

Monday, November 26, 2018

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held November 26, 2018, 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 John Weldon, Vice President Hernan Illingworth, Secretary Jessica Martinez, Joseph Sokolovic, Sybil Allen, Maria Pereira, Chris Taylor and Ben Walker. Dennis Bradley arrived subsequently as noted.

Supt. Aresta Johnson, Ed.D., was present.

RECOGNITIONS:

Herminio Planas, director of mathematics, described the K-8 competition that ran from October 9 to November 2. Students logged onto MobyMax and solved math problems for their school. The students completed 2.4 million problems. The winning school in the Patriots Conference, John Winthrop, had 3,126 hours of work. The winning school in the Jets Conference was Edison School. The Giants Conference victor was Classical Studies Magnet Academy.

Mr. Planas said the overall winning class was Ms. Brockenbery's class in Classical Studies.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Alicia Brockenberry of Bassick High reported on her school. Among the items she highlighted were the PTSO's annual turkey bingo, the 100 turkeys donated to families, the annual fall pep rally, and fundraising activities.

Julenny Jimenez of Bridgeport Military Academy reported on her school. She highlighted a breakfast for veterans on November 9th, the open house held the day before, the upcoming naval inspection, the partnership with the Walter Lockett Foundation, cadets' participation in a drill competition, four cadets who received scholarships and a graduate who was selected for the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Weldon said Spanish translation services were available.

Jennifer Martinez of the Aerospace School at Fairchild Wheeler highlighted the recent and upcoming report card conferences, the high position the school placed in a statewide ranking, recruitment efforts for the next school year, and Dr. Johnson's upcoming visit to the school to discuss the consolidation of the three high schools.

Alayjah Evans of Central High highlighted the recent successful pep rally, the PTSO's upcoming presentation on college opportunities, winter sports tryouts, and the senior portraits.

Numa Chowdry of the BioTech School at Fairchild Wheeler highlighted the food drive, two students whose contributions will be featured in the district's calendar, and upcoming first quarter assemblies.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jonathan Rodrigues, a taxpayer, father and former union

member, said it was important for our identity as a city to talk about what the past is. He noted Bassick needs lots of improvements, but the history and architecture cannot be reproduced and he would be disgusted to throw away our past.

Lazarus Papanikolaou said he lives on Grovers Avenue in the district from which students attend Bassick High. He said the building was designed by a very well-known architect who also designed buildings such as Mechanics and Farmers, the City Savings Bank, the aquarium, the building that Ralph & Rich's is in, and two former mansions on the UB campus. He said he supported the hybrid option for Bassick, including demolishing and replacing the 1960s structure.

Ethan Book, former Republican candidate for state representative, a resident of Bridgeport since 2005 and business owner, said his son attended Bassick High in the past. He spoke in support of the hybrid option for renovating Bassick, describing the 1920s architecture as telling a story which extenuates history, heritage and culture.

Helen Olga Losak, a Bridgeport native and taxpayer, said she has a degree in history. She said she favored the hybrid option to preserve the 1929 architecture of Bassick, particularly the auditorium. She said the site was given to the city by the Bassick family and named after a prominent businessman and leader. She said the building should be preserved for future generations.

Jennifer Valle said she was speaking on behalf Timothy Bassey, a 1979 graduate of Bassick High. She said Mr. Bassey would like the 1929 building's architecture and auditorium preserved. Mr. Bassey had fond memories of the

school and favors the hybrid plan.

JoAnn Kennedy said she wanted to echo previous comments on Bassick. She said she lived five blocks from the school, where her children graduated. She said she was also PTSO president, an SGC member, and cheerleading coach. She said she graduated from Harding, but bleeds green. She said the beautiful building complements the Klein Memorial as well.

Donna Koolis, a retired teacher at Bassick High, said she used to come before the board and talk about the condition of the school. She said she could not believe the board wanted to tear down the old building because it had a new roof put on recently. She said the building was very strong, serving as a World War II bomb shelter and standing up to large snowstorms and windstorms. She noted newer schools in Fairfield had major building issues.

Catherine Johnson, an architect and town planner in Middletown, said she was appearing to support the retention of the original Bassick building and the tearing down of the newer building. She said a new building could be built to the south of the current gymnasium. She said the three proposals did not address the facing on Clinton Avenue or State Street and the urban nature of the school. She said there should be a strategy to look at the entire block first. She said she would send a master plan to the board in time for the next meeting. She said asbestos removal would equally be a problem if the building was demolished.

