



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Diane Lutz, Chair

Megan Cottrell, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019
Time: 7:30 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 Vice Chair Cottrell and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Graziosi and Stella. Excused was Chair Lutz. Also present were Rep. Zelinsky; Dr. Tamu Lucero, and Mike Meyer, BOE; Michael Handler, Director of Administration; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept., and two members of the public.

Vice Chair Cottrell called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. E30.013	REVIEW; Board of Education update from Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Tamu Lucero 04/04/18 – 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 11/28/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee 12/19/18 – Held in Committee	Report Made & Held

Dr. Lucero and the Committee discussed this item.

- A big piece of the budget is the early reading initiative; students should be reading at grade level by 3rd grade.
- Three schools were added to the pilot program in partnership with “Literacy How”, which allows coaches to come into the schools and coach teachers.
- There is a 25% gain on academic achievement with professional development, but when there is coaching for teachers that goes up to about 90%.
- Looking at ideas for internal capacity to train a teacher to become a coach.
- Special Education programs: BOE is attempting to bring as many special education programs as possible back to the district. Lack of space is a big issue with these programs. Looking into the possibility of office park space.
- Dr. Lucero will get the Committee a breakdown for each district of how many students there are by grade level.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:10

- ². E30.026 REVIEW; Attendance Initiatives in Stamford Public Schools and how the Board of Representatives can Help Support this Initiative. Report Made & Held 6-0-0
12/05/18 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell
12/19/18 – Held in Committee

Vice Chair Cottrell explained that she attended a workshop about chronic absenteeism led by Mr. Meyer. It would be useful to find out how the BOR can help support attendance initiatives. Mr. Meyer and the Committee discussed this item.

- Chronic absenteeism is 10% or more school days missed.
- Tracking is important, but finding out the reason for chronically absent students is key to eliminating it.
- Most Stamford public schools have a 90% attendance rate.
- BOE is looking into making live calls regarding absenteeism, possibly made by a teacher or guidance counselor.
- Where BOR can come in: getting the word out to constituents about the importance of children attending school.
- There is a BOE committee that is reviewing attendance policies.
- BOE is developing a campaign to begin in late summer to promote attendance; [attached](#) is an example of a flyer.
- Mr. Meyer will get the Committee reports of absenteeism per school.

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

- ³. 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. Report Made & Held 5-0-1
11/08/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lutz
11/28/18 – Held in Committee
12/10/18 – Moved to Pending
4. 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. Report Made & Held 5-0-1
11/08/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lutz
11/28/18 – Held in Committee
12/10/18 – Moved to Pending

² Video Time Stamp: 00:10:30

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:34:52

5. E30.025 REVIEW; History of, and Facility Report of, Mold in Report Made
Stamford Public Schools. & Held 5-0-1
11/08/18 – Submitted by Reps. Zelinsky and Lutz
11/28/18 – Held in Committee
12/10/18 – Moved to Pending

Items 3, 4, and 5 were taken up together, and Mr. Handler, Mr. Casolo, Ms. Grafstein and the Committee discussed the items.

The Mold Task Force website is www.stamfordct.gov/mold-task-force. There is extensive detailed information on this website that is updated daily and includes what is going on in every school regarding mold issues.

- Mold Task Force (MTF) was formed 10/29/2018.
- The MTF is currently in a fact-finding phase.
- A geotechnical firm is conducting testing in Westover to find out the causes of the problems and what remediation efforts will be needed.
- An architecture firm is working on potential outcomes for the building.
- An industrial hygienist firm is working on a full building remediation plan recommendation.
- All indications so far are that the problems can be resolved.
- Is water a permanent problem on the property of Westover land?
- There was a consultant's report from 2009 stating that Westover had possible mold issues and that a mold inspection should be conducted.
- Workorders for school facilities need to be clearly tracked. BOE has these records and BOR will recommend that all reports are made available.
- MTF has discovered that in the past the facilities problems in schools have been the result of poor design and construction, lack of maintenance and lack of funding.
- Current protocol for mold testing involves asking administrators and teachers to report any suspect mold with photos if possible, and any absenteeism involved. Every complaint is considered a separate area of investigation for potential concern.
- An easy water intrusion problem can be fixed quickly and the room ready for the next school day. A more serious problem takes a longer time to fix.
- It is difficult to have a timeline for the entire district since each school has different variables. All schools are currently in different phases.
- In addition to solving the current mold problems, there needs to be a comprehensive plan to prevent this from ever happening again.
- If anyone has suggestions for the MTF, please send an email to moldtaskforce@stamfordct.gov.

A motion to hold items 3, 4 and 5 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-1 (Reps. Cottrell, Aquila, de la Cruz, Graziosi and Stella in favor; Di Costanzo abstaining).

As a Secondary Committee:

- ⁴6. [O30.036](#) APPROVAL; AIA Construction Manager as Constructor Agreement between City of Stamford and Bismark Construction Company, Inc. as Construction Manager, for Mold Task Force Investigation re: Construction.
01/07/19 – Submitted by Mold Task Force
- Continued to
01/29/2019
6-0-0

Mr. Handler, Mr. Casolo and the Committee briefly discussed this item.

- It is a standard industry contract.
- AIA was chosen regarding time required, capability and experience.
- AIA cannot go over the \$500K budget without administration's approval, but will not require BOR approval, due to the timing of project.
- All work will be tracked.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to continue the meeting to the Operations Committee Meeting on January 29th, 2019 by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Cottrell, Aquila, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Graziosi and Stella in favor).

Vice Chair Cottrell recessed the meeting at 9:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Cottrell, Vice Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

⁴ Video Time Stamp: 02:00:04