



## ***Education Committee - Board of Representatives***

Diane Lutz, Chair

Megan Cottrell, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2020  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Meeting was held remotely

The Education Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Vice Chair Cottrell and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, and Stella. Excused were Chair Lutz and Rep. Graziosi. Also present were: Reps. Matherne, Miller, Sherwood and Zelinsky; Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools; Amy Beldotti, Associate Superintendent; Andy George, Jennienne Burke, Fritz Chery, Becky Hamman, Jackie Heftman, Jackie Pioli, and Nicola Tarzia, BOE; Chris Mosier, Team USA and Transathlete.com; Jay Potter, LGBTQIA public speaker/activist; and Kayleigh Webb, sports journalist and Trans Lifeline, and two members of the public.

Vice Chair Cottrell called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">E30.051</a>	RESOLUTION; Urging the State of Connecticut to Uphold Title IX Protections for Transgender Students. 07/08/20 – Submitted by Reps. Matherne and Policar	<b>Approved as Amended 5-0-0</b>

Rep. Matherne explained why this resolution was put on the agenda. The State of Connecticut is under threat of being denied funding under Title IX, of which Stamford faces losing up to approximately \$6 million. Connecticut has a more inclusive policy than many other states. This resolution urges the Governor to stand up for the Title IX protections offered to transgender students.

<sup>1</sup>Kayleigh Webb, Chris Mosier and Jay Potter each discussed their personal experiences and why this resolution is important. (Please refer to the [video](#)).

There was discussion on this item.

- School athletics are very important to many LGBTQ students who are going through tremendous difficulties in their lives.
- LGBTQ youth are an at-risk demographic and need protections.
- Ms. Pioli explained that the BOE has an LGBTQ Task Force. They are working on a policy regarding transgender students. There has been a professional development workshop for teachers. The task force meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:05:37

- Many transgender student athletes are worried they will not be able to participate in sports once they transition.
- Transgender students make up a very small proportion of high school athletes, but right now there is a disproportionate amount of media attention on them.
- Parents often move to a new school district after their children transition, to prevent their children from having to come out at their current school.
- Statistics on transgender student athletes most likely do not reflect the correct numbers for various reasons.
- There are many State Legislators who condemn the threat to the Title IX protections.
- The Governor is looking at the current policy, but there is no action being taken on it at this time.

A motion to amend the last two paragraphs of the resolution to read as follows was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Cottrell, Aquila, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo and Stella in favor):

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 30th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford hereby urges [the Connecticut State Delegation](#), the Governor of the State of Connecticut, [and the Attorney General of the State of Connecticut](#) to fight all lawsuits and policies against transgender youth based on their gender identity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 30th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford hereby urges [the Connecticut State Delegation](#), the Governor of the State of Connecticut, [and the Attorney General of the State of Connecticut](#) to support all transgender students in their pursuit of civil liberties, including academic and athletic opportunities.

A motion to approve the resolution as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Cottrell, Aquila, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo and Stella in favor.

- <sup>2</sup>2. [E30.050](#) REVIEW; Back to School Plan for Stamford Public Schools. **Report Made**  
07/08/20 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell

Dr. Lucero gave an overview of the re-opening plan option models ([attached](#)).

- There are four possible return models: traditional, 100% in-person with stipulations, hybrid, and 100% distance learning.
- The decision for which model will be used will be made the week of August 10th.
- With whatever model is decided upon, parents will have the option of choosing 100% distance learning for their children.
- There are many things that still need to be figured out such as transportation, signage, finalizing the mask policy, having isolation rooms for possible Covid symptoms, and how lunch will be served since cafeterias will not be used.
- There needs to be a review of the school ventilation systems, especially those schools which have had previous problems.

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:46:34

- There are several issues to distance learning: Many parents are not technically savvy, do not have a strong wifi, have multiple children needing to use the computer, and/or have language barriers.
- Hybrid models would work better than 100% distance learning to ensure the students are getting everything they need.
- There will be an English helpline and a bilingual helpline for parents and students.
- Every student will receive an electronic device, and every grade level will have a specific device type that is used.
- Every school has parent facilitators to help families.
- Credit accumulation will be the same for students doing 100% distance learning.
- All parents/guardians will have to choose either the district's selected return model or the distance learning option. This will be done through PowerSchool and will be like a re-registering process. There will be follow up communication to families to ensure that every single student is accounted for in this process.

Dr. Lucero stated she will come back to the Committee every month to give an update on how the 2020-2021 school year is progressing, including the process and the budgetary impact.

Vice Chair Cottrell adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Cottrell, Vice Chair

*This meeting is on [video](#).*