

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2007**

ATTENDANCE: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-Chair; Carlos Silva, Co-Chair;
Donna Curran, Andre Baker, Letita Colon (6:00 p.m.)

OTHERS: Thomas Mulligan, Michelle Lyons

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and stated that there was a quorum present. She also stated that the purpose of the meeting was for general discussion among the Committee members about the direction they would like to move in. Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia said that she and Councilman Silva had met with the Superintendent of Schools two weeks ago.

Councilwoman Curran stated that she had been present at the Reed School meeting about the wooded area in the rear of the property and that she had not heard any follow-up. Councilman Silva said that the City was awaiting permission from one of the adjacent property owners regarding the construction of a fence along the property line. When the Public Works Department rehires their seasonal workers, they will be clearing out the brush in the back of the school property. Councilman Silva also said that he had toured the playground area with Mr. Estrada and noted where repairs were needed and what needed to be replaced.

Councilwoman Curran said that she felt the Committee could play an important role with the Board of Education in conjunction with the Bridgeport Regional Council and the City have taken the initiative to separate the two budgets. She said this was a good step forward in becoming more transparent in how the budget is managed. Councilwoman Curran said that it would be important to build bridges with the Board of Education and improve communication between the groups. Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia commented that Councilman Curwen, who is on the BRBC, had been asked about this.

Councilwoman Curran said that she was on the Bridgeport Public School Strategic Plan. She stated that there were ten strategic objectives and the tenth one has to do with creating and sustaining a financial system that will permit the effective use of resources to permit Bridgeport to obtain additional resources from the City, State and Federal Governments. Councilwoman Curran said that one new adjustment was that some departments were going to zero based accounting, which requires each department to resubmit their budgets from the ground up each year.

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia said that this meeting was to gather information and then the Committee should assign various areas to the Committee members to work on.

Councilwoman Curran mentioned that the parents in Black Rock has been going into their local schools to assist the principals and the schools in obtaining grants.

Councilman Silva observed that he felt that Dr. Ramos was very cautious during the meeting that he and Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia had attended.

Councilman Mulligan stated that the Committee should require Dr. Ramos to attend the meetings of the Education and Social Services Committee. He stated that he would look forward to discussing educational issues beyond the budget and that it is frustrating that the Committee does not interact with the Superintendent. Councilman Mulligan had several questions, such as what the breakout of test scores were to see if there were students that were top performers and others who were seriously failing. There was also a brief discussion about the City withholding some of the Board of Education's funding.

Councilwoman Lyons pointed out that the Council does have the right to ask for an accounting of what the funds are spent on, particularly grant funding. She also reminded everyone that this year the Board of Education will be asking for 8.8% increase, which translates to 17 million dollars more.

Councilman Baker said that it was clear to him that everyone was on the same page regarding this issue and asked how to move the Committee forward. Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia reviewed the means of placing items on the agenda.

Councilman Mulligan said that he would look up the Charter reference regarding the requirement of department heads at meetings and then suggested that perhaps Dr. Ramos would be more comfortable with a list of items that would be the topics of discussions.

Councilman Baker suggested that everyone submit items to Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia for future discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

** COUNCILMAN SILVA MOVED TO ADJOURN.

** COUNCILWOMAN CURRAN SECONDED.

** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

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CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
APRIL 4, 2007

ATTENDANCE: Co-chair AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, 134th District; Co-chair Carlos Silva, 136th District; Leticia Colon, 131st District; Andre Baker, 139th District; Maria Valle, 137th District

OTHERS: Thomas Mulligan, 130th District, Ms. Meredith Dawson, Dr. John Ramos, Superintendent of Schools, Robert Henry, School Chief of Staff, Angel dePara, 136th District; Michelle Lyons, 134th District

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She stated that this meeting had been called at the request of several Council members in order to learn a bit more about the Education Department and to received some feedback from the Board of Education. Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia said there was no separate agenda. She then asked to question. Council Member Silva said that he would defer to the other Council members because he had already emailed some questions about various issues.

