

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: John Olson, Co-Chair; Alfredo Castillo, Co-Chair; Scott Burns
Tom McCarthy, City Council President
Nessah Smith joined the meeting at 6:05.
Aidee Nieves joined the meeting at 6:40.

STAFF: Mary McBride-Lee, Council Member
Jeanette Herron, Council Member
Angel dePara, CAO's Office

OTHERS: Faith Villegas, MAACS/CAP presenter

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A quorum was present. He reviewed the procedures of the meeting to all those present.

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2016

Council Member Burns stated that Council Member Smith, who was not yet present at the meeting, had a question about the minutes of June 8, 2016 and President McCarthy asked Council Member Burns if he knew what the question was. The person taking the minutes, myself, had talked to Council Member Smith about her question and, therefore, knew what it was, and told President McCarthy the nature of the question. President McCarthy suggested that the item should be tabled.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO TABLE APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2016.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

Council Member Smith also had a question about the minutes of September 14, 2016, but was not present to speak about it; therefore, Co-Chair Olson suggested the item be tabled.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO TABLE APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016.**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Smith joined the meeting at 6:05

With Council Member Smith present, the previous two agenda items were re-addressed.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2016

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO TAKE OFF THE TABLE APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2016.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH MOVED TO AMEND COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2016 BY HAVING THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE BODY OF THE MINUTES STRICKEN FROM THE RECORD.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2016.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO RECONSIDER COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH MOVED TO ADD HER NAME TO THE ATTENDANCE FOR THE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO APPROVE AS AMENDED COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016.
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CASTILLO SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**INFORMATIONAL SESSION WITH MS. FAITH VILLEGAS,
MAACS PROGRAM COORDINATOR, BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND,
REGARDING HOW THE FUNDS WORK AND SUGGEST WAYS THE COMMITTEE
CAN PROMOTE THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Co-Chair Olson introduced Ms. Villegas from the Bridgeport Public Education Fund as part of the Committee's effort to educate themselves about the massive topic of education. Co-Chair Olson also remarked about how proud he is that the Committee Members supported the Read-

Aloud Day in the public schools and that they communicated the Read-Aloud Day to the rest of the Council, saying it was an important step.

Ms. Villegas thanked the Committee for providing her the opportunity to talk to the members, and began by saying that, before the meeting had begun, she had talked with some people in the room and she said it was agreed amongst them that the negatives about Bridgeport are constantly being reported and heard.

Co-Chair Olson asked Ms. Villegas to tell the Committee what the Bridgeport Public Education Fund (BPEF) is. Ms. Villegas stated that the BPEF is a 501-C3 non-profit that is operating on the campus of University of Bridgeport (UB), but she said they are not affiliated with UB other than the house that is provided for BPEF on the UB campus. Other than that, Ms. Villegas said, the BPEF is not sponsored by UB. Ms. Villegas stated that the BPEF was originally an advice fund of the Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation, and two to three years later, BPEF became independent of the Greater Bridgeport Area Foundation when Marge Hiller who is the currently the Executive Director filed for 501-C3 status. Ms. Villegas, describing BPEF in its infancy stage, said that the filing allowed the BPEF to go into the schools in 1983 and Mrs. Hiller was able to sponsor many grants for teachers to help out with different projects in the classroom. As the BPEF began to grow, Ms. Villegas said, it not only offered mini-grants to the teachers, but, becoming informed about some of the needs, BPEF Board of Directors, particularly Mr. David Carson who is the President of Peoples Bank, was instrumental in the plan to do more as a civic community and as a social community to help the students in Bridgeport succeed. Therefore, in 1988, the MAACS Program, Mentoring Academic Achievement and College/Career Success was created and, from 1988 to the present day, Ms. Villegas said they are have been getting high school students focused on what they are going to do after they graduate.

