

BOARD OF EDUCATION

City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD cont.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

MICHAEL J. TESTANI
Superintendent of Schools

JOHN R. WELDON
Chairman

HERNAN ILLINGWORTH
Vice-Chairman

BOBBI BROWN
Secretary



"Changing Futures and Achieving Excellence Together"

SYBIL ALLEN

ALBERT BENEJAN

JOSEPH J. LOMBARD

JESSICA MARTINEZ

JOSEPH SOKOLOVIC

CHRIS TAYLOR

Bridgeport, Connecticut

October 7, 2020

Board Members:

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. via a Microsoft Teams Live Broadcast event. Public viewing access to the meeting will be made available through <https://www.bridgeportedu.net/stream>.

Bobbi Brown
Board of Education Secretary

**BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**

**Monday, October 13, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.
Microsoft Teams Live Broadcast Event
Bridgeport, CT**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 4. Public Comment (Agenda Items Only)**
- 5. Approval of Board Minutes**
 - a) 09/14/20 Regular Meeting
 - b) 10/01/20 Special Meeting
- 6. Chairman's Report**
- 7. Committee Reports/Referrals**
 - a) Educational Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - b) Facilities
 - c) Finance
 - d) Governance
 - e) Personnel
 - f) Students and Families
 - g) Teaching and Learning
- 8. Superintendent's Report**
- 9. Old Business – None to be Transacted**
- 10. New Business**
 - a) Discussion and Possible Approval of Basketball Court Repairs for Wilbur Cross School
 - b) First Read and Discussion of Revised Policy No. 5116a: Controlled Transfers
- 11. Adjourn**

Monday, September 14, 2020

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held September 14, 2020, at Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School and by video call, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. Present were members Chair John Weldon, Vice Chair Hernan Illingworth, Secretary Bobbi Brown, Jessica Martinez, Albert Benejan, Sybil Allen, Joseph Sokolovic, and Joseph Lombard.

Acting Superintendent Michael J. Testani was present

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Weldon said public comment was only allowed on agenda items. He said due to the way the board was operating with remote public comment he was trying to keep the focus on agenda items only.

Ms. Martinez said she believed the public had a lot of questions.

Gail Janensch said she has contacted many board members to get students registered to vote.

Craig Kelly said he was in support of the Males of Color Committee. He noted most students in the district are students of color. He said the committee would help the students grow and cultivate their skills.

Sauda Baraka said as a former twelve-year board member and former board chair she was opposed to dissolving the

Males of Color Committee. She said it was imperative to have a committee devoted to males of color, which includes public participation. She said the committee supported gathering and analyzing data to develop best practices to impact the success of males of color. She said the goal was to establish a district office on the issue. She said white supremacy reared its ugly head until Dr. Johnson became superintendent and provided funding. She said the committee had no opportunity to review the white paper before it was submitted. She said the committee needed to move forward on its recommendations, particularly to establish an office.

Lyle Hassan-Jones spoke in support of the Males of Color Committee. He said it helps young boys of color who need support and helps them avoid gang violence and other social ills and can put them on a path to lead a law-abiding and productive life. He said this is needed this now more than ever with this climate of racial injustice, systemic racism, and outright killing of black males. He said this is a win-win for all of us in Bridgeport, with 78 percent of the population being black and Hispanic.

Connie Johnson said as native of Bridgeport she takes pride in being a person of color. She said she supported Ms. Baraka's comments on the importance of the Males of Color Committee. She said anyone else outside of a male of color should not even suggest a change in the committee. She said the process of whitewashing that took place in Detroit that she observed is now being done in Bridgeport.

Terry Walden said as a committee member he was opposed to any change in the name and focus of the Males of Color Committee. He said the committee had put in a lot of work in, including the white paper that was created.

JoAnn Kennedy, born and raised in Bridgeport, said she participated in the Males of Color Committee and descried some of the committee members who were doing the work. She said the focus of the committee should be males of color because once the problem is fixed everybody benefits and they are the population most at risk. She said the committee was not made aware that the white paper was being presented to the board.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:

Ms. Allen moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 24, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth and unanimously approved.

Ms. Allen moved approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 24, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth and unanimously approved.

CHAIR REPORT:

Mr. Weldon said schools have been opened. He acknowledged the hard work being put in by the students and staff despite the difficult situation and the adjustments that have been necessary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/REFERRALS:

Mr. Illingworth reported on the Facilities Committee meeting of September 3rd. He said there were items later on in the agenda that he would seek approval for.

Mr. Benejan referred to the Facilities Committee a report from the IT Department and information about security.

Mr. Sokolovic said the Finance Committee would meet at an undetermined date next week.