Dr. Ramos asked if Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia would allow him to present the information that he had prepared. He explained that he could only stay for about a half hour and would appreciate being allowed to maximize the information quickly. Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia said that the Committee had not been expecting a presentation, but she would appreciate the Council members being allowed to ask their questions first.

Council Member Colon said that she had received a number of calls from residents about the teachers' poor attendances, especially in the high schools. Council Member Colon said that during a visit to one of the high schools, she had been surprised at the number of teachers that were out and thought it might have been a holiday. This problem seems to be particularly pronounced at Harding High School, but she said other constituents have told her the same is true at the other high schools. Council Member Colon asked what happened to disciplinary action for teachers being out in large numbers.

Dr. Ramos replied that the principals received the attendance lists and check for absentee patterns. If a pattern is detected, the principal then calls a teacher in for a conference. The teachers have a certain set number of days specified in their contracts that they are allowed. Dr. Ramos explained that some people look at their allotted sick days as time that can be taken for illness, while others look at those days as days that they are supposed to take because the days are available. Because these are dictated by contract,

discipline can only occur when a pattern is identified. However, even with an absentee pattern identified, there are procedures that have to be followed and these take time.

Dr. Ramos said that the administration is looking at what is actually occurring in the schools in order to reduce teacher absenteeism. He also pointed out that Bridgeport does not have a very good substitute system and does not have many substitutes available. When a teacher is out and there isn't a substitute available, the class is split up. This puts an additional strain on the teachers who suddenly receive extra students in their classes. Then it becomes a vicious pattern. The administration has to shore up the substitute pool. Part of the problem is that the pay is low and the substitutes can get a better deal in another town. Other problems are class size, discipline issues, and building conditions. Harding is a prime example because on a given day there can be fifteen teachers absent. Dr. Ramos said that obtaining five substitutes would be an excellent benefit, but that would still leave 12 classes uncovered. These students must be sent to the auditorium and then they wander off, not to mention that they are not being educated. There are many ways to attempt to address this problem and the administration is working on it. However, discipline needs to be handled carefully because of the contractual issues.

Council Member Colon said that she had attended Harding High School and that the conditions were not as troubled as they are now. She said that her concern was that there were students who really wanted to learn. Those who are sent to the auditorium only have minimal supervision. She said that there are teachers that do have the passion to teach.

Dr. Ramos said that Harding needs an overhaul. The problem is not the students. Harding needs to be redesigned and the administration is in the process of doing this. The problem has been defined in any number of ways, but if the school is left as it is, the new principal will fail. In the process, the administration is working to see that the teachers want to be in that school. Dr. Ramos said that the prior administrators did their jobs and coped with the problems but the issues run deep at Harding. Only by taking care of the macro issues will the specific issues be dealt with. This is a very important issue.

Council Member Colon said that she had attended a meeting where a slide presentation was done. The speaker then listed some of the changes that were planned. Council Member Colon said that she hoped that these changes would be made in the future.

Council Member Baker then said that many times the constituents go to the Council members with problems about the schools. He said that for himself, he sometimes did not know whom to approach. Council Member Baker then asked Dr. Ramos if there was someone that the Council members could ask about particular issues and help with resolution.

Dr. Ramos said that if the problem was an issue relative the learning and teaching area such as a school related matter about a teacher, principal, the curriculum, the matter should be referred to Henry Keller, the Deputy Superintendent. If it is an issue relative to

the building conditions, security, budget or personnel, it should be referred to Robert Henry. If a Council member is uncertain as to who should handle the problem, Dr. Ramos encouraged them to call him directly.

Dr. Ramos said that while the administration respects all of the constituents, it is very difficult to respond to each and every one, which is why there is a table of organization. However, if Council members call, the administrators will respond.

