



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Megan Cottrell, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Education Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Cottrell, Vice Chair Shaw, and Committee Member Reps. Di Costanzo, Jean-Louis, Mays, Pierre-Louis, and Pollack. Also present were Reps. de la Cruz, Goldberg, and Tomas; Tamu Lucero, BOE Superintendent; BOE Members Josh Esses, Andy George, Rebecca Hamman, and Jackie Heftman; Cindy Grafstein, Mayor's Office; Kevin McCarthy, Facilities Manager; Matthew Forker, SHS Principal; Christopher Passamano, SHS Athletic Director; and six members of the public.

Chair Cottrell called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

The meeting began with Representatives, BOE members and invited guests introducing themselves and describing their background.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
11. E31.001	REVIEW; Long-Term Facilities Plan (Including Work on the Report Done by SLAM). 01/02/22 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell	Report Made

Dr. Lucero, Ms. Grafstein, and Mr. McCarthy reviewed this item and there was discussion.

- Water intrusion in schools became a big issue a few years ago. The City stepped forward to provide additional funding. It was then discussed how to move forward to address the aging schools. The City and BOE put together a long-term facilities committee which includes members of several boards (Planning Board, BOF, BOR, BOE) to determine how to address our schools so everyone is on the same page.
- There are three main points of focus: 1) funding, 2) community engagement, and 3) developing a master facilities plan.
- Two applications were made to the State to fund the re-building of Westhill High School (WHS) and a childcare learning partnership at the Lockwood site. Funding was received at 20 percent. Other funding sources are being researched.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:16:11

- On February 3rd the BOE will have a (virtual) meeting to share the draft master facilities plan and the community is encouraged to attend. This is a comprehensive plan for how to deal with all 23 sites in Stamford Public Schools and how to meet the needs of students over the next 10 years. There has been extensive ongoing community engagement regarding this issue.
- SLAM led a facilities condition assessment on each school and this report will be included in the draft facilities masterplan appendix.
- The facilities condition assessment cost was in the range of \$670 million over 10 years, not including the rebuilding of WHS. This is deferred maintenance, items that will need to be replaced over the next 10 years based on the age of each building
- It was determined that many students at Apples Pre-K are having to spend much of the school day on buses in order to access their education. Combining programs at the Lockwood site would help alleviate this problem.
- WHS has not been renovated since 1960-70's. There is not enough room for all of the systems, and to make room currently would involve floor space. Many items in the building are insufficient for the 21st century. Part of State funding requires that an assessment is done comparing renovating versus new construction. It was determined that rebuilding would be more cost effective than renovating.
- The BOE is trying to address those schools that are most in need of repair, and that all school buildings are safe to be in now.
- Ms. Grafstein will try to find out if the \$5 million grant that was funded to Domus is attached to Domus or to the Lockwood building.

². E31.002 REVIEW; Ongoing Improvements and Procedures **Report Made**
 Regarding Building Maintenance.
 01/02/22 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell

Dr. Lucero, Ms. Grafstein, and Mr. McCarthy reviewed this item and there was discussion.

- Stamford Public Schools used to have an outside maintenance company take care of the buildings. A few years ago it was decided to bring the maintenance management in-house.
- Stamford has 23 school buildings on 22 sites, over 3 million square feet of floor space, 1.5 million square feet of roof space, and 310 acres of property, including turf fields and stadiums. Anything from the curb/street line inwards is the responsibility of SPS.
- There are three facility managers, with Mr. McCarthy as the Director, 120 custodians, and 31 mechanics.
- Preventative maintenance includes both in-house work and outside contracts. There are currently 32 programs using outside contractors. These contracts are usually for five years so the vendors get to know the buildings well. The contracts include materials, equipment and processes.

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- Many systems never had preventative maintenance performed, such as the variable frequency drives (VFD) that were installed in Rogers School in the early 2000's. This is the motor that controls water and air thru HVAC systems.
- There are on-call contractors for water intrusion and on-call remediation contractors. There are also on-call materials contractors so if something can be fixed in-house, we know exactly where to get the materials. These contracts are for both big items and small repairs.
- All inspections are performed on a schedule. There is an electronic log of everything that is done in each building related to repair and maintenance.
- Every year each system that moves air thru the buildings is checked fully to make sure it is working as it should.
- The log does not include completed inspections, but it would be helpful if it did.
- About 3,000-4,000 work orders are completed each year on the school buildings.
- Any maintenance complaints in a school should eventually get to the head custodian of that school, and they will submit a work order. Work orders then go to Mr. McCarthy via email, and he directs it to the best person, whether it is an inside employee or an outside contractor.
- In addition to Mr. McCarthy, the school principals get a list of pending and completed jobs for their school.
- Is it possible for this work order list to be available for the entire community?
- Chair Cottrell stated that the issue at Westover School was very complicated and the BOE, Laura Burwick, Lou Casolo, Ms. Grafstein, Mr. McCarthy, and many others brought in the best experts in the industry to work on the problem.
- The culture of maintaining the school buildings has changed dramatically in the past few years since it is now managed internally.
- The City provides hand sanitizers, gloves, and other COVID supplies to the schools on a weekly basis. Each week principals submit their supply requests. Each school has a once-per-week delivery on a specific day. However, an emergency delivery can be made outside of that scheduled day.

³³. E31.003 REVIEW: Process Taken by Stamford High School **Report Made**
 Athletics to Create a Culture of Recognized
 Excellence in Sportsmanship.
 01/05/22 – Submitted by Reps. Di Costanzo and
 Cottrell

Mr. Forker and Mr. Passamano reviewed this item and there was discussion.

- Stamford High School (SHS) was recently recognized for two specific events.
- The first being the annual "Pink Out" that so far has raised over \$90K for cancer research in the past 10 years. Every year new student-designed shirts/sweatshirts and other gear are made and sold. The money goes to the Bennett Cancer Center in Stamford.
- The second is a Thanksgiving food drive. Students created 100 "meals-to-go" with 75 meals discreetly going to SHS families in need, and 25 meals going to Seniors in need.
- A big push has been made to instill community service and awareness in the athletic students so they know there is more to their world than sports. It has

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been very important for the students to embrace civic involvement beyond themselves and sports.

- Every team is charged with finding a community service based project. Some examples are volunteering with AmeriCares, wrapping gifts at Bethel AMC, and Toys for Tots drives.
- The coaches try to encapsulate the younger youth organizations into the community involvement, such as having younger teams stand in the dugout with the high school teams, or helping to track score. This serves to bridge the younger children with the older students.
- There are many organizations at SHS besides athletic teams that have a charge of community engagement, so there are many SHS students outside of athletics who are involved in the community.
- Other school-wide activities have included the outdoor Fall Festival with activities for children, and the Spring campus cleanup.
- These activities are a testament to the community culture of Stamford High School.

Chair Cottrell adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Cottrell, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).