

**MINUTES OF THE WORKING MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Stamford, Connecticut
January 12, 2010**

The Working Meeting of the Board of Education was held on January 12, 2010 at the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mrs. Heftman, President, with the following Board members present: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Limone, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade. Absent: Mayor Pavia. Also in attendance: Dr. Starr, Dr. Hamilton, Dr. Bruno, Ms. Gagne, Ms. Karwan, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Arnold, Mr. Barbarotta, Ms. Schiavino-Narvez, Ms. Bang, Mr. DiBlasio, Ms. Siladi, Mr. Holland, representatives from the SEA and EASA, representative from the Advocate, and approximately 25 guests.

Salute to the flag.

Mrs. Heftman asked for a moment of silence in memory of Martha Rosa Nova, a Cloonan Middle School student, who passed away last week.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Mrs. Heftman welcomed Carmine Limone as the newest member of the Board of Education.

STUDENT SHOWCASE

The Westhill High School Chamber Singers, under the direction of Jonathan Curri, performed two songs.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS/RESOLUTIONS

FISCAL

Mr. Murphy reported that the 2008-2009 budget is closed and audited. There were no audit findings. A 4% discretionary spending freeze has been imposed for 2009-10. to cover a \$328,000 shortfall in the Agency Placement &

Excess Cost grant which helps offset some of the special education costs to the district. The State capped the grant so that it will only pay 75%-80%. Dr. Starr reminded all that the BOE did give back \$344,000 back to the City of Stamford due to a possible shortfall on the City side last year. He had asked that the \$344,000 be set aside into a Special Education fund since this is the account that fluctuates the most. He also requested that these funds be returned to the Board of Education and this request was denied.

Dr. Starr stated that the 2010-2011 Proposed Operating Budget book will be available on Friday for Board members. He noted that he is still waiting for some actuarial numbers from the City. He reviewed the budget process and reported, without knowing what the City pension number is the increase is under 2%. The Board of Finance has stated that they will not go above a 1% increase which is about \$4M divided between the City and the Board of Education. The budget contains no cuts to programs, services, or positions because of the arbitrated SEA contract which saved about \$5M., ARRA funds, and the GE Developing Futures grant. There are also unsettled contacts with custodians, UAW, paraeducators, and security workers. The budget book shows 2010-2011 enrollment projections with 2009-2010 staffing. The Superintendent suggested that the Board not adjust staffing until reallocation in May. Dr. Rauh stated that she thought there would be confusion as schools look at the staffing numbers. Dr. Starr stated that staffing numbers are footnoted multiple times in the budget book and he is talking about it to principals and PT Council. The Board will begin budget deliberations on January 19th.

Dr. Starr stated that he would be setting up a meeting with members of the Board of Finance and Board of Representatives Fiscal Committee members to discuss the budget. Mrs. Heftman asked that an invitation be extended to the Fiscal Chairpersons of the Board of Representatives and Board of Finance to join us at our Fiscal Committee meetings.

Mr. Pia informed the Board that there will be a Citizens Advisory Committee and asked that if anyone would like to participate they should contact him. Dr. Starr suggested that Ms. Wade as Chair of the Ad Hoc Public Engagement Committee ask her Committee to determine what public engagement opportunities there are and somehow become involved.

Resolution 01-26-10:175

Mr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Rauh:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves payment to Stamford Achieves as a provider of SES for the amount up to \$156,468.00 per year.

Dr. Starr explained that this resolution and the following two resolutions are related to NCLB for our Title I schools for 300 students and SPS is the pass through agency. The providers are determined by the State. Ms.

Siladi confirmed that SPS is responsible to the State for the accounting of these funds.

The resolution was passed with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Mr. Limone, Mr. Pia, and Dr. Rauh.

Resolution 01-26-10:176

Dr. Rauh moved, seconded by Mr. King:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves payment to Professional Tutors of America as a provider of SES for the amount up to \$98,176.00 per year.

