

Monday, November 6, 2017

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE OF THE  
BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held November 6, 2017, at  
Bassick High School, 1181 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Committee members present were Chair Sauda Baraka and John Weldon.

The first agenda item was on issues around remediation at Central High. Miguel Marques of Fuss & O'Neil was present. He described the hazmat procedure at Central High School. He said his company is performing oversight for the hazmat abatement contractors. There is a monitor onsite to oversee all work and make sure it follows state and federal regulations.

Mr. Marques said most of the work was being done during full or partial occupancy of school, meaning we are going above and beyond because Department of Public Health (DPH) approval was needed to conduct the work while school is in session. He said samples are collected on a daily basis and submitted to the DPH. He said if the samples were not found in compliance, there is the potential of shutting down the school, which has not taken place.

Mr. Marques says the monitor collects background samples outside the work area, making sure that the air is safe, meets occupancy criteria and there are no breaches in containment. All air must be pushed into the work area and not out of the work area.

Mr. Marques said samples are made available to the principal and they're available at the construction trailer.

Ms. Baraka said concerns were brought up about dust in hallways and classroom, as well as air quality.

Mr. Marques said his firm is not there to babysit contractors doing general construction work. He said there should be engineering

controls in place to keep dust levels down. Negative air machines should be in there to filter the air.

In response to a question, Mr. Marques said his firm is only on site when there is hazardous material abatement, so they have no involvement with activities not related to this.

Bengy Labrador was recognized. He said he was at the school for a year and his chair would be completely covered with white dust over the weekends. Mr. Marques said the dust is being created during some type of construction activity, not hazardous material activity. He said we have records of where all the asbestos is the building and the work being performed in an area prior to being disturbed by the general contractor.

Ms. Baraka asked if anyone tests the dust for asbestos. Mr. Marques said his monitor is collecting air samples in the vicinity of hazardous abatement on a daily basis when the work is being conducted, which is done under negative pressure, so dust is not going to be flying out of the containment. He said the areas of "clean demo" without hazardous materials are not checked by his monitor.

Alan Wallack said we meet with the principals at Central a minimum of three times a week and we haven't had a complaint about dust in close to a year. He said complaints about air quality are raised at other schools as well, but when it is checked ninety-nine times out of a hundred the air quality in the school is better than outside air.

Mr. Wallack said in one instance where it was thought there was a problem the samples were sent to New York at 11:00 o'clock at night and he was up until 3:00 in the morning with the superintendent.

Mr. Wallack said there is no general contractor on this job. He said no contractor would go into any space where they think that there is hazardous material.

The next item was a report by Attorney Leon Smith on restorative practices and legal support. The agenda item was combined with a presentation by Dementred Young, director of social work, on bullying.

Atty. Smith said he was here because of recent incidents in public schools, including fights and arrests. He said he wanted to present some proposed interventions to benefit Bridgeport students. One would be the development of an effective trauma response, including a critical response team, to assist children, as well as the needed expansion of restorative practices.

Atty. Smith said the schools are not in a bubble. When there are issues or violence in the community it has an impact on young people; everyone who is a victim of violence carries that weight when they come into school.

Atty. Smith said in suburban communities there is a recognition that a traumatic issue has happened when someone has died, and there are mental health professionals and counselors to help children. He said in Bridgeport far too often our young people are left to deal with trauma on their own, which leads to many issues.

Atty. Smith said a group of us who are providers and work for community-based organizations have come together to form a trauma response table because we believe the lack of crisis counseling and trauma response in school is a undercurrent to why issues arise. The organizations include the Center for Children's Advocacy, RYASAP, Child and Family Guidance, LifeBridge, The Work Place, juvenile probation and the faith community.

Atty. Smith said he had worked with a trauma coalition in New Haven which counsels young people. Through the use of restorative practices for three consecutive years every metric such as arrests and suspensions went down.

Atty., Smith said at the pilot sites for restorative practices in the district – Harding, Curiale and Marin – the numbers of out-of-school suspensions have improved greatly.