Ms. Villegas referred again to the conversation before the meeting in regard to the negatives about Bridgeport, saying that while 30% of Bridgeport students do not graduate, 70% actually do graduate from the public schools, but who is telling their stories? Who is providing the students with positive reinforcement, Ms. Villegas asked, and stated that this is the role the BPEF plays. She stated that, initially, the MAACS Program was only operating at Bassick, then access to Harding was gained in the early 1990s, then Central in 2003, and then in Fairchild-Wheeler three years ago. Ms. Villegas stated that, from the four high schools, the BPEF is working with about 300 students, annually, in grades 9-12 to help students develop their career interests, saying also that BPEF helps students academically by providing mentors to help them when they are struggling. Ms. Villegas stated that the mentors have to enter the MAACS Program with a 3.0 GPA and they are coming from the local colleges and doing really great things on their own. Prior to bringing the mentors into the schools, she stated that they are trained and are provided with additional training as the school year continues so that the BPEF can keep in direct touch with the needs of the students. Mentors are kept abreast of timelines and deadlines which affect the students and the BPEF makes sure, said Ms. Villegas, that the mentors are working up to the task of helping students meet deadlines. Ms. Villegas stated that, so far, the BPEF has worked with over 5,000 students from the Bridgeport high schools and with about 800 mentors from the local universities, i.e. mainly Fairfield, UB, Sacred Heart, Housatonic and YUKON Stamford. Given the current climate and referring to the Connecticut Post articles, Ms. Villegas said she wants to encourage everyone to not look at the negative, but to really focus on the positives.

Ms. Villegas then spoke about what happens after a student goes to college by asking who is supporting the students while in college. She stated that, in 2003, the College Assistance Program (CAP) was created through the insight of the BPEF Board of Directors and also hearing from students and seeing them out in the community, then finding out that the students had left college not because of the academic rigors, but because they did not feel like they fit in socially and because of financial gaps and lack of help. In 2005, BPEF realized that it had to have a financial tie to the students while they are in college and, now, there are 200 graduates from that program from 2003 to 2016. She stated that BPEF is able to see a difference and many students are coming back to thank the program, saying they would not have made it without the program. Ms. Villegas stated that the CAP has an 83% graduation rate, that it provides emergency financial assistance to students while also providing help in going over financial aid applications. Ms. Villegas said that graduates of local high schools who are, or have been, in CAP return as mentors while attending college, coming back to give back.. She said that students, according to the survey provided to them by BPEF, responded that they are learning skills they will actually use which is BPEF's goal, i.e. to give students something they need. Ms. Villegas added that MAACS is not only about mentoring, but possesses other pieces too, such as The Beard Prize, which awards \$25,000 awards to the best teachers. She stated that out of the \$131,000 for scholarships awarded to 31 students, 21 of the students are attending local universities with the money going into the local-area economy.

Ms. Villegas then spoke about the money that BPEF provides, saying that she had spoken earlier about the CAP and how it was re-designed to offer financial support and that \$90,000 over the past five years has been distributed in semester stipends. She said that the MAACS/CAP work that they do has a huge impact and is continuing to fill in as many financial gaps as possible for college students in need. She said that the students remit their grades and their schedule for the upcoming semester to BPEF as part of the program.

Ms. Villegas said that it is important to obtain as many forms of support in the local community as possible and that it is time to “come back home”, saying that they had reached out to people all over the country in order to get the funding for BPEF which has a budget of less than \$450,000 per year, with \$225,000 of that total going to the MAACS Program. She listed the types of things BPEF is doing to fund-raise and said that BPEF needs help – not that people need to keep a job, but that students in the next generation need to be supported in getting to where they need to be. Ms. Villegas stated that five full-time people do all the work at BPEF, that the work is heavy lifting, but that they are dedicated, focused and deliberate in making sure that these kids get to college.

Ms. Villegas concluded her presentation by asking that, when the Committee members have the opportunity, it should consider the BPEF, not just as a set-aside agency or someone just doing business in the community, but she asked them to consider the BEPF as one of many ways which actually ensures the education and social service work represented by the Committee, and she asked if there were any ways in which the Council could help – socially or financially or politically.

Council Member Burns asked Ms. Villegas how the students are selected for the program and Ms. Villegas answered that there are several ways this happens and gave examples such as self-identification, teacher recommendations, parent nights, social workers, guidance department.

Council Member McBride-Lee commented that, up until a few years ago, the BPEF usually asked for donations, but she said that she has not seen it recently and asked Ms. Villegas if she could check to see if they are still doing that. Council Member McBride-Lee also spoke about the negative atmosphere in public education, saying it should be squashed. She continued that some students are succeeding, but the public perception is that nothing can get done in the public schools. Ms. Villegas commented that one of their students was on television as a guard for President Obama, and also referred to one of the pamphlets in the information packet she had given the Committee, pointing out several successful students who are doing great things and talking about several other graduates also doing great things.