Council Member Mulligan asked if it was a major problems in the schools when a toddler or young child is ignored at home and then come to pre-K or Kindergarten with few skills. Dr. Ramos said that this is a major problem. Dr. Ramos pointed out that the achievement gap starts before school for the reasons that Council Member Mulligan had listed, such as little conversation with the child, no reading aloud, and other factors. Council Member Mulligan asked if there were any programs in place now to reach these children that lag behind. Dr. Ramos replied that all of the new schools were being constructed with pre-schools. There was also serious investment in the United Ways Birth to Six program. Many children in the community do not have the opportunity to attend pre-school.

Dr. Ramos went on to say that once the students are enrolled, the administration tried to provide the teachers with tools to assist the teachers in building on what the students do know. Council Member Mulligan asked about the students who leave school at 2 p.m. Council Member Mulligan expressed concern about the recent Buffet and Gates contribution to the Houston school system to develop a charter school system. The schools will start earlier and the day will go until 5 p.m. Council Member Mulligan asked if there would be success in that type of approach.

Dr. Ramos said that a longer school day and a longer school year would make perfect sense. He pointed out that contracts don't restrict the public schools from having this type of program, but simply means that the employees must be paid. Council Member Mulligan said that he had read studies where there was competition between charter schools, private schools and public schools. Dr. Ramos pointed out that it would be important to have the same student mix in each of the schools in order to gauge the effectiveness. Dr. Ramos indicated that the Classical Academy on Maplewood was an excellent example. He then reviewed some of the details of that arrangement. Dr. Ramos also reminded everyone that the Bridgeport School District received the designation as a Grove finalist for the grant earlier in the day. Dr. Ramos said that there was a place for charter schools and vouchers but not every child would be able to attend charter schools or have vouchers.

In the last five years, the BOE had received a budget that increased 1.3% in the face of inflation that is indexed as 13%. Last year, the budget request to maintain the status quo and open the new school was submitted to the Council. The final amount that was approved was 11 million dollars less. This resulted in two schools being closed, 42 positions being cut, and class sizes were increased. Dr. Ramos stated that he was aware

of the struggle that the Council has to finalize the budget but it is important to understand that the Administration then has to stretch the dollars they have.

Council Member Mulligan then asked whether the Lighthouse Program was helpful. Dr. Ramos said that it was helpful. Council Member Mulligan then asked if the school gyms were open for the older children to play ball after hours. Dr. Ramos said that the District was utilizing the buildings, but not maximizing the buildings. This comes down to resources.

Dr. Ramos also said that he looked forward to sharing the strategic plan the Board just adopted. He then said that one point that he would like to make was to say that the system as it currently stands, was not set up for every student to be successful and to graduate ready for college. The current system is a factory model that was developed decades ago. Now Bridgeport finds itself in a global competitive era and the expectation is different. That is what the strategic plan is about.

Council Member Valle asked about the State school funds allocation for the existing schools. She also asked about the two new schools' allocation for pre-K classes. Council Member Valle also said that she was aware that the teachers are required to attend Continuing Education classes but that this disrupts the classes. Council Member Valle asked if the Continuing Education classes could be offered after school hours instead of during the school day.

Council Member Lyons asked whether Dr. Ramos felt that the proposed separation of the budget would be helpful. Dr. Ramos said that it would. Council Member Lyons said while in Washington, D.C., she had attended a number of workshops and that the focus was on "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB). When she is doing testing, certain students struggle but they are required to take these tests because of NCLB. Council Member Lyons asked if changes in this requirement, the students would succeed at a greater rate. Dr. Ramos said he agreed and that there needs to be revisions in the NCLB mandates. The basic idea of NCLB is good, but the money had not followed the mandate and secondly some of the requirements for ESL students and Special Education students need to be scaled back in order to be more realistic for the students. Council Member Lyons asked Dr. Ramos to encourage the teachers write letters to Senator Lieberman about this issue.