Mr. Young said restorative practices works well in the schools. He said he has talked with Dr. Johnson about expanding throughout the district. He said there will be training on restorative practices for the remaining schools in Bridgeport.

Mr. Young said there is a trauma team in the district. It was used today in three different schools because of a staff member who passed away over the weekend. Social workers, along with himself, went to Columbus, Claytor and BMA.

Mr. Young said he believed a collaboration with outside providers on trauma would be an excellent idea.

Atty. Smith said his statewide work involved work with the CHDI, the funders of Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services. He said they are willing to meet with the district to figure out how to serve Bridgeport more effectively.

Ms. Baraka said she believed the superintendent was willing and ready to move forward with these initiatives.

Atty. Smith said the community table was reconvening on November 13th. Assistant Superintendent John Lischner said he could clear schedules of district employees to attend.

Dawn Hatchett, the CEO of LifeBridge, said a lot of students in the district's schools are in LifeBridge's programs. She said eight to ten years ago her organization had a crisis intervention team that worked very well in the high schools. She said the team worked with teachers and students. She added that clinicians and providers got together to provide the services at no cost.

Ms. Baraka said Atty. Smith has been active in our school district in providing support to our children.

Atty. Smith said from his experience in education, the juvenile justice system and the criminal justice system that when a child is arrested there is so much more that is going on. The Center of Children's Advocacy is involved in situations where children need additional services, not just legal aid or a public defender, but areas such as trauma services, educational services and social services.

Mr. Labrador asked if the suspension and arrest numbers have gone down because there has been an order to make them go down. Ms.

Baraka said the work with restorative practices has gone on for the last few years. She said when she first became a member of the board we were suspending or expelling kids at outrageous numbers. The same type of transgressions in suburban schools would not result in suspensions or expulsion. She said the disparity in justice had to be addressed. She added that students don't learn when they are out of school.

Atty. Smith said the concept of restorative practices is not a matter of letting a kid's conduct go. It's saying if the kid is having a bad day and is acting out there is a reason that's going on. Suspending a student just suspends the problem because the underlying problem is still going on. He said through restorative practices you can find out what's going on in the student's life, find out what's going on underneath the behavior, and you can get the kid help.

Atty. Smith said some students have been suspended nine or ten times and the behavior never improved. Restorative practices leads to the elimination of repetitive suspensions. He said restorative practices are being used nationwide, including in the toughest cities.

Atty. Smith said the principal of Harding today described a young man who previously was suspended all the time, but now he has grown and developed through restorative approaches.

Atty. Smith said he was not just a policy wonk, but had worked in the trenches with kids and seen this work. He said he was happy both the previous and the current superintendent were on board with on it.

Mr. Young said because of Child Find we have to look to see why students are being suspended. He said students were being looked at holistically, not as mere offenders.

Ms. Baraka said people are being asked to do something different – to divert, not suspend or expel students. She said it could be interpreted as being told to what to do, but it is really about finding another alternative to address the needs of the child.

Mr. Labrador said in his 29 years he's sat in a lot of principals' offices and sat with parents who are afraid of their children because of

programs that tell kids if someone at home disciplines you you call us and report it. He said the Juvenile Review Board is not mandatory and a child can leave it and go back into a school, the same school where he committed an offense. He said a student last year at Batalla had to be arrested by the police, but five or six months later he came back to the school and had the same issue as previously with Mr. Labrador with an attitude that indicated that nothing can be done to him.

Atty. Smith said young people go to the Juvenile Review Board (JRB) as a diversionary system to resolve the issue out of the court system so they don't have a court record unnecessarily. He said it evens the playing field with suburban kids who are not sent to court. He said the JRB conducts assessments on the best way to hold a student accountable, which may include something like a letter of apology, while provide mentoring, counseling and other services.

Atty. Smith said if a kid or a parent says no to the JRB, then it goes to the juvenile court and it's up to prosecutor and the judge. He said there are always outliers, but the problem was we were arresting over 200 kids a year and for every kid that needs to be arrested there were ten kids who had no business being in court. He said overwhelmingly these are kids of color and overwhelmingly have diagnosed mental health issues that need services and treatment rather than just being thrown into the system.

