

ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

DECEMBER 11, 2017

BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL

AQUACULTURE SCHOOL

60 ST. STEPHENS ROAD, BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

PRESENT:

MAYOR JOSEPH GANIM

JOHN WELDON

HERNAN ILLINGWORTH

MARIA PEREIRA

BEN WALKER

JESSICA MARTINEZ

SYBIL ALLEN

DENNIS BRADLEY

JOSEPH SOKOLOVIC

CHRIS TAYLOR

Transcribed by: John McLeod

1 (The meeting was opened at 5:36 p.m.)

2 MAYOR GANIM: I have the pleasure, the honor and
3 the duty of chairing tonight's meeting, according to
4 the rules, and it's 5:30, so I'd like to call this
5 meeting to order.

6 There is an agenda that seems appropriate to stick
7 to. It begins with public comments and then the
8 election officers, approval of minutes and adjournment.

9 As protocol would be, and I think appropriate,
10 what I'll do is there's four members signed up on the
11 public comments - we'll have them speak in the order
12 that they're on, I'll call them individually with two
13 minutes each, then we'll go to the election of the
14 officers, there's a protocol for that, we'll follow
15 that, and then I'll turn it over to the presiding
16 officer at that time and congratulate the officers, and
17 ask the Board of Ed to continue their appropriate
18 business.

19 So without comment, let's go to the first person
20 on the sheet that's been given me by the
21 superintendent, those that have signed up this morning
22 - Betty Martinez is the first speaker -

23 MS. PEREIRA: Point of order.

24 MAYOR GANIM: - for two minutes. I'm going to
25 stick to the agenda.

1 MS. PEREIRA: No, but I think we need to take
2 attendance.

3 MAYOR GANIM: I think that's a good point. If we
4 could - who's the - let's have a roll call of the
5 attendance.

6 MS. PEREIRA: They're on the sheet in front of you,
7 there should be everybody's name.

8 MR. WELDON: No, no, it would not be.

9 MS. PEREIRA: It's still on the old one?

10 MR. WELDON: Yeah.

11 MAYOR GANIM: Why don't you sound off as to in
12 attendance. So why don't we start with you.

13 MS. ALLEN: Allen.

14 MR. TAYLOR: Chris Taylor

15 MR. WELDON: John Weldon.

16 MR. ILLINGWORTH: Hernan Illingworth.

17 MS. MARTINEZ: Jessica Martinez.

18 MR. SOKOLOVIC: Joseph Sokolovic

19 MR. WALKER: Ben Walker.

20 MS. PEREIRA: Maria Pereira.

21 MAYOR GANIM: We'll have the - there's sign-up
22 sheet as well - I'd ask the members that are here in
23 attendance to pass that. Do you have a sheet we can
24 pass around? And if we could have them sign in, if
25 that's what's normal -

1 MS. PEREIRA: No, that's not what we do.

2 MAYOR GANIM: And I know Dennis Bradley is not
3 here. If he attends, we'll have the record reflect that
4 he does attend, but as of right now we'll proceed with
5 the meeting unless the superintendent has something she
6 wants to add.

7 So why don't we begin with the first speaker.
8 Betty, you have the floor. Thank you so much. I'm not
9 going to - two minutes - but I'll try and keep you to
10 two minutes because that's the rules. Okay?

11 MS. B. MARTINEZ: Just a little bit.

12 MAYOR GANIM: Yeah, thank you so much.

13 MS. B. MARTINEZ: Thank you. My name is Betty
14 Martinez. I'm a third-grade dual language teacher at
15 Cesar Batalla School. I am also a resident and
16 taxpayer, homeowner and voter in the city of
17 Bridgeport.

18 This evening I wanted to give you a snapshot of a
19 system in crisis from the frontlines. Teachers are
20 being asked to teach in an environment of despair.

21 Here are some examples. I have 29 students in my
22 class, the maximum allowed by contract. This is due to
23 the influx of new students following the tragedy of
24 Hurricane Maria.

25 One third of my class are special education

1 students with individualized education plans, better
2 known as IEPs. Another third are English language
3 learners and new arrivals. The remaining student body
4 struggles to receive on-level instruction while their
5 teacher is working with the at-risk children.