Co-Chair asked what the biggest need of BPEF is to which Ms. Villegas answered that it is financial help that would be of most benefit. She stated that the Mayor had put aside \$500,000 for the summer and she said perhaps they could use some of that now and perhaps it could be used after the summer to make sure that students continue to move on employment-wise. Ms. Villegas said that the Council could look at BPEF for the match program and possibly allocate some funds for it. Helping to spread the word about the positives is also extremely helpful and necessary, Ms. Villegas said. She mentioned The Washington Post and New York Times, saying that she cannot continue to be inundated with so much negative and neither can the kids. Co-Chair Olson remarked that it is not limited to Bridgeport, but Ms. Villegas said that that Bridgeport has the lowest achievement gap in the nation per capita. She said that there are other urban districts in the state which are facing similar challenges and that there were four urban communities at the end of last school year without a superintendent. Co-Chair stated that they do not want to come and Ms. Villegas remarked that no one would want to come to a place where they want to be ineffective. Co-Chair stated that they do not know what to do about the particular problem they have at the present time, but he said that Ms. Villegas is right. Again, Ms. Villegas referred to a very successful graduate of Bassick, Mr. Terron Jones, who is the Assistant Director of Homeland Security, adding that the larger community would not know that.

Co-Chair Olson asked if there are many non-profits doing things in Bridgeport to which Ms. Villegas answered in the affirmative, but saying that one has to look at who is effective and look at the impact they are having to see if the programs are being followed through with. She stated that some non-profits may say they have gotten 100% of their students into college, but did the students stay there, and how many students were there. Ms. Villegas stated that BPEF is getting referrals which they cannot take on due to budget issues. Co-Chair asked what the cost per student is for BPEF to which Ms. Villegas answered that MAACS is \$800 per year per student, with the CAP students costing more.

Co-Chair Olson thanked Ms. Villegas for her informational session, saying that he believes something good will come out of this.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION BY CO-CHAIR ALFREDO CASTILLO REGARDING HIS
PLANS ON PROMOTING THE ORCUTT BOYS CLUB**

Co-Chair Castillo started by saying that he had talked to President McCarthy at the last Council Meeting two weeks before about the Orcutt Boys Club and spoke about the fund-raiser that was held. He said it was a golf tournament which raised a very impressive \$50,000, and UI contributed \$10,000. Co-Chair Castillo said that he talked to _____ and they need the

roof on Park Street and he said he is trying to figure out how they can get that money. He said that he had also spoken to Mr. dePara and to Joe to see if they could at least push the issue of trying to get the roof before winter comes. Co-Chair Castillo stated that are 200 members of the Orcutt Boys Club. Asking the Committee's indulgence, Mr. dePara stated there was approximately \$90,000 allocated in the last CDBG go-around, previous to this current year, and an additional \$200,000 allocated this year by the full City Council. He said the only hold-up has been that the person who was the construction supervisor that would go out to the sites and do the inspections in preparation for the release of funds retired due to illness and there has been some difficulty in filling the position. Co-Chair Olson wanted to confirm with Mr. dePara that the money was, in fact, there and Mr. dePara acknowledged that this was true.

President McCarthy asked through the Chair if he may comment on the situation, saying that he had talked with the Mayor and Tom Gaudett that day about the existing back-log of paperwork and that it is not only Orcutt that is waiting for funds. He stated that Orcutt just has a time-sensitive need and that the Mayor and Tom Gaudett promised to move the paperwork as fast as humanly possible. President McCarthy mentioned the possibility of hiring a consultant to take care of the back-log, but he said he did not know what they were going to do, since the money being referenced is from last year. He said that everybody is waiting for last year's money and that the non-profits really do not have a lot of money to go around and need the funds also. President McCarthy said that has mentioned Orcutt to several people and he is hopeful that this is going to be priority.

Council Member Herron asked Mr. dePara whether there is a compliance issue with HUD, being that the money from last year has not been used yet. Mr. dePara responded that the funds have just recently been federally-approved for this current year, and Council Member Herron stated that this should be looked at because there is a deadline. Mr. dePara said they are getting down to the wire, but have not hit any danger zone threshold. President McCarthy also cautioned against running awry of HUD rules and regulations as this could risk City control of past and future money.