Ms. Baraka said there are situations that require a child to be arrested, but our goal here is to get children through the school system. She said she learned from her career in law enforcement that all the children that get in the adult system do not get better. She said the goal should be to change the mind of the children that we're working with and support them with their issues, whether they are the bully or the one being bullied.

Mr. Labrador said from the point of view of someone involved with these kids on a daily basis five days a week he didn't see how the program worked when the kid ended up in the same school with the same individual he had the problem with.

Atty. Smith said one of the most dangerous things you can do in

policy is to take one outlier case to use that to describe how everything should work. He said the people whose children have gone through the JRB appreciate the results and the second chances that children should get.

Mr. Young then provided the bullying report. He said the total for last year was 24. There are five substantiated bullying cases through the month of October. He said the report includes a victims page where reports by children are tracked. He said the report includes nine instances of that.

Mr. Young said he met with the assistant superintendents and he discussed the problems with the low number of reported bullying incidents. He said the assistant superintendents get a direct report from Power School and then they talk to principals about non-reported cases. He said the assistant superintendents agreed to make this a priority.

Mr. Young said his role is still to do technical support for parents of children who say they have been bullied. He said this year he has done training for all principals and the secretaries at the school who input the data. He said he had updated the schools on new legislation.

Atty. Smith said when a child with an IEP is alleging that they are being bullied that under U.S. Department of Education guidelines this creates the need for an IEP/PPT meeting in and of itself. Mr. Young said he does talk about this with the special education directors.

The next item was on cyber security. Ms. Baraka said Great City Schools had put together a document on cyber security for K-12 schools. She said the document is in use in other city school districts. She said the board's Governance Committee should look at these policies.

Mr. Weldon moved the issue be referred to the Governance Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baraka.

Jeffrey Postolowski, director of information technology, said he looked at the document and it is following what the industry is doing.

He said it was a good document and the district is already executing a bunch of things in the document. He said the main issue faced is appropriate funding to meet of the items.

Mr. Lischner said the spirit of the policy would be to continue the work of Mr. Postolowski and if there was board policy it would establish a legacy of constant review and monitoring of the priorities.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was the report on suspensions, expulsions and infractions. Mr. Lischner said the data he has on ISS and OSS doesn't address all the items on the agenda. The data is available by school, but not by gender and race. He said there was some confusion because Dr. Santacapita thought the data was for the Teaching & Learning Committee. He apologized for the mix-up.

Ms. Baraka said the data is requested to make sure we're constantly seeing a decrease in the number of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions.

Mr. Lischner said overall there have been ten total expulsions, but there were more hearings this week regarding Bassick and there will be eight additional. All the expulsions are at the comprehensive high schools.

Mr. Lischner said the out-of-school suspensions are slightly down. He said the total number days of suspensions has been decreased through restorative practices because there is now a broader palette of disciplines to resolve issues.

Ms. Baraka noted 28 OSS incidents at Bridgeport Military Academy. Mr. Lischner said that has been discussed with the superintendent at leadership meetings. Mr. Weldon noted Cross had a large amount of suspensions.

Mr. Lischner apologized and said that data may be inaccurate as well.

In response to a question, Dr. Byron Williams, principal of Bassick



High, said the number listed for suspensions at Bassick of 81 is about right. He said a large number resulted from an incident with a young man at the Greene Home Apartments.

Ms. Baraka said the number at Harding of 83 seemed high with restorative practices being used.

The next agenda item was on security protocols when entering school buildings. Ms. Baraka said the policy needed to be shored up so that it is consistent at all buildings.

Mr. Lischner said he compiled a packet of research on local and national districts, as well as data from the U.S. Department for Educational Statistics.