Mr. Illingworth said the Governance Committee met on September 3rd and discussed Policy 5158 changes and started a conversation around the control transfer policy.

Mr. Sokolovic said the Teaching and Learning Committee would meet at an undetermined date next week.

Mr. Benejan said the Students and Families Committee would meet on September 24, 2020.

Ms. Martinez said she would like to refer the possibility of public comments going through the Students & Families Committee and to consider holding board meetings at a larger location to get public comments in person. She said she had received a large number of inquiries from the public about what is going on in the district.

Ms. Brown said she had a referral about outside organizations doing presentations in the schools such as for voter registration or the grandparents program. Supt. Testani said that could be discussed through his office.

Mr. Sokolovic reported on the Ad Hoc Committee Great Cities School/Males of Color. He said this would be his last report on the committee because he was resigning as chair effectively immediately. He said he had nothing left of value to contribute to the temporary committee.

Mr. Sokolovic said the committee was established in mid-November 2014 by Ms. Baraka as a temporary committee with work expected to last about one year. He said while

Ms. Baraka was chair there were some accomplishments, including a wonderful community forum. When Ms. Baraka left the board in December 2017 the white paper was incomplete. Work by the committee stalled in the next year when the new chairman did not call a single meeting.

Mr. Sokolovic said he became chair when the prior chair was elected to another office. He said he revitalized the committee through working with a great group of hardworking people and much was accomplished. New mentorship programs were established, a second community forum was held, and the white paper was completed within 18 months. He said he fought hard to keep the temporary committee in existence during that time period.

Mr. Sokolovic said it was now time to move forward with work on the issues raised in the white paper through a new committee. The new committee, if approved, will be a standing board committee on educational diversity, equity and inclusion, and will take on all issues with males of color as a natural focal point. All programs established by the ad hoc committee will continue.

Ms. Martinez thanked Mr. Sokolovic for his thorough report. Mr. Sokolovic said it was his idea to change the name and focus of the committee. He said he was insulted to hear about a white male suggesting a name change because it was a white male that kept the committee going. He said having a permanent committee was important because the problems could not be solved overnight.

In response to a question, Mr. Sokolovic said the mentorship program by the Buddy Jordan Foundation should be continuing, although he did not know the exact arrangements due to the virus.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/AGENDA:

Supt. Testani said he has discussed the Males of Color Committee with Mr. Sokolovic. He said the district is committed to all the programming that has come out of the committee, including the mentoring program for middle and high school students, and expanding the work in the future.

The superintendent said we are five days through the school year. He said there have been bumps in the road, including with technology, but things are going extremely well. He said he had visited about 16 schools so far, and it has been incredible to see the excitement on students' faces at being back in school. He said 99.9 percent of the teachers are excited and enthusiastic.

Supt. Testani said two staff members at Tisdale School tested positive over the weekend and the school has switched to fully remote for the rest of the week. There was a deep cleaning of the building. Optimus Health will hold testing at Tisdale for anyone in the district who wishes to be tested.

Supt. Testani said a student tested positive at Park City Magnet. The district worked with the department of health to implement protocols. He said the four core teachers who rotated into that class were quarantined and the students in the classroom will receive remote learning for the next two weeks. The school will also be thoroughly cleaned and a testing site will set up in the parking lot on this Friday.

The superintendent said he has worked BEA president Ana Batista and the CEA rep Eric Marshall on precautions to protect staff and their families. He said the preparation that

took place in the summer was valuable in dealing with the incidents that have taken place.

In response to a question, the superintendent said the quarantine at Tisdale is for people who came in close, extended proximity to the individual who tested positive, not the entire school. The school was closed because two persons tested positive within the same school in a close period of time because it is considered an outbreak by the health department.

In response to a question, the superintendent said only 7th and 8th grade classes were put on remote learning.

Supt. Testani said the decisions were made after discussions with the Health Department's director, Lisa Morrissey.

The superintendent said unfortunately there is a lot of misinformation that is being presented on social media about the district. He said even when he has reached out to parents regarding social media posts it has proven counterproductive. In many cases accurate information is being drowned out by misinformation. He said deliberate processes and protocols are in place. He said privacy laws about people who test positive make it difficult to immediately provide information to the media.

Supt Testani said he was trying to streamline the information flow so it comes from his office or the health department. He said that as stated at numerous board meetings the district has sufficient PPE in all our buildings and sufficient supplies. He said this was contrary to the claims of an anonymous staff member to News 12. He said he gives a ton of credit to

principals for their efforts in distributing PPE, making sure plexiglass is in place, and distributing devices.

