

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 [*Corrected*]

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held October 10, 2017, at Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science & Technology Education Center, 60 St. Stephens Road, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present were Chair Joe Larcheveque, Vice President Sauda Baraka, Secretary John Weldon, Maria Pereira, and Ben Walker. Dennis Bradley arrived subsequently as noted.

Supt. Dr. Aresta Johnson was in attendance.

Mr. Larcheveque announced a Spanish interpreter was available for anyone who needed it.

RECOGNITIONS:

Fifth graders from Discovery Interdistrict Magnet School performed the song "In Havana." Principal Sangeet Bella said the song was in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The students were led by teacher Joe Kiernan

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Shanoye Ho-Sang of Harding High reported on her school. Among the items she highlighted were a celebration of the 366 students with perfect attendance, restorative and team-building activities, a breast cancer awareness campaign, the upcoming PSAT and SAT exams tomorrow, the football's team defeat of state champions Hillhouse, and winning streaks of the girls' volleyball and boys' and girls' soccer teams.

Jennifer Martinez of the Aerospace School at Fairchild Wheeler reported on her school. Among the items highlighted were the successful Back to School Night for parents and students, last week's

photo day, the completion of benchmark testing, and the SAT and PSAT testing tomorrow.

Numa Chowdry of the BioTech School at Fairchild Wheeler reported on her school. Among the items highlighted were the SAT and PSAT exams tomorrow, the upcoming Family Day at Sikorsky, an open house for prospective students on October 26, and a 2016 graduate who was awarded UConn's First Year Excellence in Innovation award.

Emily Niveló of the IT School at Fairchild Wheeler reported on her school. Among the times she highlighted were SAT and PSAT testing tomorrow, the completion of STAR assessment in literacy and numeracy, the school's open house on October 26th, and college visits to the campus.

Jarissa Collado of Central High School reported on the SAT and PSAT preparations for the testing scheduled for tomorrow

Angel Rivera of Bridgeport Military Academy reported on his school. Among the items he highlighted were the 19 cadets, including himself, who attended an four-day camp at Camp Niantic, a new PE elective class, and cadets' participation in a parade on Sunday.

Mr. Walker extended best wishes to students taking the PSAT and SAT tomorrow. He suggested getting sleep, eating a nice breakfast and taking a deep breath prior to testing.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ana Paula Nunes DaSilva said she appeared at a prior meeting and subsequently sent an e-mail to the board exposing something. She said three board members responded. She said the problem she raised was not union-related because it impacts students. She said things are wrong and the board needs to take care of the problem. She said from now on she intends to be at the board meetings

Mr. Bradley arrived at the meeting.

Richard Leger of Brookside Discount Wine and Liquor said zoning

regulations do not allow a liquor store within 1500 feet of a school, church, day-care center or hospital. He said an applicant attempted to open a store near a school, but was prevented by the zoning department and the Superior Court. He said the applicant has political connections and the city planner has now proposed almost exactly the same proposal. He said the next zoning hearing would be on October 30th and he urged parents and the Board of Education oppose the effort.

Mary Winston, a resident of Bridgeport, a parent and a member of Faith Acts for Education, said since the state isn't doing much to help us we have to help each other. She said the amount of education aid Bridgeport receives is unjust and inequitable. She said Faith Acts has asked the board to publish how much is spent per student at each school.

Albert Benejan, PTSO president at Bassick High, said our kids and staff are not safe because security is not allowed to search parents and visitors who bring bags into the school. He said if there's not a policy that one should be made one for safety.

Angel Resto said it was possible to bring weapons into schools in a bag. He said our kids are worth more than a million dollars. He said he shouldn't have to bury his kids; they should be burying him. He said the board should get together tomorrow to act on policy.

Karen Jackson said she was disappointed that two of the members of the Facilities Committee did not attend a recent meeting. She said a lot of information was given out at the meeting and she thanked the chairwoman. She said she usually comes here and makes complaints, but she thanked Assistant Superintendent John Lischner for speaking to her and helping her. She said this was the first time she's had an administrator pay attention to what comes out of her mouth.

James Meszoros, representative of R1-200 NAGE and the security officers, distributed literature to the board members about proposed procedures for using metal detectors and wands. He said it was based on material from the Sheriff's Department and Trumbull High School. He urged there be structure. He said the reason he was

pushing this was because of Marge Powell, Martha Calderon and his mother who pushed for safety in schools.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:

Ms. Baraka moved approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 25, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradley and approved by a 5-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Larcheveque, Baraka, Weldon, Bradley, and Walker. Ms. Pereira abstained.

