

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION Stamford, Connecticut September 23, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on September 23, 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. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mayor Malloy, Mr. Mathews, Ms. McManus, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade. Also in attendance: Dr. Starr, Dr. Hamilton, Mr. Dunn, Dr. Nicholson, Ms. Swerdlick, Dr. Singer, Ms. Karwan, Ms. Thessin, Ms. Gagne, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Arnold, representatives from the Advocate and Stamford Times, and approximately 110 guests.

Salute to the flag.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Rubino moved, seconded by Ms. McManus,
to accept the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting –
August 26, 2008 – pp. 30 - 45.

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 Ms. Nabel,
to accept the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting –
September 8, 2008 – pp. 46 - 63.

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. Rubino moved, seconded by Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak,
to accept the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting –
September 15, 2008 – pp. 64 - 65.

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 the following:

- On September 12th he had his monthly meeting with Southern Fairfield County Superintendents and presented them with the preliminary plans for the Inter-district Magnet School in order to gauge their interest in either continuing to partners with us or partnering with us anew. CES has been working on this matter. There was a lot of interest in the IB program and in the new school in general.
- This Thursday, September 25th the State Department of Education is coming down for the first formal meeting with us to discuss the implementation of the State Accountability requirements. We anticipate they will start reviewing our schools sometime in September. Cambridge Assessments will be doing the onsite reviews.
- Capital issues – attended the ribbon-cutting for the KT Murphy playground. This was a great example of the parents, the school, and the community over many years and students to help us building a playground. This project was started by students when they were in the 3rd grade at Murphy and who are now seniors. He thanked Robin Stein from the City Planning Board really deserves an enormous amount of credit for seeing it through.
- Attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new turf field at Westhill High school.
- Knight Music 2008 took place over the weekend and was hosted by Stamford High School. This was a band competition. However, since Stamford High School hosted this event they could not compete. There were marching bands from New York and Connecticut including Westhill. This is another great example of the music programs we have here and the parents deserve an enormous amount of credit for their organization and efforts.
- Hispanic Heritage Fair was held at the Yerwood Center this past Saturday. The fair focused on health and wellness and over 600 people attended. Students from Stamford HS and Westhill HS volunteered to help with the all day event. Dr. Starr thanked Ms. Swerdlick, Mr. Meyers, Ms. Williams, Mr. Pazmino, and many others were instrumental in partnering with Yerwood to make sure this event was successful.
- Announced that we have one National Merit Scholar semi-finalist from Westhill HS and seventeen commended students from Westhill HS, Stamford HS, and AITE.

BOARD REPORT

Mr. Freedman indicated that he and several Board members attended the Knight Music Competition which was a group of bands from all over Connecticut and it was a pleasure to see our children playing so well.

The Board met a couple of weeks ago to go over the Superintendent's Performance Guidelines for this coming school year and are also an indication of where the Board would like to be spending its own time for the next 12 months or so. This item is on the agenda this evening for approval.

TIME FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Approximately 29 people addressed the Board regarding redistricting, grandfathering/sibling, bilingual program, Woodbine Road safety issues, Math/Chess Club, and Stamford High School Marching Band.

Mayor Malloy arrived at 7:35 pm during the Time for the Public to be Heard.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS/RESOLUTIONS

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

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino to take the Redistricting agenda item out of order.

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.

REDISTRICTING

Mr. Freedman noted that there was a memo distributed by Dr. Singer late last week that was posted on the website and Dr. Singer reviewed the memo.

Mr. Freedman thanked everyone on the Board, Dr. Starr, Dr. Singer, Ms. Thessin and his staff for their participation in this process as well as the parents. In case anyone thinks that we are rushing in haste to a decision, the first meeting of the Redistricting Committee was in February of 2007. Since then we have had 40 redistricting-related meetings, which includes 30 meetings of either the Redistricting Committee or the full Board, 3 meetings of the Rogers Working Group and 7 Public Hearings. It is worth noting that the most recent year in which we had no imbalanced elementary schools was in 1987 and the most recent year in which we had one imbalanced school was 1996, and at present 6 of 12 are imbalanced.

Resolution 09-23-08:32

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. McManus:

BE IT RESOLVED, that beginning in the 2009 – 2010 school year, the Board of Education of Stamford Public Schools will redistrict its elementary schools according to option 1, which is specified in pages 44 – 57 of the Superintendent’s redistricting presentation dated August 26, 2008 and revised September 3, 2008. School assignments by street address for all options 1 through 4 are attached as Exhibit A.