Co-Chair Castillo said he did not want winter to come and the place having to be shut down because the kids are there and it is too cold and the water comes in. Council Member Herron said several agencies have called her about this, since they know she is involved with the issue, and she agreed with Co-Chair Castillo that this situation has to be taken care of. Council Member Burns asked how much the roof will cost to which Co-Chair Castillo answered that they had gotten approved for \$220,000, and Council Member Burns asked if the money is quued up which Co-Chair Castillo affirmed. Council Member Herron said that it was \$200,000 this year and \$90,000 last year and Co-Chair Castillo corrected the numbers, saying it was \$220,000 from last year and \$200,000 for the borders this year. Mr. dePara said he would pull up the numbers. Co-Chair Olson said that it was a heap of money and Co-Chair Castillo acknowledged this, saying it is an old building. Co-Chair Castillo said he went to see Jennie Rae Clay from OPED to ask her about the bids for the roof at Orcutt, and one of the bids was \$100,000 which he said had told Ms. Clay was very low. He said OPED goes with the lowest bid to which Council Member Herron referenced the YMCA roof which had been redone and, two years later, it was leaking again. Co-Chair Castillo said that the highest bid was \$170,000 and Council Member Herron said that is still not high. President McCarthy stated that the number sounded quite low to him and Co-Chair Castillo agreed. Co-Chair Castillo said the old roof has to be ripped off,

drainage put in, it has to be insulated, fiberglass need to be put in, and then rubberized for waterproofing.

President McCarthy interrupted the meeting to say that he had received a phone call about a gunshot wound, giving the location of the shooting and reporting that the victim was undergoing trauma operation.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGARDING WHETHER
TO CREATE A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RESIGNATION OF MS. FRANCES
RABINOWITZ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Co-Chair Olson told the Committee that they had in front them the resolution which he had written with great care and without finger-pointing, but expressing the Committee's deep concern over the inability of the Board to meet, let alone do anything. He suggested that, if the Committee approves the resolution, it would ask the Council to adopt it as a resolution from the City Council. What response will the Committee get and will it make any difference, asked Co-Chair Olson, saying he did not know the answers, but, at the least, this is something through which the Committee can express its concern. He opened up item for discussion.

President McCarthy commented from a technical point of view that there was no item number for this resolution, so they would have to submit it at the Monday meeting to get referred to the Committee to do it or he said it could be done in the full Council – either way. He advised the Committee that, because it does not have an item number, it cannot be voted on as a resolution. Co-Chair Olson said it would be referred back to them anyway and he asked why it has to be looked at again, and President McCarthy explained that this Committee is a subset of the full Council and, therefore, can only do what the full Council allows the Committee to do, i.e. the Council has not allowed the Committee to do this yet, technically. Co-Chair Olson re-stated the procedural steps to President McCarthy who confirmed that Co-Chair Olson's statement was correct.

Co-Chair Olson then stated that the question is whether the Committee wants to submit the resolution. Council Member Herron said that the Board had met the night before and she knew some of the people that had attended as spectators and heard it had gone pretty well and that it had been appropriate. She is hoping the next meeting they have will be as productive and mentioned also that the meeting was not in the schools, but took place at City Hall with fewer people. Co-Chair Olson asked if Council Member Herron is saying that this might not be necessary to which Council Member Herron responded that she thinks the resolution is great, but maybe they should hold off and see if they would have another meeting, and if they do not have another meeting, then this the resolution should be put in right away.

Council Member Nieves stated that the Committee needs to put it in because the Council has no authority over the Board of Education (BOE) and she said they have to be active on behalf of their constituents. She said that a parent who she knows personally asked what the City Council is going to do about the BOE and she asked whether the Council can force the BOE to meet. Council Member Nieves said that, although there is nothing the Council can do, she thinks putting a resolution forward or something coming out of the Committee will be proactive. She referred to the disarray within the BOE and said it is being reflected in the schools.

