

Monday, September 24, 2018

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held September 24, 2018, at Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science & Technology Education Center, 60 St. Stephens Road, Bridgeport, Connecticut

The meeting was called to order at 6:56 p.m.

Present were Vice President Hernan Illingworth, Secretary Jessica Martinez Joe Sokolovic, Maria Pereira, Chris Taylor, Sybil Allen, and Ben Walker.

Mr. Illingworth said translation services were available.

#### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

Brianna Downey of Bassick High reported on her school. Among the items she highlighted were the undefeated record of the soccer team, FAFSA workshops for college applications, the finalization of career paths with counselors, freshman and sophomore iReady testing, and the first meeting of the student council.

Julenny Jimenez of Bridgeport Military Academy highlighted the school's open house on September 11th, the first PTSO meeting. which included discussion of a 2020 trip to Ireland, a football competition for cadets, iReady testing at the school, a collaboration with the Walter Lockett Foundation for study skills and test preparation, and a FAFSA workshop for the senior class and their parents.

Abud Hennawi, senior class president at Central High, reported on his school. Among the items he highlighted were the homecoming dance, an upcoming blood drive, recruitment of student leaders, SAT preparation, and fall sports.

Ethan Wei Aoki of the Aero/Hydrospace School at Fairfield Wheeler reported on his school. He highlighted the back to school night, PTSO raffles, after-school clubs, SAT and PSAT preparation, a college/career fair, Exhibition Day on October 24th, and student council's first blood drive.

Anthony Miller of the Biotechnology School at Fairfield Wheeler highlighted iReady assessment and back to school night.

Queston Parker of the IT School at Fairfield Wheeler highlighted the many parents who attended back to school night and the PTSO's pie-tasting and Italian ice; the first School Governance Council and PTSO meetings this coming Thursday; an upcoming collaboration with students from Ireland, a cyber security competitive team, and the first school picture day.

Nathaniel Perez of Harding High reported on his school. He highlighted teacher Sheena Graham's status as a finalist for statewide teacher of the year; the school's open house; victories by the girls' volleyball and soccer teams, and the tie with Masuk by boys' soccer. He introduced Dane Brown, now the principal of Harding.

Ms. Pereira asked for an updated list of student representatives.

Mr. Taylor acknowledged the presence in the audience of

Nancy Hornyak, a former board member who served for 29 years.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ed Davies, president of the board of directors of the School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport, said although he was shocked and dismayed with year-end budget decisions the organization is still here and operating due to the financial commitment made by the organization. He said this was a one and done deal because the piggybank was emptied for this commitment. He added that the 33rd Read Aloud Day will be held on October 18th in all elementary schools with almost 650 volunteers.

Frederick Tapper, the IT coordinator at Housatonic Community College, said there would be a seminar on October 20th for young people aimed at quelling violence. He said the idea is to give kids better choices when faced with violence or a bad decision. He distributed brochures about the event.

Councilwoman Karen Jackson spoke in opposition to the elimination of the district's involvement with Great City Schools. She said she was working to get state legislation to reduce the working age from 16 to 14.

Crystal Mack said she was really upset about the start of the school year, especially with regard to the safety of children. She objected to the lack of bus transportation for students. She said the district's schools were toxic and noted a school in Westport was recently closed due to mold. She said one option was to close down the new Harding High and put the students in Fairchild Wheeler. She said we need people of our ethnicity in the schools.

JoAnn Kennedy said it was necessary to keep the district's relationship with Great City Schools because of access to support and the Males of Color initiative. She said this directly impacts boys and young men in the schools. She said staff and teachers should reflect our community. She asked that statistics on the racial composition of school teachers and administrators be presented. She said more African males were needed as teachers and administrators.

Gail Janensch said she had posters about voting she would like to put in the schools. She urged the social studies and civics teachers in the schools to invite herself and others to visit the schools in October. She approached the board and distributed literature and a poster for Dr. Johnson.

Sana Shah spoke in favor of keeping the contract with Great City Schools so the Males of Color initiative can be continued. She asked the board to consider how cutting the contract would affect our most vulnerable students, males of color.

Dasha Spell, PAC president at Classical Studies Magnet, urged the board to consolidate the school in one building. She said in addition to roof problems, the current buildings do not have screens in the window. She said portable air-conditioning units, which could be purchased at a discount, should be used in every classroom,. She noted the former Harding High was now empty and available for the school.

