



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Mary Savage, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2015
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, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Quinones, and Wallace. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps Cerasoli, Kolenberg, and Nabel. There were six Student Advisory Council Members present. Also present were Dr. Hamilton, Dr. Lucero, and Mr. Meyers.

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

| Item No. | Description | Committee Action |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 1. E29.014 | REVIEW; Student Advisory Council 2014-15. 08/06/14 – Submitted by Rep. Savage 08/20/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee 09/17/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee 10/22/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee 11/19/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee 12/17/14 – Report Made & Held in Committee 02/18/15 – Report Made & Held in Committee 03/18/15 – Report Made & Held in Committee 04/15/15 – Report Made & Held in Committee 05/20/15 – Report Made & Held in Committee | Report Made & Held in Committee |

The topic for discussion was Mental Health Issues Among Students. During the discussion, it was stated that many students have difficulty admitting that they have a problem. Some students are not familiar with the services available in the school as well as in the community. The role of social media was discussed. Students discussed "Connection Time," a weekly period implemented this year, and its potential for help with problems. There were mixed reviews on its usefulness. All agreed that students need to have opportunities at the earlier years for discussion about feelings. The June Meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 17th at 6:00pm, pending Steering Committee approval.

2. [E29.022](#) RESOLUTION; Regarding Student Absenteeism in the Stamford Public Schools. (7:00 p.m.) **Held in Committee 6-0-0**
04/15/15 – Submitted by Reps. Mitchell and de la Cruz

Dr. Hamilton, Dr. Lucero, and Mr. Meyers gave a comprehensive report on State Statutes, Board Policy, and School-based implementation of student attendance policies. A new computer system will be able to note absences and reasons for, together with identifying chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism was defined as being absent more than 10% of the school days by the end of each quarter. A copy of “Chronic Absenteeism by School 2014-2015” was distributed. A series of questions followed. A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote. (Reps. Savage, Buckman, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Quinones, and Wallace in favor.)

3. [E29.023](#) REVIEW; Plan of Action regarding Pullman & Comley's Investigative Report regarding Stamford Public Schools dated April 28, 2015 (7:00 p.m.) **Held in Committee 5-0-1**
04/29/15 – Submitted by Rep. Buckman

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote. (Reps. Buckman, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Quinones, and Wallace in favor; Rep. Savage abstaining.)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Savage, Chair.

This meeting is on video ([Pt. 1](#) & [Pt. 2](#))