Council Member dePara asked Dr. Ramos if the utilities would be increasing by \$824,000. Dr. Ramos replied that this was the expected increase. Council Member dePara then asked how aggressively the Board of Education was pursuing energy conservation. Dr. Ramos said that Cesar Batalltia was recognized by the utility company as a model for efficiency. Mr. Henry also reviewed the process of having the various schools evaluated for energy conservation in order to save money. Mr. Henry said that the schools are saving money based on the recommendations that have already been made. 1.2 million dollars has been invested in a joint effort with United Illuminating to

retrofit the lighting. At the end of April, a check is expected from the utility company for \$640,000 as UI's contribution to this project. The first print outs of the actual savings will be forthcoming soon. Phase Two will also be aggressive. A discussion about the savings in electrical costs versus the amount of manpower that is required then followed.

Council Member Valle asked if there was a regulation regarding the school building lights being turned off completely. Mr. Henry said that he was not aware of such a regulation. Council Member Valle said that at her school, the lights are frequently left on after hours.

Dr. Ramos then gave a brief overview of the packet of information that he had distributed to the Committee members.

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia asked why High Horizons was not referred to as a magnet school. Dr. Ramos reviewed the reasons for the change in title. He pointed out that when the budgets are cut, the schools suffer. He reiterated that the neglect of the schools runs deep and is profound.

Council Member Mulligan replied that the Council always faces challenges when it comes to money. He asked if Bridgeport had tried to access some of the Gates Foundation grants. Dr. Ramos replied that they had. A discussion followed about how the State funds are allocated to the various municipalities.

Council Member Lyons asked how professional development was being handled. Dr. Ramos then said that the Board does not spend any money on professional development. All of the professional development is from grant money. Dr. Ramos said that efforts have been made to utilize the "turn key model" with the training. This has been used with the National Urban Alliance (NUA) training. Sometimes there is resistance to the training because it may be out of the box. But it is important to increase the various approaches for the teachers to utilize.

Dr. Ramos then introduced Ms. Dawson and said that she had come into the grants office and taken on enormous responsibility. Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia then asked Ms. Dawson to give a brief overview of her duties. Ms. Dawson explained that she had nineteen years experience in local government, in various positions concluding with Town Manager. She also worked for the State of New Jersey, providing operational reviews of utilities. She stated that she had a Masters in Public Administration. In the last seven months, Ms. Dawson said that she had been focused on the financial aspects. There is a staff of one in the grants office. There are a number of grants that have been applied for and when the funds are not approved, Ms. Dawson said that she follows up to find out why the request was not approved.

Council Member Silva said that he had been told the school system had been awarded 60 million dollars in grants. Ms. Dawson said that the actual number was closer to 50.7

million. Council Member Silva said that he realized that the funds were restricted, but he asked what was done with that money. Ms. Dawson pointed out that grants were supplemental to programs. Every grant has restrictions and should be used to enhance the basic program level that is offered by the operating budget. Therefore, grant money can not be used to replace basic operating funds. Dr. Ramos said that the staff has been very good at finding grant money in the past.

Council Member Mulligan asked if Ms. Dawson has worked with the City Grants Coordinator. Ms. Dawson said that she had worked with Rena, but not on a daily basis. Ms. Dawson pointed out that many of the grants are yearly grants and therefore it is not a given that the school will be awarded the same grants or that the funding amounts will be the same. Ms. Dawson pointed out that in the previous fiscal year, the school system had received 1.5 million more in Title 1 funding.

Council Member Mulligan then asked Ms. Dawson if she thought there would be a chance of applying to the Gates Foundation after the strategic plan was completed. Ms. Dawson replied that one of the action plans being developed for the school system is how to have more stakeholders involved. This will be a major focus in the strategic plan. This will also include making those who are outside the community aware of the needs in Bridgeport, whether they are State Representatives or affluent Connecticut residents.

Council Member Mulligan then asked if the Lighthouse is qualified for grant funding. Ms. Dawson replied that the program was and when grant programs become available for that particular type of program, it will be applied for.

