everyone's summer schedule. They need to do the work in tandem on a redistricting plan and it is unfortunate that it can't be one plan because it really affects so many of the schools with the 3 different scenarios and she would be in support of this.

Ms. Nabel totally agreed with Ms. McManus and thought that if the Rogers Working Group has a 60 day deadline and, presumably are able to come out of that group with a definitive recommendation, and so as Ms. McManus said, she is sorry that we will be asking staff to do work that some of which will end up being hypothetical.

Mr. Freedman layed out a calendar and stated that the report of the Working Group is due on July 18, 2008 and we can't make any assumptions that

it will be done before then. Dr. Starr addressed Mr. Freedman saying that he may recall from previous communication that if changes require legislative action it needs to be to the State office by June 30, 2008 in order for them to get it on the legislative docket. It is not clear as to whether we need legislative action or not.

Mr. Freedman stated that the Working Group will issue its recommendation on July 18, 2008. The following Tuesday is July 22, 2008 that is a regularly scheduled full Board meeting and presumably we will have a relatively short agenda and he asked Dr. Starr that he have the three plans ready and as many options that is reasonable within each of those plans which would be one that presumes that Rogers School is being closed and the EMS configured K-5, one that assumes that Rogers School is being closed and EMS is being configured K-8, and one that assumes that Toquam is being closed and the EMS is being configured Pre-K – 8. He thought the plans should be comprehensive meaning that they should consider elementary school redistricting, feeder patterns, grandfathering and sibling policies, and the criteria we have laid out which would be fiscal impacts, changes in walkers, changes in bus rider times, and the number of children affected. We can discuss at our July 22, 2008 meeting and the information should be in the Board package on Friday, July 19, 2008 so the Board can see them in advance of the meeting. Dr. Starr noted that in terms of time, unfortunately as you know the annual trip with the GE Foundation is the week of July 20, 2008 and he, Ms. Nabel, and Ms. Lorenti will be attending. The week of July 29, 2008 Dr. Starr will be on vacation for two weeks, but Dr. Singer will be here. Mr. Freedman indicated that the Board can meet on July 22, 2008 and have the regular Board meeting and then schedule a meeting for Tuesday, July 29, 2008. Dr. Starr will return the week of August 11, 2008. Dr. Starr will check with Dr. Singer to see if she is available. Mr. Freedman thought it would be a problem if the Superintendent is not available.

Mayor Malloy asked if this plan is for all three school groups. Ms. McManus suggested doing just elementary and then work on middle and high school in August. Mr. Freedman said that it would be for only elementary schools on July 15, 2008. Dr. Starr noted that there would be a sequence issue for public hearings and to do everything which would be elementary, feeder patterns, siblings, and all of that or you can do the elementary and if you approve that then go to the next phase. Mr. Freedman stated that he would like to go to a Public Hearing once with a comprehensive plan and did not think the feeder changes would be as complicated as the elementary school changes. Mr. Freedman stated that he did not like to schedule meetings in the middle of August since it is hard to get full participation from the Board and it is hard for members of the public to show up and anything needs to be discussed twice. Ms. McManus asked if this is about the general redistricting plan and Mr. Freedman responded that is correct. Ms. McManus asked if we are going to have a Public Hearing on the sub-committee's recommendation, which will have to happen before we do the redistricting plan. Mr. Freedman indicated that it was his thinking that the recommendation of the committee would be folded in with these plans and that way the Board is voting on one package.

Ms. Nabel stated that the committee is going to issue its report and recommendation after July 15, 2008 when we look at a three way scenario for elementary school redistricting and confirmed that is where we are. Mr. Freedman responded that was correct. Ms. Nabel asked if we should have a Public Hearing on those two elements at the same time. She did not know how we could do that if a) we have a recommendation from the working group and then you fit the one that fits and have the Public Hearing on that prior to a Board vote. Ms. Nabel indicated that which ever way she did not think we could do anything before September and Mr. Freedman agreed. Mr. Freedman stated that the summer would be sort of a time to gather our data and have our discussion and when we get to September we have the Public Hearings and a community partners meeting and then a vote in September. Mr. Freedman reminded all that we have to have the FF&E decided by August and Ms. Thessin stated that it could be potentially pushed up to sometime in September. Ms. McManus asked that if we move along just the scenario vote, not attach it to the redistricting plan, then we might be able to get the answer sooner with regard to the opening of the facility. The redistricting plan is what is going to require a lot of community input, but if it is just which scenario which affects the FF&E and moving forward with that, she thought the Board should vote separately on which scenario we are going to move forward with and then breakout redistricting separately so we can discuss just redistricting.

Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak indicated that she was a little confused because if we are asking Dr. Starr and staff to present three redistricting scenarios based on the three different elementary school options than effectively if we vote on one of the elementary school options we nix the other two redistricting scenarios immediately. She did think that it is easier for the public to comment intelligently on a plan if they have an idea of the ripple effect of it. If they know doing this to EMS will cause this sort of redistricting in the rest of the district she thought it would make a more informative Public Hearing. Mr. Freedman stated that was the point he was making which is that different scenarios trigger different redistricting scenarios. So if you have the EMS configured K-5 it accommodates a different number of children and that creates a different type of redistricting then if it is configured K-8 and he agrees that it gives the public an entire picture in which they can see what the grand net affect is. Ms. Nabel stated that intellectually she agrees with that, but only if the information is really careful and precise and it is accompanied by an education effort so that people understand that it is either this, or this, or this. We saw what can happen when the Board brainstorms in public and 3/5's of the elementary schools react to some of the ideas that were put forward. She did not want to a) go through that again and b) did not want to give people the impression that all of this is going to happen and think that if we do that, and you are right intellectually it's the best way to make a decision and the best way to make an evaluation, but we need to be very careful about what we put forward. Mayor Malloy asked as you put this closer to September and listening to the calendar math, it is highly unlikely that you could have Public Hearings and a final vote on anytime before October under the best case scenario on an elementary school basis that could potentially include a

middle school and high school level. He stated that no one else has asked the question, but does this Board really have the appetite to complete a redistricting for the 2009 school year that might require first an individual and then ultimately a collective gut check. He understands that a decision about the school closure has to be made, but is there truly a desire being evidenced to complete this process in October for the following year with the obvious caveat that you have an election cycle that gets played out the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November and potentially a different Board taking office at that point. He just did not know what the collective judgment is, but it is an obvious question.

Ms. Nabel thought that was a question that was asked of the Board individually and collectively 15 months ago and it certainly motivated the Board's desire at that time to embark on the process and get it done. Actually at that point we were aiming to have it done well before this year's election and actually we may have been aiming to have it done before last year's election. It is a good question, but that question is going to get asked every year unless the Board finally finishes redistricting. Ms. McManus noted that to her it becomes more of a political issue if we put off the vote until December or January because then people will vote for someone because of redistricting. If we vote in October it is done and over with and hopefully people will be making the right decision. She agreed with what Mayor Malloy said and she is obviously one of the two people who is going to be terribly affected by this, but we have to move this thing forward. If we don't notify people by the first of the year with respect to what the changes are in the following year and we only vote on elementary changes in October and then the middle and high school changes in November, we want to give people as much notice as possible. If we don't vote until January, February or March we are doing a disservice. She thought the best thing to do is to vote on it before the elections.

Mayor Malloy stated that he simply raised the issue because it is on everybody's face and there is not a whole lot of gusto in the conversation. He heard that two want to complete it, but thinks there is a serious question, and maybe this is not the time that everyone's answered it, you have charged the Superintendent and his staff for coming up with a redistricting plan, he is just backing it in and in some sense what he supposes he is starting to do is to see that this almost impossible to get this thing actually completed with the timelines that you are suggesting on a comprehensive basis with the required public input and hearings that you are otherwise going to want. We have now shifted the obligation of coming up with the remainder of the plan, presuming working on the foundation of the plan which the Committee worked hard and mightily on, but ultimately this will be known as the Superintendent's plan from this point on and maybe not for final discussion, but perhaps the best thing that this Board could do definitely is to answer the question of what school will remain open and what school will close and then ultimately to change the timeline to complete the overall process. He is not sure other than the people who are most directly involved in the process that everyone exactly remembers why we are even doing this other than the issue of having taken over of what school is to remain open and which one is to close and that sort of thing. Maybe it is unfair of him to do

this, but he was totally unprepared for the discussion coming in because he did not know that we were going to have this discussion and the timeline math does not look good.

