

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION Stamford, Connecticut March 24, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on March 24, 2009 at the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Ms. Nabel, President, with the following Board members present: Ms. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade. Absent: Mayor Malloy. Also in attendance: Dr. Starr, Dr. Hamilton, Mr. Dunn, Dr. Nicholson, Ms. Swerdlick, Ms. Gagne, Ms. Karwan, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Arnold, Mr. Barbarotta, representative from the Stamford Advocate, and approximately 35 guests.

Salute to the flag.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Ms. Wade, to accept the Minutes of the Working Board Meeting – February 10, 2009 – pp. 174 - 187.

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

Mr. King moved, seconded by Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, to accept the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting – February 12, 2009 – pp. 188.

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

Ms. Heftman moved, seconded by Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, to accept the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting – February 12, 2009 – pp. 189 - 195.

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

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Mr. Polo,
to accept the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting –
February 26, 2009 – pp. 196 - 215.

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

Mr. Polo moved, seconded by Mr. Mathews,
to accept the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting –
March 3, 2009 – pp. 216.

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

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Mr. Polo,
to accept the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting –
March 10, 2009 – pp. 217 - 233.

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

STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Stamford hosted a Junior First Lego League Expo at AITE. 50 students were honored for their volunteer work with the JFLL participants. Ms. Nabel also noted that the JFLL volunteers were a big part of the Stone Soup event that was held this past Saturday.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Starr asked for a moment of silence in memory of Westhill High School student Daniel Villeda. He also acknowledged Principal Figluizzi, Joe O'Callaghan, Westhill staff, and others who went above and beyond in supporting staff, students and, in particular, the Villeda family in this time of grief and mourning.

Dr. Starr introduced Beth Schiavino-Narvaez whom he will be mentoring. She is a student in the doctoral program at Harvard Urban Superintendent's Program and will be joining us in the fall.

Dr. Starr recognized that the Junior First Lego League is a great example of what the community and parent leadership has done to support our efforts in providing a well rounded education to our students. He also recognized the Odyssey of the Mind teams that are going up to the State competition this Saturday which include 8 elementary and 2 middle schools who will be participating. At Stone Soup he observed that the Odyssey of the Mind group had a table. This would not happen without the support of the Stamford Youth Foundation, parent volunteers, and community support. He also acknowledged Julia Wade, Eileen Swerdlick, Susan Nabel, and many others who were responsible for creating a first ever manifestation of something that people have been seeking for awhile which is people coming together to explore and understand what the different circles are that are offered in the community.

This week we will have another first event in Stamford which will be an In-District Leadership Associates program. We have had the benefit of working with the Panasonic Foundation and the Connecticut Center for School Change who gave us a 5 year grant last year to work on systemic initiatives that improve instruction. Money is not attached to the grant, but they provide 4 days a month of expert facilitation to work with the Board, the administrator's union, the teacher's union, and the Superintendent's team to work on big picture systemic issues. Our formal group is called the Systems Leadership Council and we meet monthly for a day to talk about Middle School Reform, literacy, and where we are going as a district. We will also have an opportunity to interact a couple of times a year with districts that are working with Panasonic around the country. Tomorrow afternoon and evening we will be getting together with about 120 people from throughout the Stamford Public Schools to gather input on where we are going with three key initiatives: professional learning communities, literacy, and middle school reform. Purdue Pharma has donated the space and food.

Dr. Starr noted that the Westhill High School Winter Percussion Ensemble competed March 7th and will now compete in the World Percussion & Color Guard Championship in Ohio. The Westhill Chamber Singers will be traveling to Verona, Italy on April 15th where they will perform for an international jury of choral experts from across Europe and the USA. Also, the Rippowam students have been in Hartford with Marianna Paolini in support of the Bag Bill, which is a bill by Connecticut lawmakers who are hoping to encourage shoppers to use reusable bags. The students were invited to meet lobbyists and legislators from the Environmental Committee.

