

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Stamford, Connecticut

December 16, 2008

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held on December 16, 2008 at the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 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, Ms. Swerdlick, Ms. Karwan, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Arnold, Mr. Meyer, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Pazmino, Ms. Badash, representatives from the Advocate and Stamford Times, and approximately 25 guests.

Salute to the flag.

Ms. Nabel indicated that there were minutes of several of the Board's meetings for approval.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Ms. Wade,
to accept the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting –
November 25, 2008 – pp. 112 - 128.

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. Lorenti,
to accept the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting –
December 2, 2008 – pp. 129 - 130.

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. Mathews moved, seconded by Ms. Wade,
to accept the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting –
December 2, 2008 – pp. 131 - 139.

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 Special Board Meeting –
December 4, 2008 – pp. 140.

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. Nabel indicated that the agenda this evening is a presentation and discussion of the Board of Education budget in its layout and format. She thanked the public in attendance and hoped that they would find the presentation educational. There will be a place on the Stamford Public Schools website for questions called Frequently Asked Questions and there will be a mechanism at spsbudget@ci.stamford.ct.us for questions.

Dr. Starr and Mr. Murphy reviewed the layout and format of the budget and answered various questions from Board members. They also described the difference between the “white” budget book and the “multi-color” budget book.

Ms. Nabel asked Board members if they were available on several dates in January for a Legal Tutorial meeting. Since not enough were available on any one date, it was agreed that Ms. Nabel would look to see if this meeting could become part of the Board Retreat and, if not, she will schedule a date in February.

Dr. Starr noted that tomorrow, December 17, 2008, is an Early Release day and if weather is bad he would need to close schools since you can't do a delayed opening and an early release on the same day.

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Mr. King, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 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.

Joshua P. Starr, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Executive Officer