



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Megan Cottrell, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Education Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Cottrell and Committee Member Reps. de la Cruz, Di Costanzo and Sandford. Excused was Rep. Stella and absent was Rep. Graziosi. Also present were Rep. Fleischer, Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools; Jeff Pardo, Engineering, Chris Dellaselva, Law Department; Jackie Heftman and Rebecca Hamman, Board of Education; and Cindy Grafstein, Special Assistant to the Mayor.

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

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. E30.065	APPROVAL; Contract between City of Stamford and Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson Architects, P.C. under RFP No. 824 for Architectural/Engineering Services for Stamford High School Roof Replacement. 07/29/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 08/26/21 – To be Considered by Board of Finance	APPROVED 3-0-1

Mr. Pardo presented the attached [Power Point presentation](#) regarding the proposed project to replace the roof, remove plaster ceilings and replace floors in the 1927 building.

Committee members discussed the proposed project with Mr. Pardo. Items discussed included the following:

- Most of the work will be done during Summer, 2022 and Summer, 2023; architectural documents need to be developed, State approvals need to be obtained, etc.
- Any work done during the school year will be done 2 classrooms at a time; they will try to minimize disruption
- If any asbestos remediation is necessary while students are in the building, they will use hard barriers
- The money for this project will come out of Mold Task Force funds

A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0-1 (Reps. Cottrell, de la Cruz, and Sandford in favor; Rep. Di Costanzo abstaining).

2. E30.066	REVIEW; Black Student Alliance and How They are Working to Improve Achievement. 08/04/21 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell	HELD 4-0-0
------------	--	-------------------

A motion to hold Item No. 2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-0-0 (Reps. Cottrell, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, and Sandford in favor)

3. E30.067 REVIEW; COVID Protocols for the Upcoming School Year. **REPORT MADE**
08/04/21 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell

Dr. Lucero stated that there will be a parent pop-up tomorrow night to discuss the current plan, which may still evolve. The current plan includes:

- Everyone must be masked until 9/30, pursuant to the Governor's executive order
- A social distance of at least 3 ft will be maintained in classrooms, and 6 ft in larger spaces
- Hand washing will continue to be stressed
- The quarantine period will remain 10 days
- Any student's family can sign the student up for weekly testing
- They will continue to encourage students to vaccinate
- All staff will be required to be vaccinated or have weekly testing
- The HVAC systems in all schools will be recommissioned; this will become part of the regular maintenance schedule
- Water fountains will be returned to function, per DPH procedures; they will only be available to refill water bottles, not for students to drink from. If a fountain is used for drinking, the fountain will be taken out of service and cleaned per DPH procedures
- The visiting policy will continue
- Remote learning will not be available except on an individual basis under an IEP or 504 plan or if a student has a health need, as was done pre-covid
- If a classroom or school has an outbreak, they will return to remote learning
- They are setting up a process for remote learning if an at-risk family member would require a student to learn remotely
- Indoor sports will require masks
- Mitigating strategies will be in place for band, music and art programs
- They will encourage physical education to be outdoors
- Parents will continue to be encouraged to pick their children up from school rather than have them ride the bus
- Vaccinated students who come within 3 feet in a classroom will not have to be quarantined if they remain asymptomatic
- The district will be collecting information on the percentage of teachers who are vaccinated
- The district is required to provide students with a free and appropriate education, so a vaccination requirement would not be able to be enforced

4. [E30.068](#) REVIEW; Issues at Strawberry Hill School raised by a Constituent - Lights Remaining on at Night, Unclosed Dumpsters, and Grounds Maintenance Resulting in Blocked Sewer Drains. **REPORT MADE**
08/04/21 – Submitted by Rep. Zelinsky

Chair Cottrell noted that this item should refer to storm drains, not sewer drains.

Ms. Grafstein stated that the lights shown in the resident's pictures relate to 2 very bright lights. They are looking into dimming the lights, but it is complicated because the lights

are on an automated system. The City has been working to see if they can monitor or changing the automated system to address these very bright lights.

The storm drains and dumpster issues have been assessed. There have been staffing issues and a very robust summer school. They are making staffing changes which should address these issues. They will address these issues and stay on top of them.

Chair Cottrell adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Cottrell, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).