Mr. Lischner said safety practices across the country include controlled access, security cameras, ID badges, a student dress code, and searching visitors. He said searching all who enter a building is a relatively rare practice, but not unheard of. Nationwide, 1.4 percent of elementary schools, 7 percent of middle schools and 8 percent of high schools use metal detectors.

Mr. Lischner said the current board policy for visitors says the superintendent shall issue regulations which encourage school visitations, provide a welcoming environment and require all visitors to register at the principal's office. The policy calls for visitors to sign in and out of buildings. The principal makes the final decision on circumstances and conditions of the visit. He said these policies are identical to the Hartford school district.

Mr. Lischner said Danbury's policy does not contain any provisions on searching visitors. He said Washington, D.C., has a lengthy policy on school visitors, but not nothing on searching visitors. Rochester's and Chicago's policies include searching of visitors.

Mr. Weldon said this all stems from a decision to cease any searching of visitors. Mr. Lischner said the superintendent did issue a directive to cease the searching of visitors; however, when a metal detector is activated, the visitor is asked to make a self-declaration of what is setting off the metal detector. Visitors are asked to leave

items that activate the metal detector outside the building before entering. He said there are no procedures for guards checking bags.

Mr. Lischner suggested a policy provision along the lines of all visitors and parcels may be searched prior to entering all buildings and events.

Ms. Baraka said there were recent complaints by parents who attended a basketball game who went through the metal director, and they were told they had to be physically searched if the metal detector went off. She said we do not train anyone in the district to search anyone. She said in this instance the women visitors felt violated. She said she was in favor of a policy of prohibiting entry to a person who can't identify what is setting off a metal detector.

Mr. Lischner said he believes some procedures with local law enforcement should be established on the proper way to search and what are we searching for, which would involve a determination of the thoroughness of the search.

James Meszoros was recognized. He said drugs would not be detected by a metal detector, but weapons or other metal items would be detected.

Mr. Lischner said searches of bags creates the possibility of dangers to those searching from sharp objects or other items. He said searching wands or flashlights would probably be needed. He said an issue with self-declaration is if a visitor is taking items out of a bag and putting them on a table it allows other people in the line to see items such as medication.

Mr. Lischner said under the current practice a parent of 8th grader at Batalla would be able to walk into the school, while the same parent at Bassick would face a potential search. He said guidelines are needed on how and why of searches can take place.

JoAnn Kennedy was recognized. She said ever since she has been coming to any school her bag always gets searched. She said the guards look at everything in her bag. She said at one time Central High guards were asking for driver's licenses.

Ms. Baraka said looking at driver's licenses should not be happening. She said she doesn't have a problem with putting her bag on a table when going through a metal detector. She added that the guards are not trained to touch people and there are too many issues that can arise by doing that.

Mr. Lischner said he didn't believe any searches that took place were done out of malice, but there were some inconsistencies across the district. He said when the procedures and training are established they should be consistent across the schools.

Mr. Mezsoros said assignments for sporting events should include a male and female officer. He said, through his experience from working at the Arena it is a privilege to come to a sporting event. He urged a policy be put in place as basketball season is coming up.

Ms. Baraka said things may not move that fast, because this committee would have to recommend policies to the Governance Committee. She said there would have to be training before any searching takes place because lawsuits could expose the district to judgments up to millions of dollars.

Albert Benejan was recognized. He said as the PTSO president at Bassick he believed we need to search everyone coming in the school for the safety of our kids and staff. He said the security at Bassick does a great job and most kids understand the policy.

Mr. Labrador said he is the one that everyone believes will keep the children safe, but it seemed the people who are supposed to do that job are being told they don't know how to do that job. He said it seemed like Ms. Baraka was concerned about people being happy; he said he was concerned about people being safe. He said he was not concerned whether anyone was happy with their bag being searched. He said he does security for high-profile people on the weekends; he added that the Bridgeport school security were the foundation for the school security officers in the State of Connecticut. He said those who are making the policies have not sat in the shoes of the security officers and seen what goes on in the schools.

Ms. Baraka said we have to create a policy that is legal and in compliance with state and federal policies and laws. She said she presumed the security guards' union has had conversations and has contractual provisions that cover interaction with the administration of the police department.