Co-Chair Olson again said that they should put it in and then see what happens, since it will come to the Committee anyway. Council Member McBride-Lee commented that, although she is not a member of this particular committee and is just visiting, she thinks it is a good idea to put it in because the meeting the night before appeared to be a totally different thing. She added that, regardless of what happens to the BOE meeting in the future, not saying anything would not be good and she supports the resolution. Council Member Smith also added her comment that it demonstrates that the Committee cares. She also said that the general public parents are not aware of the responsibilities of the Council, saying they look to the committee members to fix everything. Obviously, she continued, they do not know who governs the BOE and they are looking to committee members to do something. Council Member Smith said that this is why she had wanted Interim Superintendent Rabinowitz to speak to the Council the previous week because people are in the dark, and just send their kids to school with the expectation that everything will be taken care of and their children's needs will be met. Co-Chair Olson remarked that most parents are like that to which Council Member Smith said that it should not be so. She said the resolution is great and should not only be said once or twice, but should be talked about in the full Council to inform people about where the responsibility lies.

President McCarthy stated that he agrees with what all the members said in terms of putting the resolution through and suggested that be done on Monday. He said that, because it is too late to go through the City Clerk, he is approving the Committee to be added to the agenda on Monday, instructing them to raise their hand and they would be recognized by the President. He stated that he had two comments:

- He instructed Co-Chair Olson to add a line that says very clearly “Recognizing that the Council does not have the power to make this happen, we encourage ...”, to let anyone who is reading the resolution know that the Council does not have the ability.
- He said they all understand that Maria Pereira has filed a lawsuit and it is in court about the Mayor's ability to appoint those two members. Therefore, he said, out of the eight members, two were appointed by the Mayor after the 30-day clause. President McCarthy wanted the Committee to understand that the Judge's decision will radically determine what will happen because, if the judge says that Maria Pereira is right, what would automatically happen is that the present 4-4 tie would be broken with two members off the Board and three more being appointed by the other four. He said that this scenario would give the “Maria” group almost absolute control of the Board in one foul swoop with the Board becoming a 7-2 Board. However, if it is the other way around, President McCarthy said, it remains a 4-4 tie and, after 30 days from one week ago, the Mayor would get to appoint another Board member and it would be a 5-4 Board. Co-Chair Olson asked President McCarthy if he knew which way the Judge will rule to which President McCarthy answered that he agrees 100% with the legal interpretation of the Mayor which says he has 30 days. He said the Charter is very clear in its statement that, if the Board does not appoint after 30 days, the Mayor has the power. What Maria Pereira is arguing, President McCarthy explained, is that state law clearly says that the BOEs have to be independent from the Cities and she is arguing that this overrules the Charter. The problem, he continued, is that the Judge in the case has ruled against the City of Bridgeport every time she has had the opportunity to do so, saying he knows from personal experience as he was on the stand in one case. President McCarthy stated that, if the Judge ruled against the City, the City would have to go to Appellate Court as it is too important.

But in the meantime, he stated, unless she did a Stay or the Appellate Court did a Stay, they would take over the Board automatically. President McCarthy concluded his point about the lawsuit by saying that this decision could change the direction of the BOE forever, either way it goes.

Council Member Burns commented that would throw some cold water on the resolution, saying that everything Co-Chair Olson wrote was fine, but he said that he came into the meeting expecting the Committee to make a statement about Ms. Rabinowitz and her decision. Council Member Burns said he thought they would talk more about the fact that Ms. Rabinowitz has been forced from her position because she has been unable to execute her responsibilities because she has been responding to certain BOE members. Co-Chair Olson stated he had deliberately stayed away from that because he figured it would be pouring gasoline on the fire and, although he agreed with Council Member Burns, said that the minute they go that route, they get involved in the interplay on that Board among the members. Council Member Burns understood Co-Chair Olson's reasoning, saying, however, that he had also anticipated acknowledgment of the efforts that Ms. Rabinowitz has put forth for the City and for the children of Bridgeport because she has taught here for decades - essentially, Council Member Burns said, thanking her. He said he thought the resolution would have been more in that direction, but also stated he has no qualms about what is written in the resolution. Co-Chair Olson asked the members whether they felt this should be done, i.e. that they say thank you to her, and Council Member Burns said that it did not have to be added and could be done separately. Council Member Burns said that, being an educator himself, he can appreciate Ms. Rabinowitz for being in the classroom and for taking note of teacher's and students' needs. He referenced Ms. Villegas' appeal to the Committee to spread the positives by saying that Ms. Rabinowitz is one of them.