Ms. Baraka moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 25, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradley and approved by a 5-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Larcheveque, Baraka, Weldon, Bradley, and Walker. Ms. Pereira abstained.

CHAIR REPORT:

Mr. Larcheveque said concern was expressed that the sides in Hartford are coming closer and are about \$100 million apart. As compromises are made he urged our delegation hold fast on our students' needs. He urged everyone to reach out to elected officials at every level. In response to a question, he said he believed the constitutionality of operating under the governor's executive order was going to be challenged.

In response to a question, Dr. Johnson said the 25 percent of the ECS funding has been received, although the grants are still pending and would be a \$6 million loss to the district.

Mr. Larcheveque said in his conversations with the delegation he has focused on the grants, not simply the ECS formula.

Ms. Baraka moved to add to the agenda discussion and possible approval of placement of an antenna on Hallen School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and approved by a 5-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Larcheveque, Baraka, Weldon, Pereira, and Walker. Mr. Bradley abstained.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ms. Baraka reported on the Facilities Committee's meeting last week at the Nutrition Center. A nice meal was prepared by the director, Sharlene Wong, which featured the Park City Burger.

Ms. Baraka said there was an update about the new Harding High. There will be a meeting with the Harding committee tomorrow at 6:30 about an exterior door that leads to what would be an amphitheater. There was also discussion of moving forward with bonding for the renovate-as-new project for Bassick High.

Ms. Baraka said there was a great presentation by Dr. Santacapita about a program at Hallen School. The committee also discussed security and overtime costs for after-school and school-related programming, and the use of the police department instead of security guards. Fingerprint checks were also discussed.

Ms. Baraka moved to add to the agenda a discussion and possible approval of placement of the antenna on Hallen School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and unanimously approved.

Ms. Baraka asked Mr. Wallack and Ms. Siegel to speak to some of the conversations over the last six months. Ms. Baraka said the committee had heard from parents and teachers, and T-Mobile has made presentations to the committee and to the school.

Alan Wallack said T-Mobile contacted the prior superintendent about the project and it was referred to him. He said it was brought to the Facilities Committee twice. He said three antennas of approximately six feet are proposed. He said there were two meetings at the school and parents expressed concerns. He said the only caveat the parents had was they wanted to see the rent go directly to the parent organization at the school. He said the deadline of the project was the end of this month. He said T-Mobile will be responsible for any maintenance on the antennas.

Marlene Siegel, chief financial officer, said a separate grant account will be established to receive rental payments. She said she understood the rent will be approximately \$3,000 per month. She said the principal, in conjunction with the PAC, will be asked to prepare a program and budget plan for review and approval of the

superintendent.

Ms. Siegel said by setting up the separate account we ensure we have proper internal controls in place. She said the grant would be part of the district's financial condition report that is posted every two months.

Ms. Baraka said the parents had requested the payments go to Hallen School.

Ms. Pereira said she attended one of the meetings with the parents. She said a hundred percent of the staff voted against the antennas. She said she is fighting an antenna in her district and she could not find anyone in support of that antenna. She said Chaila Robinson, the PAC leader, said she was going to go back out to parents and come back to the committee.

Ms. Baraka said she believed there was a second meeting with parents. Mr. Wallack said Ms. Robinson indicated there was a problem getting parents back together. He said Ms. Robinson indicated to him that the parents were in favor of this if the payments went to Hallen School.

Ms. Pereira said no one spends more time in schools than staff and they were concerned about health risks. She said there are all kinds of studies that show it doesn't affect health, but there is a lot of information that says it does. She said she would not be able to support the antenna due to the unanimous opposition of the staff.

Ms. Baraka said information provided by T-Mobile and the district's IT director indicated the technology had changed and the emissions were at a higher level than impacts people. Mr. Wallack said Mr. Postolowski unequivocally stated it was not a health risk. Mr. Wallack noted other schools in the state have antennas on their roofs.

Mr. Bradley said the board previously had a pretty lengthy conversation about any possible health risks. Mr. Wallack said material was provided at the meeting about health issues and the integrity of the roof. He said these are not cell towers, but six-foot antennas.