Mr. Benejan said he was going to be very honest; he said he was disappointed the superintendent was saying everything is fine. He said some staff would love to present to Mr. Testani what is going wrong, but they are afraid to approach him about the real situation. He said principals are closing doors to the concerns of parents.

Supt, Testani he did not say things were perfect. He said contrary to a question, Curiale School did have a nurse. He said a full-time nurse is being sought for every school but unfortunately they can't be found, despite reaching out to outside agencies. He said during the COVID climate nurses can make a lot more money working in hospitals and other places. He said right now some nurses are splitting their time between buildings. The district has an obligation under the law to provide nurses to Catholic schools in the city, so Black Rock School is sharing a nurse with nearby St. Ann's.

Mr. Benejan said since schools have been closed for five months at least 90 percent of everything should have been ready. He said the situation was not acceptable. Supt. Testani said he did not understand what was not ready.

Mr. Illingworth said he appreciates the efforts of the superintendent and everyone because it is not an easy situation. He said he believed the plan has been applied with the incidents at two schools. He said the superintendent could never control social media; he urged the Facebook Live events continue. He noted that some people never wanted to reopen the schools and would attempt sabotage what we're trying to do. He said he had personally seen the PPE that the district has accumulated.

In response to a question, Supt. Testani said there has been an increase in the number of students attending in person since opening; some schools and some grade levels more than others. So far numbers have not reached close to class size, but some students rotate into remote learning for one day a week. He said live streaming in pre-K to Grade 3 simultaneously with in-person classes is not effective. He said there was a meeting to discuss options and a plan will be created to present for consideration. He said the situation was an extreme hardship for those elementary teachers. He added any change in the schedule would be a couple of weeks down the road to give parents plenty of notice.

Mr. Lombard said people have strong emotions on both sides and sometimes misinformation is intentionally planted.

Ms. Martinez said despite the frustrations and the setbacks it is not fair to say we were not prepared to open. She said oftentimes members of the public, including parent leaders, come to the board members. She said she believed the district was doing all it can.

In response to a question, Mr. Testani said there is a nurse coverage in every school. He said he will find out tomorrow if Beardsley School has a full-time nurse or not.

In response to a question, the superintendent said children are allowed to be closer than six feet to each other when everyone is masked.

Ms. Martinez said she had received a lot of e-mails indicating that the superintendent did not care, which she said was not the case. She said she wanted to be sure we

were respecting the opinions and voice of even the naysayers. She said it hurts to hear people going against each other in Bridgeport, and there should be more unity and effective communication among the board members.

In response to a question, Supt. Testani said Multicultural Magnet was one of the schools where some classes are getting large and Dr. Planas is putting in a contingency plan to rotate some students out each day to maintain a safe class size. He noted the BEA did not sanction the rally that was held about safe schools. He said he respected everyone's right to freedom of speech as long as it doesn't impede on others' rights to a free public education. He said his letter was intended to remind people that we need to stand up for our children.

Supt. Testani said to put it in perspective the BEA has over 1400 members and a small group of maybe 40 folks feel things are not safe.

In response to a question, the superintendent said the situation is continually being evaluated on a district and building level every day. This is how the pre-K to Grade 3 problems were discovered. He said the high school situation seems to be better than it was in the spring.

Mr. Weldon said he appreciated the efforts of Mr. Testani and the executive staff; he said the board should be careful not to overload what the staff needs to do. He said he appreciated the long hours and all the work Mr. Testani was putting in. He suggested the weekly Facebook Live sessions be held again. The superintendent said one would be held this Friday.

Supt. Testani said the state health department has not changed on categorizing football as a high-risk sport. There are possibilities of football being played in February to April. Workouts for football players resumed today, with cohorts of no more than ten. Participants must be in-person students. He said conditioning for football at charter schools would not take place because we don't have cohorting or contact tracing. He said the district was currently looking to hire a football coach for Central High.

The superintendent said he believed some people were on the fine line between advocacy and incitement. He said he was disappointed that coaching staff are inciting parents about losing opportunities if they do not get to play football now. He said parents have called him every name in the book. He said he was a sports guy who coached at Harding for many years, but we cannot go against the recommendation of the Department of Public Health.

The superintendent said it was troubling that it appeared a letter written by a principal was sent to the *Connecticut Post* by one of two people to try to incite others to advocate for a personal wish. He said these things are happening at the same school with the same program. He said action will have to be taken to correct this behavior.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next item was discussion and approval of basketball court repairs at Curiale and Barnum Schools. Brett Gustafson, principal of Curiale School, said them after was discussed and approved by the Facilities committee. The courts will be provided by Full Court Peace at no cost to the board.

