



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Mary Savage, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Education Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Savage and Committee Member Reps. DiCostanzo, Kolenberg and Quinones. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Cerasoli, de la Cruz, Nabel and Wallace. Also present were Reps. Adams, Coppola, McMullen, Reeder, Silver and Zelinsky; eight members of the Student Advisory Council; Dr. Winnie Hamilton, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Judy Singer, Dr. Tamu Lucero, Dr. Michael Fernandez and Hugh Murphy, Stamford Public Schools; Geoff Alswanger and Polly Rauh, Stamford Board of Education; Cindy Grafstein, Special Assistant to the Mayor; Mike Toma, Assistant Corporation Counsel; and John Mallozzi.

Chair Savage called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. E29.014	REVIEW; Student Advisory Council 2014-15. 08/06/14 – Submitted by Rep. Savage (at 6:00 p.m.) 08/20/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee 09/17/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee	Report Made & Held in Committee

After the Mission Statement was read by a student, Paulomi assumed the role of Facilitator, while Matt was the Recorder. The topic for discussion was Acknowledging Successful Students. There was input from all students present. Invitations were given to the CABE Convention in Groton on November 15. All students were invited. There will be a student presentation to the Board of Education on Tuesday, October 28. The November Education Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 19, at 6:00pm, pending Steering Committee approval.

The SAC adjourned at 6:55pm, and the remainder of the meeting continued.

¹ Video Pt 1 Time Stamp 00:00:02

- ²2. [E29.013](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Requirement of Child Care Facilities to File Reports with the Superintendent of Schools (at 7:00 p.m.).
07/09/14 – Submitted by Rep. Quinones
08/20/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee
09/17/14 –Held in Committee
- Committee Approved, as amended 5-0-0**

Mr. Toma stated that the items being requested will not allow any individual to be identified.

Mr. Quinones made a motion to amend this draft ordinance to remove the words “these are” and replace “relating to” with “regarding”. A motion to approve this ordinance, as amended, for publication, was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote. (Reps. Savage, Buckman, Di Costanzo, Kolenberg and Quinones in favor.)

- ³3. [E29.016](#) REVIEW and APPROVAL; Use of 200 Strawberry Hill Property as a school contingent on State approval of magnet funding (at 7:00 p.m.)
09/02/14 – Submitted by Board of Education
09/10/14 – Approved by Planning Board
09/17/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee
10/09/2014 – Approved by Board of Finance
- Held until 11/5/14 3-1-1**

Secondary Committee - Fiscal Committee

Chair Savage explained that this item has been approved by the Planning Board and the Board of Finance. The State has requested additional information by November 1st.

In response to questions from the Committee and other Board members, members of the Stamford Public Schools administration, Ms. Grafstein and members of the Stamford Board of Education explained:

- The Board of Education will not know of approval of their application until June, 2015, but would want to move as quickly as possible at that point, so the intent would be to begin renovation until July 2015; no physical work would be done before that time
- The current overcrowding cannot be sustained much longer, there is one more year in which 6 classrooms can be moved to the middle school; the projections are that the population will continue to grow and they expect to possibly be coming back to the Board in 3-5 years for an additional school or expansion of current schools
- The City has not thoroughly analyzed other uses for the property at this point
- The additional costs for the building would be the operation of the building and the administration, not the entire \$4.1 million anticipated additional operating costs
- The transportation study will be done in 6-8 weeks. The study has begun
- Partnerships and community support is part of the application, so it is advantageous to have the support of the Board

² Video Pt. 2 Time Stamp 00:00:22

³ Video Pt. 2 Time Stamp 00:03:54

- An inter-district IB magnet school would build on the interest and success of the Rogers School
- Including pre-K may not be an effective use of space because more children could be accommodated starting with kindergarten
- There will be community input into the design and use of the building
- The next step will be the appropriation for funding of the operational plan
- A project committee will be formed for this building, the membership of this will be Board of Ed, Engineering, a member of the Board of Representatives and a member of the Board of Finance – this is separate from the School Building Committee
- Enrollment at the proposed school would be phased in, with only 3 grades the first year
- They are estimating the State will contribute 75-80% of the total cost
- Students from outside the district must provide their own transportation and the parents receive a reimbursement of \$5 per day
- There are currently 4 overcrowded schools in the neighborhood of Strawberry Hill. These schools have 2,500 students, approximately 2/3 of whom live in the area of the schools.
- The information to be submitted to the State by November 1 relates to curriculum, rather than building design
- The reimbursement is \$7,085 for every out-of-district child and \$3,000 for every in-district child
- The addition of 180 out-of-district schools would not have a significant impact on the school population, but would the reimbursement would have a tremendous impact on the acquisition cost for the property
- The diversity of the Stamford school system is one of its positive aspects
- Within the next 2 years, all 12 elementary schools will be at 100% of capacity

Committee members expressed concerns that they were voting to approve an item without a specific resolution. A motion to adjourn the meeting until November 5, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 3-1-1 (Reps. Buckman, Di Costanzo and Quinones in favor; Rep. Savage opposed and Rep. Kolenberg abstaining.)

Chair Savage adjourned this meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Savage, Chair

This meeting is on video ([Video Pt. 1](#) and [Video Pt. 2](#))