



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Diane Lutz, Chair

Megan Cottrell, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, November 28, 2018
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 Lutz, Vice-Chair Cottrell, and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, de la Cruz, Graziosi, and Stella. Absent or excused was Rep. Di Costanzo. Also in attendance were Rep. Lion; Dr. Tamu Lucero, Steve Falcone and John Perrotta, Stamford Public Schools; Andy George, BOE; and Dana Lee, Law Dept.

Chair Lutz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 2. E30.021	REVIEW; Update on Westover Relocation and Resumption of School, Construction, Construction Costs and Projected Costs for Remediation as Known To Date, to Include History of and Facility Report of Westover Magnet Elementary School. 11/08/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lutz	Held
3. E30.022	REVIEW; Current protocol for mold testing across Stamford Public schools (outside of Westover), prioritization, remediation efforts and plans for new construction, new portables or alternate locations to house students. Projections for costs associated with testing, remediations and new construction as known to date. 11/08/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lutz	Held
4. E30.025	REVIEW; History of, and Facility Report of, Mold in Stamford Public Schools. 11/08/18 – Submitted by Reps. Zelinsky and Lutz	Held

Due to the unavailability of some of the invitees, Items 2, 3, and 4 were held.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:48

- ²5. [E30.023](#) REVIEW; Snow removal (possible ordinance) at crosswalks between crossing guards and schools related to student pedestrian safety. Report Made and Held 6-0-0
11/08/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lutz

Chair Lutz stated that many constituents have concerns about students having to walk in the street to school due to large piles of snow at crosswalks. The Committee discussed this item with Mr. Lee and Mr. Perrotta:

- Crews focus on clearing a single road path for emergency vehicles, then do a “comeback” to complete the roads, then priority crosswalks are cleared.
- Schools are opened once buses can get through, but often the walkers are still not able to walk to school safely.
- Parks Dept. has agreed to clear both sides of the openings at crosswalks by parks near schools.
- If we have an ordinance, we need the personnel for compliance.
- There could be an ordinance shifting responsibility of clearing openings at crosswalks to the property owners, but it would be unreasonable to expect a resident to clear large mounds of snow pushed from a snowplows.
- Residents will often clear sidewalks, then plows come and cover the sidewalk with heavy snow/ice.
- Mr. Lee will find out if school custodians can clear crosswalks near schools.
- The Committee needs a list of priority crosswalks and will wait for the crossing guard report that Asst. Chief Wuennemann is finishing up.
- The Committee will examine redefining the scope of the snow removal ordinance to possibly include outsourcing the clearing of targeted crosswalks when there is a minimum snowfall amount.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Lutz, Cottrell, Aquila, de la Cruz, Graziosi, and Stella in favor).

- ³6. E30.024 REVIEW; Protocol for hiring daily substitute teachers, performing background checks and screenings. Report Made and Held 5-0-0
Procedures in place for reporting and informing schools district wide about substitute teacher misconduct or suspected misconduct.
11/08/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lutz

Mr. Falcone explained the process of hiring substitutes and discussed with the Committee:

- There are approximately 300 substitutes employed by SPS.
- Approximately 200 substitutes are needed daily, and 85% of those can usually be filled.
- High turnover due to the nature of the position.
- The application process includes: application, screening, short interview.

² Video Time Stamp: 00:01:13

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:46:28

- The hiring process includes: FBI criminal background check, DCF registry check, educational employer verification check, onboarding process, orientation.
- The educational employer verification check relies on the information given to the SPS by the applicant.
- The procedure has been codified so that when a substitute is excluded from a school due to a serious misconduct allegation, that employee is excluded from all schools until a full investigation is completed, and a determination is made about the employee's status.

The Committee paused the discussion at 7:02 p.m. to wait for Mr. Falcone and Mr. George to attend another meeting. At 7:30 p.m. Chair Lutz stated the Committee would invite Mr. Falcone back to the next Committee Meeting.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Lutz, Cottrell, Aquila, Graziosi, and Stella in favor).

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| <p>⁴1. E30.013</p> | <p>REVIEW; Board of Education update from Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Tamu Lucero
4/04/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lutz
04/16/18 – Held in Committee
06/18/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee
10/17/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee</p> | <p>Report Made and Held 5-0-0</p> |
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Dr. Lucero reviewed the [attached](#) Long Range Planning spreadsheet and discussed this item with the Committee:

- It is important to create talking points about everything that is going well at SPS.
- SPS is working on creating more programs so that fewer students need to be outplaced.
- Ambassadors are needed to get the word out about SPS.
- There are concerns that young families often move to neighboring towns to raise children.
- Money should be spent on public relations to promote SPS.
- Next month Dr. Lucero will bring some examples of public relations work that she has been creating with Sharon Beadle, SPS Public Affairs Officer.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Lutz, Cottrell, Aquila, Graziosi, and Stella in favor).

Chair Lutz adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Lutz, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

⁴ Video Time Stamp: 01:01:16