Council Member Baker then asked about how the school system planned to have the stakeholders involved. Ms. Dawson said that it was important to develop a greater voice and being able to access a greater number of people and programs in order to get more resources into Bridgeport. Council Member Baker asked if there was anything the Council members could do to help this effort. Ms. Dawson said that one way would be to speak with the Federal representatives and impress upon them what the needs are.

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia thanked Dr. Ramos and Ms. Dawson for their time.

Council Member Lyons asked if Ms. Dawson if she had been able to straightened out some of the previous grant writing problems. Ms. Dawson replied that she was working on various issues.

Mr. Henry then addressed the group and explained that the District has only employed him since July. Mr. Henry said that he had been Superintendent of Schools in Hartford and in the South Bronx. Most of the operational issues are under Mr. Henry's jurisdiction, whether it be Finance or Human Resources or Security.

Council Member Mulligan had several questions about Mr. Henry's time as Superintendent of Schools in Hartford. Mr. Henry explained that he had been Chief of Staff from 1999 to 2002 and Superintendent from 2002 to 2006 as Superintendent. Mr. Henry said that while the populations were similar, the situation in Hartford was more complex. The Hartford school system had full day kindergarten and full day preschools available in order to reduce the achievement gap. The resources were used differently. There was an infrastructure around getting students to college admission. Some investment went into this and was verifiable in terms of attendance, suspension and other areas beyond the test scores.

Council Member Baker asked how the maintenance was done. Mr. Henry said that it was a general fund used by Building and Grounds, who have certain district wide priorities and then there are contingencies for emergencies. Unfortunately, the funding does not allow for preventative maintenance. This requires redirecting funds that have already been allocated.

Regarding Harding, one of the Council members asked if there were plans to move the magnet schools out of Harding and place it elsewhere. Mr. Henry said that it is an option that is being examined. The question is whether it would serve the community better as a stand alone magnet school or it should remain a house within Harding. A discussion about the 1993 plan to convert Bassick into an elementary school or a magnet school followed.

Council Member Silva asked how Mr. Henry viewed the situation in Bridgeport as compared to the situation in Hartford. Mr. Henry explained that he was in Bridgeport because of the challenges in the District. He believes that Dr. Ramos can bring great outcomes to the students. Council Member Silva then asked about the existing division between the Board of Education and the City administration. Council Member Silva said that the Council members were trying to facilitate a change in this kind of situation. Mr. Henry said that it was important to find common ground to work from. This allows for clarity.

A question was raised regarding what would be done with the old school facilities as the new school buildings are completed. Mr. Henry replied that following the transfer of the students from one school into the newer facility, the older facility would be turned back over to the City. Council Member Mulligan asked if any thought had been given to using one of the older buildings as a school administration building rather than having all the offices scattered throughout the city. Mr. Henry said that was an option being considered. Barnum is in consideration.

Council Member Colon asked about the overcrowding in the schools and whether a split day had been considered. Mr. Henry said that this was also a consideration. Council Member Colon also suggested converting one of the old schools into a theater arts building. Mr. Henry explained that as many avenues that can be explored are being

explored in order to provide the best atmosphere for the students. The discussion then moved to the possibility of having a magnet school or other options for the older schools.

Council Member Lyons asked if there was anything implemented for the parents with the home/school coordinators in the strategic plans. Ms. Dawson said that there were a number of plans to have the parents more involved. One plan is to be associated with the National Partnership of School program. One of the topics for the next meeting of the home/school program will be next year there will be more involvement expected from the parents. A discussion about the attendance at these meetings followed.

Council Member Mulligan asked Mr. Henry about the poor turn out with the parent/teacher conferences. Mr. Henry pointed out that this was a nation wide problem, but the attempt needs to be made. The District will continue to encourage and promote the parents involvement. Mr. Henry pointed out that education is a partnership of home, school and the community at large.