Mr. Freedman noted that all four options balance K.T. Murphy by redistricting out some children who are presently walkers. This is a very unfortunate side effect of the Board’s decision to close Rogers School, but there is no other way to balance the K.T. Murphy. However, both options 1 and 2 balance K.T. Murphy by moving out the Bilingual Program, which he views as uprooting some of our most vulnerable children out of their neighborhood and the worse way to balance the school. Consequently, he would not be supporting either option 1 or 2.

The resolution failed 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 09-23-08:33

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. Nabel:

BE IT RESOLVED, that beginning in the 2009 – 2010 school year, the Board of Education of Stamford Public Schools will redistrict its elementary schools according to option 2, which is specified in pages 58 – 71 of the Superintendent’s redistricting presentation dated August 26, 2008 and revised September 3, 2008. School assignments by street address for all options 1 through 4 are attached as Exhibit A.

The resolution failed 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 09-23-08:34

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti:

BE IT RESOLVED, that beginning in the 2009 – 2010 school year, the Board of Education of Stamford Public Schools will redistrict its elementary schools according to option 3, which is specified in pages 72 – 85 of the Superintendent's redistricting presentation dated August 26, 2008 and revised September 3, 2008. School assignments by street address for all options 1 through 4 are attached as Exhibit A.

AMENDMENT #1

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino to amend Option 3 to move a group of walkers from Hart to Westover which would include Shelburne Road, Wright Street, Alden Street, and West Broad Street west of Wright Street, which she estimates to be approximately 35 children. These children would be moved from the attendance zone of Hart to the attendance zone of Westover. They currently walk to Hart and would also be walkers to Westover. This would enable Hart to enlarge the number of magnet seats they have. Also, this motion would include redistricting to Hart approximately 10 children who live on the west side of Washington Boulevard, north of Broad Street, who currently are bussed to Roxbury and redistricted to Davenport in Option 3. However, because they are on the west side of Washington Boulevard they could walk to Hart. She also moved in this motion to increase the enrollment at Hart to 490 students. This would enable the magnet seats to increase by approximately 30-35 children so that our magnet program is stronger there. 10 children fewer will ride a bus and we would move walkers from one school to another. This is the same motion she made in August so other than the specific streets it has not changed.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Rubino asked if it would be possible to have the number of magnet seats in the motion that would be added.

Ms. McManus stated that the number of seats would be increased from 105 to 135-140. Mr. Freedman noted that Dr. Starr indicated we should leave the actual number of magnet seats to the magnet regulations.

Ms. Nabel indicated she would be voting in favor of this amendment. When we voted on our prior redistricting moves we indicated that we wanted Hart to have about 140 magnet seats and we have not specified that in any of our options. She asked Ms. McManus to repeat the streets. Ms. McManus noted that she is including Shelburne Road even though there are no students, but it is the closest street to Westover and did not want to skip over it - in case children move onto Shelburne - Wright Street which currently has 4 students, Alden Street which currently has 21 students, and West Broad west of Wright Street

which has approximately 10 students. This totals 35. Those are this year's numbers.

Ms. Wade indicated she would support this amendment. She asked Dr. Starr that as Westover is the school of choice beginning this year will adding and this will be the only school of choice for the coming year. Dr. Starr indicated that we don't know that and we don't know what next year will bring. We know that currently Toquam and Westover are available for School Choice. Ms. Wade asked that if adding the walkers to Westover in any way make it more difficult for movement in the Choice program with AYP? Dr. Starr responded that it would not.

Mr. Freedman clarified that all the children that would be moving from Hart to Westover are south of West Broad Street. Ms. McManus indicated that was correct. Mr. Freedman asked about the children moving to Hart from west of Washington Boulevard - from what is currently Roxbury and in Option 3 is Davenport -, that this is only children north of Broad Street. Ms. McManus indicated this is correct.

The amendment 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.