Mr. Bradley said these antennas are found readily throughout urban and rural areas. He expressed concern with the idea that the benefit of the rental payments belongs to one school. He said the attitude should be that we are one city and any benefit or burden belongs to all of us. He said he wouldn't take a million dollars to expose a teacher to any type of a hazard, but we know scientifically that that's not the case.

Mr. Walker said he would like the matter postponed until the next meeting to hear from representatives of stakeholder groups. He suggested the money go to benefit the whole district as needed at the discretion of the superintendent.

Ms. Baraka said the PAC was invited to appear at the Facilities Committee in June. She said there was nothing wrong with more information, but the board just needs to make a decision. She said the board can decide to redirect the money away from Hallen School if it wants to. Ms. Baraka said we know the teachers are against it and the parents are in favor if the money going to the school. She added that the issue goes back to when Supt. Rabinowitz was here.

In response to a question, Mr. Wallack said the payments should not be used for something like painting, which should be supported by the district, but things that directly benefit students on a daily basis. He said the parents talked about Chrome Books, field trips, and computers.

In response to an inquiry, Dr. Deborah Santacapita, the former principal of Hallen School, said there were three or four meetings, with the parents originally being opposed to the proposal. She said they felt if it ended up happening they wanted to see the money go to the school because of infrastructure and repairs that were needed. Teachers were concerned about the safety risk and did not want the antennas.

Mr. Larcheveque suggested the issue of approval be separated from the use of the rental payments in separate motions.

Mr. Larcheveque restated the motion *"to approve the placement of*

the T-Mobile antennas on the roof of Hallen School.”

Mr. Bradley said it was a matter of science about the antennas, which are already in existence throughout the world. Ms. Pereira said there were a lot of studies that often show cancer clusters where antennas are located.

The motion was approved by a 4-2 vote. Voting in favor were members Bradley, Baraka, Weldon, and Walker. Voting in opposition were members Pereira and Larcheveque.

Mr. Larcheveque moved *“to have a plan presented at the next meeting with regards to the spending of the rental fees by the parents of Hallen School and then a decision on whether to appropriate it to one school or to the district as a whole.”* The motion was seconded by Ms. Pereira.

In response to a question, Ms Siegel said the contract language would have to be developed after the board’s decision as to where the funds would go.

Mr. Walker noted it was the board’s decision about the funds, not the stakeholders. He said he would be amenable to a fifty-fifty split between Hallen and the rest of the district.

Mr. Larcheveque said it would be the board’s plan to have the stakeholders to present a plan at the board’s next meeting.

In response to a question, Supt. Johnson said she spoke with Ms. Siegel about the development of a plan for spending the rental payments, which would have to be in depth and aligned to the district and school initiatives. She said the plan would have to include input from the parents and the building leadership(SGC, teacher leaders and administrators).

Mr. Larcheveque moved to withdraw his motion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pereira and unanimously approved.

Mr. Weldon referred to the Facilities Committee development of a policy related to building entry screening, including review or

modification or development. Mr. Larcheveque said we should be in line with the Hartford Consensus(a document created after the Newtown shootings) and other security standards..

Ms. Pereira referred the nutrition bids, specifically baked goods and the breakfast bids, to the Finance Committee. She said she would follow up with an e-mail.

Mr. Bradley said the next meeting of the Governance Committee will be on October 16th. Ms. Pereira noted that the referrals she made to the committee and said they did not go to Ms. Ortiz. Ms. Pereira said she sent them to Mr. Bradley in three different e-mails.

Mr. Walker reported on the Teaching & Learning Committee. The next meeting will be on October 19th.

Mr. Weldon said the Personnel Committee would next meet on October 18th.

Ms. Pereira asked if the bids came back on special education substitutes. Supt. Johnson said two bids were received.

Ms. Baraka said the matter came out of the Facilities Committee. She said she could place the matter on the next committee agenda. Supt. Johnson said the two bids will be sent to the board for review and there will be an internal screening process as well.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Weldon said Civil Service would be on the Personnel Committee's agenda.

Ms. Baraka referred to the Finance Committee a review of security costs and overtime for after-school and school-related programming using our security versus the City of Bridgeport Police .

Mr. Larcheveque referred the RFP for legal services to the Finance Committee because it came back with only one bidder.