Council Member Mulligan asked if the quality of education would be improved by newer facility. Mr. Henry said that the responsibility of the school system is to ensure that every school under their jurisdiction is responsive and responsible to the needs of that student population. The quality of education doesn't reside in the facility but what happens in the classrooms. The discussion then moved to whether a small school is better than a larger school.

Council Member Valle asked about the restructuring of Harding and whether this would be done for the other schools. Mr. Henry said that No Child Left Behind requires that if results are not obtained within four or five years, one option is to restructure the school. There are a number of ways to change the composition of a school. A discussion followed about some of the redistricting problems. Mr. Henry said that this area is being revisited and reexamined.

Council Member dePara asked if the BOE was pursuing recycling. Mr. Henry explained that he had looked at this issue and that it currently was haphazard. Any plan that establish will contain a timeline. When the plan is created, all the schools will have a program to follow.

Council Member Colon asked about truancy. Mr. Henry explained that there are a number of truant officers. The District is currently working with the Police Department to document that the officers are and provide proper identification. The problem is being addressed.

Council Member Colon commented that she had recently attended a home/school meeting and that a total of nine parents, including her, had come. Council Member Colon said that the secretary had sent out 500 letters to the parents.

Council Member Lyons asked if the filters and ducts have been cleaned out. She explained that a number of teachers have become sick lately, along with the children who have asthma. Mr. Henry said that each school has the maintenance crew to take care of that type of job. He added that the District was just starting a program called "Tools to Schools" where the intent is to have the school staff police their own schools regarding these types of issues. It was stated that a State Health Department employee had come to the District to identify some of the issues that provoke or aggravate the conditions for asthma. This helped identify conditions and gave solutions on how to correct them. It was also commented that a joint agreement had just been reached with Laidlaw regarding emissions, which will be reducing diesel fumes.

Council Member Silva asked about rubberizing and mulching playgrounds. He commented that the City has a problem with disposing of tires and pays a tremendous amount to dispose of them. Council Member Silva said he was working on bringing back a program to rubberize material in areas such as playgrounds and sidewalks. A brief discussion about the possibilities regarding this followed.

Chairwoman Vizzo-Paniccia thanked everyone for their participation. Council Member Silva said that the Committee was interested in sitting down with the various parties to find solutions rather than placing blame.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SILVA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
JUNE 18TH, 2007

ATTENDANCE: Council Members: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Co-chair; Carlos Silva, Co-chair; Andres Ayala, Jr.; Leticia Colón; Andre Baker (5:55 p.m.); Keith Rodgerson

STAFF: Jack Butkus, BOE Operations

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia at 5:46 p.m.

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia asked Mr. Butkus to explain each item in order and said that the board would vote on each item once they were all explained.

160-06 (A) Grant Application authorizations for School Construction Work – JFK Campus Roof Replacement.

Mr. Butkus explained that the roof, which is shared by Multicultural Magnet, Six to Six Magnet and High Horizons Magnet Schools is 20 years old and has had problems for several years with no long-term solutions. Mr. Butkus would like approval for the 20 year grant for this project and would like to replace the roof as soon as next Summer. Mr. Butkus reported that this is a \$4.1 million project which would require new capital. Mr. Butkus said that the request for capital funding was going through Tom Sherwood to the Budget Committee. He went on to say that it was his understanding that the Board of Education's capital package never got forwarded to council for referral to the Budget Committee so while it was thought that the referral would happen the week prior to this meeting, it had yet to be scheduled at the time of this meeting. This grant cannot be filed until those capital plan applications are made.

160-06 (B) Grant Application authorizations for School Construction Work – Wilbur Cross School Alterations.