6 Despite the fact that the district contracted to
7 purchase expensive textbooks under our turnaround
8 superintendent and our appointed board, no workbooks
9 are available for my students. Paper is rationed due to
10 budget cuts, yet we're expected to provide homework and
11 class work to our students just the same.

12 Because paper is at a premium, we've been
13 instructed to use our Smart Boards for help for
14 homework. This method is not effective. When these
15 boards need to be repaired, it can take months to have
16 a light bulb delivered to your room. Also, third
17 graders are incapable of copying materials from a board
18 onto their papers within a reasonable period of time,
19 thus further comprising instructional time.

20 Now about the working conditions. We have air-
21 conditioning that seldom works properly. Our average
22 room temperature can go as high as 90 degrees. Despite
23 the multitude of complaints and work orders, our needs
24 go unmet.

25 Can I continue?

1 MAYOR GANIM: She can go for another ten seconds,
2 if you don't mind. I hate to be -

3 MS. B. MARTINEZ: Okay. Basic supplies such as
4 toilet paper and hand soap in the students' lavatories
5 many times are empty because the supplies have not come
6 in.

7 I firmly believe that the powers that be have made
8 a calculated decision to intentionally starve our
9 district of resources and misappropriate funds for
10 their own use.

11 MAYOR GANIM: Could you -

12 MS. B. MARTINEZ: Despite the continuous decline
13 of basic resources, we're expected to comply with the
14 Common Core state standards.

15 MAYOR GANIM: Betty, thank you. I'm sorry.

16 MS. B. MARTINEZ: You're going to cut me off?

17 MAYOR GANIM: I'm going to adhere to the - well,
18 it's the rules.

19 Could you - if you would, though, you could submit
20 your written comments to the record.

21 MS. B. MARTINEZ: Sure.

22 MAYOR GANIM: Thank you. I have to treat
23 everybody the same. The next speaker -

24 MS. PEREIRA: She can also sign up again at 6:30.

25 MAYOR GANIM: You can sign up again at 6:30.

1 MS. B. MARTINEZ: Well, I only have like a little
2 bit. I was going to appeal to you guys, but I wouldn't
3 appeal.

4 MAYOR GANIM: Thank you. I - I didn't make the
5 rules.

6 MS. B. MARTINEZ; I know you didn't.

7 MAYOR GANIM: Lisa. Lisa Parziale.

8 MS. PARZIALE: Thank you. My mayor, I will be two
9 minutes.

10 Okay. First of all, I'm Liza Parziale. I live in
11 Bridgeport at 97 Bick Terrace and I want to
12 congratulate the incoming mayors [*sic*] as well as the
13 incumbents, and since I know a little bit about public
14 service, I want you to know I'm aware of the sacrifices
15 you're making by giving selflessly of your time on
16 behalf of the students of Bridgeport. Your charge is
17 not an easy one.

18 The Bridgeport Board of Education and all
19 associated with the responsibility of educating our
20 children face challenges that no other municipality
21 does.

22 I have witnessed teachers anguishing over the
23 shortage of basic supplies and teaching tools needed to
24 meet the requirements necessary for their classrooms.
25 I served with Sybil Allen in the '80s and I am like a

1 sister to Betty Martinez, and I couldn't comprehend the
2 lengths they went to to personally provide the basics
3 that our children were deprived of. They reached into
4 their hard-earned salaries to do the same. I mentioned
5 the two, but I know there are many.

6 I believe in your dedication to the Board of
7 Education, and tonight you will be charged with the
8 task of naming a chair to this board. Please remember
9 you're all bound by a pledge; your willingness to
10 serve.

11 I attended the last two organizational meetings.
12 I am not in any way referring to my mayor when I say
13 the following words. I witnessed unconscionable
14 interference by the Democratic Town Chairman Mario
15 Testo. His uncalled-for involvement in the process
16 caused chaos and division that led for over two years.
17 Some made decisions I believe, they would not have made
18 if they were not aware of how they were being
19 manipulated. Tell Testo to stick with his politics;
20 there's no room for them in this board.