AMENDMENT #2

Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to amend Option #3 that beginning in the 2009-2010 school year that the EMS preference area would be defined as follows:

Preference Zone 1 would be the existing Rogers District and Preference Zone 2 would be the existing Toquam 2, existing Westover 2 and a portion of KT Murphy 1 defined as the area west of Van Buskirk Avenue that is redistricted to Toquam in Option 3. Additionally the Superintendent is instructed annually to determine the enrollment at EMS using the following guidelines:

- All students applying to EMS from Preference Zone 1 shall be granted admission subject to capacity constraints and magnet enrollment policies and regulations*
- Students applying to EMS from Preference Zone 2 shall be granted admission to the fullest extent possible while maintaining appropriate class sizes, appropriate school-wide socio-economic balance, and a sufficient percentage of students from outside Stamford to attain State reimbursement funding.*

DISCUSSION

Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak indicated that she is supportive of expanding the EMS preference area. We have seen historically that the preference area for Westover did not get us the full number of students that were in the preference

area. In fact only about one-third of the students in the preference area choose to attend Westover even though it was within walking distance. She would support expanding the options of children who live right next to EMS who are not currently in the preference zone, yet she would also like to stick to what the Rogers Working Group had proposed which is making sure that all of the students in the current Rogers district are able to attend EMS.

Ms. Nabel thought that Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak's amendment is a really, good idea. Initially in looking at Option 3 she was attracted to the fact that the map contained more cohesive groups of school districts than the map for almost any of our other options, and in particular consolidated downtown students better than the other options. But the problem she saw was that the option does not ameliorate the percentage of disadvantaged students at Murphy as much as one would absolutely like. Unfortunately, better brains than I have spent many hours trying to figure out how to make that happen without taking those children and putting them on busses for very long distances to other parts of the City. She likes this amendment because it does two things – it actually allows more children from Murphy an opportunity for choice and it allows them the opportunity to perhaps attend a different school that is very close to where they live. It also enlarges the pool for the EMS. The degree of discomfort she felt with transitioning Rogers into the EMS was partly due to the fact that access to the school seemed to be foreclosed to other students in Stamford and this amendment at least opens the door a little bit. She is happy to endorse this amendment.

Mr. Freedman clarified that Preference Zone 2 is all walkers and Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak confirmed that is correct. Mr. Freedman indicated he will be supporting this amendment because he is vigorously in favor of maintaining as many walkers on the East side as possible and also supports increasing access to the EMS.

Dr. Starr asked if the school in Preference Zone 2 would then be districted to another school as per State regulations. Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak responded that she did not say that in the resolution, but currently in Option 3 they are all districted to Toquam.

Mr. Rubino asked that without this amendment where these children are districted to. Mr. Freedman responded Toquam. Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak indicated that they would continue to be districted to Toquam, but now they just have a preference to EMS. Dr. Starr asked if the students in Preference Zone 1 from Rogers would also be districted to Toquam which would double the number. Mr. Freedman responded no that it does not change the number as they are already districted to Toquam in Option 3.

The amendment 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.

AMENDMENT #3

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino to amend the resolution to remove the Autism discussion from the redistricting discussion and allow the Superintendent and staff to determine the appropriate decisions need to address this program.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Freedman confirmed that the amendment is to delete the ASD program from the redistricting Option #3.

Ms. Nabel indicated that this is a good idea and a very solid amendment. She is not sure that the discussion about moving the autistic program was an appropriate part of a redistricting conversation. It is a program that is really under the Superintendent's discretion to put where he feels is appropriate, but she feels very sensitive that these children are most fragile children and did not see any real need to move them immediately.

Ms. McManus reiterated that the previous Boards did not put the program at Roxbury, Westover, and Cloonan so we really shouldn't have any part of the conversation of where they go now. We should be mostly concerned that we run the best program that we can possibly afford in our district and make sure it is quality and make sure that the students are served and that is all we should care about as Board members.

Ms. Wade also supported this amendment and should Dr. Starr make a determination that the program should be combined for efficiencies she hopes that he will reach out to that community, the teachers, the educators, and the parents, and have that conversation with them so that everyone is on board with understanding what it is he would like to do to benefit the ASD students.

Mr. Freedman stated that the location of special programs has always been within the purview of the Superintendent whether it is the ARTS program, or the ASD program, or the program for children with special medical needs, and thinks that it is best left in the purview of the Superintendent and not considered as part of this process.

The amendment 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.