The resolution was passed with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Mr. Limone, Mr. Pia, and Dr. Rauh.

Resolution 01-26-10:177

Mr. King moved, seconded by Dr. Rauh:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves payment to Global Partnership Schools as a provider of SES for the amount up to \$245,440.00 per year.

The resolution was passed with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Mr. Limone, Mr. Pia, and Dr. Rauh.

Resolution 01-26-10:178

Dr. Rauh moved, seconded by Mr. Limone:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve payment to Scholastic for the amount up to \$951,013.00 for a one time purchase of Read 180 and System 44 Intervention programs, licenses, and materials for K-12 schools.

Dr. Rauh noted that the State and PDK model indicate that the Board of Education must adopt textbooks and we should do that before approving funds. Dr. Starr stated that this is an Intervention Program and we are not purchasing textbooks. Dr. Rauh stated that SPS should follow the recommendations in the PDK audit.

Dr. Bruno will have the materials available for the Board members to review prior to the January 26, 2010 Board meeting. Dr. Starr will also

review the policy pertaining to textbook adoption to see if it needs to be modified.

The resolution was passed with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Mr. Limone, Mr. Pia, and Dr. Rauh.

Resolution 01-26-10:179

Mr. King moved, seconded by Mr. Limone:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accepts the 2009-10 budget transfers per the document dated January 26, 2010.

The transfers reflect the 4% reduction.

The resolution was passed with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Mr. Limone, Mr. Pia, and Dr. Rauh.

Resolution 01-26-10:180

Dr. Rauh moved, seconded by Mr. Limone:

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

Mr. Pia requested Mr. Holland to provide a list of special education cases that are over \$100,000.

Mrs. Heftman noted that we do receive, on a monthly basis, a Variance Report from Mr. Murphy which shows us exactly where we stand in all accounts.

The resolution was passed with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Mr. Limone, Mr. Pia, and Dr. Rauh.

FACILITIES

Mr. DiBlasio reviewed the Capital Budget report and gave an update on all of the current projects. He noted that some mold issues were reported in the locker room and weight room at Stamford HS. These rooms are not being used and he is working with the Engineering Department to resolve this issue.

Mr. Pia reported that he and Mr. Barbarotta attended a Planning Board meeting in December on the Capital Budget and ended up with an extra \$1M which was just cut back to \$700,000.

Mr. Barbarotta stated that the Planning Board works on the requests and are looking at a safe debt limit of \$46M which was trimmed to \$40M and they are now working to get all the requests in around \$40M. Our request of \$24M was reduced to \$10.8M; \$8.7M for capital projects and \$2.1M for technology.

Mr. King indicated that a school tour of Rogers International School and KT Murphy will be held on January 25, 2010. In attendance will be Mayor Pavia, Chairman of the Board of Finance, Joe Tarzia; Bob Kolenberg, and several members of the Board of Reps.

Mr. King reported on Board Room Technology Improvements and noted that Mrs. Heftman had asked him to look into the paperless concept for Board meetings and he is in the process of doing this. However, one of the first steps was to get wireless service into the Board room so that all of us who have laptops and would like to participate would be able to do so. The second step is to look at installing screens so the public could actually see the information that is going to be presented and this would save on the paper. The Technology Dept. will loan laptops to any Board members who wants to test wireless access to the agenda. Mrs. Heftman noted that she had asked Mr. King to begin looking at options as a direct result of a prior Board member offering to fund a technology update of the Board room.

CURRICULUM

Dr. Starr indicated that Enrollment and Classroom Demographics Data have been on the agenda for 5 months which was prompted by information that was presented in September and the desire of the Board was to leave these items in case questions arose. The Classroom Demographics Data information is available on the website. Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak indicated that under Enrollment a question had been raised by the previous Board about the numbers at Rogers with respect to how many students were out-of-district and what type of reimbursement is received. Dr. Starr responded that SPS receives around \$7,100 for out-of-district students and \$3,000 for in-district students. Dr. Starr will follow up with information on the distribution of out-of-district students by grade.