Sauda Baraka spoke in favor of membership in Great City Schools to address needs of our children and more specifically, males of color. She said it is a program designed for urban schools nationwide which offers information on how to work with students. The focus includes

legislation in Washington and conferences and workshops. She said due to the urban focus it was more available to the district than CAGE. She urged the board to keep the program alive.

Mr. Sokolovic moved "*that the board postpone the magnet school policy first read and items 13-A and B under New Business.*" The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and unanimously approved.

### **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:**

Mr. Walker moved approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 11, 2018, held at 6:30. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic. A correction was noted.

The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Illingworth, Martinez, Allen, Sokolovic and Walker. Mr. Taylor and Ms. Pereira abstained.

Mr. Walker moved approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 11, 2018, held at 6:00. The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez.

The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Illingworth, Martinez, Allen, and Walker. Mr. Taylor, Mr. Sokolovic and Ms. Pereira abstained.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS/REFERRALS:**

Mr. Taylor reported on the Facilities Committee. He said he attended the March for Education on Sunday and met Timothy Cooper and Reena Love, who said they were looking for a place to operate out of inside the Board of Education. He said he also spoke to Lt. Grech and various

security officers in reference to Mr. Sokolovic's request regarding water bottles and security. He said the consensus is they're going to put together a standard operating procedure and bring it to the board because entry procedures vary from school to school. He said he was told water bottles did pose a threat because of students bringing in urine, bleach and alcohol.

Mr. Taylor said he visited Classical Studies with PTSO president Dasha Spell. He said he was told by a parent there that the schools in her war-torn village from guerrillas and cartels was in better shape than Classical Studies. He said the status of Classical Studies would appear on his next agenda.

Mr. Taylor said outside his capacity as an elected official he was developing a plan as a contractor to bring to the board for submission to the mayor for building new schools for Hooker, High Horizons, Beardsley, Black Rock, Madison, Blackham, Classical Studies, Multicultural, Park City Magnet, Read, Cross, Skane, Edison, Hall, Hallen, Winthrop, Curiale, Bryant and Columbus. He said it would be a cost-effective plan.

Mr. Taylor said he spoke to Dr. Batista, an executive director of the BEA, about teacher recruitment.

Mr. Sokolovic said he referred an item to the Facilities Committee on discussion and possible action on security protocols upon entering school facilities quite a few times to Mr. Taylor. He said he should not have to explain why he wanted the item on the agenda but said he would do so now. He said it was an important item and needed to be placed on the agenda. He said we need to present to Lt. Grech and the police department how we want to deal with students coming

into the schools, not vice versa. He said when the police department takes charge of security children get arrested. He said it was unfair for children walking to school in hot weather to have to throw away water in bottles.

Ms. Pereira said she did not understand why the referrals are not being placed on the agenda, which is a violation of board Policy 9130. She said board policy needed to be complied with by every board member and by every staff member. She said the agenda item bubbled up via comments from students. She said she was fine with hearing from Lt. Grech, but the police department does not set policy for the schools. She said the item was referred in May, June and in August.

Mr. Taylor said the first he heard of it was at the first meeting back and it was confusing to him. He said he apologized to Mr. Sokolovic, who did not articulate it clearly. He noted Mr. Walker's and Ms. Pereira's items got on his agenda. He said he disagreed with Ms. Pereira; security of the children is very important. He said he wanted to hear from Lt. Grech. He said the issue has become personal and Mr. Sokolovic should have called him instead of going on a rant and posting negative things on Facebook. He said he was told the policy was at the discretion of each principal.

Mr. Taylor said if the chairman did not think he was doing a good job he could take him off the Facilities Committee.

Mr. Sokolovic said it was not too late to revise the Facilities Committee agenda to cover the item at the next meeting. Mr. Taylor said it would not be on the October 1 agenda, but would be on at the next meeting. He apologized for not putting the item on the agenda. He described it as a power play to humiliate him.

Ms. Pereira said the nine-member board was responsible for children's safety, not Mr. Taylor.

Ms. Pereira said it was not a power play; any board member has the right to refer something to committee. Mr. Taylor said he screwed up and admitted it. He said he was not changing the October 1st agenda. Mr. Sokolovic said therein lies the power play.