Mr. Illingworth thanked the outside organization for providing the courts. He said it was vetted through the facilities department.

Ms. Brown moved “*to approve basketball court repairs at Curiale and Barnum Schools.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was discussion and possible approval of revisions to Policy 5158, the policy concerning Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Carli Rocha-Reaes, the new 504 coordinator, said the policy, which covers parties with disabilities, was last revised in 2012 and contained outdated contact information. Ms. Altro-Dixon was added as the contact for adults who had complaints with 504 procedures. The grievance policy has been revised and updated.

In response to a question, Ms. Rocha-Reaes said he could collect data on the percentage of students classified under 405 and provide it to the board.

Mr. Illingworth said the change was approved by the Governance Committee and is in dire need of updating.

In response to a question, Supt. Testani said the state requires a designated individual be listed, not a job title.

Mr. Illingworth moved “*to suspend the rules of reading the policy three times in the record.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen and approved by a 7-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Lombard, Sokolovic, Benejan, Weldon, Brown, Illingworth, and Allen. Ms. Martinez abstained.

Ms. Allen moved *“to approve the revisions to Policy number 5158m which is the policy concerning Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as it has been presented by staff.”* The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on installation/dedication of bench at Fairchild Wheeler in memory of Patricia Lopez, a teacher at the Aerospace School. Principal Jay Lipp said Ms. Lopez, a second-year teacher, passed away last year. He said Teach for America has bought the memorial bench for her and it is proposed to place it right near the handicapped parking, which was approved by the facilities department.

Ms. Brown moved *“to approve the installation/dedication of the bench at Fairchild Wheeler Campus in memory of Patricia Lopez, a teacher at Fairchild Wheeler Aerospace.”* The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was discussion and possible acceptance/approval of alterations to Dunbar Elementary School, state project number 015-0171A/EC

Mr. Illingworth said this went through the Facilities Committee. The project was completed and they need to close the books so the state can reimburse the city. There are no issues to report with the project.

Mr. Benejan said Mr. Wallack committed to providing the cost of the project, but he did not receive it.

Ms. Allen moved *“to accept and approve the project of alterations to Dunbar Elementary School, state project*

number 015-0171A/EC.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and unanimously approved.

The next item was on approval of additions and alterations to Black Rock School, state project number 015-0172EA.

Ms. Allen moved “*to accept and approve the project consisting of additions and alterations to Black Rock School, which is known as state project number 015-0172EA.*” The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth and approved by a 6-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Weldon, Illingworth, Sokolovic, Lombard, Allen, and Martinez. Ms. Brown and Mr. Benejan abstained.

The next item was on approval/acceptance of code compliance alterations to Columbus School, known as state project number 015-0164EA.

Mr. Illingworth moved “*to accept and approve the code compliance alterations to Columbus School, which is known as state project number 015-0164EA.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen.

The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Weldon, Illingworth, Sokolovic, Lombard, Allen, Brown, and Martinez. Mr. Benejan abstained.

The next agenda item was on an MOU with BEA regarding work schedules.

Supt. Testani said the item was for information. An agreement was entered into with the BEA due to the COVID situation. The day for dismissal of elementary students is ending 35 minutes early, so teachers are guaranteed their prep time and duty-free lunch, while doing double duty with

remote and in-person teaching. He said this could be subject to change.

The superintendent said high school students are allowed into the classrooms a little early, so teachers are coming in by 7:30, with school being dismissed thirty minutes early. He said the board attorneys were involved in the negotiations.

Mr. Weldon said the board did not need to approve it because there is no financial impact.

Mr. Sokolovic said the agreement is a testament to how the board, the superintendent, and unions worked together during this time of stress. He said it put in perspective that the 50 or 60 persons protesting are not the majority of the union.

Mr. Weldon said he agreed and noted management and labor are often at odds with each other, but here they were working together for the best benefit of the district. He thanked the BEA president and Supt. Testani.

The next item was to dissolve the Ad Hoc Committee on Great City Schools/Males of Color and to create a standing committee on educational diversity, equity and inclusion.

Ms. Martinez moved to table this item until we get information on what the new committee would look like and how it would continue to include the males of color. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown.

Mr. Illingworth said the ad hoc committee had been around for a long time and Mr. Sokolovic's leadership brought it to the finish line and developed the white paper. He said he

had some questions on the future committee, but he did not agree with tabling the matter.

Mr. Lombard said he wanted more discussion about this. Ms. Brown said she was not familiar with what was done previously before she came on the board.

Mr. Sokolovic said currently the ad hoc committee has no chair. He asked if there was a volunteer if the committee was going to continue.