Dr. Starr gave a presentation on the progress of the Middle School Transformation program which was followed by questions from Board members. There was also discussion on the resolution from the State Board of Education regarding de-tracking and attendance at mandatory professional development and how it is tracked.

Dr. Rauh discussed having some in-depth curriculum meetings and would start with the intervention materials in reading. If the Board is adopting curriculum and textbooks, these meetings would give members an opportunity to review textbooks and other related materials.

Resolution 01-26-10:181

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

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves the School Trip to Italy April 7-April 17, 2010, by students from Stamford High School and Westhill High School.

The resolution was passed with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Polo, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 01-26-10:182

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

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves the School Trip to Spain June 26, 2010-July 12, 2010, by students from Stamford High School.

Dr. Rauh noted that on the Certificate of Liability Insurance, the year is incorrect for both trips.

The resolution was passed with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Mr. Limone, Mr. Pia, and Dr. Rauh.

AD HOC PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Ms. Wade reported on the Census for 2010 and will make a presentation at the January 26, 2010 Board meeting. She has been asked to chair the Complete Count Committee for the City of Stamford. The reason that census is important to all communities is that the census count is used to distribute and allocate Federal and State funds in the amount of \$400B a year. It is important that the census count for each City be as accurate as possible because it helps to fund Title I schools, Free/Reduced Lunch, school construction, hospital construction, public transportation, social services, and a myriad of other programs. She has been working since last fall to identify communities that are at risk. She has also been working with Mike Meyer to look at how to provide instructional and census information around the before and after school programs. Dr. Starr indicated he has made principals and teachers aware of census information that is available on the website. He has also asked Ms. Wade for posters to put up in the schools. Ms. Wade has also contacted PT Council to attend one of their meetings. There will be a Census Committee meeting on January 13, 2010 starting at 6:30 pm at the Yerwood Center.

Ms. Wade asked for a sense of the Board regarding holding the Board's second meeting at one of our middle schools. Mrs. Heftman noted that it is one of the Board's goals to hold Board meetings at different locations to engage the

community to attend. Ms. Wade suggested doing one pilot. Mrs. Heftman suggested having an off-site meeting on February 23, 2010 and will discuss with Dr. Starr. Dr. Rauh noted that historically there were better results when we held a meeting at an elementary school as we were able to pick up a large percentage of the population that lives nearby.

Mr. Polo left the meeting at 9:55 pm.

POLICY

Dr. Starr reported that the prior Board had expressed interest to update policies that are important and to take on new policies. The Bullying policy has to be updated to comply with the State and the Curriculum policy is more about how the district wants to go about the curriculum issue to be consistent with the work we have been doing. Policies are on the agenda so the Board can discuss process and content.

Resolution 01-26-10:183

Mrs. Heftman moved, seconded by Ms. Wade:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves Policy 5131.911 Bullying Policy, 1st vote.

Mrs. Heftman asked for clarification of the changes. Dr. Starr will provide this information prior to the vote by the full Board on January 26, 2010.

Dr. Starr noted that the real work is to comply with the State and the regulations will be the issue around SDIP. The Board only approves the policy.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Limone, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 01-26-10:184

Mrs. Heftman moved, seconded by Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves Policy 6121, Curriculum Management, Design and Delivery, 1st vote.

Dr. Starr reported that the plan for Curriculum Management Design and Delivery in the Stamford Public Schools which was developed by Dr. Nicholson in concert with the Curriculum & Instruction Department is

reflective of the work that has been done with our school communities, curriculum committees, Panasonic Foundation, and Connecticut Center for School Change. It lays out the steps to take to ensure that we have the best curriculum possible.

Mrs. Heftman suggested that if there are items that Board members would like to request more information on from Dr. Starr to ask them now and table this resolution until our next meeting.