Dr. Starr reported that we just received a \$25,000 grant from the Alexandra and Steven Cohen Foundation through the Stamford Hospital Foundation. This is through the good work of Dr. Ed Schuster. This money will go towards Slim Gyms – Healthy Heart Monitors for Middle School. This program is going to build on the Foundation's previous donations of fitness centers and will allow us to purchase heart monitors for middle school physical education classes so students can learn about their target heart rate. John Pelizzari, District Content Leader for Health & Wellness, has been coordinating this effort.

The Middle School Advisory Council met on March 23, 2009 and it was a good opportunity for us to share what has happened over the last month or so. We spent a lot of time in small groups talking about the different perspectives that have been expressed recently and trying to come up with some common understandings of what the work is going forward and there was also an opportunity to provide some input and raise some questions about grouping and how many different instructional levels should we have. The FAQ's will be out next week and will be on the website. We are also recognizing that we need more time with the Middle School Advisory Council and will try and do some more things electronically.

With respect to ARRA (American Reinvestment & Recovery Act) also known as the Federal stimulus package, Dr. Starr reported that he attended a meeting in Hartford for Superintendents and Business Administrators. However, we still do not know anything yet. A question was raised about the ECS monies going directly to the Board of Education and not the municipalities. The Chief Financial Officer for the State Department of Education, Brian Mahoney, responded that they were not sure yet and would have to double check. Dr. Starr was not faulting the State Department of Education as they are trying to get information as quickly as they can, but there are so many unknowns at this point. There will be a meeting of Special Education Directors and Business Administrators and we will know more about the IDEA portion later this week. He will be attending an Urban Superintendent's meeting in Hartford next week.

Lastly, Dr. Starr acknowledged that March is Board Appreciation Month. He noted that the amount of work that the Board members put in as volunteers is extraordinary and is not always recognized by everyone. He spoke on behalf of his team and everyone in the Stamford Public Schools when he said that we do recognize and appreciate it and we know that you are on the Board to try to make this system as good as it possibly can be. The amount of time, questions, and drilling down is all in pursuit of excellence in our system and it is very much appreciated and recognized. On a personal/professional note, Dr. Starr stated that a Superintendent is only as effective as a Board enables him/her to be and without a strong partnership with the Superintendent and the Board it would be very difficult. While sometimes it is difficult, he knows it is in the best interest. He noted that he very much appreciates all the work that the Board does whether it is on budget, redistricting, policy work, etc.

Ms. Nabel thanked Dr. Starr and appreciated the recognition. She stated that although we may be one of the few groups, who some people wish would work less, we are all here for children and in pursuit of excellence for the Stamford Public Schools and that it is nice to be on a team that is all headed in the right direction.

BOARD REPORT

Ms. Nabel advised Board Members that Larry Leverett and the Panasonic Foundation have penciled in June 5th & 6th for our follow up retreat where we will focus on curriculum management policies. Also, on April 14th, before the Working Board meeting, we will meet with the Editorial Staffs of all high school newspapers which follows our policy to have periodic meetings with representatives from the high schools.

Ms. Nabel announced that in May we will be ready to have the Board package delivered electronically rather than physically. We basically will be saving the school district about \$10,000 annually in physical and labor costs by having the packages available electronically. We will need to schedule a training session so that everyone can learn how to access this online, how to use their password, etc. She would like to schedule this meeting right after the April vacation so that the package for May 1st would be our first electronic package. Ms. Wade asked if it would be incumbent on the Board members to print out the documents themselves. She further stated that the \$10,000 savings to the Board of Education will now be borne by the Board members if you choose to print the documents. Ms. Nabel indicated that the agendas would still be printed and be available. She was not sure about Board Members Only information, but the Superintendent's cover memo and any back up material would be available for viewing on line. We have not ironed out a lot of details yet, but we are heading towards doing that over the next 3 weeks. Ms. Wade inquired about bringing a laptop which would be password protected. Dr. Starr indicated that he would talk to the Technology Department about configuring Board members laptops so they would have network access here. The way it is going to work is that it will be a password protected site and we do it for some things now. Currently we are making 27 packages and we will be giving passwords to everyone who receives a package. Only Board members have the package delivered and some are sent inter-office. What is important is knowing and, we are going to have to test this out over a few months, what items still need to be printed for here. He would like to get to the point where everyone just has a laptop and accessed the information here. This will cut down all the printing and the delivery costs as well.

