



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Diane Lutz, Chair

Megan Cottrell, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2019
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Education Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Vice Chair Cottrell and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo and Graziosi. Absent or excused were Chair Lutz and Committee Member Rep. Stella. Also present were Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools; Michael Handler, Director of Administration; Dawn McGinn, Chartwells Food Service Director; Reina Di Nino, Toquam School and parent; Alexa Eisenberg, parent; Eun Ju Yu, parent; and four members of the public, including three Stamford public school students.

Vice Chair Cottrell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. E30.041	REVIEW; Ways to Improve Environmental Sustainability in Stamford Public Schools. 08/07/19 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell	Held 5-0-0

The invited guests and Committee discussed this item:

- Ms. McGinn explained that Chartwells is working to reduce trays in the schools. Elementary level has the most use, high schools use none, and they are trying to eliminate trays in middle schools.
- A tray is very important especially for younger students, as it allows students to hold all five components of a lunch (milk, fruit, vegetable, grain, meat/alternative). It is difficult to hold everything without a tray. Chartwells is looking into alternative options.
- Ms. Di Nino discussed the [attached](#) REAP presentation, and the [attached](#) Agenda of accomplishments, goals and concerns regarding environmental sustainability in the schools.
- In some schools custodians do not always uphold the recycling rules, and empty everything in the same dumpster. Perhaps there should be custodial training.
- Cars should not be idling at pick up times for more than three minutes.
- The Stamford Asset Management Group (SAMG) has hired three facilities managers for the schools. Collectively they have hygienist, construction management and HVAC experience.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:06

- To have district-wide standards and expectations for environmental sustainability the process should be: 1) a pilot program, 2) a structure in place, 3) turn program over to all schools and 4) someone needs to oversee it.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Cottrell, Aquila, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo and Graziosi in favor).

²2. E30.040 REVIEW; Fiscal Update – Trailblazers Closing. Report Made
07/23/19 – Submitted by Superintendent Lucero

Dr. Lucero gave an update on the item.

- Six weeks before the start of the 2019-2020 school year Domus announced it would be closing Trailblazers. The SPS budget is in a deficit because of this unexpected event.
- Of the 120 Trailblazer students, approximately 70-80 are being absorbed back into the SPS district. There are costs involved ([attached](#)), \$490,000 of which has not yet been identified where the funds will come from.
- It was determined that the Lockwood Avenue building was unsuitable for students, as was the RISE location at the Westhill campus.
- There will be some common resources at the new location for the three programs (Trailblazers, LEAP and RISE) such as a nurse, advocates and core subject teachers. This will help to alleviate some costs.
- The State had allocated \$1,100,000 for Trailblazers, however that is not being transitioned to the SPS. The Governor and State delegation has been contacted to determine if there is any additional funding that SPS can receive.
- Domus is an independent entity so the BOE does not review the financials.
- BOE has requested that Domus give fair warning if it is ever determined that Stamford Academy will close, to avoid this type of situation again.

As a Secondary Committee:

³1. [LR30.078](#) RESOLUTION and public hearing; Approving a Approved 4-0-0
Lease between the City of Stamford and Waterfront
Office Building, L.P. for Lease of Space at 68
Southfield Avenue for School Purposes.
08/20/19 – Submitted by Director Handler
08/27/19 – Approved by the Planning Board
09/12/19 – To be considered by Board of Finance

Mr. Handler and Dr. Lucero discussed this item with the Committee.

- This lease is an optimal solution to a last minute problem.
- The lease has the same structure as the Elmcroft lease for Westover School.

² Video Time Stamp: 00:47:36

³ Video Time Stamp: 01:04:20

- The goal is to be out of the building after the 2019-2020 school year.
- Minimal set up costs were needed because the space was previously used as a pre-school.
- It is a good layout for three separate programs in one building.
- The playground was removed and replaced with a basketball court.
- There were few options available with such a short time constraint.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-0-0 (Reps. Cottrell, Aquila, de la Cruz, and Graziosi).

Vice Chair Cottrell adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Cottrell, Vice Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).