Council Member McBride-Lee stated that she thinks it is a shame that one person should have so much power, saying that the students are taught not to bully in the classroom and, therefore, no BOE member should go around bullying anyone. She continued that the Council cannot vote her out or do anything to change the situation, but if anyone can change this, she said the community and the parents can because they can impeach her. The fact of the matter is, she said, that they are not just going to sit back and let someone do whatever they want and they have a plan to work this because the children are the ones who are getting hurt.

Co-Chair said they would submit the resolution.

President McCarthy commented that the entire Council has to have the desire to impact this situation, not just a group of members, and said they could definitely talk about it and he has no problem putting out a statement.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Nieves wanted to comment about school safety and, referencing the last two fights – one of which was in her district at Marin School, she said her concern was the SRO situation. She stated that M. Evette Brantley had brought it up in the Budget Committee about the contingency money going toward education, adding that two constituents, terrified by the fight, had called about getting their children out of Marin. Council Member Nieves said the

Council did not approve more money for them, but she wondered whether the Committee could talk to the administration to see if they can get some money for at least two more SROs. She asked President McCarthy if this was something the Education and Social Service Committee should have or if this should go to Budget first. President McCarthy stated that, once the budget is passed, the Council cannot originate an action on the appropriations, explaining that the Council puts the framework together and have to live within the framework, but then the Mayor and the administration have the power to work within that framework with everyone they want to. President McCarthy said that the Council appropriated money in a contingency fund to be used for education and tax relief, but the administration makes the decision about using the money. He referenced some conversations he had had directly with the administration about that money, and President McCarthy said that he got the sense from them that there is something they might do and they are trying to work it out. He stated he has also spoken with the Superintendent about said topic and has also had BOE members reach out to him about the topic. President McCarthy said he is trying to put some kind of agreement together behind the scenes, but also acknowledged that not enough money had been appropriated for everything that is needed, e.g. SROs, kindergarten paras, etc. He said that decisions will have to be made about how much goes where.

Co-Chair Olson stated that the Committee always appreciates President McCarthy being with them to share his wisdom.

Council Member Mc-Bride-Lee referred to a previous meeting in which a Library Board resolution had been denied, asking President McCarthy if it was possible to bring it back, President McCarthy answered that the denied item was the Council Member Casco item to eliminate the Board and someone else takes over which is not legal. He said it was denied because it was not legal, saying the item has sailed. President McCarthy continued that the next item which is something he wants to find out about from Francis. He explained the Library Board situation, saying that the Library Board is self-appointed, but those appointees have to come before the Council at some point to be approved which they have not done in a long time. He referred to the Charter which allows a Board member to serve until replaced which, he said, means that, as long as there are four members that have been legitimately approved by the Council, and as long as they continue to serve, the Board can continue to function. He continued that those other people that say they are Board members are not really Board members from a legal point of view because they have not been appointed by the Council. He named the four legitimate Board members as being Sauda, Jim O'Donnell, Tommy Arcetti and Judge Holden and said that is how the Library Board has been operating. President McCarthy stated that the Library Board has submitted names to the Council to approve the new Board, saying he had an email from them, but has not seen anything submitted to the City Clerk. Co-Chair Olson interjected with a statement that Miscellaneous Matters Committee now has the resolution and that he had a copy of it. He provided information that the Library Board had appointed nine members on June 16, 2016, that the names had been submitted to the City Clerk in September and that they have until November 23rd for this to be approved. He continued that, if those nine members are not approved, then there is the Saden Fund of \$1,000,000 which could be cut off from their budget for five years unless those nine people are approved by the deadline. He said the next step is that the resolution has to go before Miscellaneous Matters which will vote to approve the nine appointees or not. President McCarthy stated that he would try to find out what the deal is before the Council Meeting on Monday, but he also made clear that the Miscellaneous

Matters Committee's lack of preparation is not his problem. He also stated that he thinks the conversation about the Library Board is important and it should be discussed, saying also that there are Council members who feel strongly about this issue and that, whatever way this issue comes out, they deserve their moment "in the sun." He stated that he would work with Francis to get those names into the Committee as fast as he can.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
** COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Co-Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Nerina Kagan
Telesco Secretarial Services