Mr. Freedman responded that the timeline, if we don't do it, becomes impossible because the magnet school may open in September 2009 which as you pointed out is why we convened this whole process well in advance (early 2007). The latest possible time that a plan could be voted on is February or March of 2009. We received the 1998 redistricting plan that was completed in March in advance of the September of that year and that is pretty late. The Board turns over on December 1<sup>st</sup> and he is not going to be here so it does not affect him either way. For a new Board to constitute something out of mostly whole cloth in four months in this process is just totally unrealistic so we might be in a situation where there is no plan at all. If this Board votes on a plan this fall and the composition of the Board changes, if the Board wants to overturn the plan that certainly is their prerogative, but they would have to constitute a new plan out of whole cloth in 3-4 months because they possibly have a hard stop in September 2009 and did not see how that would work. If we can get a comprehensive plan and he thinks it should include the feeders because he did not see that as a huge added complication we could get on in two months and we need two meetings to review it, on public hearing, a community partners meeting and then we have a vote and he thinks this could be done by the end of September. We have problems with vacations, but it can be done and he is not hearing opposition to not completing something in advance of the election cycle. As Ms. Nabel pointed out this process crossed the last election and got quite hot in last September and October and there were some very controversial discussions being had at this time, but the process survived and so here we are.

Ms. Nabel responded to a comment made by Mayor Malloy which he seemed to question whether or not people in general remember why we were having a school closing discussion to begin with and her response is that yes they do remember and they do know that it is about redistricting and certainly if you notice the people from Newfield who have been at every meeting waiting for us to finish what we started, people from Stillmeadow, we have people who need to know who were formerly in the Westover district who need to know where they are going to be going to school. She thinks people do remember. Mayor Malloy responded that when he made his comment he exempted members of the Committee and certainly you were included first and foremost in that group. Having said that he thought that the broader community would be just as happy if the Board dropped it and turned it over to someone else and ran the process a different way at this point, but if the Board wants to press ahead that is what they are going to do, but simply thought that someone should raise the rough equivalent of the 800 pound guerilla in the room in question form.

Ms. Wade noted that she was a little surprised by this conversation and was not prepared for this tonight either. She thought that the decision of what school to close should be uncoupled from redistricting and thinks that decision can be made more cleanly and meet some timelines much more efficiently if we

uncouple it and thought that we should wait for the facilities evaluation to come in to see where we are with the facilities and then we should reconsider redistricting using the committee structure that looks a little bit more like the committee that is going to be discussing whether or not Rogers can accommodate a K-5. Ms. Nabel responded that this is starting to be like a congressional debate here. The president just announced that we were moving the discussion out of the Redistricting Committee into the full Board, but we still have this working group maybe what we should do is convene a redistricting committee that looks more like the working group. That is an administrative decision that will be made by the officers of the Board and actually what Ms. Wade is suggesting in terms of taking the decision on which school to close out of redistricting context really pretty much totally negates all of the work that the former Redistricting Committee did so she was not sure that would leave us in terms of conclusions and again if the leadership of the Board at some point decides that there should be a different kind of redistricting committee or we should attack the process differently than that is what will happen, but to change the way the Board has been proceeding at this point she thought would be a disservice other Board members and really leaves the public hanging, the already affected public as well as the rest of the public who is waiting to see whether or not they will be affected and in terms of the facilities study that we are doing we already have one that gives us target population numbers for every school building in the district. The facilities study that we are doing is specifically is to look at capital needs and it is not going to give us different capacity numbers for each school building and did not know that the new facilities study is all of a sudden going to shed a beam of light on what we have in front of us in terms of capacity and population.