21 As you go forward, remember your allegiance is to
22 the children and the voters who placed their trust and
23 confidence in you. Think of your common goal. When you
24 vote to - excuse me. When you vote to appoint a chair
25 tonight, please consider Ben Walker. He's professional;

1 an experienced educator. He possesses the ability to
2 grasp the complexities all of you will encounter, and
3 in particular the new members. He's a respectful man
4 who can work with everyone.

5 MAYOR GANIM: Thank you.

6 MS. PARZIALE: If you begin this chapter free of
7 outside influence, you will restore the confidence of
8 the teachers, parents and allow our great
9 superintendent to perform her duties free of outside
10 influence.

11 MAYOR GANIM: Thank you. Peter - thank you. Peter
12 Spain. You can sign up for the 6:30 session.

13 I'm trying - and I apologize if I'm not - there's
14 a buzzer that goes off at two minutes, and I'll try and
15 keep everybody as close to that as I can. If you look
16 like you're wrapping up, I'm going to kind of let you
17 go. And I apologize even to Betty, but just try and, if
18 we could, in fairness to everyone, for two minutes.

19 MR. SPAIN: Elected officials and my fellow
20 Bridgeport residents, good evening. I'm Pete Spain.

21 As a new member of the City Council and its
22 education committee, I look forward to working with
23 each of you board members and with Superintendent
24 Johnson.

25 At this unprecedented time in our country, state

1 and city, Bridgeport needs clear-eyed leadership, not
2 backroom deals to lock up the vote before public
3 discussion. We need leaders who will have the humility
4 and the courage to stand up, speak out, and work
5 productively with anyone who can and will contribute to
6 the greater good.

7 And that's why I'm here to give my support to Ben
8 Walker to chair the Board of Ed. Ben and I share a
9 common mentor and a great respect for public education
10 and its transformative power, especially for the
11 21,000-plus children in Bridgeport Public Schools
12 today.

13 Ben knows there's work to be done and he knows
14 that we in Bridgeport will not benefit from
15 unprincipled squabbling by our elected officials. Ben
16 Walker did not participate in the fruitless boycott
17 that some of you on this board started and others of
18 you joined in.

19 No matter what, Ben puts his solemn duty first and
20 is devoted to the immense hard work in hand and to
21 building on everyone's strengths. When another member
22 of this board did not return Ben's calls or e-mails
23 this past week, what did Ben do? Ben went to the
24 fellow's home Saturday morning and he politely,
25 persuasively got his BOE colleague to go out for coffee

1 to discuss their differences and find common ground.

2 So don't tell me Ben is part of some band of
3 troublemakers. He is respectful and resolute and
4 independent. He leads by example.

5 And Ben Walker knows firsthand what excellence in
6 education looks like here in Bridgeport, where his wife
7 teaches, and in Greenwich, where he is a widely
8 respected high school music teacher and band director.
9 He's taken that band to compete in festivals in Europe,
10 Asia and recently in Cuba.

11 In addition, Ben is a parent of two sons, a third-
12 degree black belt, he makes artisan cheeses, and plays
13 classical guitar. He's an accomplished fly fisherman
14 and he's the first resident to Bridgeport to get a
15 permit to have chickens.

16 He's a Renaissance man. He's an example of a
17 citizen, a neighbor, a public servant and friend in
18 Bridgeport who makes us proud. I hope you'll give Ben
19 Walker your support to lead this important body forward
20 in its critical work.

21 Thank you so much.

22 MAYOR GANIM: Thank you, Peter. Next, Carmen
23 Lopez.

24 MS. LOPEZ: Good afternoon. Good evening too.
25 Okay. My name is Carmen Lopez and I'm a resident and a

1 taxpayer of the city of Bridgeport.

2 In view of this being your first meeting as a full
3 board, I really don't know whether I should offer
4 congratulations or condolences, okay, to the three new
5 ones that are coming and the three ones that are
6 returning. But in any event, the reason that I wanted
7 to come here tonight at your first meeting is that I
8 wanted to comment on your duties as members of the
9 board.