Mr. Sokolovic said he believed the proposed standing committee would pick up where the white paper left off, which is laid out on page 43. It would include equity audits, implicit bias training, review of systems and structure, professional development, and other items. He said the committee would still deal with males of color, with all current efforts continuing. He said he hoped the committee would be diverse. He said the only board member on the ad hoc committee was a Caucasian.

Mr. Lombard said the public comment emphasized the need for a focus for males of color.

Supt. Testani said it was important to separate the programs from the committee. The programs will continue and be improved. He said he'd like to see larger numbers at the middle school level. He said he believed the new committee would include approaches for more at-risk students.

Mr. Sokolovic said he could not describe in detail what the new committee would look like because that will determine once its members are assembled. He said it would pick up after the white paper and include audits of what is working and not working.

Ms. Martinez said she could not vote on this because it is not clear what it will look like. She said she believed the ad hoc committee should have been gone long ago. She said she believed the new committee would take away focus from males of color.

Mr. Sokolovic suggested Ms. Martinez chair the Males of Color Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Martinez said she needed more information to vote tonight. She suggested the new committee include subcommittees.

Mr. Sokolovic noted the majority of the writing of the white paper was done by district staff. He said some of the public speakers tonight did not attend a single committee meeting as far he knows. The superintendent said if it was going to be a committee of the board it can't rest on the shoulders of staff members who already have full plates.

Ms. Martinez withdrew her motion.

Mr. Sokolovic moved *"to dissolve the Ad Hoc Committee Great City Schools/Males of Color and in its place to create a standing board committee on educational diversity, equity and inclusion."* The motion was seconded by Mr. Weldon.

The motion was approved by a 4-1 vote. Voting in favor were members Illingworth, Lombard, Sokolovic, and Weldon. Ms. Martinez was opposed. Ms. Brown, Mr. Benejan, and Ms. Allen abstained.

Mr. Sokolovic, Mr. Illingworth, and Ms. Brown expressed interest in serving on the new committee. Mr. Weldon said he would finalize the appointments at the next Regular Meeting.

Mr. Illingworth moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Draft

Thursday, October 1, 2020

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held October 1, 2020, by video call, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. Present were members Chair John Weldon, Vice Chair Hernan Illingworth, Secretary Bobbi Brown, Joseph Sokolovic, and Albert Benejan.

Superintendent Michael J. Testani was present.

The first agenda item was discussion and approval of the FY2020-21 budget. Mr. Weldon said the item was presented last week at the Finance Committee.

Marlene Siegel, chief financial officer, said she would describe briefly the 2020-21 budget gap plan, which was displayed on the screen.

Ms. Siegel said the district ended the 2019-20 fiscal year with a surplus of about \$6.7 million and opened the 2020-21 fiscal year with a structurally balanced budget. The plan includes a monetary need for \$14.5 million for the 2020-21 budget.

Ms. Siegel said the revenue, budget adjustments and savings, including the surplus, total a shortage of about \$2 million, which is subsequently covered.

Ms. Siegel said the Alliance/ECS addition was about \$2.3 million, \$500,000 lower than originally anticipated and there are city contributions of about \$3.5 million.

Ms. Siegel said the \$2 million shortage is eliminated by actions including deficit prevention mode. After taking further actions, the result is a projected surplus of about \$3.4 million. She said there are variables that impact the budget throughout the year, but she was cautiously optimistic that the \$3.4 million will remain on reserve and available to apply to the 2021-22 budget.

Ms. Siegel said food and nutrition in 2019-20 was turned from a projected shortfall into a surplus of approximately \$900,000, which also includes a potential liability of payments to personnel of \$200,000.

Ms. Brown said she believed Ms. Siegel clarified the confusion that was published online about the budget at a prior meeting.

Mr. Benejan said he was glad Ms. Siegel clarified how the board is spending the money. In response to a question, Ms. Siegel said the budget contained a chart on grants that will be shared with the Finance Committee at the next meeting.

In response to a question, Ms. Siegel said surplus funds have been placed primarily in the Internal Service Fund (ISF) and Title I as part of carryover. She said she was able to work with Ken Flatto, the city's director of finance, to move the surplus into the board's ISF.

In response to a question, Ms. Siegel said the district is audited every year by Blum, Shapiro, which is currently engaged in the 2020 audit. She said Liz Maurer files reports which are certified by the superintendent and the auditors are now involved in the final stage. She said the auditors

review procurement and payroll transactions, and budgetary information.

In response to a question, Ms. Siegel and Ms. Maurer said the board's books have never been found to have a major discrepancy by audits.