Ms. Nabel stated that Ms. Wade was correct about each of us bearing the expense of printing out, but each of us has already borne the expense of supplying the hardware to do that. Ms. Wade noted that she was just trying to understand who was bearing the cost and asked that this be publicly noted. Ms. Nabel noted that the monthly delivery cost is about \$300.00. Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak asked to add to this so that future audience members who may want to run for the Board to think that this would be a cost they would have to bear. Theoretically, Board members could be reimbursed for printing costs. Ms. Nabel said she could find out about this and Mr. Rubino responded that this would be a miscellaneous itemized deduction which would mean it would have to exceed 2.5% of your adjusted gross income. Dr. Starr noted that he would get some legal guidance and, if it is a requirement for a policy, we will take that up at the proper time.

Ms. Nabel thanked all the Board members as well as members of the public who were at the budget hearing at Turn of River last Monday night who spoke eloquently in support of the Board of Education budget. She also thanked the President of the SEA, Lori Rossomando, for her powerful speech in support of the budget. We were represented extremely well by a very strong and diverse array of parents from the community. She also thanked John White and Rita Crocco from Sodexo for their continued presence at our meetings. She noted that their work is often unsung and, like ours, is often the target of more criticism than praise. Ms. Nabel mentioned how much she appreciated Sodexo being at Stone Soup and that she appreciates them staying abreast of what is going on with the Board as well.

Ms. Nabel reported that the GE College Bound Foundation will be having its annual conference in July in Orlando, Florida. She has attended for the last couple of years and thinks it is important to have two Board members attend. She thought that it was important that this coming summer that the Board members who attend bring some new blood and notion of carrying the work forward with them. The conference is being held July 26-31, 2009 and would like Board members to consider volunteering to attend. GE places a great deal of importance on Board member participation for the entire span of the conference with participation in the seminars and professional development sessions. She found this conference to be the most useful opportunity all year for being able to speak with teachers, talk about their work in the classroom, how they feel about what they are doing, and how they are learning and growing as a result of the GE materials and resources. For those of you who think you would like to attend please let her know. Dr. Starr noted that Stamford is known as the only district of the five that have consistently had at least one Board member attend. We are also the only district who had Board members who went to the meeting where we originally pitched to the foundation. We have already been recognized for going above and beyond what Board members in other districts do and we would like to continue this streak. Dr. Starr also noted that this conference is paid for by the GE Foundation.

TIME FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

One speaker addressed the Board regarding the great of the Stone Soup event.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS/RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Nabel noted that at our last meeting there was discussion regarding rotating the order of committees. Since she did not speak about that to anyone ahead of time and because our agenda it not terribly lengthy this evening, she is going to stay with the current order and for our Working Meeting on April 14th, which will be lengthier, she will make sure that she has spoken to Committee chairs and worked out a different order so the first are not always first and the last are not always last.

CURRICULUM

Ms. Lorenti reported that at the March 10th Working meeting Dr. Nicholson gave a report on Algebra at the two high schools and Dr. Hamilton gave us a report on the first steps of the Middle School Reform that Dr. Starr referenced in his Superintendent's Report.