Mr. Larcheveque said the chair of the Students & Families Committee, Ms. Segarra-Negron, was not present. Ms. Pereira said the magnet school policy had been worked on for six to seven

months. Mr. Larcheveque said he believed Ms. Segarra-Negron had to deal with family issues related to Puerto Rico. Ms. Pereira said the issue of the District PAC and schools PACs were referred over a year ago. Mr. Larcheveque said he would see if the committee meeting can be rescheduled.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/AGENDA:

Dr. Johnson said the board members received the second District at a Glance update. She said there was some positive news. SIG grants were received for eight schools, including Batalla, Blackham and Johnson each receiving \$224,000, and Barnum, Edison, Hooker, Tisdale and Waltersville receiving \$184,000. She said these were competitive grants.

Dr. Johnson said the Immigrant subgrant of \$128,000 was received for districts receiving an influx of immigrant youth to the district.

Supt. Johnson said Read Aloud Day would be October 19th and she encouraged signs-ups.

The superintendent said Dr. Ali was slated to become principal at Marin School on October 11th, however Hartford Public Schools has decided to hold her for the thirty-day contractual period, so she will not start until October 30th.

Supt. Johnson said on October 14th Jeremy's sixth annual food drive will be held. Jeremy is a student who in the past has collected over 8,000 pounds of food.

Dr. Johnson said an informational session for students and families impacted by the hurricane in Puerto Rico was held. There was an outstanding turnout at Batalla School. She said a centralized registration process has been set up for students coming in from Puerto Rico. There will be support with regard to documentation and the immunization process through one centralized hub.

Dr. Johnson said she would participate in a telephone conference tomorrow with Comm. Wentzel with other superintendents on how to be ready for students arriving from Puerto Rico.

Ms. Pereira said Jeremy, who lives across the street from Blackham School, started his food drive when he was six years old when he learned some families don't have enough food. She said his largest year is 2300 pounds and he is trying to beat that record.

Ms. Pereira said she was at the Batalla meeting on Puerto Rico, which she described as amazing and well organized. She commended Dr. Johnson and her staff for being proactive. Dr. Johnson said there will be future meetings, perhaps with a different start time.

Supt. Johnson said the facilities department did an outstanding job with the flood at Harding High. While school was closed for the day, the building was up and running the next day. She thanked Mr. Wallack and Mr. Hammond and their team. She said the Harding staff transitioned to Fairchild Wheeler, where there was a productive day of professional development by content directors.

The superintendent said despite day-to-day crises, the senior leadership team and content directors are visiting schools and going into classrooms and looking at instruction.

Supt. Johnson said the next item, a data presentation, with focus on males of color, will be presented by Dr. Santacapita and Mr. Joyner. She said Dr. Santacapita is the former director of research and evaluation and former principal of Hallen School. Dr. Johnson said Dr. Santacapita has shared this work with principals.

Dr. Santacapita said this was a continuation of work in her former job as director of research and evaluation. She said she wanted everyone to realize it's not just a score, it's a student. She said she wanted to demonstrate how data is used to inform instruction and help a child succeed.

Dr. Santacapita said she is going to plan with the content directors some evening presentations to parents in the coming months.

Dr. Santacapita said as a result of conversations at the Facilities Committee and the Teaching & Learning Committee data was

requested on out-of-school and in-school suspensions broken down by school, gender, race, ethnicity and grade level. She said when she was the principal of Hallen she looked at the 44 young males at the school that were constantly being sent to the office. She said sometimes this was a result of what was going on at home or not knowing how to express themselves.

Dr. Santacapita said she went to Mr. Joyner, the gym teacher at Hallen, because she saw how the male students looked up to him. She said Mr. Joyner had success in getting through to the males and later agreed to meet with the boys by grade level(1 to 6) at least once a week.

Mr. Joyner said the SRBI group was given the name GOAT (Greatest Of All Times). He said having been a boy himself he knew personally sometimes instead of reaching out for help he acted out to deflect when he really didn't know something. He said he met Muhammad Ali in Bridgeport in the 1970s, which helped inspire the name of the group and the concept of becoming the greatest.

Mr. Joyner read a letter from a former student who said in the GOAT group Mr. Joyner sees greatness In each student and wants the students to see greatness in themselves. Mr. Joyner described how he helped this student deal with a death in his family.

Dr. Santacapita said this type of data is a live document, which shows the demographics of any school or classroom. She demonstrated breakdowns for special education, ELL and ethnicity. She showed statistics demonstrating the suspension rate at Hallen School was reduced over a three-year period, which she attributed to the interventions. She said Mr. Joyner's intervention was never perceived as negative; the students who met with him thought of themselves as special.