Dr. Rauh indicated that she would like information from Dr. Bruno on the findings of having piloted the 4 schools with the Intervention Model as she will be suggesting that a pilot phase be added to the policy. The change would be to have Phase III in two parts.

Mrs. Heftman asked for a motion to table Resolution 01-26-10:184.

Dr. Rauh moved, seconded by Mr. Pia to table Resolution 01-26-10:184.

The motion passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Limone, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Resolution 01-26-10:185

Mrs. Heftman moved, seconded by Mr. Pia:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves the final 2010-2011 school year calendar (vacation and holiday schedule previously approved September 22, 2009).

Ms. Arnold noted that if the first day of school is September 2nd for all students, the last day would be Monday, June 20th which gives a cushion of 4 snow days.

Mr. Pia moved, seconded by Mr. Limone to amend the resolution to have the first day of school for all students be September 2, 2010.

The motion passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Limone, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

The amended resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Limone, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Dr. Starr indicated that the Memo of Agreement for Race to the Top would be in the Board package on Friday. The State is finalizing their application and

he, Mrs. Heftman, on behalf of the Board, and Ms. Rossomondo, on behalf of the SEA signed the letter which enables the State to say we are supporting the Commissioner's application. This letter is non-binding and there is an opt out clause. A vote was not required by the Board.

LABOR RELATIONS

Ms. Gagne stated that she did not have anything to report under Negotiations. Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak noted we are still waiting for the contract negotiations to begin with Security workers. Ms. Gagne reported that the Security Workers are no longer considered a bargaining unit and have received a formal letter from their representatives. They are now considered non-union affiliation and we do not have any contract with them. If they wish to reform they need to contact the State of Connecticut and are anticipating that they will want to reform.

Under Staffing, Dr. Starr reported that Beth Schiavino-Narvez who has been interning will be leaving at the end of the month to take a position in the Springfield, MA public schools as Chief School Officer. He also announced that Lupe Dauplaise, Program Director for Bilingual programs, will be retiring at the end of the year. This has a budget and staffing implication. We had kept the Program Director for ESL position vacant this year. He has asked Ms. Gagne and Dr. Bruno to create a new position to replace the position Ms. Dauplaise is vacating which will be a Director level of English Language Learner programs which encompasses both ESL and Bilingual and also include World Languages. We would then create a Teacher on Special Assignment position in English Language Learner programs.

Ms. Gagne reported on the principal position at Stamford High School and noted that last October we started to recruit on a national level for the 2010-2011 school year. There are over 25 candidates that have applied and she has defined a timeline to move forward to identify a candidate. Site visits would be offered to finalists.

Resolution 01-26-10:186

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

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves a Childcare Leave for the 2009-2010 school year for the following teachers: Kathleen Quaglino, Amy Colandro, and Rebecca Velasquez.

The resolution was passed with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Limone, Mr. Pia, and Dr. Rauh.

Mr. Limone brought up the assistant principal position at Stamford High School. It was decided that this matter would be brought up under the Fiscal

Committee agenda at the next Board meeting. He made a very strong plea that we take a long, hard look at this position since the enrollment at Stamford High School is going up.

Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak moved, seconded by Mr. Pia to go into Executive Session at 10:45 pm to discuss a confidential Grievance/Arbitration matter.

The motion passed with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Limone, Mr. Pia, and Dr. Rauh.

Mr. Pia moved, seconded by Mrs. Heftman to go out of Executive Session at 10:53 pm.

The motion passed with the following Committee members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Limone, Mr. Pia, and Dr. Rauh.

Mr. King moved, seconded by Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 pm with the following Board members voting in favor: The motion passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mrs. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Limone, Ms. Olson, Mr. Pia, Dr. Rauh, and Ms. Wade.

Dr. Joshua P. Starr
Superintendent of Schools
Executive Office