Ms. Lorenti reported on Curriculum Management Policy and indicated that she has been working with Dr. Nicholson and CAFE. We are collating and getting some policies together under curriculum regarding the Literacy Audit. We have highlighted six policies that we need to review. This will be a lot of work and we need to talk about the steps with respect to whom will be writing and what we are going to be doing since it will be different than the policy review we have done in the past. She deferred back to Ms. Nabel and Dr. Starr to how we are going to take those steps forward because we are a Committee of the Whole.

Dr. Starr responded that this work is parallel work with some of the development work that we are doing and based on the CAFE information we will sink our teeth into the policies at our June retreat. Ms. Lorenti indicated that she is hoping that on the Friday before our next Working Board meeting that she will have some samples for the Board to look at and reference back to the Literacy Audit so that we are all on the same page.

Ms. Lorenti asked that at our next meeting that we have an update on Summer School. Mr. Polo asked Dr. Starr about FAQ's that would be available next week on the Middle School Reform. Dr. Starr responded that once this document is complete he will send a copy to the Middle School Advisory Council for feedback and then we will put it up on the website. Ms. Lorenti asked if the questions from last night's meeting would be included in this FAQ and Dr. Starr responded that they would not be included this time, but would be the next time.

Ms. Heftman asked if there was a timetable for implementation and at what point would the Board be receiving a report on the recommendations that the Middle School Advisory Council is putting forth and having a conversation around policy as she is receiving a lot of questions from the public regarding the Board's role in this process. Dr. Starr responded that he is very happy to address any questions regarding Middle School Reform; however, this item is not on the agenda and he asked Ms. Nabel and Ms. Lorenti how they would like him to handle this, but he is certainly willing to answer any questions that have been posed. We will be, as presented at the forum on February 25, implementing in the 6th grade in the fall. We will continue the work in curriculum and using new placement criteria this spring we will have a new schedule for 6th graders that will enable grouping that addresses the strengths and needs of each child. There is really no Board action that is required for any of this since the policy already exists. The Middle School Advisory Council will be having a forum in May to present some of where we are which has already started and will be going deeper next month and giving us more advise on how many different instructional levels would be appropriate, how to build a placement system and placement

criteria that fully addresses the needs of our students, and the strengths and interests that they have which we will not be able to do all of this year. This will be a multi-year phase in as well as help us understand what some of the barriers are and some of the opportunities are as it relates to teachers, parents, students, etc. The new placement criteria and the flexibility within the new schedule for 6th graders will be implemented in the fall as we have discussed in previous months.

Ms. Wade noted that she had asked earlier this month if Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Nicholson could come back to the Board with some ideas of how they were going to address the students who have taken the algebra test and repeatedly failed. Ms. Nabel stated that we had agreed that this would carry over to the April 14th Working Board meeting along with Mr. Polo's item about the short term implementation of some of the recommendations of the Literacy Audit. Mr. Polo asked to have Middle School Reform on the agenda for our own informational purposes as well as for information for the public when we are asked where we are going with this. Ms. Nabel noted that specifics in terms of a review of what was just reviewed again, timeline for implementation of 6th grade, what will change next year, when the Middle School Advisory Council will put forth a set of recommendations should be included in the report. Mr. King indicated that we should add when the next Public Hearing will be held. Dr. Starr responded that this will be held in May and once a date is scheduled we will add it to the website. Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak asked for a list of the committee members or the Advisory Council and Dr. Starr responded that he would provide this information. Ms. Lorenti commented that there are 42 members and it is a diverse group of individuals which include all the middle school principals, teachers from the middle schools and a nice parent group. Ms. Nabel noted that the meeting was posted on the website and in the Town Clerk's office.

FACILITIES

Mr. Mathews asked Mr. Barbarotta and Mr. Dunn to join him for his report. Mr. Mathews reported on the Walking Access to Rogers International School. He noted that he had previously asked each Board member to receive an aerial photo of the area that is commonly referred to as Noroton Hill, which is south of McDonald's access way into the new building. Mr. Barbarotta has the photo, but it really does not show much. He suggested scheduling a time for Board members to view the access way and then have a tour of the building. Mr. Barbarotta suggested a 1-1/2 hour timeframe for the entire tour. Mr. Mathews suggested the week of April 6th sometime late morning. Ms. Wade will send an e-mail to coordinate a time and date.