Ms. Martinez said she was disgusted. She said this could be a training for oversights instead of insulting one another and making assumptions. She said the board should be trained behind closed doors instead of in public. She noted she committed an oversight in failing to add an item to the agenda tonight. She said she would look to Ms. Pereira as someone who could help her learn and grow. She said Mr. Taylor apologized and Ms. Pereira should let it go.

Ms. Pereira said she was not attacking Mr. Taylor, but trying to explain our policy that every board member has to follow. Mr. Taylor said it was his mistake and he would fix it in November.

Ms. Martinez reported on the Finance Committee. She said the committee went through an extensive agenda and there were minutes available on the website.

Ms. Martinez said the 2017-18 fiscal year close and the 2018-19 fiscal condition status were reviewed. She said busing concerns were also addressed, as well as legal expenses in July 2018.

Ms. Martinez moved to table Item 13-G under New



Business, discussion and approval of the Carver Foundation contract for CSMA, for the purpose that the original contract that was given to us that I made a motion to push to the full board was being reviewed by the city attorney. She said there were several changes in the language that were made that she believed we need more time to review. She said she would like to consider the matter at her October committee meeting.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic.

Ms. Pereira noted the agreement indicates the program is supposed to start at Classical Studies on October 15th. Ms. Martinez said she expressed concerns about the lack of knowledge about the number of families and staff involved in the program. She said approval was still needed from the Carver Foundation's board of directors.

Dr. Johnson said Helen Giles, principal of Classical Studies, was aware the item was going to be tabled this evening due to the significant changes made by the city attorney in the document. The superintendent said she had been working with the Carver Foundation over several months to make sure the Classical Studies families had something in place as an after-school program.

Mr. Illingworth noted if the Finance Committee meets on October 3rd, the next full board meeting would be October 9th.

Dr. Johnson said the same template was used as used in all grant applications, but the city attorney now has a new template. She said she wanted the board to see the changes that were made.

Mr. Taylor said Ms. Martinez does an excellent job as chair of the Finance Committee. He said he thought it was a great program for Classical Studies.

Ms. Pereira said we need to ask the city attorney to stop doing this. She said the city attorney's opportunity to look at it is before it comes to committee. She said the same thing happened with the nutrition bids.

Eric Alicea, a Classical Studies parent, was recognized. He said a lot of parents were excited about the program that would be held Monday to Thursday. He said he had not yet received any paperwork for the program.

Ms. Pereira *"moved to postpone the discussion and approval of the Carver Foundation contract for CSMA to October 9th."* The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez.

Mr. Taylor said he was disappointed the city attorney did this at this point in time.

Dr. Johnson said if we had gotten the document to the city attorney sooner things might have been smoother.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Martinez said the next committee meeting would be October 3rd.

Ms. Martinez moved to add to the agenda the E-Rate RFP selection process to the BOE. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic.

Ms. Pereira said there was nothing in the board packet about this. Dr. Johnson said it was done in the Finance Committee

meeting. She requested that Jeff Postolowski, IT director, distribute the score sheets.

Ms. Pereira said as a board member she likes to read everything in advance and did not like that the information was just being handed out. She asked the item be postponed to October 9th.

Ms. Martinez withdrew the motion.

Mr. Walker recommended the item be put on the Finance Committee agenda again in case someone wants to review it with Mr. Postolowski.

Mr. Sokolovic referred Policy 9166, on civil and legal rights and responsibilities, to the Governance Committee for review and possible revision.

Ms. Martinez said she would like to know where we're at with board representatives that attend charter school board of education meetings. She said she would like to hear reports. She noted she attends the Capital Prep meetings on a regular basis. She said she would e-mail Mr. Weldon, the chair of the Governance Committee, about this. Ms. Pereira said she believed this fell in the 9000 Series.

Mr. Walker reported on the Teaching and Learning Committee's meeting of last week. He said the committee heard a report from John DiDonato on special education compliance and programming. Mr. DiDonato's report said the compliant regarding New Beginnings Charter School has been resolved by corrective action by the charter school. A complaint by a Classical Studies Magnet student claiming a failure to implement a student's IEP was found to have no factual foundation by the state Department of Education. A

complaint filed by a parent of a Waltersville student claiming a failure to implement an IEP during the absence of the student's teacher was determined by the Department of Education not to constitute a denial of mandated free, appropriate public education(FAPE) and the complaint was closed.

