

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2013**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Budget & Appropriations:** Angel dePara, Budget Co-chair;  
AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia; Lydia Martinez, Council  
President Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin (5:40 p.m.),  
Carlos Silva (5:42 p.m.)

**Board of Education:** Kenneth Moales, Chairman; Hernan Illingworth, John  
Bagley, Sauda Baraka, Thomas Mulligan, Maria Pereira,  
Bobby Simmons

**OTHERS:** Atty. Don Husted, City Council Member Andre Baker, City Council  
Member Steven Stafstrom; City Council Member John Olson

**CALL TO ORDER.**

Board Chairman Moales called the BOE meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Budget Committee Chair dePara called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Informational Session re: Discussion with Board of Education concerning teacher's contract negotiations at City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, Connecticut.**

BOE Chairman Moales said that the meeting was happening to announce that the teachers contract negotiations were about to begin. Atty. Husted said that the purpose of the meeting was dictated by CGS 10-153d. He said that the statute does not contain any agendas for the meeting and believed that the reason for the meeting was to insure that both the City and the Board were aware that negotiations were about to commence.

Atty. Husted was asked when the statute was written. He replied that it was written in 1965. The Board member said that he did not recall that this meeting had been held previously. Atty. Husted replied that it has been held.

*City Council Member Austin joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m.*

BOE Chairman Moales said that while all this was very new to him, the Board has now officially notified all the members and held a public meeting. He asked if there were any other questions. Atty. Husted was asked if the Council members would be participating in the negotiations. Atty. Husted said that the purpose of the meeting was simply to insure that the City Council was

informed regarding the fact that the BOE was about to commence collective bargaining for the teachers' union and the administrators' union.

Council President McCarthy requested that the Atty. Husted review the time line. Council President McCarthy also added that he had participated in this type of meeting with the BOE during the last 12 years, so that he could say that it had been done before. Atty. Husted agreed with Council President McCarthy's statement regarding his presence at the previous meetings.

There are two sets of negotiations underway, one for the teachers and one for the administrators. They are both on the same timeline. He reviewed the details around the Teaching Negotiations Act, the negotiations commences 210 days prior to the BOE budget submission date. Based on this, the commencement date for the negotiations is scheduled for October 3rd and should end on November 22nd. If no agreement is reached by then, mediation and arbitration start on December 17th. Hearings could continue through to January 23, 2014. A decision by the arbitration panel would be issued by the middle or latter part of February.

*City Council Member Silva joined the meeting on 5:42 p.m.*

BOE Chairman Moales asked what number of teachers this would affect. Atty. Husted said this would affect approximately 1,500 teachers and 85 administrators. BOE Chairman Moales asked who would be on the committee. Atty. Husted said that the Central Office was still putting together the list of committee members, including Human Resources, Finance, an education based individual and others.

*City Council Member Baker joined the meeting at 5:43 p.m.*

Budget Committee Chair dePara asked about the formulation of strategy. Atty. Husted replied that since the question had to do with contract negotiations, it could only be answered in an executive session.

BOE Chairman Moales asked if the collective bargaining had ever been done in public session previously. Atty. Husted replied that the meeting convenes in public session and that this meeting would satisfy the State Statute. All the negotiations are in executive session.

BOE Member Pereira said that she had been elected to the Board in 2009 and did not ever remember this type of meeting being held previously. She asked Board Member Simmons who was on the Board for 12 years, if he remembered whether this meeting was held in previous years. Board Member Simmons said that he did not remember having a meeting like this. Atty. Husted said that he would go back and check his notes he had. BOE Member Pereira said her concern was that the Board had not been doing this all this time and reiterated that she had never participated in a public session like this previously. A brief discussion followed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* BOE MEMBER MULLIGAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE BOE MEETING.  
\*\* THERE WAS A SECOND.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE BUDGET AND  
APPROPRIATIONS MEETING.  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meetings adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services