Under Capital Budget, Mr. Mathews noted that he did not receive any inquiries on the capital budget regarding any concerns. Mr. Dunn noted that at the next Working Board meeting he will explain what projects we can do with the funds allocated. He did not know how far along we would be with the EMG Facilities Audit that is in process now, but it is very possible we will have some preliminary indications for some of the schools.

Mr. Barbarotta reported that he, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Cummings met with the Engineering Department and Ben Barnes regarding the modulares. Initially they were requesting to be in Rogers doing construction in early May in order to move the modulares in time and have them open for September 1st. We realized that was not going to work very well and asked them to rework the schedule. They came back a second time and agreed on with CLC's agreement and the Domus agreement is that they are going to work to get Domus in for the beginning of the school year and CLC has agreed to come into the school the end of October instead of September. They will not do any work until the school year has ended so there will not be any disruption of the programs at Rogers. This backs up the work at AITE & Rippowam because it will take probably until early July to get everything ready to remove the modulares from this site. The modulares will probably be moved late July or early August and it will take us to late September or early October to finish off the area where the modulares were. We will present drawings to the Superintendent and to the Board of the area as Paul Gross would like to see it and as George Giberti would like to see it. It would be a combination of a grass area with some benches along with some parking. Joe Fuller had originally done a design. Dr. Starr noted that the money for this is still within the AITE project and has to conform to the original designs. We may be able to make some modifications, but we need to spend the money that was allocated by the State. Mr. Barbarotta noted another point is that if we don't do it and we don't continue to do it, it would be a minor inconvenience to both programs and it will go to the next summer and then it will be who is paying for it.

Ms. Heftman asked for confirmation that no work would be going on at Rogers during the school year. Mr. Mathews responded that was correct.

Ms. Nabel noted for the record that there is going to be a Public Hearing on the use of the Rogers building on Tuesday, March 31, 2009.

FISCAL

Ms. Heftman asked for an update from Mr. Dunn and Mr. Murphy on the 2008-2009. Mr. Dunn responded that he had looked at the closing numbers as of yesterday and there are no surprises. This reinforces our projection of targeting for a \$250,000 surplus which makes up the \$600,000 that we were asked to not to try and ask the City for. In that forecast we have another \$50,000 favorable energy cost by switching from gas to oil and \$16,000 from Mr. Schneider by prepaying the March 2009 transportation invoice. The only thing to the detriment is the possibility of adding one or two special education buses for some pre-school children. The medical trends right now look good and we have our fingers crossed that the medical trends stay favorable.

Mr. Murphy commented that he has asked all administrators in the buildings for final supply purchases by April 15, 2009 and then we will work to reallocate any funds left. We will also hold open accounts for end of the year costs such as graduation, professional development, and other year end type

items. We should have a formal report out after closing the month of March. We just closed February and the numbers are close.

Under the 2009-2010 budget, Ms. Heftman noted some dates for when the Board of Representatives would be reviewing and voting on our budget. The dates are Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 pm, Saturday, May 9 at 9:00 am, and the vote will be held on May 11, 2009 at 8:00 pm. The Board of Finance is scheduled to vote on April 6th. Dr. Starr noted that we met this morning with two members of the Board of Representatives to anticipate any questions that might come up.

Ms. Heftman stated that she had not received any other recommendations from Board members about the transportation issues that Dr. Singer and Mr. Schneider are working on. They are going to be looking at the list that we discussed at our last meeting and deleting any conversation about the 10%, but adding in the two items that we talked about which were combining bus stops and looking at combining public and private school lines. Mr. Rubino asked about his original e-mail to Dr. Starr. Both Dr. Starr and Mr. Dunn indicated they would look for this e-mail and forward it to Ms. Heftman. Ms. Wade noted that we also talked about whether the By-laws would allow us to lengthen the distance where buses are required. Ms. Heftman responded that was on the original list and is still on the list. Ms. Heftman requested that if from Mr. Rubino's e-mail if there are other items that come out that we all know what is added. Ms. Nabel noted that would have to be a conversation between Dr. Starr and Ms. Heftman since she did not have that information.