Supt. Testani said the only reason the district ended with a surplus was because it was closed and able to successfully negotiate a reduction in payments with the transportation company and other savings from not being open. He said Ms. Siegel and her team is great on being cautious and keeping everyone fiscally responsible. He said he objected to things on social media questioning the board's surplus. He said the district remains underfunded.

Mr. Weldon said the \$6 million surplus equates to roughly 2.5 percent of the budget. He said he has advocated for the auditors giving a presentation to the board when they complete their work.

Mr. Illingworth moved "*to adopt the Fiscal Year 20-21 budget based on the presentation given by the CFO.*" The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on separating in-person and remote learning in Grades pre-K to 8. Mr. Weldon said the superintendent was not requesting any board action on this matter.

Supt. Testani said there was some early panic and anxiety about teaching about 45 percent of students by live streaming, particularly in primary grades. He said he believed teachers were becoming more comfortable with the

situation. He described it as challenging like a new job for teachers.

The superintendent said in the next couple of weeks there will be about four hours of professional development for teachers. He said technology is getting into the hands of all students, and the new devices are arriving at a more manageable rate.

Supt. Testani said the executive directors have been working with principals to support the needs of the building administrations.

Mr. Weldon said tomorrow would mark the completion of four weeks of schools being open. He said he believed overall it had been very successful and staff has risen to the challenge.

Mr. Sokolovic said as a parent of a public school student he had seen both remote and in-person instruction because of the closing of Park City Magnet. He said the teachers are doing a bang-up job. He said he had observed teachers returning assignments and grading papers online even late at night. He said this gets lost in the complaints on social media.

Mr. Illingworth said the teachers were doing a phenomenal job in coping with the situation. He said it is not easy teaching students remotely, especially younger children.

Supt. Testani said we're trying to provide more guidance to primary grade teachers to break up the day differently.

The superintendent said as of yesterday there are a little over 10,500 students attending regularly in person and about

8,800 remote students. He said parents were asked to commit to an in-person option by yesterday, which would run through the December break. He said parents can opt for remote learning at any time. Principals have discretion to make decisions in this area.

Supt. Testani said a dashboard has been launched on the website giving the number of in-person learners, the number of COVID-positive students and staff, and the number of locations impacted.

The superintendent said there is a checklist on the website informing parents that students who are ill should not come to school in person. There is also a family guide in English and Spanish for distance learning. He said the district was being as transparent as possible and providing as much information as possible. He said when the district learns of a positive case there are very specific protocols and decisions that are made in conjunction with Ms. Morrissey and the staff at the city's health department.

Supt. Testani said he would be releasing a letter tomorrow indicating that through contact tracing there are no cases directly related to the reopening of school. He said from discussions with colleagues in other districts the cases are typically tied to outside activities.

Mr. Weldon noted when cases are discovered they are handled on an individual basis based on what is best for each building and each situation.

In response to a question, the superintendent said he believed the students had done an excellent job in wearing masks and following rules. He said from what he has observed students are coming to school with their own

masks, although the district has masks available in each school.

Mr. Illingworth said the superintendent and the administration had done a phenomenal job in being proactive. He said the numbers speak louder than words, and the schools are safe.

The superintendent said he has observed the custodial staff being diligent about the sanitizing of buildings. He said people are feeling more confident day by day in the schools.

Supt. Testani said as of the latest numbers there were 16 COVID confirmed cases districtwide, four of which are staff. There have been three cases that have had symptoms.

Ms. Brown said Mr. Testani and the staff had been doing a good job of getting ahead of the story, particularly in light of confusing information online.

Mr. Benejan said he believed it was obvious when Mr. Testani showed up at a building that everything was okay. Supt. Testani said his visits to schools are not announced in advance.

In response to a question, Supt. Testani he had nothing to gain and a lot to lose if the district does not report a positive case.

Mr. Sokolovic said it appears there is one building that had three cases, which was an outlier. Supt. Testani said that case involved siblings. He urged people who get a phone call about contact tracing to cooperate because there is no blame game.

Mr. Sokolovic moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Benejan and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Draft



FULL COURT PEACE

Proposal to Repair Basketball Court at Wilbur Cross School, Bridgeport

Overview

Full Court Peace (FCP), a Norwalk-based nonprofit that unites and strengthens local communities through basketball, would like to repaint the outdoor basketball court at Wilbur Cross School and replace its basketball hoops with brand new hoops. The organization will cover all expenses related to this project. The work will be carried out by FCP high school volunteers, as well as members of the local community. All work will be adult supervised; the baskets will be replaced by Sport Court of Connecticut.