AMENDMENT #4

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. Nabel which is that what is now districted as Davenport Ridge 7 which is the public housing on Merrell Avenue. In Option 3 this area is redistricted to Westover, but this housing is scheduled to be torn down within the next few years and replaced under the City's One for

One Replacement Ordinance for low income housing. The replacement housing in one of two locations – one is Progress Drive and the other is Fairfield Court which is well under construction on the corner of Stillwater Avenue and Fairfield Avenue. He would like to move that when the housing on Merrell Avenue is demolished any children who relocate either to Progress Drive or Fairfield Court, both districted for Stillmeadow although walking distance to Westover, that those children be grandfathered into Westover School even though their school district will change. Children moving to other housing in other parts of the City would not be covered by this amendment.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Malloy pointed out that Merrell Avenue is the State subsidized project and Fairfield Court is the federally subsidized Hope 6 project and nothing in connection with Hope 6 is replacing units of the State project. He understands what is trying to be done, but they are not connected. The rebuild and redevelopment of Fairfield Court including transfer of units that have already taken place including the immediate buildings behind us here at the Government Center as well as on Taylor Street has nothing to do with Merrell. Merrell is a State funded project and thus far there is \$15M in commitments for that project and although you are right with respect to progress being a location for replacement of Merrell, most of the rest of it will probably be on Stillwater.

Mr. Freedman confirmed that there is replacement on Progress Drive. Mayor Malloy responded that Progress Drive has been identified as a site for Merrell, but there are other sites that are being acquired with respect to that program. All of the sites in connection with Fairfield Court have been acquired and are in development and in some cases are being occupied including the rebuild that will take place at Fairfield.

Mr. Freedman said that since it appears not to apply to Fairfield Court he will delete Fairfield Court from this amendment and leave it just as Progress Drive. This applies only to children who live on Merrell Avenue now and are relocated to Progress Drive after it is demolished and not to children who move in from elsewhere to Progress Drive, which is districted for Stillmeadow. Mayor Malloy said, to be specific, no one is being caused to move from Merrell to any of the units at Fairfield. They may in fact move, but they are not being caused to. That is the distinction he is making.

Mr. Freedman clarified that children who are relocated from Merrell Avenue to Progress Drive will be grandfathered in. Children who are otherwise in residence at Progress Drive will be districted for Stillmeadow.

AMENDMENT #4 WITH CHANGES

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. Nabel to address what is now districted as Davenport Ridge 7, which is the public housing on Merrell Avenue. In Option 3 this area is redistricted to Westover, but this housing is scheduled to

be torn down within the next few years and replaced under the City's One for One Replacement Ordinance for low income housing. Some of the replacement housing will be at Progress Drive. He would like to move that when the housing on Merrell Avenue is demolished, any children who relocate to Progress Drive, which is walking distance to Westover, be grandfathered into Westover even though Progress Drive is districted to Stillmeadow. Children living on Merrell Avenue and moving to housing in other parts of the City would not be covered by this amendment and would not be grandfathered to Westover. Children living on Progress Drive who did not relocate from Merrell Avenue would attend Stillmeadow.

The amendment 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.

The amended 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. Opposed: Mr. Mathews.

Resolution 09-23-08:35

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino:

BE IT RESOLVED, that beginning in the 2009 – 2010 school year, the Board of Education of Stamford Public Schools will redistrict its elementary schools according to option 4, which is specified in pages 86 - 99 of the Superintendent's redistricting presentation dated August 26, 2008 and revised September 3, 2008. School assignments by street address for all options 1 through 4 are attached as Exhibit A.

The resolution failed 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 09-23-08:36

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. McManus:

BE IT RESOLVED, that beginning in the 2009 – 2010 school year, the Board of Education of Stamford Public Schools will implement grandfathering and sibling policies for redistricted children as follows:

Elementary School

Grandfathering policy:

- Children entering grades 3, 4 & 5 in 2009 – 2010 will be permitted to remain at their existing elementary school

Sibling policy:

- Younger siblings may be admitted to schools at which their older siblings have been grandfathered if the older sibling is entering grades 3 or 4 in 2009 – 2010 or grade 4 in 2010 - 2011.