Dr. Santacapita demonstrated how the i-Ready data and SBAC data can be quickly obtained and the students tiered. As an example, in reading it can be determined if it's a phonics issue, a high frequency issue, or vocabulary. She said data can be obtained for one student, a subgroup, a topic or a subject or grade level.

Mr. Joyner said even though his groups were male-oriented, Dr. Santacapita was able to join the conversations and jump right in. He said the boys were able to open up because he was transparent with them about the mistakes he had made when he was young.

Ms. Baraka said part of the work of Great City Schools is devoted to what is needed in a district to change the direction of young men of color. She said nationwide many school districts have created offices specifically dealing with the issue. An office helps coordinate all the different programs to begin to change the way the school district operates. She said such an office in the district could help with the program in place at Harding and a forthcoming program at Bassick

Mr. Bradley said as an attorney he sees the lack of inclusion of African-American males all the time in the system. He said these kind of numbers have haunted urban school districts for quite some time. He said there are thousands, if not millions, of Mr. Joyners in the community who are willing to mentor young males, but they are prevented by bureaucratic regulations.

Mr. Bradley said when he was a young man he needed the type of support provided by Mr. Joyner.

Ms. Pereira said she was thrilled Dr. Santacapita was back doing this work. She said Dr. Santacapita was moved out of the district by Supt. Vallas, which was a horrible mistake.

Ms. Baraka moved approval of personnel Items I through V. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pereira. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Larcheveque, Baraka, Weldon, Pereira and Weldon. Mr. Bradley abstained

OLD BUSINESS:

The first item was on the liquor store zoning recommendation from Office of Planning and Economic Development.

Ms. Pereira said the planning office was now supporting the zoning change, although the police department is formally opposed. She said the board was also opposed.

Ms. Pereira suggested Mr. Larcheveque and other board members attend the zoning meeting on October 30th to oppose the zoning change and keep liquor stores away from schools. She described the problems she encountered when her campaign headquarters was near a liquor store, including liquor debris and an inebriated man. She said children should not have to see such things while walking to and from school.

Ms. Baraka said she agreed. She said a liquor store near Tisdale and Dunbar Schools has similar problems, particularly from male customers who remain outside the store all day long. The children encounter these people as they are walking home from school. She said we don't need any more liquor stores near our schools and the board should do everything it can to stop it.

Ms. Pereira said October 30th is the next zoning meeting. She said she will keep a watch on it and send out an e-mail to board members.

The next item was the second read of Policy 3320.1R. Ms. Pereira moved to approve 3320.1R as a second read. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baraka. Ms. Pereira said the language suggested by Mr. Weldon about a geographical preference is being added. She performed the second read as follows.

"Business, non-instructional operations, purchasing procedures, soliciting prices, bids and quotations.

"For all materials, goods, and services, excluding educational and medical specialty services, totaling more than \$1,000, but less than \$25,000, the submitting department shall prepare at least three quotations with a recommendation for final selection to be attached to the purchasing requisition. The lowest quotation consistent with quality, responsibility and educational requirements will be accepted.

"Formal bids: For all materials, goods and services, excluding educational and medical specialty services, totaling \$25,000 or more, the submitting department shall prepare specifications, which should be broad in scope to generate competitive bidding, and submit them to formal bid. All bids for purchases of materials, goods and services

requiring a contract, MOU, agreement or specific to a covenant of a grant must be vetted in the applicable board committee and submitted to the Board of Education for approval prior to being submitted to Purchasing.

“The lowest bid consistent with quality, responsibility and educational requirements will be accepted.

“Cooperative purchasing. Bids through cooperative bidding procedures or bidding conduct conducted by the State of Connecticut Purchasing Department shall be excluded from local purchasing requirements.

“Local vendor purchasing. Unless a prohibition on geographical preferences exists, the small and minority business procurement ordinance will be adhered to. A local vendor is defined as one who maintains an actual place of business located within the city limits of Bridgeport by occupying real property in which to conduct such business and by paying taxes on business property to the City of Bridgeport. All purchases will be made according to the small and minority business procurement regulations and as stated in the City Charter.

“On formal bids or quotations(defined above) any qualified local vendor, which has submitted a bid quotation not more than five percent higher than the lowest qualified bid or quotation, will be awarded the contract or purchase order so long as such local vendor agrees to provide the materials, goods or services at the same price as the lowest qualified bid received, provided the lowest qualified bidder is not a local vendor.”