About FCP

Full Court Peace started in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 2006, where it brought together teenagers from rivaling Protestant and Catholic communities to play basketball together. Since 2013, FCP has run camps, service projects and high school clubs to bring together the suburban and city communities in Fairfield County, Connecticut.

A board of directors manages FCP and Mike Evans, a teacher and basketball coach, is the volunteer Executive Director. Its 501(c)3 number is 27-1107358. Its website is www.fullcourtpeace.org.

Middle and high school aged boys from 11 towns and cities have attended our camps, repaired basketball courts with us and formed their own high school clubs. Those towns and cities are Weston, Wilton, Bridgeport, Ridgefield, New Canaan, Norwalk, Darien, Fairfield, Stamford, Danbury and Orange.

The organization has repaired 12 different basketball courts, the majority located within public housing facilities; each court has required roughly \$3,000 raised in order to provide new baskets, to repair asphalt and apply new coats of paint.

FCP has run five years of weeklong camps for 250 area youth, more than half of which were provided free transportation, uniforms, admission to camp and daily lunches.

FCP's six high school clubs, which average 10 members each, have raised over \$50,000 for local basketball needs in disadvantaged neighborhoods; using their funding, FCP has given out over 500 basketballs to young people, sponsored two years of travel basketball expenses for Bridgeport middle school girls and supplied two different tournaments with t-shirts and basketballs.

In 2017, FCP organized a basketball clinic for world refugees living in Bridgeport. Eritrean, Syrian and Congolese boys met with boys from New Canaan to learn basketball skills. Each of the 15 refugees received a basketball and a meal provided by FCP.

Finally, with its partner organization, Full Court Peace Travel, LLC, FCP has provided over \$30,000 of funding for 15 Connecticut boys from disadvantaged backgrounds to travel to Havana, Cuba for basketball-centric mission trips.

Logistics

The organization would like to carry out this work at Wilbur Cross in October, 2020. A fully-insured organization, any additionally insured certificates of insurance requested by the school, the city of Bridgeport or other entities, will be provided by FCP.

Budget

<u>Item</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Total</u>
Paint (cans)	10	\$20	\$200
Painting Materials	1	\$200	\$200
New Basketball Hoops	2	\$1,500	\$3,000
Total			\$3,400

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or needs for additional information.

Sincerely,

Mike Evans
203.606.9549 | mike@fullcourtpeace.org



BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION

CONTROLLED TRANSFER POLICY

It is the policy of the Bridgeport Board of Education that students shall attend schools based upon geographic district lines. Exceptions to this policy are permitted under the **Controlled Transfer Policy**, which permits transfers to other schools within Bridgeport. **TRANSPORTATION WILL NOT BE PROVIDED FOR CONTROLLED TRANSFERS.**

A. The procedure for applying for a Controlled Transfer is as follows:

1. Applicants may pick up an application, as well as a policy statement, at the Office of Student Choice www.bridgeportedu.com click PARENT tab followed by SCHOOL CHOICE
2. The application must be filled out and returned to Office of Student Choice, Room 302, City Hall 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, and Ct 06604.
3. The application will be reviewed and a decision will be made in writing to the applicant.
4. A copy of the application and the approval or denial letter will be kept on file in the Office of Student Choice.
5. This policy does not apply to BPS Magnet Schools.

B. A Controlled Transfer will be granted under the following conditions:

1. A Controlled Transfer may be granted into classrooms where the current enrollment in grades K and one (1) is less than 23, in grades 2 through 8 with enrollments less than 28 students. In grades 9- 12, a controlled transfer application may be granted on a case by case basis by Central Office administration.

C. Procedure for revoking a Controlled Transfer:

1. Controlled Transfer applicants will be informed, in writing, that the Controlled Transfer will be revoked at any time for the following reasons:
 - Violation of the Code of Conduct Attendance policy or a Type 3 Code of Conduct Disciplinary Offense
 - The letter informing the parent of the controlled transfer revocation will reference the Code of Conduct disciplinary violation and include a copy from the Code of Conduct
 - After the completion marking period 2, any controlled transfer that is revoked will not take effect until the beginning of the next school year
 - If the student does not meet the terms of the Controlled Transfer for discipline, attendance and/or tardiness the following procedure is implemented:
 - The principal will contact the parent/guardian in writing to warn that the student could have his/her Controlled Transfer revoked according to the provisions outlined in the letter granting the Controlled Transfer. A copy of the letter will be sent to the Office of Student Choice - letter #1.
 - If the student continues to violate the Controlled Transfer Policy, a second letter will be sent to the parent/guardian. A copy of the letter will be sent to the Office of Student Choice - letter # 2.
 - Upon the third violation of the Controlled Transfer Policy, the Office of Student Choice will confer with the appropriate assistant superintendent and make a determination as to whether the Controlled Transfer should be revoked.
 - Should the request for revocation be approved, the Office of Student Choice will notify the principal of the Controlled Transfer assigned school and the new district school of the decision to revoke the Controlled Transfer and to assign the student to the new district school. A third and final letter will be sent to the parent/guardian from the Office of Student Choice revoking the controlled transfer.
 - Until the student has reported to the district school, the principal from the Controlled Transfer assigned school assists in the transfer to the new district school. This may entail phone calls, home visits or referrals to the appropriate agencies.