Resolution 03-24-09:85

Ms. Heftman moved, seconded by Mr. King:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the 2008-09 budget transfers per the document dated March 24, 2009.

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

Dr. Starr acknowledged that this is Bill Dunn's last official Board meeting with us. He will be available on call and is continuing to work with us on an abbreviated schedule as he transitions out. Dr. Starr thanked Mr. Dunn for the leadership and the work that he has done for us over the last couple of years. He was instrumental to his team and his ability to improve the efficiencies and improve our financial operations. The State of Connecticut has recognized our financial operations as best practice in the State. This is largely due to Mr. Dunn and Mr. Murphy's work. Mr. Dunn has provided some significant leadership and will be sorely missed. He understands why Mr. Dunn is going on to pursue things that are more aligned with his personal and professional temperament, but

he has taught us an enormous amount and we benefited greatly in the short time he has been here. Dr. Starr wished Mr. Dunn a lot of luck.

Ms. Nabel followed up and stated that in the world of finance, the term white knight has a couple of different meanings, but Mr. Dunn has literally ridden into Stamford on his charger and saved the district once from catastrophe in a very short period of time and, in a very concentrated bout of work, and then again over a longer period of time. We are all here to help students achieve and improve the district and Mr. Dunn has, in fact, done probably more to improve our processes and our financial operations in his time here than ten Board members combined. We will really miss you a lot and can't believe we are going to the Board of Finance next Monday without you. We can't thank you enough.

LABOR RELATIONS

Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak asked Ms. Gagne to give some updates from our last meeting. Ms. Gagne indicated that there was nothing new to report under Negotiations. Under Staffing, there is one item which, the Board will recall we had discussions during the budget deliberations about the recommended changes for some open positions. We would like to request a Special Board meeting between March 30 and April 2 since the Personnel Committee on the City side has a deadline of April 8, 2009 for their April meeting. She will have the job descriptions in this week's Board package which will be for the Assistant Transportation Coordinator, and an OSS position in Human Capital Development that has become vacant due to a retirement. Also, Ms. Anderson has decided not to return to work so that leaves the Director's position open as well. A Special Board meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2009 at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Gagne continued with her report and indicated that there was nothing to report under Arbitration or the SAU contract.

Resolution 03-24-09:86

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

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the filling of 1 Special Education Assistant at Northeast Elementary School effective March 25, 2009.

Mr. Mathews asked if we are fully staffed with Educational Assistants in the district. Ms. Gagne responded that we are fully staffed.

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

Resolution 03-24-09:87

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

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve a personal leave for the 2009-2010 school year for the following teacher(s): Daphne Teittinen.

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

Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak asked for a motion to remove Resolution 03-24-09:88 from the agenda.

Mr. Polo moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to remove Resolution 03-24-09:88 from the agenda.

Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak indicated that this was a resolution that we had on the books just in case we needed it and we don't need it any more. This is procedural with certain deadlines that have to be met. Ms. Nabel noted that those deadlines and the fact that we can remove the resolution from the agenda are due to collaboration between the administration and the SEA.

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

Resolution 03-24-09:88

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve that the contract of employment of _____ not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, and that the superintendent is directed to advise such person(s) in writing of this action.

POLICY

Ms. Nabel noted that our Policy agenda is driven by our second reading and vote of the Out of the Attendance Zone policy which was discussed at our last meeting and voted unanimously in favor of. Since it is a policy change it requires a second vote.

