



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Diane Lutz, Chair

Megan Cottrell, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, May 8, 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. de la Cruz and Di Costanzo. Absent or excused were Reps. Aquila, Graziosi, Lutz and Stella. Also present were Michael Handler, Administration; Cindy Grafstein and Taylor Gray, Mayor's Office; and Clarence Zachery, BOE.

Vice Chair Cottrell called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Vice Chair Cottrell stated that Items #1 and #2 would be taken up together, and Items #3 and #4 would be held until next month.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. E30.025	REVIEW; History of, and Facility Report of, Mold in Stamford Public Schools. 11/08/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lutz 11/28/18 – Held in Committee 12/10/18 – Moved to Pending 01/23/19 – Report Made & Held in Committee 5-0-1 02/11/19 – Moved to Pending 03/25/19 – Held in Committee 6-0-0	Report Made
2. E30.036	REVIEW; Mold Task Force Update: Updated Status on Mold in SPS, Plans for Remediation, Renovation and Construction, Plans for Future Maintenance and Preventative Measures. 04/03/19 – Submitted by Rep. Lutz	Report Made

Mr. Handler and Ms. Grafstein discussed these items with the Committee.

- Extensive information can be found on the MTF website at <https://www.stamfordct.gov/mold-task-force>.
- Westhill will have a partial HVAC replacement this summer in the cafeteria and pool areas, along with other repairs. Fixing the high humidity pool area ventilation should help the air quality in other parts of the school. A full HVAC replacement will be done next year.

- At Stamford High School, improper repairs caused damage. Should there be mandatory City-wide training so repairs are done correctly? How many of these small repairs are there in schools which turned into much bigger issues?
- Full building assessments have been performed on all the schools.
- For now, the MTF will manage the capital projects in the schools. There are capital projects which will not be done by City trades workers unless they have a certain level of expertise. Operating projects will still be done by City trades workers.
- What is the future of the MTF? It is an asset management entity, and should not focus only on mold in the future. Right now the MTF is doing whatever work needs to be done. The Superintendent will most likely decide the future focus.
- There should possibly be an asset management arm of the City created to tackle all City and BOE assets, and lay out long term plans.
- The approach of hiring a third party firm is not necessarily the best way to go.
- ABM is contracted to visit every principal once per week, but there are principals who have never met an ABM representative.
- There needs to be an individual or group that is empowered to take ownership of the projects.
- The current problems in the schools should never have happened. There are 22 older schools buildings that have significant upkeep needs but no one has been effectively managing the work and maintenance.
- The school buildings have three million square feet, and not enough trades workers to cover them.
- There are overcrowding issues in nearly every school.
- Moving forward there needs to be a culture wherein teachers and staff feel comfortable reporting issues. There has been progress in this.
- The City cannot rely on State funding for projects, but the MTF will be applying for funding for as many school projects as possible.

3. E30.032 REVIEW; How Work Orders in the Schools are **Held**
 Handled – Past Issues and How the City is Working
 to Improve the Process.
 03/06/19 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell
 03/25/19 – Held in Committee 6-0-0

Possibly in Executive Session:

4. E30.033 REVIEW; Board of Education's Contractual **Held**
 Relationship with ABM.
 03/06/19 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell
03/25/19 – Held in Committee 6-0-0

Vice Chair Cottrell adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Megan Cottrell, Vice Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).