10 But before I get to that, I wanted to say because
11 you've been elected that necessarily means you've been
12 through a political process, right? You've been
13 nominated by a political party, you've run a campaign,
14 you've been seeking support of the voters, of the
15 children, of the parents. Six of you have been
16 nominated by the Bridgeport Democratic Town Committee
17 and its chairman.

18 Now, I realize that three of you are here because
19 you primaried that machine, but you're still Democrats
20 and you're still here. Three of you are here because
21 you were nominated by the Republican Party, and of
22 course there's one member here who's also been
23 nominated by a minor party.

24 So in addition to your duties as members of the
25 Board of Education and as elected officials, you have

1 the responsibility and the opportunity to try to
2 restore some public trust and confidence in the City of
3 Bridgeport.

4 As some of you know, this city's reputation has
5 been further tarnished by the actions of the Democrat
6 Town chairman as chronicled by Superior Court Judge
7 Bellis in a case brought by Bob Keeley contesting the
8 results of a primary election in Bridgeport.

9 Now, you're saying to yourself - some of you -
10 what does that have to do with the Board of Education
11 Bridgeport? Well, you know what my answer is?
12 Everything. Because you are here because you've been
13 endorsed or you're involved in a political party, and
14 you know what happened in that case. Have anyone of you
15 read it and - Judge Ganim - Mr. Ganim, don't stop me
16 now.

17 MAYOR GANIM: You have two minutes, your Honor.

18 MS. LOPEZ: You have two - I am telling you, she
19 found corruption. We've got nothing but silence from
20 you in the face of a police chief having to follow the
21 orders of your town chairman.

22 Ladies and gentlemen, don't let that happen to
23 you, because it's going to happen. You're going to get
24 a call and you're going to be asked to do something.
25 And like that poor chief of police that we have, that

1 sent a cop to get absentee ballots out of mailboxes,
2 they're going to ask you to mess with our
3 superintendent. Don't mess with her; support her.

4 MAYOR GANIM: Thank you. Thank you so much. For
5 those of you who want to continue to speak, as I
6 understand it - and I won't make this judgment call
7 unless the board tells me - if the board tells me
8 differently - I think you have a sign-up sheet that
9 people can speak on at another part of this meeting.

10 So if that is correct, then I'll share that so you
11 can continue.

12 According to the agenda, we're on the election of
13 officers, which is done every year at this time. And
14 as I understand the process, what we will do is open
15 the floor for nominations for chairperson or president
16 of the board, as it's commonly referred, take
17 nominations and seconds if there so are; close
18 nominations on that, elect that officer. The only part
19 that strikes me is I can't remember if I stay then or
20 turn it over because there's also the election of a
21 vice chair and a secretary.

22 Mark, is that - do I stay for all three?

23 MS. PEREIRA: No.

24 ATTY. ANASTASI: Technically, according to the
25 rules, no, but in the past it's gone either way. You

1 can certainly turn it over -

2 MAYOR GANIM: Okay.

3 ATTY. ANASTASI: - as soon as the chair's been
4 elected.

5 MAYOR GANIM: Okay. So we'll play it be ear; I
6 can turn it over at that point.

7 So at this point, then - is there - we have
8 ballots, as I understand it? Okay. So let's open up
9 the floor for nominations for the election of officers,
10 beginning with the office of president or - or
11 chairperson, either way it's referenced. Are there any
12 nominations? Yes.

13 MR. SOKOLOVIC: Having attended and observed
14 nearly every board and committee meeting over the last
15 two years - I apologize. Having attended and observed
16 nearly every board and committee meeting over the last
17 two years and observing the various styles of each of
18 the remaining board members, I feel uniquely qualified
19 to make this nomination.

20 The Teaching and Learning Committee has done some
21 of the best and most - and most impactful work in
22 regards to out students. The Teaching and Learning
23 Committee has always run like a well-oiled machine,
24 getting so much accomplished quickly, efficiently and
25 respectfully. It was and is one of my favorite

1 committees to attend, because for the most part they
2 were over in time for me to get to work on time, with
3 the exception, of course, of the first few meetings
4 after the ill-advised boycott, which created a backlog
5 on all the committees.