Mr. Walker said Mr. DiDonato reported that a complaint from a parent of a student attending Barnum School regarding IEP failures was determined by the state to require corrective action including scheduling a PPT meeting and compensatory instruction. Another complaint was filed by a Park City Magnet student claiming a failure to conduct an annual review IEP meeting. The state-required corrective action was implemented.

Mr. Walker said Mr. DiDonato indicated as we streamline the process there are additional complaints but they're either denied without merit or corrective action is being implemented.

Mr. Walker said on July 2nd Dr. Johnson received correspondence in the form of a joint letter from disability rights advocates and the Center for Children Advocacy on behalf of Make the Road Connecticut, alleging that the district routinely fails to provide qualified, impartial interpreters and translated documents to children with disabilities and their parents whose native language is not English. The correspondence contained an offer to meet to work collaboratively to address the concerns. Mr. DiDonato met with the Make the Road Connecticut director and the advocates, focusing on a proposal to enter into a jointly developed legally binding agreement. The agreement was proposed as an alternative to the filing of a lawsuit.

Mr. Walker said in consultation with the board's counsel we agreed to the proposal and are awaiting a meeting with Make the Road and their attorneys to implement the agreement. Mr. Walker said recent criticism from the board concerning the expense of bilingual psychologists or other staff members is myopic and underscores the lack of understanding of the importance of taking care of our neediest students because an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. He challenged the board to take the escalating costs of special education seriously.

Mr. Walker said the committee heard a report from Alicia Robinson, director of performing and visual arts, about the extensive activities of her department thus far this year. Currently, the department includes 42 music teachers, 50 visual arts teachers, one culinary arts teacher and one media arts teacher. There are 1.2 music vacancies and 2.2 art vacancies.

Mr. Walker said Ms. Robinson described the Soar to Arts camp in July sponsored by Bigelow Tea; several free after-school arts programs available to students; arts-based community performances such as *Aida* at the Klein, a jazz concert, and performances by the Greater Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra. He said Ms. Robinson described free after-school art programs and art contests available to students.

Mr. Walker said Ms. Robinson also described upcoming music and art events and performances in the district.

Mr. Walker said the committee received a report on a replacement for Lexia and myON. He said these programs were casualties of the most recent spate of budget cuts and were powerful and successful tools for teaching reading in

the early grades. He said the district will be using Moby Max, which was purchased to support math learning, however it is not research-based as Lexia was. He said myON was used for K-9 students for the last three years to read over one million books, which corresponds with the rise in our reading achievement scores. The literacy department is looking for free, online text-based reading programs. He said the committee urged the literacy department to ramp up its efforts to develop a partnership with the Bridgeport library system.

Mr. Walker said membership in the Council of Great City Schools was discussed. He said it brings together seventy of the largest urban public school systems in a coalition dedicated to the improvement of education for children in inner cities. He said the council offers programs to boost academic performance and narrow achievement gaps. He said the council connects district personnel from coast to coast who work in similar circumstances. He said since the organization was formed in 1956 geographical, ethnic, language and cultural diversity has typified the membership.

Mr. Walker said the committee was asking the board pay the membership dues for 2018-19 in the amount of \$31,269.

Mr. Walker moved *“that we move discussion and possible action on Council of the Great City Schools membership 2018-19 from New Business to be discussed and voted on now as part of the Teaching & Learning Committee report.”* The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez.

Ms. Pereira said the items coming out of committee should be put underneath the committee chair's report. She asked board members submit their items accordingly.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Walker moved “*that we approve payment to be made to continue our membership in the Council of the Great City Schools 2018-19.*” The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic.

Dr. Johnson said the board voted to renew the membership in 2016-17 if a discount was applied. She said she was made aware today that Great City Schools offers a \$9,000 discount, reducing the cost to \$21,419. She said she will be attending the annual conference coming up in Baltimore. She said they have been a great resource for the district.

Mr. Taylor moved to call the vote. The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen.

The motion was approved by a 5-2. Voting in favor were members Illingworth, Martinez, Allen, Walker and Taylor. Voting in opposition were members Sokolovic and Pereira.

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

Ms. Pereira said the original motion was for \$31,000. Mr. Taylor said she was quite confident Ms. Siegel would not pay the additional \$9,000.

