

**From:** [Altamura, Michael](#)  
**To:** [George, Andy](#)  
**Cc:** [Tarzia, Nicola](#); [BOE - Elected Officials](#); [Board of Representatives](#); [Rinaldi, Mary Lou](#); [Kooris, David](#); [Ryan, Kieran](#); [Alswanger, Geoff](#); [Handler, Michael](#); [Grafstein, Cindy](#); [Lucero, Tamu](#); [McCarthy, Kevin](#); [Glassman, Andrew](#); [Perna, John](#); [Martin, David](#); [Casolo, Louis](#); [Marlene Wilden](#); [Frank J. Mercede](#); [Jim Lawler](#); [Robin Druckman](#); [Anthony Gaglio](#); [fritz.blau@gmail.com](mailto:fritz.blau@gmail.com); [Lisa Butler](#); [Wunder, Kathy](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Tarzia and SAMG  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 6:30:35 AM

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I don't think meeting with Nic individually is a good idea. I think we should all be involved in this discussion. This is a major issue and needs to be addressed at a committee level and at a full board level.

I share his concerns about SAMG.

They are arrogant and talk down to our questions. We need answers when we ask questions and not "look it up, It's on the website".

Honestly my view with SAMG

is lack of knowledge and it's been a learn as we go situation. We needed someone that could step in with knowledge and experience in the role of SAMG. Instead we got no knowledge or experience, our schools, our students and our staff cannot afford to have a learn as we go management.

We deserve better.

Mike

From the desk of Michael Altamura

On Nov 25, 2019, at 10:57 PM, George, Andy <[AGeorge@stamfordct.gov](mailto:AGeorge@stamfordct.gov)> wrote:

Hi Nic,

I appreciate you writing with your concerns. I would be willing to meet with you to talk about this further, but I do want to remind you that the board needs to act collectively (no one person has power to act individually.)

Also, it should be noted that SAMG has only been managing these facilities since June 25th. It should be taken into account that they are relatively new to this case and are working expeditiously to get up to speed and take considerations such as yours in good faith.

In order to make a change, we'll need approval from the superintendent, the BoE as a whole, and city administration. Again, happy to meet with you if you feel it is worthwhile.

**Andy George, President**  
**Board of Education**  
**Stamford, CT**

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**From:** Tarzia, Nicola

**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2019 7:04:11 PM

**To:** BOE - Elected Officials; Board of Representatives; Rinaldi, Mary Lou; Kooris, David; Ryan, Kieran; Alswanger, Geoff; Handler, Michael; Grafstein, Cindy; Lucero, Tamu; McCarthy, Kevin; Glassman, Andrew; Perna, John; Martin, David; Casolo, Louis

**Cc:** Marlene Wilden; Frank J. Mercede; Jim Lawler; Robin Druckman; Anthony Gaglio; fritz.blau@gmail.com; Lisa Butler; Wunder, Kathy

**Subject:** Tarzia and SAMG

Good evening all,

I am writing to express my serious concerns that SAMG is inadequately supporting our district. Our city needs more help in planning for our current and future facilities oversight, and even with our new facilities managers, we are struggling to keep up. It's not working that well at all right now, and I am flooded with parents complaining that we aren't getting the job done and SAMG is failing our children.

A few simple examples of this are the following:

- SAMG is behind deadline and beyond budget for playground remediation. The BoE was approached in March '18 about these issues. Comparatively speaking, this particular district-wide project pales in comparison to other capital projects. Yet, there are families in our district who are still without access to a playground nearly 9 months later with a real risk project completion will expand past a full-calendar year.
- Need I also remind the group about the Stamford Courtyard. This was a humiliating experience in trying to get done. I was asked to meet with parents and contractors and I helped to initiate and brainstorm some solutions.
- Also, when I visited Westover before it was closed with Kathleen Wunder, she and BoE members will tell you I figured out in 5-10 minutes what the problems and cause of the mold were without having to spend millions of

tax dollars on studies and long time frames.

Given my overwhelming credentials (see attachments) and hands on construction experience as owner of The Tarzia Group which consists of Tarzia Contracting and Tarzia Plumbing, it has always been my pleasure to be able to quickly get to the bottom of findings and procedures and add constructive advice to all parties. I have the unique perspective to confidently say there is no one in Stamford's City Government, City employees, Architects, Engineers, General Contractors and or Sub Contractors that can bring as much as I can to the table. Also I have demonstrated this fact in the past when I was the singular board member that conceived the new and very successful AITE on the Rippowam campus.

I have tried to work professionally with SAMG for approximately a year now (with very disrespectful and arrogant leadership) and they have given me no choice, and it is for these reasons I am proposing we reexamine the make-up of the SAMG. We are at a very critical time as the City has gone through several exercises of how to incorporate getting new schools built using corporate space. Now, we have a proposal to do a sale and lease back program. These are all ambitious and creative plans that are doomed to fail without the proper political support. As a BoE member, I personally would like to support this new endeavor but cannot reasonably do so without the right personnel in place – and I plan to be vocal about this stance.

Also in the attachments is a letter from the BOR to the Mayor which calls for a long term facilities maintenance plan, and long term planning which says to hire a strategic planning consultant for maintenance and long term planning. This seems to have fallen on deaf ears and or is being done inadequately.

Right now I have a very good amount of support and a strong following to form a New Coalition/SAMG which includes the support of the SEA, SBOEEA (custodial and tradesman union) along with plenty of parents and other major general contractors that live in the city so that we can rectify this bad scenario and the bad experiences that we have all had (see attachments).

Please do not forget we are spending millions of dollars to complete existing work with outside contractors and corporate partners to address the needs of our children and district that we have fallen extremely behind on for many years. Let the New SAMG try and do it a lot better and more unified, more effective and in a more efficient respectful manner.

I'd like to call for meeting to plan for our second phase of our current facilities oversight, including long range plan to be inclusive of all the resources our City has with cooperation from SAMG, Engineering and the Mayor and our other City Boards.

Thank you for your time. Nicola

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