Middle School

Grandfathering policy:

- Children entering grades K, 1 & 2 will follow the feeder pattern to middle school based on their new elementary school assignment, including children admitted to their existing elementary school under the elementary school sibling policy
- Children entering grades 3, 4 & 5 in 2009 – 2010 will follow the feeder pattern to middle school based on their existing elementary school assignment
- Children entering grade 6 in 2009 – 2010 will follow the feeder pattern to middle school based on their existing elementary school assignment
- Children entering grades 7 & 8 in 2009 – 2010 will remain at their current middle school

Sibling policy: None

High School

Grandfathering policy:

- Children entering grades 10, 11 & 12 in 2009 – 2010 will remain at their current high school
- Children entering grade 9 in 2009 – 2010 will follow the feeder pattern to high school based on the current elementary school assignment of their street address except for students in the Rogers and Toquam attendance areas who will be reassigned from Westhill High School to Stamford High School beginning in the 2009 – 2010 school year.

Sibling policy: None

AMENDMENT #1

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to amend the sibling policy under “Elementary School” that currently reads – “Younger siblings may be admitted to schools at which their older siblings have been grandfathered if the older sibling is entering grades 3 or 4 in 2009-2010 or grade 4 2010-2011.” She would like to change that to read “...grandfathered if the older sibling is entering grades 3, 4 or 5 in 2009-2010 or grades 4 and 5 in 2010-2011.”

DISCUSSION

Ms. McManus indicated that the reason she is moving this is while she knows we were trying to cut down as much as possible on the number of double busses going into neighborhoods for the next few years, we have listened to the families and this will keep more families in one single school and will not split them. While everyone won't be happy, she thought it would be a nice balance.

The amendment 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.

Mayor Malloy asked about the high school portion of it we are taking the children from the Rogers and Toquam districts and they will go to a different high school than was otherwise currently planned. Would it be possible, in the event that an older sibling chose to transfer with their younger sibling (someone going

into their sophomore year at Westhill opted to go to Stamford High School with their younger sibling, for example) could we accommodate that. Dr. Starr indicated that we do have an Out of District Policy and there is a review process to consider issues on a case by case basis for those families. He imagines the number would not be that big and if there is an opportunity to make that adjustment we have a process that they could go through. Mayor Malloy stated that you would have to add language that if older siblings of children from the Rogers and Toquam attendance areas whose younger siblings are assigned to Stamford High School could enroll in the same school that their sibling is assigned to.

AMENDMENT #2

Mayor Malloy moved, seconded by Ms. McManus to add that older siblings could join younger siblings in the Rogers and Toquam district going to Stamford High School.

The amendment 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 noted that the intention of the high school grandfathering was that any student entering grade 3 or higher in 2009-2010 would remain in their existing feeder pattern. That is, if you are districted for a particular middle school and a particular high school this year and, as a result of the redistricting, your feeder pattern changes next year, you would still be grandfathered into your old feeder pattern

AMENDMENT #3

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. McManus that in the first bullet under the "High School" grandfathering policy we change the word "current" to "existing" and that we change the second bullet to read "s – "Children entering grade 9 in 2009 – 2010 will follow the feeder pattern to high school based on their existing elementary school assignment except for students in the Rogers and Toquam attendance areas who will be reassigned from Westhill High School to Stamford High School beginning in the 2009 – 2010 school year."

The amendment 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 asked for clarification on the elementary school level if grandfathering is optional. If you are in one of the districts that we are moving and you are moving into 3rd grade you can stay at your existing school; but if there are neighbors that might be going to the new school, could you opt to go to the new school? Dr. Starr responded yes and Mr. Freedman indicated that is how the language in the resolution is drafted to read.

Mayor Malloy asked about the redistricted children and obviously the intent is that it is redistricted children as of the date of the redistricting. There is no intent to allow children to remain at the school for the district that they would move out of in the interim. No one is grandfathered into a school permanently in the event their parents move. Mr. Freedman responded that is correct and Ms. McManus stated that is in our Policy Manual.

The amended 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 09-23-08:37

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. Nabel:

BE IT RESOLVED, that beginning in the 2009 – 2010 school year, the Board of Education of Stamford Public Schools will modify feeder patterns for middle and high schools as outlined in Exhibit B.

Ms. McManus proposed an amendment with regards to her previous concerns regarding Cloonan. We received in our packet and reviewed earlier this evening some options to reduce Cloonan since it well over populated and out of balance in all options.