D. Appeal Process

- If the applicant disagrees with the decision, they will have 15 business days from receipt of the decision to appeal.
- The Controlled Transfer will remain in effect during the appeal process for a revocation
- Lack of space at the Controlled Transfer assigned school will be cause for immediate revocation, even while pending the outcome of an appeal.

E. Procedure for appeals is as follows:

- a. Applicant must, in writing, request that the Office of Student Choice have an Assistant Superintendent of Schools review the application.
- b. The Assistant Superintendent will review each appeal application and render a decision in writing to the applicant within ten (10) business days.
- c. If the applicant is still not satisfied with the Assistant Superintendent's decision, the applicant can request, in writing, that the Superintendent of Schools review the decision.
- d. The Superintendent will review each appeal application submitted to them from the Assistant Superintendent and render a decision in writing to the applicant within fifteen (15) business days.
- e. If the applicant is still not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision, the applicant can request, in writing, a meeting with the Board of Education.
- f. The Board of Education will schedule a meeting with the applicant and review their application. A final decision on the appeal will be rendered by the Board of Education within ten (10) business days after the meeting
- g. Should the appeal process timelines not be followed by the administration, the appeal will be upheld.

Controlled Transfer Policy (Policy No. 5116a) – Draft 10/5/2020

It is the policy of the Bridgeport Board of Education that students shall attend schools based upon geographic district lines. Exceptions to this policy are permitted under this Controlled Transfer Policy, which permits transfers to other schools within Bridgeport in accordance with the following.

Once Bridgeport residency has been established in accordance with State law, students shall attend the school designated for that residence. Attendance areas are established by the Board of Education.

A student may be granted a change in attendance area at the Superintendent's discretion if space and program are available and for a specific demonstrable need. The Superintendent's decision shall be made with the best interest of the school district in mind. Irrespective of demonstrable need, a student may be permitted to complete the school year in their previously assigned attendance area if the student has moved within Bridgeport and has started the school year. **No transportation shall be provided to these students.** If the move occurs during grade five (5), grade seven (7), or grade eleven (11), the student will be permitted to attend grade six (6) in K-6 schools, grade eight (8), or grade twelve (12), respectively in the school the student had been attending with the requirement that the student will follow the middle school or high school assignment designated for the residence. **Siblings are not included as part of this provision.**

In the interest of the student, the District anticipates maintaining an out-of-attendance area placement for the duration of the school level in which the out-of-attendance area placement is initially granted (elementary school, middle school, high school). However, a parent or guardian shall not accept an out-of-attendance area placement without the full understanding that such placement may be subject to an annual review by the Superintendent or designee and may be withdrawn if it is in the best interest of the school district.

Transportation of out-of-attendance area students will be provided to and from the alternate school by the parents or guardians. **The District will not provide transportation.**

In the event of redistricting, the Board may consider modifications to this policy to accommodate circumstances created by the redistricting plan.

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS STAFF MOVEMENTS
As of October 6, 2020

I. PROBATIONARY HIRES

	NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
1.	LAUREN BRAINARD	CLAYTOR	2 ND GRADE	10/13/2020
2.	KIMBERLY MCGUIRE	CITY HALL	HR ASSOCIATE	10/05/2020
3.	MONICA MONTEIRO	BRYANT	KINDERGARTEN	10/09/2020
4.	JOANNE SCHONBERG	BASSICK	SPED	09/29/2020

II. RETIREMENTS

	NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION	YEARS of SERVICE	EFFECTIVE
	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

III. SEPARATIONS

	NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION	EFFECTIVE	REASON
1.	KRISTEN BASALA-CAVALIERE	CITY HALL	SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR	10/09/2020	PERSONAL
2.	LOUISE BEECHER	HALLEN	SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST	10/25/2020	PERSONAL
3.	MICHELE FULLER	DUNBAR	ART	10/29/2020	PERSONAL
4.	ALISON MINCARELLI	CURIALE	ENGLISH	10/05/2020	PERSONAL
5.	AMY WILSON	MARIN	MATH	10/22/2020	PERSONAL