6 So I wish to nominate the most qualified member of
7 this board to help continue the strides and the new
8 path laid out by Dr, Johnson. Therefore, it is my
9 pleasure and a great honor to hereby nominate Mr. Ben
10 Walker for chairman of the board.

11 MS. PEREIRA: I second that.

12 MAYOR GANIM: A motion has been made - a nomination
13 and second for Ben Walker. Are there any other
14 nominations?

15 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, I'd like to make a nomination,
16 Mr. Mayor. But before I do so, I want to clear the air.

17 I've been approached by many, I've listened to
18 everybody speak. Judge Lopez, you were moving in your -
19 in your testimony, and I appreciate that.

20 I - I'm going to nominate John Weldon - and we are
21 fellow Republicans, and not for that reason. But before
22 I do so, I want to be clear with this audience that,
23 John, you will never, ever attend another boycott. Do I
24 have your word on that?

25 MR. WELDON: I was not in the first boycott.

1 MR. TAYLOR: Yes or no is all I want to hear.

2 MR. WELDON: Yes.

3 MR. TAYLOR: Secondly, are the school buses going
4 to roll tomorrow and are the kids going to go to
5 school, and is everything going to remain the same with
6 Dr. Johnson? Is there anything in your conscience that
7 wants to replace Dr, Johnson, yes or no?

8 MR. WELDON: No, no.

9 MR. TAYLOR: All right. I nominate John Weldon.

10 MAYOR GANIM: Is there - is there a second?

11 MR. ILLINGWORTH: I second.

12 MAYOR GANIM: Motion's made and seconded for the
13 nomination of John - John Weldon.

14 MS. PEREIRA: Mr. Chair -

15 MAYOR GANIM: There's been a made and seconded for
16 Ben Walker. Are there any other nominations?

17 MS. PEREIRA: I'd like to speak in opposing a
18 nomination.

19 MAYOR GANIM: I don't know that's - I don't know
20 if that's part of -

21 MS. PEREIRA: Yes, it's allowed; it's debatable,
22 Mr. Chair.

23 MAYOR GANIM: I'm not going to allow it. So are
24 there any other nominations

25 MS. PEREIRA: A point of order. Any - anything on

1 the floor is debatable.

2 MAYOR GANIM: You can have it after I'm done
3 chairing. Any - anybody - any other nominations?

4 MS. PEREIRA: No, I don't have a nomination, but
5 I'd like to speak on a nomination.

6 MAYOR GANIM: All right. Let me do this - if
7 there's no objection, I'm going to let you speak. No
8 objection? You have the floor.

9 MS. PEREIRA: Okay. Thank you. I'd like to say
10 that it's important that we have a chair that's going
11 to be able to bridge factions, and John Weldon doesn't
12 represent that.

13 John Weldon participated in the boycott. He was
14 interviewed by the board and specifically asked if he
15 joined the board would he join the boycott. He
16 specifically said no. The minute he was appointed by
17 you, Mr. Mayor, he joined that boycott and never
18 attended a single meeting until Joe Larcheveque was
19 elected.

20 So for him to say here that he never participated
21 is really just kind of absurd because the facts speak
22 otherwise.

23 Number two is Ben has always shown that he can
24 work with anyone. He is likeable. I've had many
25 differences with Ben, but we have always worked through

1 them, because Ben can let it go.

2 I shouldn't be chair, Dennis Bradley shouldn't be
3 chair; John Weldon shouldn't be chair, because I don't
4 know that we exemplify those abilities to bridge
5 factions, to work well with every single person, and
6 that's really important.

7 The chair really only has really a few main roles,
8 is to organize meetings, to set the agenda and to run
9 an organized meeting, and they have to deal with eight
10 other personalities, which is not easy for anybody.
11 But I think that Ben's capable of doing it.

12 So I would ask everybody here to consider making
13 Ben chair, making John Weldon vice chair, or someone
14 else from your - I will support anyone else from that -
15 that side. But by nominating people from both factions,
16 we are building bridges, and I think that's critical on
17 this board. I think people are tired of the factions,
18 the two factions, and that we need to show that we are
19 willing to bridge that - or to repair the relationships
20 that have existed on this board for far too long.
21 Thank you.