Mr. Meszoros said Mr. Lischner was now overseeing school security officers and the police are overseeing the SROs.

Ms. Baraka said right now people are calling board members and saying some activities security is undertaking are not in board policies. The idea is to create a policy that works for the people who implement it as well the visitors, with the idea that everyone has to be safe.

Mr. Lischner said when policy was developed there was input from Mr. Meszoros, the NAGE president. He said some of Mr. Meszoros's recommendations are the result of his experience in security and working at Webster Bank Arena. He said he valued Mr. Meszoros's expertise.

Mr. Meszoros suggested security protocols be highlighted on the district's website. He recommended the use of the Garrett Company out of New York to provide training.

Mr. Weldon moved that *"a security protocol/policy/procedure with respect to entering school buildings and the use of metal detectors, wands and/or searches be developed by the Governance Committee in consultation with Assistant Superintendent Lischner."* The motion was seconded by Ms. Baraka and unanimously approved.

Mr. Lischner provided an update on questions brought up at the last Facilities meeting.

The first question answered was, can crossing guards be assigned to adult education instead of police? Mr. Lischner said he spoke with spoke to Angel Resto and Lt. Grech. The main purpose of the SROs at adult education are traffic flow. Crossing guards are not trained in traffic management. In the past years the number of SROs there has been reduced from two to one.

The next question was on the climate specialists at Lighthouse and their time overlapping with security officers. Mr. Lischner said he spoke to Lt. Grech. This was changed about three years ago. Elementary school days are generally from 8:50 to 3:10; the previous times were 7:30 to 3:30. The end of the day is typically when problems occur, and with the overlap with Lighthouse the security guard can relay information to the climate specialist. He said overtime has been reduced as a result of this. He said he believed the current system with the security guards beginning their shift later in the morning should be maintained because issues faced by security guards generally arise at the end of the day.

The next question was, what is the cost of the thirty minutes overlap? Mr. Lischner said, including salary and benefits, the cost for the entire year is about \$94,000 for thirty schools for the entire year, according to Marlene Siegel.

Regarding the cost of fingerprinting, Mr. Lischner said the police department offers fingerprinting by appointment. He said the district charges a \$12 fee that is a processing fee by the state.

Lt. Johnson of the police department said fingerprinting is offered twice a week. He said since the last Facilities meeting there have been 102 appointments on just Tuesdays, of which the SROs conducted 37. Mr. Lischner said the SROs perform the fingerprinting on Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30.

Mr. Lischner said the district pays three hours of overtime for the SROs' time, about \$225 per session, or about \$11,700 per year, plus benefits.

Ms. Baraka said the city sought a grant to hire and train SROs where 75 percent of their time would be BOE work. She said we never saw the grant, even though we asked for it. She added that the board would be paying \$400,000 for SROs in about four years.

Ms. Baraka said the board should not have to pay any overtime because it is part of the work of the SROs. Mr. Weldon said he did not think attributing benefits to the overtime portion is an appropriate

allocation; the benefits should be attributed to the base wage.

Mr. Lischner said he would check with Ms. Siegel on this.

Lt. Johnson said during the day SROs are only responding to calls for service in and around the schools. The fingerprinting is being done after the eight-hour day because there is no one available to do the fingerprinting during the regular day.

Mr. Lischner said he was unaware of the grant. He said there are some logistical issues when people are hired who are not local to Bridgeport and can only have the fingerprinting done on Tuesday or Thursday.

Mr. Meszoros said the fingerprinting had to be done by a certified police officer.

Regarding the assignment of SROs to events. Mr. Lischner said it is a collaborative effort based on previous years. The security secretary looks at the events calendar to see how many SROs were used last year. The information is shared with Lt. Johnson, who looks at the current dynamics of the situation in the community and the school. Lt. Johnson said events in the community are looked at to see if there are recent incidents of violence, which could lead to the assignment of more SROs. If necessary, the gang task force and undercover officers can be deployed outside an event, which is not charged back to the BOE.