Bob Halstead, former councilman for the 132nd District, said he never knew the older building was there when he was growing up because it is blocked by the newer building. He spoke in favor of retaining the building, which was designed

by a prominent architect, and its grand entrance. He described a new school as very wasteful, which would involve a lot of environmentally unsound demolition. He also he was also here to support the board adding agriculture and gardening to its curriculum.

Mr. Bradley arrived at the meeting.

Albert Benejan, PTSO president at Bassick, thanked those who helped him with donations for turkey bingo night at the school. He said the parents and students should be consulted about the future plans for Bassick. He said he had a petition that 450 students signed for a new Bassick. He noted Harding High was opened in 1925 and no one fought to retain that school and a new school was built.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:

Ms. Allen moved approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic.

Ms. Pereira said she could not find anything in the Freedom of Information Act about recessing meetings, so she would not support the minutes. She added she challenged this at the time as unlawful.

The motion was approved by a 6-1 vote. Voting in favor were members Weldon, Illingworth, Walker, Sokolovic, Allen and Bradley. Ms. Pereira was opposed. Ms. Martinez, and Mr. Taylor abstained.

Ms. Pereira moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 13, 2018, with edits. The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez. Corrections were noted.

The motion was approved by a 8-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Weldon, Illingworth, Walker, Sokolovic, Allen, Martinez, Pereira, and Bradley. Mr. Taylor abstained.

Mr. Sokolovic moved to "*postpone Item 13, bullet 6, under New Business,*" on a 4th Amendment legal opinion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pereira and unanimously approved.

CHAIR REPORT:

In response to a question, Mr. Weldon said he was going to poll the members on when to hold a meeting about completing the board's goals and objectives.

In response to a question, Mr. Weldon said he reached out to Rep. Santiago about meeting with the delegation, but has not heard back from him. Mr. Bradley said he is having a meeting at 10:00 o'clock on Saturday at Frankie's Diner as part of a listening tour and there would be an opportunity to speak to some members of the delegation.

Ms. Pereira asked that Mr. Bradley help coordinate a meeting that all the board could attend. Mr. Weldon said he would go to the event and see if such a meeting can be arranged.

Mr. Weldon said Larry Schilling wanted to address the board.

Mr. Schilling said he wanted to apologize for his behavior at the last meeting. He said he was a diabetic and was undergoing an episode, during which times he doesn't think very clearly.

Mr. Schilling said he would like to present the costs on the various options at Bassick High, clarify the reimbursement rates for the options, and get a feeling for what the board would like us to do. He said Perkins Eastman was present tonight to go through the costs on the options and he would follow up with the reimbursement information.

Mr. Taylor said Bassick is a big issue and he didn't think it was fair to add it to the agenda until all stakeholders had notice.

Ms. Martinez said she believed the decision had to be made by December 1st according to a state deadline.

In response to a question, Mr. Taylor said he would object to a discussion if the board did take action. Ms. Pereira urged the item be added to the agenda.

In response to a question, Alan Wallack said an enrollment projection had to be sent to the state by December 1st, which did not involve the board.

Mr. Wallack indicated that Mr. Schilling said by December 1st the project would have to be on the priority list at the state, which would include the planned scheme.

Ms. Pereira said she was told to the contrary this morning by John Ricci. Ms. Martinez said she did not want to lose out on funding. Ms. Pereira said she talked to Kosta Diamantis at the state. She added the School Building committee had to vote on it and they cancelled their most recent meeting.

Dr. Johnson said Mr. Diamantis indicated it was the School Building Committee, the state Department of Education and

the design team that made the decision.

Mr. Schilling said the recommendations that go to the legislature for school construction usually include the scheme of the project. He said in the past the board had always provided that information.

Nick Masciangelo, director of construction management for the city, said he did not recall Mr. Ricci saying that only the enrollment projection was needed. He said he understood that we need to have this at the state level with a concept or a plan of action to get on June's agenda. He said if that was not done, the project could be postponed into the next fiscal year.

In response to a question, Mr. Masciangelo said we would not be completely locked into whatever is submitted to the state, however, good reasoning would have to be presented for altering the proposal. He said personally he thought the hybrid plan was a good option. He said the state said to move forward with full reimbursement and a new school. He said he thought the community would probably like that option, but this was only from hearsay.

Mr. Taylor said he attended a meeting at Bassick this summer where Mr. Weldon and other elected officials where Mr. Wallack made a presentation on building Bassick new. He said the board then subsequently voted to renovate Bassick as new. He said the records should be searched for this vote.

Mr. Taylor said he was not signing onto this and said it was unacceptable behavior with taxpayer funds. He said the vote had already been taken to renovate as new.

Ms. Pereira said the board now knows that there would not be full reimbursement on a new building. She said Mr. Ricci informed her that the city would have to bond for an additional \$12 million. She suggested the board hold a special meeting on Friday to get all the facts on the matter.

Ms. Martinez said the community had yet to speak and we need to hear them. She noted she had a petition with 450 signatures that wants Bassick to be brand new. She said the children deserve a new school.

Ms. Pereira said she did not believe the average high school student understood the relevance of a structure. Ms. Martinez said she respected history and was in opposition to the baseball player James O'Rourke's home in the East Side being torn down. She said the Bassick students see the new shiny Harding High, which gives its students respect.

Mr. Weldon said he didn't think this involved discussion should be held here at the last minute. He suggested a properly noticed special meeting on the matter.

Mr. Walker said he agreed we need to hear from our constituents at a special meeting. He said he had a recollection of a vote as recounted by Mr. Taylor, however, the hybrid option was not part of that vote. He said the board had not received one straight answer yet on the deadline for the submission.

Mr. Taylor asked Dr. Johnson to ask her staff to find the minutes of the vote taken in June 2018. He said he vividly remembered the action because he was vigorously opposed to it.

Ms. Pereira said Mr. Sokolovic thought the vote might have

been in the five-year capital plan. Mr. Taylor said he was in shorts and it was in the summer.

Mr. Schilling said an educational specification was approved by the board on June 25th. Mr. Weldon said that was his recollection as well. He said he believed it occurred at Johnson School.

There was a discussion and it was decided to hold the special meeting Friday at Bassick High. Ms. Martinez requested the School Building chair Aidee Nieves be invited.

Ms. Pereira said she e-mailed to all board members the report referred to by a public speaker tonight which covers the importance and cost-effectiveness of renovating historic school buildings. She said she also sent out an editorial by the former Bridgeport historian. She said the land the school is built on was donated by the Bassick family. She added the oldest surviving member of the Bassick family wrote a letter that she forwarded to board members.

Mr. Schilling said Mr. Diamantis was coming to Bridgeport on Thursday.

Mr. Masciangelo said the renovate as new was a nightmare at Central High. Mr. Taylor said he agreed. He said this is just the way Bridgeport business gets done, but it is now a new day.

Mr. Sokolovic requested the ad hoc committee on security be added to the district's website. He said he would soon schedule a meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/REFERRALS:

Mr. Taylor reported on the Facilities Committee. He said a meeting was not held last week due his own congested calendar.

Ms. Pereira said the issue of community gardens needed an in-depth discussion in committee. Mr. Taylor said the matter would be handled later on tonight's agenda.

Ms. Martinez said the Finance Committee would meet on December 12th.

Mr. Weldon said the Governance Committee met on November 19th and no formal actions were taken.

Mr. Walker said the Teaching & Learning Committee met on November 20th. A special education report revealed that all complaints have been closed and met state requirements. There was a discussion on hierarchy for enrollment for ABCD. He said a draft was discussed and it has been sent back to the district committee for presentation at the next committee meeting.

Mr. Walker said the committee discussed Roosevelt School's application to the Commissioner's Network. He said the network would offer resources to teachers and administrators to implement research-based strategies in schools selected by the state to participate in the network for three to five years. He said the school would receive a grant from between \$50,000 and \$100,000 for planning purposes and a grant of around \$500,000 after that. He said the turnaround committee would develop the budget.

Mr. Walker said the committee approved Roosevelt's participation in the Commissioner's Network for submission

to the full board.

Mr. Walker moved that “*we approve Roosevelt School’s application to the Commissioner’s Network.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez.

Ms. Pereira said the four schools that have been in the Commissioner’s Network have never shown a significant improvement in literacy, math, and in-school suspension, but she would vote for this because Dr. Johnson felt it would make a difference at the school. She said she would be watching closely because the board was voting to give up control for one to three years. She added the Commissioner of Education had sole authority to keep it in the network for up to five years.

Mr. Bradley said we talk about accountability but a lot of our schools have been having tremendous difficulties. He said it is time to start looking for ways to fix it. He said to Mr. Walker’s credit he parsed through what the state proposed and to Dr. Johnson’s credit she is trying to avoid mistakes in the past on Commissioner Network’s schools. He said he was excited about this.

In response to a question, Mr. Walker said the issue of the composition of the turnaround committee would be handled at the next committee meeting.

Dr. Johnson said she recommended Principal Jackie Simmons serve on the committee as well as Alicia Robinson, a parent of a district student, who is also a former teacher at the school and a central office administrator. She said Dr. Otuwa would serve as her designee.

Assistant Principal Jamie Feliciano said this was an amazing

opportunity for Roosevelt. He said Ms. Simmons and him would not let the board down.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Walker said the committee discussed the RFP for the program for expelled students. It has been sent back to Mr. Pires for correction and should be presented at the December 10th board meeting.

Mr. Walker said there was a discussion on merging the three schools at Fairchild Wheeler, which would restructure the administration to one 12-month principal and three 10-month assistant principals.

Mr. Walker said the next meeting will be on December 18th.

Mr. Illingworth reported on the Personnel Committee. He said the committee met on November 14th and November 16th to interview candidates for chief financial officer and the nutrition director. Recommendations have been forwarded to the superintendent.

Mr. Sokolovic reported on the Students & Families Committee. Ms. Pereira said the differences on the magnet school policies were worked out and were circulated to board members.

Mr. Soklovic moved *"to approve the elementary entrance and performance expectation policy, 5166©."* He said he would like to waive the formal reading of the whole document.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Pereira and approved by a 8-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Illingworth, Martinez,

Weldon, Walker, Pereira, Soklovic, Allen and Bradley. Mr. Taylor abstained.

Ms. Pereira said the date the policy takes effect needed to be established. Dr. Johnson suggested January 1, 2019.

Ms. Pereira moved *“to approve the elementary magnet entrance and performance expectations policy, effective January 1st, 2019.”* She said that the index needed to be redone and the policy numbers needed to be adjusted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic.

Ms. Pereira said no language had been changed since the prior meeting.

The motion was approved by a 8-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Illingworth, Martinez, Weldon, Walker, Pereira, Soklovic, Allen and Bradley. Mr. Taylor abstained.

In response to a question, Dr. Johnson said January 1, 2019, should be used as the effective date for the high school magnet policy. She added the lottery would be held on March 8th.

Mr. Sokolovic moved *“to approve the second read of the high school magnet entrance and performance expectations policy, 5166(d), effective January 1, 2019.”* The motion was seconded by Ms. Pereira.

Mr. Sokolovic moved to amend to insert on page 4, the last page, an additional bullet stating *“all remaining seats not filled by Discovery Magnet students will be filled by a blind lottery.”* He said this brings the language in line with BMA and Central.

Ms. Pereira seconded the amendment. The amendment was approved by an 8-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Illingworth, Martinez, Weldon, Walker, Pereira, Soklovic, Allen and Bradley. Mr. Taylor abstained.

The motion as amended was approved by an 8-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Illingworth, Martinez, Weldon, Walker, Pereira, Soklovic, Allen and Bradley. Mr. Taylor abstained.

Dr. Johnson suggested the effective date of the sibling policy be January 1st as well.

Mr. Sokolovic moved *“to approve the second read of the elementary magnet school sibling policy, 5166(b), to go into effect January 1, 2019.”* The motion was seconded by Ms. Pereira.

Ms. Martinez suggested an amendment to the definition of sibling as children who reside in the same household with a common parent or legal guardian. She said siblings could live separately with a mother and father and be related by blood. She said the policy as proposed would not be fair.

Mr. Taylor said he agreed with Ms. Martinez and noted he grew up in a blended family with stepbrothers.

Ms. Pereira said the policy was developed strictly for siblings. Ms. Martinez said it should not matter if the family had full brothers and sisters. She said the definition was unfair to stepchildren.

Mr. Sokolovic said this issue did not come up in committee, but it is something to think about. He proposed compromise language to strike the words “who reside in the same

household.” Ms. Martinez said she liked that suggestion. She noted the reference to legal guardian would include stepparents.

Dr. Johnson said she agreed with Ms. Martinez.

Mr. Sokolovic moved “*to amend to strike ‘who reside in the same household.’*” The amendment was seconded by Ms. Pereira and approved by a 8-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Illingworth, Martinez, Weldon, Walker, Pereira, Soklovic, Allen and Bradley. Mr. Taylor abstained.

Mr. Weldon said he believed any documentation needed for this provision would be handled by district procedures. Ms. Martinez said if it is not in the policy there would not be accountability.

There was a discussion of the documentation that would be needed. Mr. Taylor urged that blended families in non-marital situations be covered by the sibling policy.

Mr. Sokolovic said he believed there needed to be protections against false claims of sibling status.

Dr. Johnson recommended the policy call for “legal documentation.” She suggested under bullet four: “As follow-up to the definition of sibling, the parent or legal guardian will provide legal documentation as confirmation.”

Ms. Pereira moved “*to amend to add a fourth bullet that states, ‘As follow-up to the definition of sibling, the parent or legal guardian will provide legal documentation as confirmation.’*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez and unanimously approved.

The second read, including the amendment, was approved by a 8-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Illingworth, Martinez, Weldon, Walker, Pereira, Soklovic, Allen and Bradley. Mr. Taylor abstained.

Ms. Pereira said this was the first time the new board had passed policies.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND AGENDA:

Dr. Johnson said the first phone blasts for the Hooker School community conversation on November 28th have gone out and will be followed by another one tomorrow.

Dr. Johnson said she would like to talk more about the Fairchild Wheeler stakeholder conferences at the December 10th Teaching & Learning Committee. She said she would be meeting with parents and students this week at Fairchild Wheeler regarding the consolidation.

Dr. Johnson said she would like to start having a presentation to the board in December about the 2019-20 budget, to be followed by the community conversations in early 2019.

Mr. Illingworth moved to approve Items I to V. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic. Mr. Taylor said he would like to discuss Item II.

Ms. Pereira moved to amend the motion to approve I, III, IV and V. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and unanimously approved.

Mr. Taylor said he was deeply saddened to see Vernon Thompson, a Bassick teacher, leave. He said Mr. Thompson

was a positive male of color and the district had suffered a tremendous loss.

Ms. Pereira said Mr. Thompson was going to become an assistant principal in Hartford.

Ms. Pereira moved to approve Item II. The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez.

Dr. Johnson said there were no assistant principal vacancies in the district. She said she was saddened Mr. Thompson was leaving, but his heart is here in Bridgeport and he would love to come back.

The motion was approved by a 8-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Illingworth, Martinez, Weldon, Walker, Pereira, Soklovic, Allen and Bradley. Mr. Taylor abstained.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Pereira moved *“to approve the 2018 goals and objectives for Superintendent Johnson, with the caveat they be placed on the board letterhead in one color and placed on the public schools’ website under superintendent.”* The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic.

The motion was approved by a 6-1 vote. Voting in favor were members Weldon, Walker, Pereira, Soklovic, Allen and Bradley. Voting in opposition was Mr. Illingworth. Ms. Martinez and Mr. Taylor abstained.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Pereira moved *“to approve making Thursday, November 29th, a half day to complete report card conferences.”* The

motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic.

Dr. Johnson said some report card conferences were canceled because of weather. She said she discussed the rescheduling with BCAS and BEA to hold the remaining report card conferences.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The next agenda was on the transportation RFP: recommended vendor. Ms. Pereira noted it was a \$60 million contract.

Dr. Johnson said the district committee was reconvened to make sure the scores aligned with the correct rubric. She said We Transport came out as the highest-scored bidder; DATTCO was number two; and First Student was third. She said she was only requesting approval of We Transport emerging as the number one ranked bidder. The contract will be worked on and presented to the committee in January 2019. She said the contract begins in the 2019-20 school year.

Ms. Pereira moved *“to authorize the superintendent to negotiate a contract with We Transport for a three-year contract for our transportation services.”* The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez.

In response to a question, Dr. Johnson said these were the only three candidates that were invited to interview and that provided a full presentation at the committee level.

Ms. Pereira said she read all the bids and We Transport highlights all the good work they’ve done in the Bridgeport community. She said First Student had amazing technology,

including apps where parents can track buses, but the pricing was all over the place and more expensive. She said she knew Mr. Laffitte had bad experiences with First Student when it was the district's provider. She added her contention that a five-year contract could not be entered into according to the city charter was proven right.

Mr. Taylor suggested allowing open negotiations with all the bidders. He said First Student should be asked to match the best number.

Mr. Weldon said he believed the superintendent will keep in mind during the negotiations that the other vendors are available. Dr. Johnson said she'd be okay with Mr. Taylor's suggestion to negotiate with all three vendors.

Mr. Weldon said everyone was told that whoever gets the highest score was going to be negotiated with. He said changing that after the fact could lead someone to come back with a protest.

Mr. Bradley said we should have a process for obtaining the bids and we should adhere to the fair parameters that were established. He said outside of the numbers We Transport was fully vested in the city in going the extra mile.

Ms. Pereira said the board can vote down the ultimate contract that is negotiated and could start the process all over again. Mr. Weldon said another option was to default to number two.

The motion was approved by an 8-1 vote. Voting in favor were members Weldon, Illingworth, Martinez, Allen, Bradley, Walker, Pereira and Walker. Mr. Taylor was opposed.

The next agenda item was on Bob Halstead's garden item. Mr. Taylor said he placed the item on the agenda at Ms. Pereira's request.

Mr. Halstead said he had been involved in community gardens since 1980. He said it is good to work with children so they maintain connection to the earth and so they can know where their food comes from. He said quite a few gardens are overgrown and there were opportunities to work them into the school's curriculum. He noted in June the students leave and Mother Nature doesn't take a vacation, so the community would have to step in during that period.

Dr. Johnson said the effort would align with science and science director Angela Bhushan could be connected to Mr. Halstead.

Mr. Taylor moved *"to authorize the superintendent through the appropriate department to develop a program with the Bridgeport Land Trust at Dr. Johnson's discretion."* The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen.

Dr. Johnson said Ms. Bhushan can learn more about the effort and it would be about teacher professional development and working with teachers.

Mr. Walker said if a plan is developed with Mr. Halstead he would be more than willing to handle it at the Teaching & Learning Committee.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The next item was on planting a tree on the Fairchild Wheeler campus.

Mr. Taylor said due to his lack of parliamentary skills he did not realize that the matter had to come to the full board out of the Facilities Committee.

Dr. Johnson said the son of Claire Gold, who was instrumental in bringing Discovery Magnet and Fairchild Wheeler to life, would like to have a tree planted on the Fairchild Wheeler campus in her honor. She added Dr. Gold was a longtime superintendent in Greenwich and is active in the Bridgeport Public Schools to this day.

Dr. Johnson said Dr. Gold's son would like to purchase the tree and have it planted where there is currently a dead tree. She said the facilities department has been consulted on the issue.

Ms. Pereira said we wouldn't have Fairchild Wheeler if it wasn't for Claire Gold.

Ms. Pereira moved *"to approve the tree planting at Fairchild Wheeler in honor of Dr. Claire Gold."* The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez and unanimously approved.

The next item was the naming of the Harding library after Prudence Crandall. Mr. Taylor said the item was brought to him at the request of Councilwoman Karen Jackson.

Ms. Pereira said Ms. Crandall was a Quaker from Rhode Island who has no relevance to Bridgeport. She said Ms. Crandall had a girls' school in Canterbury, Connecticut. She added there was a school named after her in her hometown as well as a museum for her.

Mr. Bradley said naming the library would be beneficial, although perhaps not with this name. He said the community

was split on the naming of the Harding building. He suggested establishing a naming committee for the library.

Dr. Johnson said it would be a good idea to form a committee to name the music room at Harding High after Sheena Graham, the Connecticut Teacher of the Year for 2019.

Mr. Sokolovic said a lot of energy goes into naming things. He asked if the board ever received a legal opinion back on selling the naming rights to get something for the children.

Board members indicated they were not interested in forming a naming committee for the library.

Mr. Weldon said the Bridgeport delegation members would be at Frankie's Diner on Saturday morning, at 10:00 o'clock.

Ms. Pereira moved *"to add to the agenda forming a naming committee for the music suite wing at Harding High School."* The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez and unanimously approved.

Ms. Pereira moved that *"the superintendent form a naming committee for the music wing suite at the new Warren Harding High School."* The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez.

The motion was approved by an 8-1 vote. Voting in favor were members Weldon, Illingworth, Martinez, Walker, Pereira, Allen, Taylor and Bradley. Mr. Sokolovic was in opposition

Ms. Allen moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Draft