22 MAYOR GANIM: Thank you. So there's paper ballots.
23 If you want to distribute the paper ballots - there's
24 two names in nomination. I realize there's eight board
25 members here. And as I understand it, you fill out the

1 paper ballots and they'll be returned, the votes will
2 be counted, who you're going to vote for.

3 Has everyone completed their ballot? I think the
4 answer is yes, so they can returned now to - to -

5 MS. ORTIZ: Alice.

6 MAYOR GANIM: - Ms. Alice, for the record is
7 retrieving the ballots from the eight board members
8 that are in attendance.

9 Unless that's Dennis Bradley, she's going to count
10 the votes. He didn't just walk in, right? Okay.

11 MS. PEREIRA: She has to read out the vote for
12 each member.

13 MS. ORTIZ: There are five for Mr. Weldon and
14 three for Mr. Walker.

15 MAYOR GANIM: Okay. So the vote is five to three
16 for - repeat it, please.

17 MS. ORTIZ: Mr. Weldon.

18 MAYOR GANIM: Mr. Weldon - Mr. Weldon is the - is
19 the new chair or president of the Board of Education.

20 MS. PEREIRA: Mr. Chair -

21 MAYOR GANIM: Congratulations.

22 MS. PEREIRA: You have to read out the vote of
23 every member. That's required in the policy.

24 MS. ORTIZ Maria Pereira voted for Ben Walker; Mr.
25 Walker voted for himself; Mr. Sokolovic voted for Ben

1 Walker. Mr. Illingworth voted for Mr. Weldon; Mr.
2 Weldon voted for himself; Chris Taylor voted for Mr.
3 Weldon; Ms. Allen voted for Mr. Weldon; Jessica
4 Martinez voted for Mr. Weldon.

5 MAYOR GANIM: It's my - my pleasure at this point
6 to turn it over to the able hands of a new president.
7 The attendance sheet is here; you have the agenda. And
8 I'm going to take my flower with me.

9 And can you do the - the other two officers.
10 Thank you.

11 Madam Superintendent, do you want to take - or do
12 you want to wait?

13 SUPT. JOHNSON: I'll wait.

14 MAYOR GANIM: Okay. All right.

15 MR. WELDON: Okay. I'm going to take nominations
16 for the position of vice chair. Are there any
17 nominations?

18 MS. PEREIRA: Yes, I'd like to nominate Ben Walker
19 for vice chair. Again, this is an opportunity to
20 demonstrate that there are not two factions on this
21 board and that you are willing to work with the other
22 side and build bridges. I am nominating Ben.

23 MR. WELDON: Is there a second?

24 MR. SOKOLOVIC: I'll second that.

25 MR. WELDON: Let the record show Maria Pereira

1 just moved Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Sokolovic.

2 Are there any other nominations?

3 MR. SOKOLOVIC: I'd like to - I'd like to nominate
4 Mr. Hernan Illingworth.

5 MS. PEREIRA: The mike - give him the mike.

6 MR. SOKOLOVIC I'm sorry. I would to nominate Mr.
7 Hernan Illingworth for the position of vice chair.

8 MR. WELDON: Okay. Is there a second?

9 MS. MARTINEZ: I second.

10 MR. WELDON: Okay. Let the record show that Mr.
11 Sokolovic has moved Mr. Illingworth for vice chair,
12 seconded by Ms. Martinez. Is there any other
13 nominations? Ms. Ortiz.

14 MS. PEREIRA: You don't need a motion to close
15 nominations?

16 MR. WELDON: Is there such a motion?

17 MS. PEREIRA: Yes. I'd like to make a motion to
18 close nominations. I need a second.

19 MS. MARTINEZ: Second.

20 MR. WALKER: Second.

21 MS. MARTINEZ: I second.

22 MS. PEREIRA: And a vote.

23 MR. WELDON: And a vote. All in favor?

24 ("Ayes" were sounded.)