Ms. Wade responded that what she asked for in this facilities study is an evaluation of the portables and thought that not all portables are created equally and did not think we could look at all portables and say they all work or don't work and asked that the portables be evaluated separately, be rated, that we understood what classrooms were in the portables and their distance from various other amenities in attempting to try and determine useful square footage if in fact our population is declining. Are all the portables that are in there portables that need to be used, should be used, should be continued to be used and she has requested that and is not sure if that was put in the facilities RFP. Ms. Lorenti indicated that since we found out this evening that we are now a committee of the whole and originally there were requests from outside of the Board for a consultant to join the group and the Redistricting Committee voted against it. Now that we have become a Committee of the Whole how does the Board as a whole feel. Do we want that consultant or do we want to move forward. She did not think that had been decided either and is an issue that should be addressed since we are a Committee of the Whole now. Mr. Freedman noted that the Redistricting Committee did consider the issue of a consultant, rejected it, and so we can have the administration develop a plan, give us a series of option and we can choose. We can have the administration develop a series of options and validate it with a consultant and then we can choose. We can have a consultant develop a plan which is obviously going to take considerably longer, but those are the three options.

Ms. McManus reminded the Board that the last time the plan was put together it was put together by a committee of the Board and one outside person and still Board members went against the plan and moved to change the plan. While she knows the consultant takes off some political heat because we don't have to say it is our plan, it certainly isn't one that is always approved by all Board members. Mr. King indicated that he thought we have limited resources and since we do have limited resources if we could put together our thoughts in a way that we could direct a consultant in the fashion that we want and provide him with the information that we have and tell him exactly what we want to do and meet with him from time to time it may be beneficial to staff and to the community and it would be beneficial to us because as we have been discussing this every time we get to a point what happens is you look at the timeline and we don't make the timeline and that is because we have limited resources and schedules. Ms. McManus responded absolutely not. We were on board to vote on this plan by the end of spring and something new popped up which did not have anything to do with the plan. She did not agree with Mr. King. We would have to agree now that the plan would be for 2010 and we would not be opening any new school if we use a consultant since they would have to start from scratch. Mr. King stated that was okay if that is the right thing to do, but who is for that? What does that do to us? He said it is worth the thought because to do it as quickly as we are trying to do it are we going to be happy with the results that we have or are we just trying to make the deadline?

Mr. Freedman stated that we have been trying to make a deadline for a year and a half and he has laid out a path for making a deadline for September of 2009. If there is not agreement that is the path we should be taking then people should speak out and get a consensus right now as to how we are going to move forward because if we are going to complete this in time for September 2009 he suggested that we need to start making some decisions quite soon on developing plans and making some decisions and if we are not, were not. He started with the simplest question which is should we charge the Superintendent with developing a series of plans that we would begin to review this summer with a notion that we would be voting this fall and have something ready for September 2009. That means at best he would say most of the work or all of the work is done by the Superintendent's staff and there could possibly be some review by an outside consultant, but the consultant would not be intimately involved in constituting the plan. Is that an accurate statement? Dr. Starr agreed. Second option is to charge a consultant, he assumes from scratch, to develop a plan and timeframe as yet undetermined. He went around the table for opinions. The following responses were made: Ms. Wade – no, Mr. Mathews – no, Ms. Nabel – yes and would question where the money is going to come from to support a consultant and what happens to the decisions already that have already been made. Mr. King did not agree. Mr. Rubino responded that for developing 3 plans and would worry about whether or not staff has the time and whether or not if we have to bring in outside help, but think we need to move forward. Ms. Lorenti did not think staff has the time right now to put the scenarios together correctly. Ms. McManus supported moving forward especially

since so much of the work has already been done and bringing in a consultant at the end to check numbers and what not is fine with her. Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak supported Option 1. Mayor Malloy who does not have a vote, stated he supports some combination and he wanted to say what he thinks the Board should do and thinks the Board should make a decision and seek to open up the EMS in 2009 and do that as quickly as possible. Then you should put all other decisions about redistricting off until 2010 and compel the Superintendent and his staff to find the money to hire a consultant to guide the process for a 2010 date.

Mr. Freedman stated that where he stands is pretty very obvious so that means 5 members of the Board support moving ahead with a plan now and so let's work on some dates so we can get this work done. Mr. Mathews asked Mr. Freedman to make crystal clear what that 5-4 vote represents. Mr. Freedman responded that the 5-4 consensus of the Board is that we will ask the Superintendent to develop three plans for redistricting which will be presented to the Board this summer and we will move to have a vote early this fall. Mr. King commented and, he did hear a couple of Board members hesitate in terms of timelines, will the Superintendent have enough time, but they voted for it in that fashion. He hates to get involved in a project that if we have already indicated that staff does not have enough time to make it happen and then we are going to be looking at each other in August and September and saying we couldn't get this and we couldn't get that. We have to take this very seriously and say if it takes us until 2010 take the 2010, but let's not mess ourselves around. Mr. Rubino indicated that there was only one person who voted in favor and hesitated and that was him. Ms. Lorenti voted against it and was concerned about staff time, but he thinks it is important enough to spend money to get in outside help and move this along. Ms. Nabel pointed out that at no point in the last however many months it is since we started have we had to postpone or cancel a committee meeting because staff was not able to get us the information that was requested in time for the meeting. Mr. Mathews stated that we will all take on the responsibility regardless of the 5-4 vote to see that a consultant at this point in time with very little time left to us is going to be involved. What is that person's role? How is that person going to come into this process that is well underway with a short timeframe, namely this summer, and accomplish anything? We are going to spend more time trying to define that person's role at the same time the central staff are going to have much on their plates relative to the next school year beginning in September. He just does not understand how we can accomplish in weeks what we are putting forth here and he is against paying for a consultant to come in now.

Mr. Freedman asked Dr. Starr if he had the capacity to develop a plan in approximately two months. Dr. Starr responded that he thought with the exhaustive data set that currently exists as a result of the Board's extensive work since February 2007 we have an enormous amount of information. He knows that Dr. Singer knows every possible intricacy and make up of every street and knows more than anybody possibly could and he agrees with Mr. Mathews question about what we would be asking a consultant to do exactly. There are a couple of ways of going about it. There is the more traditional way where you

bring in a consultant from the beginning and they do everything and the Board just reacts. That is clearly not where we are. Could we use an extra set of hands to just analyze some of the data and do some of the back office work around some of this. We probably could. Clearly speed is the number one issue right now and going through the appropriate procedures to bring somebody on board to do work requires time and we have rules around that so the chance of being able to get someone to attend to it tomorrow are pretty nil. He also thought that not having an objective pair of eyes on what the Mayor so termed as the Superintendent's plan will expose the Board to risk in that it is good to have an objective set of eyes to validate. He has enormous amount of confidence in Dr. Singer's ability to get this work done. He almost definitely will come back to the Board to ask for additional days for Ms. Thessin who has proven her capacity to help with this work, which was not part of the original contract that we had with her. That might help out as well. All we can really do is start doing the work and going through it and moving through the data to try and determine what is possible and if we hit any major stumbling blocks that would change the timeframe we would certainly come to you and say it is not possible or we need somebody else and if we can move through it we will.

Mr. Freedman stated that the Working Group will issue its report by July 18, 2008. There will be an initial presentation by the Superintendent on August 12, 2008. Mr. Freedman put on the table that they should be comprehensive plans and they should include the feeders for all three levels. We will look to have a plan on August 12, 2008 which will be the initial Board review and at that meeting we can decide on how to set the calendar going forward.

Mayor Malloy stated that he thought the Board has a plan which was agreed on and he raised one final issue which is not about the plan. There is no way anyone who would have read the agenda would have understood the actions that are being taken and humbly suggest that at your next regularly scheduled meeting you actually give notice and take a formal vote to establish the calendar that you are talking about. There is no way that looking at the agenda that anyone could have had an idea that this discussion was going to take place. This would be just a corrective action and reaffirm it.

Mr. Freedman asked that the plan be in the Board package on August 9, 2008.

### **SPEF/School Readiness Council**

No report.

### **CES**

No report.

## **STAMFORD ACHIEVES**

No report.

## **STAMFORD PARTNERSHIP**

No report.

## **STEERING**

The following Committee meetings were scheduled for June:

Facilities Committee – June 10, 2008	6:30 p.m.
Labor Relations – June 10, 2008	7:00 p.m.
Fiscal Committee – June 18, 2008	6:30 p.m.
Policy Committee – June 18, 2008	7:00 p.m.

There will not be a Curriculum Committee meeting in June.

Committee chairs reviewed the agenda items.

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. with the following members voting in favor: Mr. Freedman, Mr. King, 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