



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Mary Savage, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Education Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Savage and Committee Member Reps. Buckman, Cerasoli, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Kolenberg, Nabel and Wallace. Also in attendance were Reps. Coppola, Day, Fedeli, Heaphy, McMullen, Okun, Skigen, Summerville, Watkins and Zelinsky; Mayor Martin; Dr. Winnie Hamilton, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Tamu Lucero, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Jackie Heftman and Polly Rauh, Board of Education; and Cindy Grafstein, Mayor's office.

Chair Savage called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. E29.014	REVIEW; Student Advisory Council 2014-15. 08/06/14 – Submitted by Rep. Savage (at 6:00 p.m.) 08/20/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee	REPORT MADE

The following items were read by Student Volunteers: SAC Mission Statement, SAC Meeting Protocols, and SAC Code of Conduct. Copies of "Topics of High Interest for Discussion" from last year were distributed. A short discussion took place and it was recommended that new topics be considered for discussion at monthly meetings this year. A list was generated. The topic for discussion at October's Meeting will be "Acknowledging Successful Students". A facilitator and recorder for October's Meeting volunteered their services. A presentation to the Board of Education was discussed. Rather than using "Time for the Public to be Heard", it was suggested that the presentation take place during the regular agenda of the Board (Superintendent's Report or Student and Staff Achievements). Chair Savage will follow up on this suggestion.

The SAC adjourned at 6:55 p.m. and the remainder of the meeting continued in the Legislative Chambers.

¹ Video Part 1

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 2. | E29.013 REVIEW; Requirement of Child Care Facilities to File Reports with the Superintendent of Schools (at 7:00 p.m.).
07/09/14 – Submitted by Rep. Quinones
08/20/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee | HELD IN
COMMITTEE |
| 2 ³ . | E29.016 REVIEW and APPROVAL; Use of 200 Strawberry Hill Property as a school contingent on State approval of magnet funding (at 7:00 p.m.)
09/02/14 – Submitted by Board of Education
09/10/14 – Approved by Planning Board | REPORT MADE
AND HELD |

Secondary Committee - Fiscal Committee

Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Lucera presented the attached [PowerPoint presentation](#) regarding the current status of overcrowding in the Stamford elementary schools, how it is being addressed and projections for future crowding. They noted that by the 2016-17, there will be no possibility of putting extra classrooms in different schools or other locations within the schools.

In response to questions from the Committee and other Board members, Drs. Hamilton and Lucera, Mayor Martin and Jackie Heftman explained that:

- The application process with the State for an interdistrict Magnet school will take the next 18 months, but they will probably know sooner if the request for funding is being denied. The final vote for reimbursement will be in June, 2015.
- This school will not solve all of the current overcrowding problems, but will alleviate it - be able to move children out of modules and have art, music, gyms and auditoriums, so that all of the students at all of the schools have an equal situation. This school would only add 8% to the current capacity. The City may need to consider adding an additional school in 5 years.
- If the State approves the funding, all of the purchase price will be reimbursed and the City would pay approximately \$5 million for construction
- A traffic study will be done
- This school will be by application, and will target students who would go to the most crowded schools, in order to alleviate the overcrowding
- The capacity of the new school would be about 620 students plus teachers; they are anticipating 4 classrooms of 20 students per class
- The State mandates that 25% of the students be from outside the district
- If the State does not fund an interdistrict magnet school, then the City might consider building a City school on the property, which would be much more costly
- The average current cost to educate a student is \$16,000, but there is a wide range per student cost
- The reimbursement from the State for an interdistrict magnet school is \$7000 for every student from outside of Stamford and \$3000 for every student from within Stamford. This has resulted in a savings of over \$2 million per year in Operating Costs at the Rogers School
- A regular City school has a much lower reimbursement rate and would have much higher operating costs

² Video Part 2

- This year there were 500 applications for kindergarten at Rogers, 420 were from Stamford for a total of 96 slots. There is currently a waiting list to attend

Members of the Committee and the Board raised the following points:

- The school will result in increased traffic in the area and there is a need for a traffic study
- The City needs to be sure the site can support such a large school
- Having good schools attracts businesses and is good for economic development
- Whether redistricting would be appropriate
- Whether it is appropriate to give priority to students from certain schools or parts of the City

Chair Savage adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Savage, Chair

This meeting is on video ([Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#))