Ms. Baraka said the concern was whether SROs were being used in place of security guards, which leads to greater cost.

Lt. Johnson said they max out the number of security guards they need to hire before hiring SROs. He said a recent football game at Kennedy Stadium had five guards and two SROs. For the Central-Harding game there may be more security guards.

Mr. Lischner said usually with up to 100 guests, there is one guard; 100 to 200 guests is two guards. Mr. Meszoros said for 1200 guests there would be three guards and an SRO. He noted it is easy for the SRO to call for backup.

Mr. Meszoros said Bassick's outdoor games are played at Went Field or Seaside Park, but that becomes a city function and they may or may not hire security guards.

Ms. Baraka said there as a concern that an SRO at an outdoor game might have to leave a post to go to a call. Lt. Johnson said if an SRO is assigned to a game it is usually after their working hours. He said only in an extreme instance such as an officer needing assistance, an all-hands call, would an SRO leave an athletic event.

Ms. Meszoros said there have often been times when arrests take place and that has led to there being no coverage by the SROs for the kids at the athletic events.

Mr. Lischner said he could work with Lt. Johnson and put something together so there is coverage for students offsite for practices or games. He noted there would be also overtime costs for security guards.

Ms. Labrador described an incident where drunken men were verbally harassing female softball players at Went Field when no security was present. Additionally, the players have to walk from Bassick to the field.

Mr. Lischner said he would report back at the next meeting.

The last question was on the cost of an SRO versus a security officer. Mr. Lischner said the security guards earn approximately half as much. Ms. Meszoros said the security guards are \$18 an hour and \$26 an hour for overtime.

Mr. Lischner said the document provided to the committee from Ms. Siegel showed year-to-date expenditures for SROs and 2017 actuals. He said the costs include everything from fingerprinting to overtime to additional police officers at dismissal.

Ms. Baraka said if the yearly expense could be cut in half it could result in one and a half kindergarten paras for the district.

Ms. Baraka asked if the overtime costs could be charged to the SRO grant. Mr. Lischner said he believed the overtime, regardless of what was the assignment of the SROs, would fall under the grant, and he would check into it.

Angel Resto was recognized. He said years ago previously an SRO used to come in at 2:00 o'clock and would cover games on their regular time.

Mr. Lischner said Ms. Siegel reported the \$100,000 expense was a shadow of the \$400,000 of overtime fees a few years with a larger SRO staff. Mr. Meszoros said there were three shifts back then.

Mr. Lischner said he would like to look at cutting back fingerprinting hours and then spike it up during the hiring season or right before school starts.

Mr. Meszoros said he worked on the uniform allowance for Board of Education security with Mr. Lischner. There was an agreement to to reduce the allocation from \$424 to \$224 per guard, which donates \$17,000 back to the city.

Lt. Johnson said he would be doing the day-to-day, hands-on supervision of SROs, and Sgt. Collazo would be doing the liaison work with principals.

Mr. Postolowski provided a technology update. He said the RFP for the E-Rate vendor was rejected by finance due to formatting and a revised RFP is hoped to be submitted this week.

Mr. Postolowski said Kellogg & Sovereign is putting out Category I items for bid. He said a Category II spending plan is being created.

Mr. Postolowski said there is new help desk software which allows principals to know what's going on in their buildings and allows them to prioritize items. It includes responses to commonly answered questions.

Mr. Postolowski said the data center operations manager will be going to the Personnel Committee with a presentation.



Mr. Postolowski said nonworking Chrome Books have been collected from schools and there is work going on to bring them back to life.

Mr. Postolowski said he provided the service outage and incidents in the written report.

In response to a question, Mr. Postolowski said a student intern program for IT is under discussion for Fairchild Wheeler, with Central expressing similar interest. He noted he is certified to teach courses as well.

Mr. Postolowski said the issue of the state's reimbursement for technology for Harding High is not resolved even with the letter submitted to the state because the letter was not officially responded to. (Only the letter regarding Claytor was responded to.) City officials will plead the district's case to the state. He said he was currently optimistic because it had not been rejected like other districts.

