



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Megan Cottrell, Chair

Ramya Shaw, Vice Chair

Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023
Time: 7:00 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, Mays, and Pollack. Absent was Reps. Jean-Louis and Pierre-Louis. Also in attendance were: Tom Cassone, Director of the Law Dept; Amy LiVolsi, Law Dept; Amy Beldotti, Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; BOE Members: Michael Hyman, Andy George, Jackie Pioli; and Lori Rhodes, Associate Superintendent for School Development.

Chair Cottrell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. E31.012	REVIEW; SPS Plans to Implement PA 22-118 §84 Regarding the Provision of Free Menstrual Products in Schools. 12/02/22 – Submitted by Rep. Pollack 12/12/22 – Held at Steering 01/09/23 – Held at Steering	T. Lucero Board of Education

¹Lori Rhodes said she is here to discuss the plan going forward for this new Provision. Ms. Rhodes explained that this law passed before she assumed this position and The Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, comprised of high school students from Westhill and Stamford High Schools, advocated for this at the State. She shared the attached [PowerPoint](#) regarding the plans.

The Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, comprised of high school students from Westhill and Stamford High Schools, advocated for this at the State

² . E31.015	REVIEW; Curriculum Audit, Next Steps, and Where BOE is in The Process of Addressing the Audit 02/08/23 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell	T. Lucero Board of Education
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Amy Beldotti discussed the attached [PowerPoint presentation](#) regarding the Curriculum Audit with the Committee.

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:02:30 Lori Rhodes Presentation

² Video Time Stamp 00:12:50 E31.015 Amy Beldotti Presentation and Discussion

3. ³E31.013 REVIEW; Overview of the Board of Finance, Board of Representatives, Board of Education, Planning Board, and Long Term Facilities Authority over the Board of Education Budget, Buildings, Curriculum, etc.
01/04/23 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell
01/09/23 – Held at Steering

Chair Cottrell submitted this item to clarify the responsibilities of the Board of Representatives regarding authority over school buildings. Also, she wanted clarity on the responsibilities of each board/committee mentioned for informative purposes.

Director Cassone and Attorney LiVolsi discussed the following:

- Capital Projects are performed by the City and the City owns the buildings; The Board of Education maintains the buildings
- The Board of Education derives its powers from State Law and City of Stamford Charter and Ordinances
- Budgetary process
 - Superintendent works with Staff/Team/Employees/Public to solicit input for the budget
 - Puts the numbers together and it's divided up into Grants and Operating budget
 - Then reviewed over several meetings and a Public Hearing
 - Then the Board of Education will vote on the Superintendent's Proposed Budget
 - Once approved, it goes to the Mayor just for an FYI; Total dollars requested
 - Then it goes to the Board of Finance which can approve or reduce the budget but cannot increase the Board of Education budget
 - Then it goes to the Board of Representatives and they can approve or reduce but not increase the Board of Education budget
 - Once finalized, it goes back to the Board of Education for possible reallocation of line item funds but cannot increase the total budget
 - Board of Representatives can send recommendations when they make cuts to actual line items.

Chair Cottrell adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Cottrell, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

³ Video Time Stamp 01:07:00 E31.013 Discussion with Director Cassone and Attorney Amy LiVolsi