Mr. Walker said the committee will meet on September 26th to discuss the ABCD learning center at Harding High. The next scheduled meeting will be on October 16th.

Ms. Pereira said a policy on the early childhood day center had been referred to the Teaching & Learning Committee.

She said the priority of the limited slots needs to be determined by policy.

Dr. Johnson said a district committee is working on the policy to bring before the board subcommittee.

Mr. Illingworth said the Personnel Committee will meet on October 17th.

Mr. Sokolovic said the Students and Families Committee will meet on September 26th to take up the nutrition bids. The next regular meeting will be on October 11th.

In response to a question, Mr. Illingworth said the principal hiring policy will be on the Personnel Committee's agenda.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS/AGENDA:**

Dr. Johnson said we often hear of negative things in the district, but there are many wonderful things that get pushed into the background. She said she uses a Twitter account to highlight positive things.

Dr. Johnson asked Sheena Graham to stand and be recognized. She noted Ms. Graham had taught music for 36 years and is a finalist for the Connecticut Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Johnson said Advanced Placement student test-takers went from 239 to 623. There was also an increase in the number of students who scored a three or better, which is the minimum score for college credit. She said in 2016-17 twelve AP courses were offered, while last year that was bumped up to twenty courses.



Dr. Johnson said last weekend the Connecticut NAACP honored their one hundred most influential blacks. She said she was proud to stand there amongst the other 99 individuals thanks to the work of the students and staff.

Dr. Johnson said this Saturday the West Indian American Association of Bridgeport will host their 21st annual scholarship banquet. She said she will be receiving an award, again thanks to the school district for doing great things despite the lack of resources.

Dr. Johnson said the Nutrition Center received 100 percent community eligibility participation due to the work of the staff, which will lead to additional dollars and resources.

Dr. Johnson said a districtwide bullying committee has been formed. The committee will include a student voice and a parent voice. The committee will present at the City Council Education Committee on October 11th.

Dr. Johnson said we need to get ready to start advocating for resources for the district. She said the plan will be to host community forums on advocating for resources. She said City Council members will be invited and voter registration tables will be available.

Dr. Johnson said she utilizes Twitter just to put out positive things and she hoped everyone can take that same stance because that is what people see, read and remember. She challenged everyone on social media to put out something positive about the Bridgeport Public Schools this week. She said she knows we can do this, but we need everyone on board. She said we have to fight even harder for our children and understand that is the focus of our work.

Mr. Taylor said he received a guided tour of Harding High's print shop by Dr. Johnson. He was it was very impressive and a counter-example of the bad rap the district receives. He suggested the print shop be used to print the posters referenced by Ms. Janensch. Dr. Johnson said she was already on that.

Dr. Johnson requested approval of Items II to X.

Ms. Pereira moved to approve Items II, III, V, VI, VII, IX and X. The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez and unanimously approved.

Dr. Johnson said Item I is the appointment of Dane Brown as the principal for Harding High. She said Mr. Brown started his career in Springfield, Massachusetts, then worked as a guidance counselor in a middle school and at Bloomfield High School. He became an assistant principal at Harding in 2013, also worked at Central High, and became the interim principal at Harding in April 2016. Mr. Brown has a master's degree, a six-year degree, and an 092 certification.

Mr. Brown received applause. Dr. Johnson said to the Harding staff present they had a dynamic leader in the building.

Ms. Allen moved approval of Item I. The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez and unanimously approved.

Mr. Brown thanked the board and Dr. Johnson for entrusting him. He said he appreciated the members of the Harding community and staff for coming out tonight.

Ms. Pereira moved to approve Item IV. The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen.

Ms. Pereira said she was concerned when she sees people come on board in August and they are already resigning. She added she has seen a lot less of this now than in earlier years. She asked if these were the results of higher salaries being offered elsewhere. She asked if those that leave for higher salaries could be designated on the agenda.

Frank Chester, chief talent officer, said some candidates tell human resources that they get a higher offer. Ms. Pereira asked that information be provided to the board. She noted Bridgeport has the lowest teacher salaries in Fairfield County.

Mr. Illingworth said the conversation could be continued at the Personnel Committee.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sokolovic moved to approve item VIII. The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez.

