

31ST BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES CITY OF STAMFORD

President
JEFF CURTIS
Clerk of the Board
MEGAN COTTRELL

Majority Leader
NINA SHERWOOD
Minority Leader
MARY L. FEDELI

MINUTES

President Curtis called the meeting to order at 8:23 p.m.

President Curtis read the call of the meeting: "I, Jeff Curtis, President of the 31st Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, and pursuant to Section C2-10-4 of the Stamford Charter, hereby call a Special Meeting of said Board of Representatives at the following time and place:

Monday, February 13, 2023

8:00 p.m. (immediately following the Steering Committee Meeting)
by computer, tablet, or smartphone at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86110385700> or www.zoom.com – Webinar ID - 861 1038 5700 or
by phone 1-646-558-8656 – Webinar ID - 861 1038 5700.

to consider and act upon the following:

1. P31.033 REJECTION; Stamford Board of Education and Stamford Administrative Unit Stipulated Interest Arbitration Award. 02/03/23 – Submitted by President Curtis

INVOCATION: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by President Jeff Curtis.

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Clerk of the Board Megan Cottrell. There were 32 members present and 8 members absent or excused (Reps. Adams, Baxter, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Garst, Gilbride, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Miller, Moore, Morson, Nabel, Patterson, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Sandford, Shaw, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, and Watkins were present; Reps. Campbell, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Jean-Louis, Pavia, Pollack, and Saftic were absent or excused). Rep. Goldberg joined the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Also present were Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools; Chris Soules, HR Director, SPS; Ryan Fealey, Director of Finance, SPS; Jackie Heftman and Andy George, Stamford Board of Education, and Tom Mooney, Esq. Shipman & Goodwin.

PRESENTATION: Anabel Figueroa, Chair, Personnel Committee; Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools; Chris Soules, HR Director, SPS; Ryan Fealey, Director of Finance, SPS; Jackie Heftman and Andy George, Stamford Board of Education; Tom Mooney, Esq. Shipman & Goodwin

1. P31.033 REJECTION; Stamford Board of Education and Stamford Administrative Unit Stipulated Interest Arbitration Award. 02/03/23 – Submitted by President Curtis **FAILED TO REJECT BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF 4-25-4**

Mr. Mooney detailed the procedural history of Item No. 1:

- When the Board of Representatives rejected the arbitration award, an arbitration process was initiated.
- In accordance with the Teacher Negotiation Act (the “TNA”) the parties are invited to continue to discuss the issues in dispute and the BOE has the right to agree to whatever it agrees to and made whatever last best offers it wishes to make.
- The Administrators Association expressed a willingness to modify the agreement and reduce the amount of the increase in the 3rd year by one percentage point, to which the Board of Education agreed, as a result, the BOE and the Administrators presented to the arbitration panel agreement on all the issues, making a “last best offers” moot and obviating the need for any further proceedings.
- If the Board of Representatives were to reject the arbitration award, that would have no effect, because under the TNA, that would initiate a second look arbitration, under which a panel of 3 arbitrators would be appointed and paid for by the City as the rejecting party. The authority of these arbitrators would be only to reverse or affirm any of the last best offers, but here, because of the agreement between the parties, there are no last best offers.

The Board continued to discuss Item No. 1 with the invited guests.

- The law provides that the arbitration panel has to accept any agreements reached between the parties; so there was officially an arbitration award because an arbitration process was started, but it was not contested and the arbitration panel had no independent decisions to make
- The Administrative Unit excludes Assistant Superintendents; it includes all principals and directors below the rank of Superintendent; all assistant principals and anyone requiring administrative certification for more than 50% of their job duties.
- The difference in cost between the original negotiated agreement and this arbitrated agreement is \$147,609; these salary increases do not increase the City’s pension obligations because the members of this unit are under the State Pension plan to which the City doesn’t contribute.
- Some of the members of this unit are paid by grant, but not by Covid CARES funds; they are paid by grants which there is no expectation of losing.
- This negotiation did not affect the work year.
- The members of this unit receive life insurance; there is no retiree life insurance other than through a pre-normal retirement benefit, which would only apply to employees employed before 1991.

A motion to reject Item No. 1 was made, seconded, and failed by a roll call vote of 4-25-2 (Reps. Bewkes, de la Cruz, Sherwood, and Stella in favor; Reps. Adams, Baxter, Berns, Boeger, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Figueroa, Gilbride, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Miller, Morson, Nabel, Patterson, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Sandford, Shaw, Summerville, and Watkins opposed; Reps. Garst, Moore, Tomas, and Walston abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT: President Curtis adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

This meeting is on [video](#).