Mr. Postolowski said most outstanding issues at Central High have been addressed.

Mr. Postolowski said the deployment of computers to Read School is almost done. The report contained information about other schools. He added Read School had its kickoff meeting for their Microsoft proof of concepts. Bridgeport is one of only five districts in the entire nation that won this grant.

Mr. Postolowski said the upgrades for Windows and Office and the migration to Office 365 is going well. He said students can log into their Office 365 accounts by their district e-mail address, which provides full copies of Office software. The district is going to receive about \$100,000 in training.

Mr. Postolowski said the district is migrating legacy systems and Google stuff over to one drive where there will be unlimited storage. He said senior staff is now using Office 365 successfully. He said the district's strategic plan would be done through Microsoft Teams, which will include participation by parents.

Mr. Postolowski said the voice-over IP contract is being worked on because of the impending E-Rate reduction.

Mr. Postolowski said the district website is being migrated over to Blackboard, and the goal is to provide an outstanding platform for faculty, parents and students to collaborate together. He said everyone would have access to it on any type of device.

Mr. Postolowski said the downstairs area of Bassick has been emptied of assets and is now available for other purposes. He added work on the district's inventory continues.

Mr. Postolowski said approval has been received for the district's new firewall, so the project should be back on course and it is hoped to absorb the cost into the existing budget.

Ms. Baraka said she was very impressed with the work of Mr. Postolowski.

Terron Jones of the Office of Emergency Management/Homeland Security in Bridgeport appeared, along with Kelly and Olivia from the Stratford Health Department. Mr. Jones described the design of a safe room for Bridgeport military Academy. It is a room in which participants solve riddles, puzzles and problems to achieve a common goal at the end. It is a tool for team-building. It could also be used by the distinct and municipalities. He said some Ebola money is available to spend \$15,000 to create this room. After the \$15,000 is spent, the students will be trained to create a club to continue it for years to come. He said cameras and a flat-screen television would be installed.

Mr. Lischner said this was an information item and no action needed.

On the next agenda item, Mr. Wallack said after the election tomorrow he will submit a stack of resolutions to the City Council to authorize the creation of a building committee for the new Bassick High and to enter into schematic drawings. He said he did not foresee any issues moving Bassick into a renovate-as-new project.

Mr. Wallack said there will be an issue of where the students will be

put during construction. Harding will be emptying out in June, which is one possible location, but Harding would have to be kept as a viable building at some cost to the district. He said he agreed with Ms. Baraka that a building should not be renovated with students in it again.

Mr. Wallack said a committee will be created with Dr. Williams similar to the Longfellow committee. The School Building Committee will hire an architect and there will be discussions of what the needs of the school are. He noted the curriculum changed at Harding when the new school building was designed. He said it would be a blank easel for the staff and community.

Mr. Benejan requested to be part of the committee for the new school. Ms. Baraka said the school committees are made up staff, parents, community members and stakeholders. Ms. Baraka said students were part of the committee at Harding.

Ms. Baraka said after the election, the next steps are the resolutions going to the City Council. She urged Bassick folks to watch the resolutions, so they can be at the meetings. Mr. Wallack said it would go to the Education Subcommittee first. He said he will inform Dr. Williams of the date.

Mr. Wallack said he planned to submit another resolution on the Jewett Avenue property after the election. He said there was a lot of misinformation out there when it was previously presented to the City Council. Ms. Baraka said a new council might make a difference. She said this would bring Classical Studies under one roof.

Mr. Wallack said Ms. Siegel met with Dyrene Newton, the principal of Hallen School, about the T-Mobile antenna. A plan to spend the rental money for the antennas would be brought to the board on November 13th.

Mr. Weldon moved approval of the committee's minutes of September 5, 2017. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baraka and unanimously approved.

Mr. Weldon moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was

seconded by Ms. Baraka and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

*Approved by the committee on January 10, 2018*