AMENDMENT #1

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to accept Dr. Singer's Cloonan Alternative 1 which moves 58 students from Cloonan. These children currently live in KT Murphy 2 and under Option 3 are redistricted to Roxbury and then to Cloonan, to which they would take a bus. In Dr. Singer's Alternative 1, these children would stay at Roxbury for elementary school but go to Turn of River for middle school and then Westhill, which is the same high school they would have attended anyway. Additionally, she would like to move from Cloonan to Turn of River those children living in the current Roxbury 2 south of 95 and estimates that is an additional 30 to 35 children. Alternative 1 is not moving enough students out of Cloonan and Alternative 2 is moving too many students into Turn of River. She is against an attendance zone for Scofield Magnet because that is the longest bus ride in the City; the reason why that school is a magnet is because if you want to go there you choose to get on that bus.

Ms. McManus would like to move that we take Alternative #1 as well as current Roxbury 2 children who live south of 95 which she estimates then would move approximately 95 students out of Cloonan and into Turn of River. Cloonan is still a bit out of balance, but better and Turn of River is very close to balanced numbers and neither school then would be terribly overcrowded – Turn of River not at all overcrowded and Cloonan just slightly.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Nabel asked where would the Roxbury 2 students go to high school. Ms. McManus indicated they would continue on to Westhill just as they would if they had gone to Cloonan. The only feeder pattern change is to middle school which is Turn of River and all of Turn of River goes to Westhill. Mr. Freedman noted that, for the record, KT Murphy 2 is already at Turn of River. Ms. McManus indicated that was correct, they are not at Turn of River in Option 3, and so this change does not actually move these children.

Mr. Freedman clarified that the areas Ms. McManus had identified to move from Cloonan to Turn of River were all of the children in Option 3 districted to Roxbury south of 95. Ms. McManus confirmed that was correct.

The amendment 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.

Mayor Malloy stated that there is current a policy that establishes feeder patterns and that is what is being amended here. Ms. McManus replied that the resolution is reaffirming the revised feeder pattern than we currently have. In the full redistricting proposal there was a feeder pattern which has been slightly revised. Mayor Malloy requested that at the end of Exhibit B be added "subject to Resolution 09-23-08:36 which is the resolution we just did which spells out all the exceptions to how we are going to implement the feeder pattern. Mr. Freedman noted that one resolution is for feeders and one is grandfathering and siblings. Mayor Malloy asked what is the purpose of having an acknowledged feeder pattern. Mr. Freedman responded that there is an existing feeder pattern that determines where you go to middle school and high school based on where you go to elementary school. This pattern has been slightly revised in the redistricting plan and was outlined in all of the four options. Ms. McManus noted that feeder changes were mostly because of the changes we made at the elementary schools.

AMENDMENT #2

Mr. Rubino moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to change the attendance feeder of Dolan to include the new Toquam district in Option 3 in which Toquam resides.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Rubino indicated that these students are basically walkers to Dolan and it does not have a negative impact on balance at either school and eliminates bussing. This would be a change in the feeder. Mr. Freedman asked Mr. Rubino if this was a preference zone for Dolan or a change in the feeder from Rippowam to Dolan. If it is a change in the feeder, then it is not optional that these children attend Dolan. Mr. Rubino replied that it was a change in the

feeder, not a preference zone.

The amendment 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.

AMENDMENT #3

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Nabel that in Northeast 1 district in Option 3 that has been moved to Davenport Ridge, we break the feeder pattern and that neighborhood go back to Turn of River and Westhill HS which will reduce the bus length.

DISCUSSION

Ms. McManus noted that this is one of those options that she thinks in 5 or 10 years the neighborhood might want to come to the Board and change back. Currently it sounds best to everybody that they go to Westhill and not take the long bus ride down to Stamford High School. However, the neighborhood may decide years and years from now when the students have been going to Davenport for a long time that they want to continue on to the middle school and high school of their Davenport friends. She would assume that since it doesn't take any school out of balance one way or the other that the Board would be receptive to this if the neighborhood wanted to make that change in the future.

The amendment 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.

AMENDMENT #4

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti that in Option 3 there is a district for KT Murphy that surrounds Stamford High School on all four sides and he would propose that we offer a preference for anyone residing in that KT Murphy district that they be permitted to attend Stamford High School if they so choose. Otherwise they would remain districted to Westhill High School.

The amendment 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.