Mr. Taylor said he had a very good conversation with Dr. Johnson and they got a very good understanding of each other. He said he was constituent-driven and none of this was personal. He said he would speak directly to the superintendent because he did not want to be accused of berating one of her employees.

Mr. Taylor said he received about 31 phone calls from constituents and subsequently even more calls about the human resource director confiding in others that she did not leave for personal reasons, but because she felt the HR director was not user-friendly. He said he did not know that and was not casting any assertions.

Mr. Taylor said his constituents were upset about the hiring of that person at \$80,000, which was above the advertised rate, and then the leadership was not responsible.

Ms. Pereira raised a point of order because Mr. Taylor was making derogatory comments about a staff member. She asked why Mr. Taylor was bringing this up as hearsay. She said if there is an issue, contact the superintendent directly.

Mr. Taylor said he was very diplomatic about it and it's not personal. He said it was not a courtroom in regard to hearsay. He said he was told by a constituent the resignation was not for personal reasons but because of the person in charge.

Ms. Pereira moved to move the question. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. The motion was approved by a 6-1 vote. Voting in favor were members Pereira, Walker, Sokolovic, Allen, Illingworth and Martinez. Mr. Taylor was opposed.

The motion to approve Item VIII was approved by a 6-1 vote. Voting in favor were members Pereira, Walker, Sokolovic, Allen, Illingworth and Martinez. Mr. Taylor was opposed.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Ms. Pereira moved "*to postpone the nutrition bid awards.*" She said there would be a committee meeting Wednesday on the subject.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and unanimously approved.

The next item was an update on certified staff vacancies.

Dr. Johnson said there were 16.7 subs in the buildings and there are currently 7 vacancies. She distributed a report which listed schools and content areas. She noted the seven vacancies include teachers who have resigned, but are being held to a 30-day commitment.

Ms. Pereira commended Dr. Johnson because it seemed to be one of the lowest number of vacancies she has seen. Mr. Illingworth agreed. Ms. Pereira noted Ms. Siegel was shaking her head in agreement.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The next item was on Trumbull magnet school tuition. Ms. Pereira said Dr. Johnson sent out an e-mail indicating Trumbull is refusing to pay \$324,000 of outstanding tuition. She asked why the city attorney is handling the matter instead of the board's counsel

Dr. Johnson said Berchem Moses also represents Trumbull and they advised her to go through the city attorney because of a conflict of interest.

Ms. Pereira said we hired a law firm that's representing Trumbull against us. She said they were required to disclose such a conflict under state law.

Dr. Johnson and Mr. Illingworth said they did not recall such a disclosure in the interview process.

Mr. Illingworth said he thought they would also have to recuse themselves from representing Trumbull against Bridgeport. Dr. Johnson said she did not know if Berchem

Moses represents Trumbull on this matter. She said she would inquire of Berchem Moses.

Ms. Pereira said it was a major conflict since they did not disclose they were representing Trumbull. Mr. Walker said it would only be a conflict if they were representing Trumbull in this matter. He urged we not jump to conclusions until inquiries are made to Berchem Moses.

Mr. Taylor left the meeting.

In response to a question, Ms. Siegel said correspondence on the issue from Trumbull has come from the business manager. She said she believed the lawsuit on tuition was being managed by another law firm.

Ms. Pereira said it was outrageous and she would file an ethical complaint against them with the bar association. Mr. Walker said we're hashing out a problem that may not exist at all.

Ms. Martinez left the meeting.

In response to an inquiry, Ms. Siegel said Stratford, Monroe, Shelton and Trumbull filed a lawsuit against the charging of tuition, and the case is still pending. She said it was being managed by the city attorney's office on our behalf. She said the total dollar amount is about \$1.1 million.

Ms. Pereira asked there be an update on the nutrition center position. Dr. Johnson said the position was posted and there are three finalists that have gone through the first screening.

Ms. Pereira said she supported the hiring of Kelly Services because they promised a much higher fill rate than our

previous provider of substitute teachers.

Ms. Siegel said in September subs are not being provided for occasional absences, but only in certain types of exceptional circumstances such as grant-funded professional development, the half-day SRBI subs, pre-K teachers and PPT coverage. She said it was too soon to judge a fill rate, which will be better analyzed in October. She said overall the transition had gone well.

Dr. Johnson noted she had sent draft goals discussed at the retreat and other material to the board members.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod