

SPECIAL MEETING OF 13TH BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVESMONDAY, MARCH 18, 1974STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

A Special Meeting of the 13th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held on Monday, March 18, 1974, pursuant to a "CALL" issued by President Frederick E. Miller, Jr. under the provisions of Section 202 of the Stamford Charter.

The meeting was held in the meeting room of the Board, Second floor, Municipal Office Building, 429 Atlantic Street, Stamford, Connecticut, and was called to order by the President at 9:10 P.M. after a meeting of the Personnel Committee, the Fiscal Committee and a Caucus by the respective parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: The President led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CHECK OF VOTING MACHINE:

A check of the voting machine was conducted and appeared to be in good working order.

ROLL CALL was taken by the Clerk, Mrs. Marilyn Laitman. There were 38 present and 2 absent. The absent members were:

Peter J. Walsh (D) 7th District
Robert A. Crosby (R) 16th District

THE PRESIDENT declared a quorum present.

"CALL" OF MEETING:

THE PRESIDENT read the following "Call" of the meeting:

TO: All members of 13th Board of Representatives
FROM: President Frederick E. Miller, Jr.
SUBJECT: "CALL" OF SPECIAL MEETING

I, FREDERICK E. MILLER, JR., President of the 13th Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, and pursuant to Section 202 of the Stamford Charter, hereby call a SPECIAL MEETING of said Board of Representatives at the following time and place:

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1974

At the Municipal Office Building, Second Floor,
429 Atlantic Street, Stamford, Connecticut

At 8:00 P.M.

for the following purposes:

Special Meeting of March 18, 1974

- (1) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACT - BOARD OF EDUCATION - CUSTODIANS AND MECHANICS - LOCAL 1083 - Three Year Contract, Covering July 1, 1972 through June 30, 1975 - (Originally received Dec. 10, 1973 and signed Nov. 28, 1973; Rejected by Board of Representatives on Jan. 7, 1974; and RESUBMITTED with changes in Mayor's letter of March 6, 1974)
- (2) \$2,090,000.00 - To increase present fiscal limit now at \$2,863,000.00 to \$3,340,000.00 for ROGERS SCHOOL REHABILITATION AND REFURBISHING PROJECT - (A difference of \$477,000.00) (See letter from Dr. Carpenter dated 3/4/74)

Frederick E. Miller, Jr.
 President
 13th Board of Representatives

THE PRESIDENT called upon Mr. Russbach, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, to report on the first item on the agenda.

MR. RUSSBACH said the Personnel Committee met this evening and present were the following: Mr. Michael Sulo, of Local 1083, Mr. Sabia from the Board of Education, Mr. Stone, Mr. Brown, Mr. Barrett, the City Labor Negotiator and Mr. Bruno Giordano, Supt. of the Board of Recreation, plus all members of the Personnel Committee.

MR. RUSSBACH said he would like to go over the revised changes in the contract since its rejection by the Board on January 7, 1974.

He said there was give and take on both sides of the issue and the contract after it is read, will reflect that.

He said the first change is at the end of Page 8 and the beginning of Page 9, paragraph 6. He said there had been considerable objection from certain quarters of the City concerning the cost of recreational programs which function on a weekend and specifically, that the Board of Recreation was not specifically included in this. He said what has happened is that we have changed the double time in the contract we rejected, as to non profit school activities - that was changed to time and one half for Board of Recreation activities. He said apparently the Board of Recreation is satisfied with this change. He said they are sitting down with the Custodians Union and the Board of Recreation to work out some other compromise where the Board of Recreation can get maximum use of the facilities on the open night functions at the schools during the week to save the taxpayers some money and also get the maximum recreational use from the contract.

He said according to this, seven schools will be open for free for the Board of Recreations activities and if there is a function going on in one of the seven open schools, the Board of Recreation can use the existing Custodians in the school without having to pay for another Custodian just for recreational activities. He said this was not really a contract provision, but a misunderstanding and the Committee feels it has been resolved.

On page 17, paragraph 4, regarding military service. He said the reason this was rejected last time is because the provision was totally open ended and, in

essence, would have allowed someone who had worked for a couple of years for the Board of Education and then went into the service and put 20 some odd years in the military and come out and if they had a sufficient amount of time with the Board of Education - they would have to pay 3% or more of their salary for a 20 or more year period and they could actually be eligible for a pension. He said because of our objection, this paragraph was changed to the way it used to read under the old contract to a two year period.

He said on page 22, paragraph 2 under the clothing allowance, contained one of their objections and there was a lot of misunderstanding and confusion over why was it put in originally. He said this paragraph was changed to allow a yearly clothing allowance of \$125 starting June 1, 1974. He said it is his understanding that all employees presently serving the City of Stamford under blue collar occupations have this provision in their contract. He said what has happened with the Teamsters in giving up certain things in their contract, got this fringe benefit.

He said the next change was on page 26, under "TERM AND SCOPE OF AGREEMENT" as a concession over the contract that was rejected, the old contract stipulated that for purposes of retroactivity, only authorized overtime would be paid -- that is it shall be retroactive to July 1, 1972. He said as a concession, it was stipulated that ALL overtime, and not specifically that which was authorized would be retroactive and this would amount to actually \$4,000 and this is a change from the contract that was revised. He said this is changed to 5% of \$182,000 rather than the old figure of 5% of \$108,000.

On page 17 under APPENDIX III:

MR. RUSSEBACH said one of the changes is that the rejected contract provided for a \$500 bonus - a \$500 salary increase and 15.5% over three years, with 10% of it retroactive. He said the concession that we have achieved here is that the \$500 bonus figure is removed. He said, in addition, the Board of Education has said that they would probably implement a night shift, not in the balance of the present school year -- but probably starting with September of the 1974-75 school year and at that time they will probably be ready to implement a night shift. On this basis, he said we have a saving of possibly several thousand dollars over a period of months because there will be a delay in implementing a night shift.

RE: COST ANALYSIS

MR. RUSSEBACH said the Cost Analysis needed a lot more elaboration on them as we weren't too sure that everything in the contract was spelled out here. He said we now have a comparison between the contract that was rejected and the new revised contract. He said according to the figures in the contract, the old contract had a cost over this period of time - 1972-73-74 - of \$361,185.00 and the revised contract Cost Analysis figures are \$265,000, or roughly a net saving to the City of almost \$100,000.

MRS. LAITMAN said she has a question on page 16 of the new contract regarding the Blue Cross. She asked if this is in line with other City contracts that we have approved.

MR. RUSSEBACH said he believes that the Contracts we passed for the Police and the Firemen -- He said one of the things that we are concerned about is the paying of the same benefits to those retired -- this benefit is 100% paid

by the City and they felt there might be a possible conflict here of discrimination, and the City would be treating different employees in the same group in different ways - 100% of those that are active and only 50% to those who are retired and yet they are under the same group plan. He said they have been assured that there has been a special category set up and there would be no problem as far as discrimination and benefits are concerned.

MRS. LAITMAN asked about the \$500 for night shift — is that paid to every employee?

MR. RUSSBACH said all employees covered under the terms of the contract get the \$500 — and we are not giving a bonus, but a \$500 flat salary increase, so everyone's salary, regardless of what classification they are in, has automatically gone up \$500 — and if you hire a new person they are hired at this higher salary level.

The question and answer period went on for some time, after which MR. MAYNOR MOVED THE QUESTION. Seconded and CARRIED.

MR. TRUGLIA called for a roll call vote, which was approved by more than one-fifth of those present. VOTE taken on approval of the contract and CARRIED by 36 yes and 2 no as follows:

THOSE VOTING IN FAVOR OF THE CONTRACT,
AS REVISED:

BLOIS, Julius (D)
BOCCUZZI, John (D)
BOCCUZZI, Theodore (D)
COLASSO, John (D)
CONNORS, George (D)
COSTELLO, Robert (D)
DAVIDOFF, Norman (D)
DeROSE, Joseph (D)
DIXON, Handy (D)
EXNICIOS, Robert (R)
FLANAGAN, William (R)
FORMAN, Barbara (R)
GAMBINO, Philip (D)
GURDIAN, Armen (D)
HOFFMAN, Leonard (R)
LAITMAN, Marilyn (D)
LIVINGSTON, Jeremiah (D)
LOUGHRAN, Michael (D)
LOWDEN, Lynn (D)
MARTINO, Vincent (D)
MAYNOR, Frederick (D)
MILLER, Frederick (D)
PERILLO, Alfred (D)
PERKINS, Billie (R)
PONT-BRIANT, Lois (R)
RAVALLESE, George (D)
ROSE, Matthew (D)
ROSS, Salvan (D)

THOSE VOTING IN OPPOSITION TO THE
REVISED CONTRACT:

KELLY, James (D)
MORABITO, Joseph (D)

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RUSSBACH, Daniel (R)
 RYBNICK, Gerald (D)
 SALSBURG, Richard (R)
 SANDOR, John (D)
 SERRANI, Thom (D)
 TRESSER, Michael (R)
 TRUGLIA, Anthony (D)
 VARNEY, Kim (R)

MR. RUSSBACH said he would urge the Board very strongly to adopt a "Sense of the Board" resolution in regard to future contracts.

MR. EXNICIOS presented the following resolution, which was approved with one "no" vote:

RESOLUTION NO. 937

SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE REVIEW OF CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, the Board of Representatives deems it necessary to protect the taxpayers interest, and

WHEREAS, to provide this, the Board's Personnel Committee should be cognizant of and a party to final negotiations of any and all contracts between the City of Stamford and its Unions,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that it is the Sense of this Board that all final contracts negotiated between the City and its Unions be submitted for review and comment to the Board's Personnel Committee before the Mayor affixes his signature to said Contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during prolonged negotiations that the Board's Personnel Committee be appraised, on a regular basis, as to the progress of negotiations on specific paragraphs of the subject contract.

- (2) \$2,090,000.00 - To increase present fiscal limit (debt limit) now at \$2,863,000.00 to \$3,340,000.00 for ROGERS SCHOOL REHABILITATION AND REFURBISHING PROJECT - (A difference of \$477,000.00 - See letter from Dr. Carpenter dated 3-4-74)

MRS. LAITMAN presented the following report of the Fiscal Committee on the above matter:

Meeting of Fiscal Committee-meeting
held Wednesday, March 13, 1974

The Fiscal Committee met on Wednesday, March 13, 1974 with the following members present: Marilyn Laitman, Handy Dixon, Robert Crosby, Norman Davidoff, Barbara Forman and Lois Pont-Briant. Absent were: Michael Loughran, Gerald Rybnick, Kim Varney and Jeremiah Livingston.

MRS. LAITMAN said the Board of Education has adopted a resolution requesting that this Board approve an increase of the authorized cost of the ROGERS SCHOOL renovation project to \$3,340,000.00. This money will enable the Board of Education to award the bid to the lowest bidder and begin construction immediately. She said this bid has been held, pending approval of the Board of Representatives and it has been approved by the Planning Board and the Board of Finance. If this bid is accepted, there is a good chance that this project will be completed on time.

She said the actual cost of the project to Stamford is expected to be reduced by an estimated \$1,600,000 in State Aid. This reimbursement is made in four installments during construction.

SHE MOVED for approval of the above request. Seconded by Mr. Exnicios.

MR. SANDOR said he understands the ceiling is going to be lowered in one of the rooms and if this is done, it will be very expensive and require the moving of the sprinkler system. He said he also understands that there is the possibility of installing electric heat, which at this particular time, with the present energy shortage, would be very expensive, and is not wise. He said he would like to have answers to these questions before he can vote intelligently.

MRS. LAITMAN said she is sorry that he did not have the opportunity to go through the building with the Architect, Frank George. She said he is a very good architect and has spent many months on these plans and it involves a re-working of the building. She said although it is structurally sound, there is much more than a simple job as there are many portions which are going to be used and it is not remodeling for the sake of remodeling, but concerns education and modern methods and a program which is being planned for that school.

She said she has a letter from the Superintendent of Schools in Monroe, Conn., concerning this architect who did a remodeling project for their high school, and who said he has no reservation about recommending him for this work as he approached the problem with patience, understanding and courtesy and his work is of the highest caliber.

MR. SANDOR said he still wants to know whether electric heat is going to be put in this building, and everyone is evading the question. He said he would like some firm answers.

MRS. PONT-BRIANT said in regard to the lowering of the ceilings, it had been mentioned by Mr. George that they were saving some \$22,000 by NOT lowering the ceiling, so apparently they knocked it out.

She said a great many things were considered, but that does not mean they decided to accept the suggestions. She said she does not believe that electric heat was considered. She requested permission to leave the floor in order to question Dr. Carpenter if this is permissible.

THE PRESIDENT said she may leave the floor if she chooses to do so.

MR. GAMBINO said last fall some of the present Representatives had an informal meeting with the Architect, Mr. George present and at that time he explained exactly what he was going to do, with drawings and everything else. He said it is his understanding that the heating system is going to be revamped, but not with electric heat. He said there are boilers down that they undoubtedly need

some repair and there are probably radiators that need replacing, but to his knowledge the question of electric heat was never considered. He said we spent hours going over these plans and worked for over a year to get this to our Board and he thinks all questions have been answered to everyone's satisfaction. He said he is in favor of this 100%.

MR. LOUGHRAN said he feels that this is all summarized in Dr. Carpenter's letter of Feb. 28, 1974 to Mayor Lenz. He read a portion of the letter at this time.

MR. SANDOR said he still has not received an answer to his question.

MRS. LATTMAN said this Board is not voting a blank check, and that they spent countless hours going over the plans for Rogers School.

MRS. PONT-BRIANT said according to Dr. Carpenter they are keeping the oil heat and keeping the boiler and the only possibility might be of a very small electric heat area would be on a back starwell that is drafty and they are talking about one small unit. She said the lowering of the ceiling has been eliminated in the new section; however, in some areas of the old sections they are putting lower ceilings in, which will save heat and which again is OIL HEAT.

She said this is merely raising the debt ceiling tonight and is NOT an appropriation, as they will come back later on for the appropriation, which will then require the approval of the Planning Board, the Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives. She said all we are being asked to do tonight is to authorize the higher limit, which will allow them to receive a low bid and the specific appropriation request will come at a future date and it will be presented at that time, item for item.

MR. EXNICIOS said he will comment briefly and he is in favor of it and no rash judgments are being made at this time -- as everyone will note the feasibility study was completed in 1971 and in 1972-73 we appropriated money for planning, and put it out to bid. He said the 12th Board did do a lot of work before the decision was made to go ahead with the renovation and it was discussed at great length as to whether we should demolish the school, turn it over to some other use and build a new school, or do this renovation. He said all of these ideas were thoroughly gone into at that time and it was the wisdom of this Board that we appropriate the money to renovate the building. He said if this contract is not gone forward with now, it will have to go out for bids again and it will certainly go up still higher, as every bit of material is constantly going up daily, no matter what it is and he is amazed that a contractor can even break even today.

MR. RAVALLESE said he checked out the architect and looked into it from all angles, and it seems that when it comes to the East Side, it is about time that they got a school which they rightfully deserve.

MR. CONNORS said he is very much in favor of this and agrees with Mr. Exnicios, and if we don't approve this tonight, it will only mean that it will have to go out for re-bidding and will cost us much more money in the end. He said we have now brought this to a head and it is very much needed and should not be held up any longer.

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MR. JOHN BOCCUZZI said Mr. Exnicios said most of the things he had in mind, but he would like to remind the Board that 11 of the bids came in within 5% of each other and the three lowest ones were within 1%. He said considering the amount of time that was put in by this Board, we should know by now what we are looking for, the Board of Education knows what we expect and if they do not make any irrational changes, it is safe to say that the total cost of this building will be \$3,340,000.00 and he would assume that the Board of Education would work to that end.

After some further discussion, MRS. VARNEY MOVED THE QUESTION. Seconded and CARRIED.

THE PRESIDENT explained the question is on increasing the present fiscal limit now at \$2,863,000 to \$3,340,000 for Rogers School Rehabilitation and Refurbishing Project.

MRS. FORMAN asked if this requires a two-thirds vote. THE PRESIDENT said no.

THE PRESIDENT called for a vote on the question. CARRIED unanimously.

MEETING OF FISCAL COMMITTEE:

MRS. LAITMAN asked the members of the Fiscal Committee to please attend a short meeting in order to set some dates.

MEETING OF STEERING COMMITTEE:

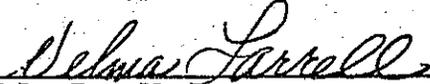
THE PRESIDENT reminded the members of the Steering Committee that a meeting will now be held after adjournment of this meeting.

OPEN HEARING OF LEGISLATIVE & RULES COMMITTEE:

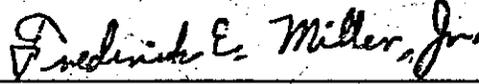
MR. SERRANI, Chairman, announced that his Committee will hold an open hearing on Wednesday, March 20, 1974 at 8 P.M. in this room to discuss the proposed Gasoline Ordinance ("REGULATION OF SALE OF GASOLINE IN CITY OF STAMFORD")

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion, duly seconded and CARRIED, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 P.M.


 Velma Farrell
 Administrative Assistant and
 (Recording Secretary)

APPROVED:


 Frederick E. Miller, Jr., President
 13th Board of Representatives

Note: The above meeting was broadcast
 over Radio Station WSTC.