Resolution 03-24-09:89

Ms. Heftman moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the revisions to the Out-of-District Policy 5117.1 which will now be known as the Out-of-Attendance Zone Policy 5117.1. 2nd Vote.

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

Ms. Nabel indicated that she will work with Ms. Lorenti to get our brains around how best to go forward with assembling curriculum policies, disseminating model policies from other districts, and forming either a sub-committee or ad hoc committee, or a working group to actually start pulling good templates and discarding templates we don't want to use and making some steps towards actually doing curriculum policy. We will do a Status Update at our April 14th meeting.

Ms. Heftman noted that based on her reading of the Literacy Audit, one of the things that jumped out at all of us, was the number of policy issues that we have to deal with. She thought that there might be a policy issue around the Middle School Reform. She has looked at the instructional policies that we have and from her reading it leaves more responsibility for implementation with the building principal then it does with the Superintendent, unless she is misreading. From her perspective, she would like to see how other districts handle that particular instructional policy. She asked that this item be included under Curriculum. Ms. Nabel responded that this was kind of understood.

Mr. Rubino inquired on the status of the survey. Dr. Starr responded that information will be going out to parents/administrators, teachers/educational assistants/students starting April 1 through April 10. Reports will be ready late June/early July. Mr. Rubino asked if the Board would receive a copy of the questions. Dr. Starr responded that he will put together a package of the five different surveys for the Board members.

AD HOC PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Ms. Wade reminded her Committee that there will be a meeting on Wednesday, March 25th at 7:30 am. The meeting is for a follow up of the calendar discussion. She thanked all who had responded for clarification of the questions that would be included in the survey about vacation times and start time for the following year. She distributed a copy of the modified questions that are included in the survey. Ms. Karwan reported that what we are looking at are the questions included on the Family Survey and we waited to gather input on future calendar vacation week options. There are four questions listed. Our

partners at UConn helped finesse the wording to make it most clear. Family respondents will be asked to choose the option that they support most. Mr. Rubino asked who made the decision to not have a different month for the vacation in the options. Ms. Karwan responded that she and Ms. Arnold worked on the wording along with the advise from UConn on the final format. We talked a lot about March possibilities and, given the set timeframe of CMT's as determined by the State, it seemed like a hot topic to raise. We would certainly not have the option to interrupt CMT's or CAPT testing and they fall in March.

SPEF/School Readiness Council

Ms. Lorenti indicated that she did not have anything to report.

CABE/CES

Mr. King indicated he had nothing to report on CABE.

STAMFORD PARTNERSHIP/ STAMFORD ACHIEVES

Ms. Nabel noted that there was no meeting held.

Ms. Wade asked to finish her report. As co-chairperson with Eva Weller of the Stone Soup event, she publicly thanked the Office of Community & Family Engagement for their help with this event, specifically Eileen Swerdlick. She also thanked Paul Gross and his entire staff, the IT people, and Scott Preston. We had hoped for 40 workshops and had about 70 workshops. We had hoped for 20 to 30 participants and had 50. Through Ms. Swerdlick's hard work, five of the workshops were run by Stamford Public School educators. Many more of the workshops and midways that were there were the result of the Office of Community & Family Engagement. There were over 1,000 people that attended and many were families that we had never met before which means it brought into this event families who heretofore haven't been noticed. CL&P attended, along with a volunteer who helped people with tax assistance, and an elderly care workshop.

Ms. Wade continued and noted that this is the type of community outreach that is really unique to Stamford and we were able to define it in the broadest possible terms that the community turned out in huge numbers. Corporate support was magnificent. The budget was \$60,000 and 3/4's of that budget was volunteer. In no small part the Stamford Public Schools supported this event hugely with the contribution of AITE, translators, copying, and attending meetings. She publicly thanked everyone that this Board represents for their unstinting generosity.

Mr. Rubino moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. with the following Board members voting in favor: Ms. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Dr. Joshua P. Starr
Superintendent of Schools
Executive Office