



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Megan Cottrell, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: This meeting was held remotely.

The Education Committee met as indicated above. In attendance was Chair Cottrell and Committee Member Reps. de la Cruz, Di Costanzo and Sandford. Excused was Rep. Stella; and absent was Rep. Graziosi. Also present were Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools; and Rebecca Hamman, BOE. Members of AFBA: Charmaine Tourse, Dolan Middle School Principal; Robert King, NAACP 1st Vice President; Jennifer Forman, Immediate past president PTC; Edith Presley, BOE; Jacqueline Latif-Scully; and Nadene Reid. Also present were two members of the public.

Chair Cottrell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. E30.066	REVIEW; Alliance for Black Achievement and How They are Working to Improve Achievement. 08/04/21 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell 08/26/21 –Held by Committee 4-0-0	Report Made

Chair Cottrell explained she put this item on the Agenda to have a discussion on the issues and the good work that is being done by AFBA.

Ms. Forman gave an overview of AFBA, reviewed the attached [presentation](#), and there was discussion.

- AFBA is a grass roots organization looking to close the achievement gap. The focus is on Black students because the data shows that the gap is most pervasive between Black students and other students.
- Stamford is a great city for an organization such as this and to be a model for other cities.
- There four main objectives of AFBA:
 - Elevate, embrace and sustain voice of Black parents/guardians and students.
 - Implement programs, policies and practices to promote Black student achievement and social-emotional well-being.
 - Increase the representation of Black educators at each level of the Stamford Public Schools.
 - Establish the Stamford BOE as an AFBA partner in leading the work of equity, anti-racism and educational justice for Black students in Stamford.

- It is important for students to meet grade level goals in elementary school, as it gets harder to engage struggling students in grades 6-12.
- More funding is needed for the higher level grades because much of school funding is for programs in grades K-5.
- There are social workers on staff who can make home visits to chronically absent students and their families if the need arises.
- Stamford has received funding from the Learning Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP) to address chronic absenteeism.
- The pandemic further affected students who were already chronically absent.
- The Domus Family Advocacy Program is involved in the 6-12 grade levels.
- Different communities need assistance at different times. Parent Facilitators positions were created to reach out to the Hispanic and Latin American parent groups to engage them and the process has been successful.
- Programming and supports are needed for the staff to help struggling students.
- Broadening outreach is very important.

Chair Cottrell adjourned the meeting 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Cottrell, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).