

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held November
12, 2019, at Geraldine Johnson School, 475 Lexington
Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. Present were
Chair John Weldon, Secretary Joseph Sokolovic, Hernan
Illingworth, Sybil Allen, Maria Pereira, and Joseph Lombard.
Vice Chair Jessica Martinez and LaMar Kennedy arrived
subsequently as noted.

Acting Superintendent Michael J. Testani was present.

The first agenda item was discussion and possible action
regarding clinical site agreements between Warren Harding
High School and Watermark at 3030 Park and Lord
Chamberlain Nursing Rehabilitation Center.

Mr. Testani said the agreement is for Harding students to do
their site experience in order to receive their CNA
certification at the end of the school year. Previously
students were sent off site. He said the agreement was
reviewed by the board's attorney and the insurance provision
meet the necessary requirements.

Mr. Kennedy arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Sokolovic said the insurance liability provisions should
reference the Board of Education instead of Harding High.
Mr. Testani said the change could be made before signature.

Ms. Pereira said as a point of order Mr. Kennedy interviewed for a job with the district while sitting as a board member. She said this was highly unethical.

Mr. Weldon said Ms. Pereira was addressing a matter not on the agenda. He overruled her point of order.

Mr. Illingworth moved “*to approve the agreements as presented.*” The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic.

In response to a question, Mr. Testani said the Harding partnership with Bridgeport Hospital had not been in existence for several years; the students were being sent to an outside agency.

Mr. Sokolovic suggested Mr. Kennedy abstain from the vote because it involves Harding High.

The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Pereira, Weldon, Illingworth, Lombard, Allen and Sokolovic. Mr. Kennedy abstained.

The next agenda item concerned *L.A. vs. City of Bridgeport/Bridgeport Board of Education*, a current legal matter.

Ms. Martinez arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Illingworth moved “*to recess into executive session to discuss the matter of L.A. vs. City of Bridgeport/Bridgeport Board of Education.*” The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and unanimously approved.

The executive session began at 5:40 p.m.

The board reconvened in public session at 5:59 p.m.

Ms. Martinez moved “*to authorize the city attorney’s office to enter into a settlement as discussed in executive session in the case of L.A. vs. City of Bridgeport/Bridgeport Board of Education.*” The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic.

The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. Voting favor were members Weldon, Martinez, Sokolovic, Kennedy, Lombard, Allen, and Illingworth. Ms. Pereira abstained.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Approved by the board on December 9, 2019