

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION Stamford, Connecticut August 26, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on August 26, 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, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade. Absent: Mayor Malloy. Also in attendance: Dr. Starr, Dr. Hamilton, Ms. Swerdlick, Dr. Nicholson, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Karwan, Dr. Singer, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Thessin, Ms. Arnold, representatives from the Advocate and Stamford Times, News12, and approximately 50 guests.

Salute to the flag.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Mr. King,
to accept the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting –
July 22, 2008 – p 1 - 18

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. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti,
to accept the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting –
July 29, 2008 – pp. 19 - 29.

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 that Opening Day for staff went well and thanked everyone for attending. Today there was professional development throughout the system. He congratulated Dr. Nicholson and her team for organizing the professional development. There was also a three day Administrator's Leadership Retreat which was held at UConn. This was another great opportunity for everyone to get together. Ms. Anderson lead New Teacher Orientation this week. There are 83 new teachers. There are fewer new teachers than last year and we are in a better position this year with our vacancies than last year.

Finally, Ms. Lorenti and he went up to the State Department to meet with the Commissioner on the State Accountability System. We won't know much until we actually hear when they are going to come in. They did attend the Administrator's Retreat to let the administrators know what to expect in terms of their work with us next year. Every Title I school will be assessed by their assessment company. Last year it was Cambridge Assessment. We won't know when this will happen until they send us a letter and advise us. He is impressed with the State Department's stance as well as the Commissioner's stance towards us in that they recognize the work we have been doing and they want to help us do it better. Since we do not have the kind of ECS money that other districts have they are actually covering the costs of the assessments. All other districts have had to apply for the increase in ECS funds that we received last year. For some districts it is a lot of money, but for Stamford it is \$63,000 which does not even cover half the costs of what they are requiring us to do and they are not allowing that money to go to the municipality anymore and it has to go directly to the school district. Since we don't have the money they have to cover the rest of the costs. The assessments will be comprehensive of every school. They will include parents and teachers, looking at instruction in the classroom and will then give us a report. The Commissioner recognizes the significant work that we have been doing in building instructional support systems in this district over the past few years and does not think that they will find anything that we don't already know about ourselves.

BOARD REPORT

Mr. Freedman echoed the Superintendent's comments about the first day for teachers at Westhill noting that there was quite a crowd. He thanked all the speakers who spoke so eloquently. There were two sets of parents from both Rogers and Northeast who spoke. We heard from Ms. Carlton who is the Teacher of the Year and Dr. Starr who gave us a very nice summary of where we've been and where we would like to go. He gave us a lesson on making peanut soup which was a nice metaphor for how we educate our children. He alerted the Board now as we will have to schedule a meeting during Steering, that we are under contractual obligation with the Superintendent to set his performance objectives and criteria for next year and we will need to schedule

that meeting since it was suppose to have been done by September 1, 2008. Finally, he will make a request that we move Redistricting out of order and place it after Time for the Public to be Heard.

TIME FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Five people addressed the Board regarding redistricting matters and one person advised the Board of the SHS Night Musical Competition scheduled for September 20th at Boyle Stadium.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS/RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Freedman asked for a motion to take the Redistricting agenda item out of order.

Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to move the Redistricting agenda item out of order.

The motion was approved 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

Ms. Lorenti reported that the she and Mr. King met with Ms. Arnold at the beginning of August. The first thing she would like to make everyone aware of because we have already have had 70 people sign up is that if you go on to the school website you will see a section where you can sign up to receive all the notices regarding redistricting, any changes, etc. and any documentation will automatically come to you. Amongst the documents that you are going to see tonight, which are already on the website, there were e-mails that went out today to elected officials, PTO's, PT Council, community leaders, churches for meetings Dr. Starr will be holding in the next week and a half in small groups to go over the same presentation with everyone. There are also two public hearings with a third possible if we need it coming up the following week. This is what we have done so far to communicate all of the redistricting.

Dr. Starr indicated that he would be going through the presentation and laid out the background. Dr. Singer and Ms. Thessin have been working around the clock and are the brains behind all this. We will talk about criteria and background information, compare the four options. **Background** – why are we redistricting? We are addressing the balance of school enrollment according to building capacity, we are addressing imbalances in school enrollment according to building capacity, we are addressing imbalances in the socio-economic make up of the school population according to Board policy 5117 which, is the integration metric, and we are also incorporating the Environmental Inter-district Magnet School into the enrollment districts and the current fiscal context. **Fiscal Context** –when members of the Board made the decision to close a school

because we could not run a 21st school. The EMS is the first domino and everything goes from there. The criteria is to balance schools within 10% of the new integration standard and as we know that policy disadvantage meaning you are eligible for English language services, free/reduced lunch, or public housing. Balance school enrollment by building capacity, increase the number of walkers, decrease the length of bus rides and the number of bus riders, minimize fiscal impact, maintain school feeder patterns where possible and minimize disruption for students and families.

Dr. Starr reviewed all four options in detail and then asked for questions from the Board. Mr. Freedman thanked Dr. Starr, Dr. Singer, and Ms. Thessin for a remarkably thorough job. The binder the Board received has an incredible amount of data and it is data that was very well considered, gathered and applied with a lot of intelligence and is a remarkable piece of work. It clearly reflects an intimate knowledge of the district. The thought that this could have been done by a consultant is preposterous and we additionally saved ourselves \$100,000-\$150,000 by doing it in-house. This is a fine quality, low cost, piece of work.

Mr. Rubino asked that one of the ways we are balancing Northeast in these options is the dual language program. How integrated are the actual classrooms going to be at Northeast considering the fact that you are balancing the school by moving in Spanish-speaking children who go into the dual language program. Mr. Freedman asked Dr. Starr to describe generally how he envisions a dual language program working. Dr. Starr responded that to be clear about integrated classrooms, let us not assume that our elementary classrooms are currently integrated. We balance, and he is not saying that they are not, he is just not saying that they are because we balance according to school population and he actually runs reports on homeroom assignments by demographics to look at the extent to which they are integrated. He wanted to be clear about what we know and what we know is the level of school integration and he has not presented information about class integration. The dual language program puts students who are learning each other's languages side by side so they can learn from each other. There are definite educational benefits to this program. A dual language program forces integration at the classroom level. We need to move students somewhere in order to balance out KT Murphy. We can't get around that. The question then becomes if we are seeking to try to keep a neighborhood together as much as possible so that as we do outreach and engagement efforts they can be locally based. If we are able to open up the Office of Family & Community Engagement and move it to the old Rogers building so at least we can have students from the neighborhood staying together even though they have to be bussed. Mr. Rubino stated that he was actually looking for percentages. He noted that if you look at the Northeast district and it is pretty dramatic. It is almost all North Stamford and there are not a lot of Spanish-speaking people in North Stamford. It is going to be one of the lowest integrated schools at 43%, but how often are those students going to be interacting in class? Dr. Starr responded that with a dual language program we will be increasing the interaction in class, the daily interaction and integration of the class because the program requires that. Currently we do not have any

programs that require integration in the classroom. Mr. Rubino asked what would the typical day of a native Spanish speaking person be at Northeast in a dual language program. Dr. Starr responded that they would be assigned together which does not mean you don't get pulled out for maybe a half an hour of ELL services or we have push-in services. Push in services means that if there is an English language learner that requires a certain level of ESL services, the ESL teacher might come into the classroom, but there is no doubt that it will increase the integration of students learning together for the bulk of the day. Mr. Rubino stated that then for most of the day the neighborhood students would be in the same classroom. Dr. Starr responded that is correct. Mr. Freedman asked that if you opted in to Mrs. Jones' dual language program then you are in a class that is 10 bilingual students, 10 English speaking students and that is your class. Dr. Starr responded that is correct. Mr. Freedman further asked if this is an immersion-type program and the children come out speaking Spanish or English or both and are for multiple grades. Dr. Starr noted that we would have to consider how much we can do at once, how many grades to phase in, do we do half the school, the full school, but certainly it would lend itself to that type of program. He did not want to guarantee that we could do the entire school right out of the box. Mr. Freedman asked that the reason this is in Option #1 and #2 and not #3 and #4, is because Northeast already has a bilingual program and he assumed that the reason is because there are not enough students currently in the Bilingual Program at Northeast to support this program and we would need to consolidate more bilingual children at Northeast to have a program. Dr. Starr responded that you could actually do the program with a dual language class as long as you have the number of children. We have not yet done that and it does require some intensive effort. One of things we are going to have to look at is looking at the resources we currently receive for students based on needs such as Title I funds, Title III, Title VII, based on the child and one of the things that can be affective way to use resources is consolidating in some ways. He would not jump to the conclusion that it's because there are not enough students, there does become a critical mass issue when it becomes more possible and attractive and this is why it is only in Options #1 and #2.

Mr. Rubino asked that the children who would be bussed up to Northeast to the dual language program are not necessarily from one district. Ms. Thessin responded that there 105 students that would be moved from KT Murphy's bilingual program, 57 students from KT Murphy 1 & 2. Of those, 40 are actually from KT Murphy and the other students in the bilingual program are from at least 10 elementary schools who are all currently being bussed to KT Murphy. Mr. Rubino responded that since the students are scattered all over the place and busses will be going all over Stamford to get them to Northeast School he thinks this is a really expensive option. Some Board members responded that there are already busses going all over Stamford. Dr. Starr noted that we tried to do the transportation analysis knowing that this would be a big issue and it is. He anticipates that the transportation numbers will be roughly what they are now.

Ms. Nabel inquired about the communications piece where Dr. Starr indicated that there would be meetings with community leaders over the next

week or so. What are the dates, will we be informed of those dates, and is the elected Board invited to attend or is it the administration? Dr. Starr responded that the meetings are scheduled for Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The intent of the meetings is to explain the details and gather questions for follow up that people might be getting at their different places. The point of the meetings is to make sure that he fully understands what is in here so that he can answer the calls that he is receiving from the people that he is regularly interacting with as a community leader, parent, PTO leader, elected official. Ms. Nabel indicated that she asked the question out of a slight concern that, and it carries over into what she was going to ask about the public hearings also, these are options that you and the administration have worked up and are presenting, but it is the Board of Education who will be making the choice among those options. The more exposure that the Board has to the details and the questions and the ideas of other elected officials, she thought the better our thinking will be. She is also concerned that the options become identified with your administration rather than the Board and she would like to know when those meetings are so that if it is at all possible for those of us who do other things during the daytime to attend, we do. Ms. Nabel asked Dr. Starr if he would be presenting all four options at the public hearings. Dr. Starr responded that this was something that needs to be discussed and he would take direction from the Board on that. He thought it would be appropriate that all four options be presented at each public hearing.

Ms. McManus made a couple of general comments and she understands that if she wants to propose a change she needs to make a counter proposal so that things stay in balance. She is a little concerned with the high school numbers. Because of the age of the Stamford HS facility she still thinks we should keep that school slightly smaller than Westhill HS even though it has a larger capacity, but as we know because of the age of that building things tend to fall apart a lot more than at Westhill and she would propose that we do the reverse and keep 150 more at Westhill than at Stamford HS. Both are under capacity and can be done. She will look at the detail to try and find a proposition that we have more magnet seats at Hart and she feels there are too many students at Cloonan in all the options and that school becomes too large when some of the other schools are much smaller and we should dig deeper into the detail and try to see if we could balance this a bit.

Mr. Freedman agreed with Ms. McManus that Cloonan is a problem in all the scenarios and he did not see any other solution than further breaking of the feeder pattern. Dr. Starr noted that the other option is making the students districted to Cloonan could get preference to Scofield which is another way of looking at it. Mr. Freedman indicated that was a reasonable suggestion, but may not be enough. Cloonan has 750 and Dolan and Turn of River are at 500. A magnet preference could maybe swing 25 or 50, but he thinks we are off by more than that. Ms. McManus noted that if one swing is disadvantaged, they don't apply unfortunately. Mr. Freedman stated that there is no indication of changes in the ride/walk status for the middle and high schools and some of those changes are enormous. For example: switching Rogers to Stamford HS creates

in the hundreds the number of students who go from being bussed to Westhill to walking to Stamford HS. He requested further analysis. Also, there is an estimate that 90% of the Rogers district is going to sign up for the EMS and 10% are not and he did not think this actually appears in the numbers in any of the options. He asked if there was an adjustment for this. Ms. Thessin stated that the numbers that we used are the numbers of students currently attending their districted schools so currently 90% of the Rogers population is attending Rogers.

Mr. Freedman noted that in Option 4 one of the key facets of the plan is that it strips out a lot of the disadvantaged portion of the Toquam district in order to create more magnet seats. Then there are some assumptions about the number of advantaged/disadvantaged magnet applicants to the school (239 advantaged/189 disadvantaged) for a total of 420. He did not know if this is a good assumption based on our experience with Westover and the work we did back in the winter to put more disadvantaged students into the Westover district as opposed as to taking them out. The redistricting in Option 4 creates an advantaged district around the Toquam and then it strips out most of the disadvantaged students who are currently districted for Toquam downtown and uses the assumptions about the lottery admissions to balance the school that may not be accurate. The school could end up being very badly imbalanced. Dr. Starr indicated that they would take a look at this and noted that assumptions are assumptions, but you can certainly change them.

Ms. Nabel inquired about Section 1 page 3 there is a footnote about working with the State Department of Education to factor in No Child Left Behind School Choice. She asked what is our history in terms of the numbers of families who have opted in the past to take advantage of School Choice? Dr. Singer stated that it was 15-17. Dr. Starr noted that this year we seeing a larger increase since the State Department as required, despite our efforts to hold them off until next year, that we open up magnet schools for choice that were currently not open for choice which would be Westover and Toquam. Ms. Nabel asked what the timeline is for when you can expect to draw some conclusions. Dr. Singer responded that the deadline was today for applications and the lottery for School Choice will take place tomorrow. The numbers will be available by Friday.

Mr. Rubino, with respect to the overcrowding at Cloonan, asked if there is any legal reason why we could not carve out a disadvantaged district and put it into Scofield. Dr. Starr replied that we could choose to have a preference area for Scofield or have a district. This is a City magnet school.

Mr. Freedman thanked Dr. Starr, Dr. Singer, and Ms. Thessin for an excellent presentation and a very thorough piece of work.

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

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Ms. McManus to take the Labor Relations agenda item out of order.

The motion was approved 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 August 19, 2008 and August 26, 2008. At the meeting on August 19th, there was an update by Ms. Anderson on details Dr. Starr already discussed regarding the New Teacher Orientation. She also gave us an update on staffing and at that time there were only 9 vacancies. The Committee also reviewed procedures for new staff in terms of orientation to the district. Dates for upcoming contractual negotiations with both the SAU and Security Guards were reviewed and negotiations for both will be beginning this week. The resolutions on this evening's agenda were also reviewed. Our earlier meeting this evening also consisted of resolutions that are on the agenda.

Resolution 08-26-08:17

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 Rebecca Thessin, to the position of Director for School Improvement and Professional Development effective August 27, 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 08-26-08:18

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Mr. King:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of MaryAnn Mara, to the position of Assistant Principal – Elementary effective August 27, 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 08-26-08:19

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve a 3% salary increase for 2008-2009 for non-bargaining administrative unit members (Assistant Superintendent for Community and Family Engagement, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Chief Operating Officer, Executive Director for Performance Management and Accountability, Director for Human Capital Development, Public Affairs Officer) retroactive to 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 08-26-08:20

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. McManus:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve a 2% merit based bonus for the 2007-2008 school year for the Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Community and Family Engagement and the Chief Operating Officer.

Dr. Starr noted that this is a bonus and does not change the salary and is for one year. The Board has allowed him to bring this forward for these cabinet members only and it is not because other people don't deserve, but at that time these were the only people who were in the cabinet and he did not come forward to request for additional people, but these are for work done to continue the incredible reform effort that we are under and people who essentially have gone above and beyond, as many of our people do, throughout the Stamford Public Schools, but because they are non-represented we are able to create a small incentive for increased efforts in some ways and certainly given the impact that we have seen in the reforms whether it is increased efficiencies, student achievement results, curriculum implementation, there is no doubt in his mind that the Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and the Chief Operating Officer as well as others are well deserving of a nominal 2% bonus.

Mr. Mathews indicated that he is opposed to this resolution. First of all in concept with no reflection on the individual's holding the position, but the concept of a merit-based bonus. We don't do this for other employee groups and he is certain that there are other employees throughout the ranks of the employees in the Stamford school system (educational

assistants, teachers, building administrators, other central staff members) who could very well be recognized monetarily for some superlative efforts on their behalf. He stated that this sets a wrong idea relative to what people are expected to perform in their positions and if we can't consider it for all we should not consider it for this small group. It sets them apart and creates an elite group of employees.

Ms. Nabel indicated that she would be voting in favor of the resolution. She noted that she is in opposition with Mr. Mathews on the point of being able to recognize employees from any group who go above and beyond their basic job description. When Dr. Starr came to Stamford and the Board at the time considered the clause in his contract which calls for a merit bonus the thinking of the Board at the time was that was a foot in the door and it was a concept that the Board was interested in expanding to other groups among Stamford Public Schools staff. Speaking for herself, she would be thrilled to extend that concept to other groups among our staff and would hope that our ability to recognize performance and dedication, hard work, and innovation that go above and beyond the job description that our ability to recognize it here should be a sign that we are interested in recognizing it with other groups as well.

Mr. Mathews stated that we are about to engage in negotiations with the SAU and he did not expect that anyone here sitting back thinking maybe we should revise the package coming forth to include an idea about a bonus recognition. His other point is that if you take 3% salary increase and multiply it by 2% you come up with an increase of about 5.8%. He did not think there was any other employee group in the City of Stamford who is going to have that raise given to them in this economic time that we are in.

Dr. Starr clarified that the bonus is calculated on the 2007-2008 salary as is the 3% so it is on the current salary.

Mr. Freedman stated that merit pay when applied to large numbers of employees is not a simple concept, but in this case these employees do stand apart. They are the highest paid and they have the most responsibility in the district and he did not see any inconsistency or problem with awarding them a merit bonus. It is not a raise and is not compounded into their salaries.

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, and Mr. Rubino. Opposed: Mr. Mathews and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 08-26-08:21

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 posting/advertising and filling of the NCLB – Project Facilitator effective August 27, 2008.

Dr. Starr indicated that this is a grant funded position and is stipend work.

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 08-26-08:22

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve a childcare leave of absence for the 2008-2009 school year for the following teacher: Karen Levine Gordon.

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 08-26-08:23

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. McManus:

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 teacher: Marisa Telesco.

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 Curriculum Committee met on August 19, 2008. Dr. Starr gave a brief overview of the CMT results since staff did not have a great opportunity to spend lot of time. This included information on where we are going and we are seeing improvement in some areas and we need improvement in other areas, but we are working on that. Dr. Nicholson gave an update on the Middle School Math program and also an update on this week's Professional Development under Literacy.

FACILITIES

Mr. Rubino reported that the Committee met on August 19, 2008. Joseph Tarzia, Board of Finance, spoke to the Committee regarding his concerns on problems with the lack of grounding for the emergency generator at Stamford High School. Mr. Barbarotta informed the Committee that the problem was taken care of and now the issue is who pays for it. The cost is roughly \$50,000. Mr. Tarzia also brought to our attention other problems at Stamford High School concerning recent renovations. Mr. Barbarotta, under Current Projects, informed us that the KT Murphy playground is almost done, the Westhill turf project is almost complete, and the Stamford High School artificial turf field will remain as is until about Thanksgiving when it will be taken up. The Roxbury roofing project is almost done, the Cloonan asbestos project still needs to be done, and the sprinkler project at Cloonan is complete. Under Capital Budgeting, the Committee decided they would set aside some time at the Superintendent's suggestion, to meet with the Engineering Department to discuss basically our needs in planning and implementing capital projects. There are currently monthly meetings with the Administration and the Engineering Department and those will continue. On the issue of the future use of Rogers School, the Committee discussed and decided they were in favor of turning over control to another use and basically giving up control, but will try and negotiate a contract that will allow us to recall the property if it is needed in the future. Mr. Rubino noted that Dr. Starr indicated that the City administration was not completely against that concept.

Mr. Freedman asked if there was a process set for how the disposition of Rogers is going to be hashed out. Mr. Rubino responded that the only thing that the Committee decided was that we were going to have Tom Mooney draft an agreement with the City. The first step is deciding whether or not such an agreement is even enforceable. Dr. Starr noted that the Committee wanted more understanding about that aspect before we vote. This will come back to the Committee. Mr. Dunn has contacted Mr. Mooney.

FISCAL

Ms. McManus reported that the Fiscal Committee met on August 12, 2008 and the first item discussed was Contracts & Grants which the Board needs to move on and each of those are in an individual resolution and she will discuss further when the resolutions are read. Under Budget Transfers and we had a list of year-end bus transfers that always happen in the last month in regards to the 2007-2008 school year. Staff informed us that there would be a few more transfers so the Committee decided to table the resolution until September so all the final transfers would be done at once. Some of the upcoming contracts where we need to get out RFP's will be reviewed at the same September meeting. There was a review of the Hewlett Packard contract for the AITE laptops as well as the Connecticut Writing contract. There was a thorough discussion of the Hewlett Packard contract and financing. Staff did an excellent

job of researching the most economical way to finance and pay for those machines. The Committee reviewed and prioritized the internal audit schedule and Mr. Dunn will now move forward with this and everyone on the Committee was in agreement with staff on what needed to be done and the priorities. There are budget transfers for the 2008-2009 school year and are all school codes within school codes. They are not transferring from one major department to other. It is all music money at a school being transferred from equipment to salary and this will be discussed in the resolution.

Resolution 08-26-08:13

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Mr. King:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education award RFP 07-08 to Executive Limousine Service and First Student at the listed prices for an estimated 2008-09 cost of \$595,000.

Ms. McManus reported that this resolution brought up lots of question. Last year we just used Executive Limousine Services for the specialized out of district transportation. They are a transportation company that has the vans and the staff to accompany our special education students out of district to their schools. What we did was to send out an RFP and 5 companies responded to. Only First Student and Executive Limousine Service actually bid on the route and what we did was to award individual routes to the lowest cost instead of awarding one large bid. Steve Schneider and the Transportation Department went through route by route and awarded on the least expensive bid for just that route. There is a very detailed attachment to the resolution on the routes. These are not all the routes we use, but are all the routes we could use if a student came into the district and might need this transportation. The question was asked if the money was in the budget and Mr. Dunn responded that this year the budget is \$565,000.

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 08-26-08:14

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Nabel:

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

Ms. McManus stated that per policy of the Board of Education, the Board must approve any purchase orders over \$100,000. The beginning of the

school year is traditionally when we approve most of these. Ms. McManus described the purchase orders as follows: Diesel fuel that was purchased after the fuel price started to drop, Gersch Academy which is autism consultant services for a 2 year contract, tuition for out of district placement for children who are placed through the judicial process for their IEP's, CES is our summer school tuition, and Sonitrol is our annual contract for our alarm system for the entire school year.

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 08-26-08:15

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Mr. King:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the Alexandra and Steven Cohen Foundation Grant through the Stamford Hospital Foundation in the amount of \$40,000.

Ms. McManus noted that this was discussed and passed in Committee. Mr. Dunn reviewed that each of the high schools would have to spend approximately \$2,000 out of their operating funds to get all the new equipment installed. This is the second year that we have received a grant from this foundation to establish a really terrific general overall fitness center for non-athletes. The Committee did ask staff that in the future that all expenses be included in the grant or that the money be budgeted ahead of time.

Ms. McManus thanked the Cohen Foundation for this grant and they have worked closely with Stamford Hospital. This is really important as we work so hard for the physical fitness of our students. This will be a terrific addition to our high schools.

Dr. Starr thanked Dr. Ed Schuster from Stamford Hospital for making this happen. Mr. Freedman thanked the Cohen Foundation for their continued generosity.

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 08-26-08:16

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 2008-2009 budget transfers per the document dated August 26, 2008.

Ms. McManus referred to the attachment of the resolution and noted that this is for budget transfers within the Westover School to purchase library books from the text workbook account and all within the Music Department to pay band coaches. This was in the Rental account when it was budgeted so it is not moving from any major accounts to any major accounts. Mr. Mathews asked if there was any reason why it wasn't budgeted where it should have been. Ms. McManus responded that we ask every year when this comes up and budgets are put together in December and its well before the school year starts, but she thought Mr. Dunn could better answer this question because she asks the same. Mr. Dunn noted that if you go and look at Westover you will find that different schools have different levels of discipline on how they allocate those costs because all of their textbook and supply accounts. Even when school opens they spend more time to identify their needs for the current year. As far as the band goes, this is something that historically has been done this way and it will not be done this way next year and will be placed in the right account. Mr. Mathews noted that he was impressed with the fact that the number of transfers in buildings is two at this point in time. He knows that sometimes it is to just throw it on the wall in December and hope that it sticks until we make transfers in July. It is all about priorities and he thinks if you identify priorities in December there is no reason they have to change in June or July, but he is happy there are only two.

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 Committee had a very productive quick meeting on August 12, 2008. There was a review of the proposed changes for Series 3000. Ms. Anderson was very quick in going through and pointing out the changes. We will be receiving copies of those changes to review and hopefully then vote on at the September Committee meeting so the Board can take its first vote in September and second vote in October. Since it is the Business Section of the Policy Manual she thought it was much easier for the Committee to go through and the changes were all reviewed and recommended by staff. Next month we will vote on Series 3000 and start on Series 4000.

The only resolution we have this evening is the second vote of the Bullying policy.

Resolution 08-26-08:24

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 accept the revised Policy 5131.911 – Students Hazing Bullying, 2nd vote.

Dr. Starr noted that he anticipated further down the road as we begin to focus some concerted attention on discipline and deal with some of the State legislation we might be revisiting this policy in a year or two.

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.

STEERING

The following Committee meetings were scheduled for September:

Tuesday, Sept. 9 th	Curriculum	6:00 PM
Monday, Sept. 15 th	Policy	6:30 PM
	Fiscal	7:15 PM
Thursday, Sept. 18 th	Curriculum	6:30 PM
	Labor Relations	7:30 PM
Tuesday, Sept. 23 rd	Facilities	6:00 PM

Mr. Mathews moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. 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.

Dr. Joshua P. Starr
Superintendent of Schools
Executive Office