25 MS. ORTIZ: Mr. Sokolovic voted for Hernan

1 Illingworth; Ms. Martinez voted for Mr. Illingworth;
2 Mr. Illingworth voted for himself; Chris Taylor voted
3 for Mr. Illingworth; John Weldon voted for Mr.
4 Illingworth. Ms. Allen voted for Ben Walker; Mr. Walker
5 voted for himself; Maria Pereira voted for Ben Walker.

6 Five for Mr. Illingworth and three for Mr. Walker.

7 MR. WELDON: Okay. Call for nominations for the
8 office of secretary.

9 MR. ILLINGWORTH: Mr. Chair, I'd like to nominate
10 Jessica Martinez for secretary.

11 MR. WELDON: Is there a second?

12 MR. TAYLOR: I'll second it.

13 MR. WELDON: Are there any other nominations? Mr.
14 Walker.

15 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Weldon. It would be my
16 pleasure to nominate Joseph Sokolovic as the secretary
17 of the Board of Education.

18 MR. WELDON: Is there a second?

19 MS. PEREIRA: I second it.

20 MR. WELDON: Okay. Are there any other
21 nominations. Okay. Motion to close nominations?

22 MS. PEREIRA: Motion to close nominations.

23 MR. ILLINGWORTH: Second.

24 MR. WELDON: Okay. All in favor?

25 ("Ayes" were sounded.)

1 MR. WELDON: Opposed? Okay. Let the record show
2 that Mr. Bradley has arrived.

3 MR. TAYLOR: Late.

4 MR. WELDON: Mr. Bradley, we are now casting
5 ballots for the office of secretary. You have a choice
6 of Jessica Martinez or Joseph Sokolovic.

7 MS. ORTIZ: Three for Mr. Sokolovic; six for Ms.
8 Martinez.

9 MR. WELDON: Would you read the ballots, please,
10 Ms. Ortiz.

11 MS. ORTIZ: Sure thing. Mr. Sokolovic voted for
12 himself; Mr. Walker voted Mr. Sokolovic; Mrs. Pereira
13 voted for Mr. Sokolovic. Ms. Allen voted for Ms.
14 Martinez; Mr. Taylor voted for Ms. Martinez; Mr. Weldon
15 voted for Ms. Martinez; Mr. Illingworth voted for Ms.
16 Martinez; Ms. Martinez voted for herself; and Mr.
17 Bradley voted for Ms. Martinez.

18 MR. WELDON: Okay. Next on the agenda is the
19 approval of minutes. Is there a motion to approve?

20 MR. ILLINGWORTH: Yes, Mr. -

21 MS. PEREIRA: Motion to approve the minutes. I
22 think there's only four voting members.

23 MR. WELDON: Who were at that meeting, yes. Is
24 there someone -

25 MR. WELDON: Mr. Weldon.

1 MR. WELDON: Yes.

2 MR. WALKER: I would make a motion that we approve
3 the minutes from the last organizational meeting of
4 2016.

5 MS. PEREIRA: I second it.

6 MR. WELDON: Okay. Is there any discussions,
7 corrections?

8 Okay. All in favor?

9 ("Ayes" were sounded.)

10 MR. WELDON: Opposed? Hearing none.

11 MS. PEREIRA: Abstentions.

12 MR. ILLINGWORTH: Abstain.

13 MR. SOKOLOVIC: Abstain.

14 MR. TAYLOR: Abstain

15 MS. MARTINEZ: Abstain

16 MR. WELDON: All right. The minutes are approved.

17 MR. WELDON: I'd like to entertain a motion to
18 adjourn.

19 MS. ORTIZ: Motion to adjourn.

20 MR. ILLINGWORTH: Second.

21 MR. WELDON: All in favor?

22 ("Ayes" were sounded.)

23 (The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.)

24 *APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON DECEMBER 10, 2018*

25

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A
TRUE AND ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF THE OFFICIAL
TAPE RECORDING OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL
MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION,
BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL AQUACULTURE
SCHOOL, 60 ST. STEPHENS ROAD, BRIDGEPORT,
CONNECTICUT, ON DECEMBER 11, 2017.

DATED THIS 15TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2017.

JOHN McLEOD