Mr. Weldon said on September 29th the superintendent received a letter from the city purchasing agent with some concerns. Mr. Weldon said he had a concern the policies discussed tonight will come in conflict with existing ordinances and city policies and procedures, which could lead to bid protests down the road. He said he was opposed to approving the policy tonight. He said the staff should work with the city purchasing office to make sure they are not in conflict with ordinances or policies and procedures.

Supt. Johnson said there has not been a face-to-face meeting with the department of public purchases yet, but she did e-mail Mr. Tardy. Mr. Tardy did not indicate what the impetus behind his letter was.

Ms. Pereira said the board's policies have always said we follow the city charter. She said the letter had excerpts from the city charter.

Ms. Baraka said the city attorney indicated the proposals by Mr. Bradley to give local businesses a preference could not be implemented due to federal requirements.

Mr. Weldon said he would feel more comfortable if the city purchasing agent as a subject matter expert would review the items and issue an opinion whether or not they are in conflict with city ordinances or policies. He said we are a subset of the city, and if there is any possible conflict between our policy and the city a disgruntled bidder could make a challenge that could be very costly.

Ms. Pereira said the letter is not in reference to anything we're doing. She added we are not a subset of the city; we get our power from the state. She said the language in black in the policy has been in place for years, and it clearly states all purchases will be made according to the small and minority business procurement regulations and as stated in the city charter. She said the new policy is being put in line with the state statute and its \$25,000 limit.

Mr. Bradley said he had pushed for a preference being given to Bridgeport-owned or Bridgeport-based businesses. He said his issue was it doesn't go far enough. He said he hired an attorney to research and critique the advice from the city attorney's office. He said the law clearly indicates that as long as the board is operating as a market participant that we are allowed to place whatever parameters we'd like for purchasing. He said there had been issues where food vendors in Bridgeport had been the lowest bidder and had not been selected as the provider.

Ms. Baraka said our attorneys reviewed and approved the board's policies before they were put into effect. She said the new policy is merely bringing things up to date and there are no real major changes. She said she believed the letter from Mr. Tardy referenced

what Mr. Bradley presented about local businesses.

Ms. Pereira said she asked Nadira Clarke to review the federal grants for the nutrition program. Ms. Clarke reported if the food grains were not grown within the municipality, no geographical preference could be given.

Ms. Pereira said there had been problems where people did not go out to bid, which was a violation of state law and the city charter. She said she was trying to tighten things up so the board is involved in anything over \$25,000. She said the policy contains excerpts from the letter and the city charter would be followed.

Mr. Weldon said the purchasing agent seems to feel that he needs to weigh in on this, and he suggested he be given time to do it.

Ms. Pereira said she didn't believe the board ever went to the city purchasing agent to review a board policy. She noted Mr. Tardy's letter contained no reference to what he was responding to.

Ms. Bradley said he loved the spirit of what was going on here and Ms. Pereira's talent in fine-tuning the language. He said he was in favor of a policy that for items under \$25,000 that did not have to go out to bid the board first attempt to use it with a local business. He said Bridgeport had crime and high tax issues, but a good message would be to support the local business community.

Ms. Pereira said state statute only applies to \$25,000 and above. She suggested adding language that indicated "the small and minority business procurement ordinance will be adhered to" so there is first preference. Mr. Bradley said he was on board with that.

Ms. Pereira said the last sentence of the first paragraph would read: "The small and minority business procurement ordinance will be adhered to."

Mr. Weldon said somebody should review the language to make sure it is aligned with city purchasing regulations and with federal grant requirements.

Ms. Pereira suggested an amendment that the policy cannot go into effect until October 30th, combined with a review by legal counsel.

Ms. Pereira amended the motion *to approve the second reading of 3320.1R with the added caveat after the first paragraph, 'The small and minority business procurement ordinance will be adhered to.' The policy will be referred to counsel and will not go into effect until October 30th.* She said the board will meet again before October 30th.

Mr. Bradley seconded the amendment. The amendment was unanimously approved.

The motion as amended to approve 3320.1R was unanimously approved.

Supt. Johnson said she would send the policy to legal counsel for review.

Ms. Pereira moved to approve Policy 3320.2R, effective October 30th. She performed the second reading as follows.

"The business department is responsible for all purchases. No transaction shall be authorized until a purchase order has been issued by the business office.