Mr. Butkus said that last year at this time he was before this committee asking for permission to go after a grant for Columbus School. There will be a cycle of these projects, not necessarily renovating the schools as new but making substantial alterations. A building is being purchased from the University of Bridgeport and UB is converting it to an elementary school. That building will be used as "swing space"; a place to relocate a school which is being remodeled at the time. Columbus School is the first school slated to move into that swing space; Wilbur Cross is the second. Mr. Butkus reported that The Wilbur Cross Alterations will be a \$10.7 million project and would also require new capital and is part of the package that needs to await referral to the Budget Committee for authorization.

The remainder of the six projects, 160-06 (C-F) are items that are intended to be funded through the \$500,000 that was granted to the BOE in '06-'07. This was to be allocated to

be used as matching funds toward state construction grants. Between 20-25% of the cost of the project will have to be covered by the city and the remainder by the state.

160-06 (C) Grant Application authorizations for School Construction Work – Maplewood School Oil Tank Removal.

Mr. Butkus reported that this would cost about \$40,000

160-06 (D) Grant Application authorizations for School Construction Work – Park City Magnet Boiler Room Asbestos Removal.

Mr. Butkus reported that the repair to the boiler room besides the asbestos removal will be funded out of the BOE's operating expenses while the asbestos removal itself would be covered by the grant. This is a \$60,000 project.

160-06 (E) Grant Application authorizations for School Construction Work – Thomas Hooker School Pumping Station.

Mr. Butkus spoke briefly about a project to install a pumping station at Thomas Hooker School to remove water and sewage should the neighborhood's sewer system fail.

169-06 Resolution for the Creation of a Building Alteration Project at John F. Kennedy Campus

Mr. Butkus explained this project as converting the former Industrial Arts space at JFK Campus into a space for medically fragile students, a component of the special education concentration. These are students who because of medical problems cannot be integrated to conventional classrooms and who need extra assistance, occupational therapy & physical therapy. This area is situated right next to the school's clinic. Parents of special needs children can choose to send their children out of district at the city's expense if they feel that the city is not adequately providing for their child's special needs. This project will cost \$350,000, all of which is expected to be made back in the first year by saving out of district placement tuition.

Mr. Baker arrived at 5:55 p.m.

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia asked if anyone had questions on item 160-06 (A).

There were no questions.

**** MR. SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 160-06 (A).
** MS. COLÓN SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia reported that this item will go on the consent calendar.

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia asked if anyone had questions on item 160-06 (B).

There were no questions.

**** MR. SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 160-06 (B).
** MS. COLÓN SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia reported that this item will go on the consent calendar.

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia asked if anyone had questions on item 160-06 (C).

There were no questions.

**** MR. SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 160-06 (C).
** MR. BAKER SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia reported that this item will go on the consent calendar.

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia asked if anyone had questions on item 160-06 (D).

There were no questions.

**** MS. COLÓN MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 160-06 (D).
** MR. BAKER SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia reported that this item will go on the consent calendar.

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia asked if anyone had questions on item 160-06 (E).

There were no questions.

**** MR. BAKER MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 160-06 (E).
** MS. COLÓN SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia reported that this item will go on the consent calendar.

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia asked Mr. Butkus if there would be enough space for these students and if they would eventually have to expand into other classrooms.

Mr. Butkus said that if in the future there are too many students to fit at JFK Campus, they will be placed at other sites rather than take over classrooms at JFK.

Ms. Colón asked how many students the program is currently supporting.

Mr. Butkus said that they had 3-6 students but were looking support about a dozen.

Mr. Ayala asked if it would be beneficial to the district to extend the footprint of one of the school buildings to accommodate this program.

Mr. Butkus said that it was cheaper to change the existing space.

**** MS. COLÓN MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 169-06.
** MR. SILVA SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Vizzo-Paniccia reported that this item will go on the consent calendar.

Mr. Silva reminded the committee that the meeting minutes from April 4th, 2007 still had to be approved

Approval of Committee Minutes of April 4th, 2007

**** MR. SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF APRIL 4TH, 2007.
** MR. BAKER SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SILVA MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MS. COLÓN SECONDED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Schroder
Telesco Secretarial Services