AMENDMENT #5

Mr. Freedman moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino to correct the scribe's error in which the resolution refers to the feeder patterns for middle and high schools as outlined in Exhibit B. In all the data that has been presented to the public and in the data that we have there is a change to the feeder pattern for the Meadowpark area and the Long Ridge area that sends them both to Rippowam Middle School and Stamford High School. In the text we have it says "under all four options, students who have been reassigned to Hart from the Meadowpark area from Newfield and from the Long Ridge area from Stillmeadow have been moved from Cloonan to Rippowam for middle school." However, page 30 in Exhibit B of this resolution refers only to students from Meadowpark and does not refer to students from the Long Ridge area. This was an inadvertent error and he would like to clarify that to include "students from the Long Ridge area from Stillmeadow will have their feeder change to Rippowam Middle School and Stamford High School."

DISCUSSION

Ms. McManus noted that this area does not continue at Rippowam and Stamford High School -these children are currently in Stillmeadow, Cloonan and Westhill - but many are directly across the street from Rippowam.

The amendment 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.

The amended 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 September 9th and September 18th. On September 9th we met with the President & Chairman of the GE Foundation to review the College Bound program and to discuss math and science and where we are in the district and the next steps with GE. On September 18th we met and had an update on the IB program at Rippowam Middle School from Principal Giberti and some of his staff who made a presentation. George Vollano gave a presentation on the new Art Curriculum that is now being shared with the art teachers. Dr. Nicholson gave an update on technology.

Ms. McManus noted that with some of the revised curriculum that we are looking at there looks to be some possibly significant costs to supplies and materials. At some point in the process do we put budget dollars to that and that will be part of the budget process. Dr. Starr noted that would be part of the 2009-

2010 budget process. Ms. Lorenti noted that we have gone from 17 offerings at high school to 22 offerings in the art curriculum.

FACILITIES

Mr. Rubino reported that the Committee met on September 11th and September 23rd. On September 11th the future use of Rogers was discussed and Attorney Mooney is drafting an agreement which will allow the Board of Education to use part of the building presumably for the Office of Family & Community Engagement and going forward it would allow for the possibility that the Board of Education could recapture the use of the entire building years from now if it is ever needed.

On September 23rd we discussed the Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment for the EMS and also discussed that the \$2.8M appropriation for the FF&E was tabled by the Board of Representatives Education Committee. We also discussed recycling in the schools and on the 5th floor of the Government Center and currently recycling receptacles are being delivered to the school buildings in order to facilitate the program in the schools and there will be more receptacles available in the central office. Mr. Dunn is in the midst of developing a proposed capital budget to present to the Facilities Committee at its October meeting. The Engineering Department is working on the problems at AITE with respect to the HVAC system in an effort to lower energy costs. There are 4 items left on the punch list and expect lower energy usage in the coming winter.

Mayor Malloy stated that in his conversation with the Superintendent regarding Rogers he was led to believe that rather than drafting an agreement Mr. Mooney was going to call Mr. Cassone to talk and try and work something out. Mr. Rubino responded that there is a joint effort between Mr. Mooney and Mr. Cassone to draft an agreement.

FISCAL

Ms. McManus reported that the Committee met on September 15th. There was a review of Contract & Grants and the Committee passed a resolution where the Garden Homes Foundation gave our school system \$70,000 for a wonderful music program, the American Experience, and that resolution will come to the full Board. She took this opportunity to thank Mr. Freedman and his foundation for granting this money to the Stamford Public Schools. Mr. Freedman did recuse himself from the conversation at the Committee meeting and was not part of the voting.

Mr. Dunn gave a final update of the 2007-2008 budget. We will have a little over \$100,000 which the Committee, and actually we had all Board members present, and we were all in agreement that we would like to go to the other City boards and ask that the \$100,000 go into our Energy Reserve account. Staff will take this request to the other boards. We went through the major account total budget transfers through the year. As everyone knows 18 months

prior to the 2007-2008 school year we did not know that our energy costs would go up so much and our health costs would change.

The Committee then went on to discuss the 2008-2009 school year budget and Mr. Dunn advised everyone that a “soft” freeze has been put on the budget because of the \$600,000 energy cost exposure. The freeze really means that large purchase orders will go to be Mr. Dunn to approve.

We reviewed the areas that our internal auditors are going to start working on and the first thing we are taking a look at is the medical benefits to verify the benefits vs. our employee roster. We did ask about the reserve positions that we have in the current budget and Dr. Starr indicated that class sizes are being reviewed on a daily basis to see what additional positions may be needed. Ms. McManus asked that staff bring to the next Fiscal Committee meeting an update on any of the new RFP’s that are going to go through this year. We have 3 major RFP’s for Sodexo, copy machines, and legal services.