"All contacts, memorandums of understanding(MOU), agreements, grants, between the district and a vendor, outside agencies, consultants, etc., shall be prepared under the supervision of the superintendent or their designee, and when \$25,000 or more shall be submitted to legal counsel for review, vetted in the applicable board committee, and submitted to the Board of Education for approval."

"No contract, MOU, agreement or grant application will be signed by the superintendent, their designee or the chair of the Board of Education without the formal authorization of the Board of Education upon review of the full board.

"Textbook purchases must be reviewed and recommended by the Department of Teaching and Learning, submitted to the

superintendent or their designee, and the Board of Education for approval before it can be purchased.”

“Approval of the superintendent must be obtained prior to any school staff engaging with a sales representative or those affiliated with a non-profit contacting schools staff regarding the purchasing and/or partnerships, inclusive of goods, services, activities, solicitation, recruitment, programming, utilization of facilities, etc.”

Ms. Pereira said the statute on textbooks, 10-299, was referenced. She said, believe it or not, we can’t change a single textbook in the district without the approval of the board under state statute.

Mr. Bradley said he liked the spirit, but he had an issue with the superintendent’s contact with someone selling textbooks. Ms. Pereira said the policy obligated staff members to get the superintendent’s approval before speaking about purchasing items or creating a program, out of respect for the superintendent. She said vendors or nonprofits had gone into schools and started programming with principals and the superintendent or assistant superintendents didn’t know about it. She said this had been part of the board’s policies, but the revision just defines it more clearly.

Ms. Baraka said from having been an involved parent for many years there were many times parent organizations worked with companies on fundraising and related items. Ms. Pereira said the language now referred to school staff, which would not mean the PAC or PTSO.

Ms. Baraka said the law just changed with regard to volunteers in school districts. Now people will have to be fingerprinted and record checks run.

Supt. Johnson said she has been in conversation with Anne Gribbon of the district’s volunteer office about the issue. She said she sees this as a different item than the proposed policy.

Mr. Larcheveque said he understood the concept with companies and sales, but wanted to make sure we did not tie the hands of the principal. He suggested the policy not rule out conversations, but prohibit implementation of programs.

Mr. Walker said the way he reads the proposed policy is it protects the superintendent and the district from any financial obligations that might be engaged in by anyone other than her designee. He said he was in favor of the new policy.

Mr. Weldon suggested wording that approval of the superintendent must be obtained prior to any school staff committing the district to any outside entity, which would allow staff to meet with outside organizations.

Ms. Pereira said someone told her in the past that they were at Harding High helping children with college applications where the nonprofit paid for her out-of-state trips, but she later admitted she couldn't spell basic words and had been a convicted felon. She questioned how someone like this gets into schools to work with our kids.

Supt. Johnson said approval of the superintendent/designee and Mr. Weldon's language of "committing" instead of "engaging" would suffice. Mr. Larcheveque said he agreed.

Following discussion, Mr. Larcheveque said the wording would be "approval of the superintendent/designee must be obtained prior to any school staff committing to any contracts, memorandums of understanding or agreements. "

Supt. Johnson said she was fine with that language.

The motion to "*approve the second reading of 3320.2R with the change as noted and the caveat of it going to the attorney prior to the start date of October 30th*" was unanimously approved.

In response to a question, Supt. Johnson said Dr. Santacapita will take over for Ms. Carroll with the Governance Committee. In the interim, Dr. Johnson said she has been working to make sure the new policies are up on the website and she will continue to do so until the full transition is made.

The next agenda item was the second read on sexual discrimination

and harassment, Policy 5162.1.

Supt. Johnson said the policy came out of the Governance Committee and she read the full policy at the last board meeting.

Ms. Pereira moved to approve the policy as a second read. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baraka.

Ms. Pereira moved *“to suspend the rules for the second read on Policy 5162.1, sex discrimination and sexual harassment – students, so this can continue to be placed on the district’s website and available to the public.”* The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradley and unanimously approved. Supt. Johnson and board members said the policy would be effective immediately.

Ms. Baraka moved approval of the Policy 5162.1. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradley. Mr. Larcheveque noted the draft designation would be removed and it would go into effect immediately upon board approval. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Baraka moved *“to suspend the rules for the second read of the Bridgeport Public Schools Wellness Policy.”* The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradley and unanimously approved.

Ms. Baraka moved *“approval of the Bridgeport Public Schools’ Wellness policy effective immediately, with references to draft removed from the document.”* The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradley and unanimously approved.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Approved by the board on October 23, 2017