Ms. McManus indicated that the following resolutions were discussed in Committee.

Resolution 09-23-08:25

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the 2007-2008 budget transfers per the attached document dated September 2, 2008.

There was a discussion regarding certified teachers vs. non-certified teachers and the budget implications.

Mayor Malloy asked for a master list for all transfers for 2007-2008.

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 09-23-08:26

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 September 23, 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 09-23-08:27

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to table this resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education temporarily appoint Milton Thomas as their Transportation Hearing Officer for 90 days pending posting and review of new proposals at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.

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 recused himself from the next resolution and left the meeting.

Resolution 09-23-08:28

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the Garden Homes Fund donation for “The American Experience” program, in the amount of \$70,000.

Ms. McManus stated that this is a wonderful grant for 2 years and allows all our 4th and 5th graders to be part of this program together with the Stamford Symphony at the Palace Theatre and it is wonderful music instruction for all children. She thanked the Freedman family and their foundation for granting us this money.

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

Mr. Freedman rejoined the meeting.

LABOR RELATIONS

Ms. Nabel reported that the Committee met on September 18th and in addition to in the context of a Special Board meeting on September 15th. On September 18th we had the pleasure of having our first meeting with Denise Gagne, Executive Director of Human Capital Development. We reviewed staffing with Ms. Anderson and that led to the discussion of the resolution regarding educational assistants. We also had a lengthy discussion on the proposed consultant position for exclusion and suspension hearing officer which was

basically not a conclusive discussion and which we hope to revisit at our next meeting.

Ms. Nabel indicated that Ms. Anderson also let us know that in the context of staffing that the administration has not been able to fill the positions for Stamford Excellence Team elementary math and secondary literacy and that they are considering hiring consultants to work part time in lieu of full time teachers, but within the already budgeted cost of \$63,000. Ms. Anderson also advised the Committee of a new legal requirement requiring employers to put the cost of approximately \$2,500 for citizens who are here and need to work on having their visa processed. We had approximately 5 teachers last year that fell into this category and expect about the same number this year.

The Committee received a survey from the New Teacher Orientation shared with us and there was a favorable rating for this year. There was a SAU Negotiations meeting on September 19th and there is another one with the Security Works scheduled for next Tuesday, September 30th at 3:00 pm.

In terms of Grievances there is an SEA mediation with regard to Project Open Door.

Resolution 09-23-08:29

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 posting/advertising and filling of 5 Special Educational Assistants effective September 23, 2008.

Ms. Nabel noted that the resolution and postings were discussed at length at Committee. These are Special Education assistants who are mandated by new students receiving IEP's.

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 09-23-08:30

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

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the posting/advertising and filling of 2 Instructional - Educational Assistants effective September 23, 2008.

Ms. Nabel indicated that this was reviewed in Committee where Mr. Rubino requested financial back up for the budgeting of these new positions which we did receive in Friday's package.

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 09-23-08:31

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino:

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

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 09-23-08:31A

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. McManus:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's performance goals for the 2008-2009 school year as per the attached document titled "Superintendent's Performance Goals, 2008 – 2009."

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 met on September 15th. Ms. Anderson reported that the Series 3000 – Business which was reviewed in August. This is now with CABA for finalizing and will come back to the Committee in October for a first vote. Ms. McManus amended the Committee agenda since we had listed Series 4000 – Personnel which is already completed and it was meant to read Series 7000 – Construction. That series came in the CABA package. We currently do not have a 7000 series and the Committee and staff recommends that we don't adopt a Series 7000. It is not necessary and there is nothing in the State regulations that require it.

There was a discussion on the Facilities Usage policy, primarily with the Stamford Youth Foundation because of what they do for our schools. We concluded at the end of the discussion that we would ask staff and the president

of the Board to sit with Stamford Youth Foundation to see what we can do to help facilitate them putting in their requirements and getting the times on our fields and in our buildings and classrooms after school. Dr. Starr has set up a meeting.

STEERING

The Board set the dates and agenda items for Committee meetings in October.

Mayor Malloy left the meeting during the Steering discussion at approximately 10:30 pm.

Ms. McManus moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 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