

JANUARY 6, 2026 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CALLED MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Marcucio: Called meeting to order at 6:36.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Ms. Tovar: Melissa Mongillo; Jim Gildea; Holly Orazietti; Rebecca O'Hara; Kim Tovar; Dan Foley; Ken Marcucio; Erica Nuzzo.

Karla Malerba, absent.

Also Present:

Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent of Schools.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Marcucio: Any additions or deletions to the agenda?

Dr. Conway: None.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Marcucio: Anybody from the public who would like to speak? Anybody from the public who would like to speak? Anybody from the public who would like to speak? Online, anybody from the public? Anybody from the public online that would like to speak? Can you guys hear us online? Yes, they can hear. Okay. Seeing no one from the public, we'll move on.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNITION

Mr. Marcucio: We would like to recognize Mr. Gildea for his service to the Board as Chair.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you.

Mr. Marcucio: And as non-chair for all the years that we have been here. We have a plaque for you.

Mr. Gildea: Very nice.

BIRTHDAYS

Alison Conway

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STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ms. DelValle: I don't have a full report. But I just want to list a few things that happened within the month of December. So, first we had instant decision week where a lot of representatives from colleges came and told the seniors if they were accepted into or not, which a lot of seniors that I know had gotten accepted and with a lot of scholarships. So, thought that was great.

Then we also had the Unified Basketball Sports Tournament, which was really well. Everyone was more unified. Then we had PJ for kids for the Rotary Club, which I'm pretty sure we raised more than \$300 for it. And those funds went to the Connecticut Children's Medical. Where also for the Rotary Club, we adopted a family. So, during the holidays this family had spent a lot of time like in the hospital and a lot of the medical bills they had to pay so with adopting this family we had bought the family Christmas gifts so they wouldn't have to live like with the burden of having to supply the Christmas gifts to the children. And we also had spirit week where it was successful. A lot of the students had dressed up for it even though we haven't had our pep rally since there was no school.

And after break, starting up school again, all the classes are getting prepared for mid-terms and reviewing their assignments what we're working on.

Ms. Tovar: Good job. Thank you so much.

Mr. Marcucio: Any questions. Thank you very much.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Marcucio: What's the Boards pleasure with the Executive Session. Do you think we need it? We don't have too much on here. We're waiving the Board on Executive Session?

Ms. Tovar: Everybody is on board.

**Motion that the Committee of the Whole waive our Executive Session this evening.
Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Melissa Mongillo.**

Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Holly Oraziatti	Yes
Jim Gildea	Yes

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Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Karla Malerba	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Mongillo: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

APPOINTMENT LIST

**Motion that the Committee of the Whole approve the appointment list for new hires.
Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.**

Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Holly Oraziatti	Yes
Jim Gildea	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Karla Malerba	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Dr. Conway: You have the appointment list. A nurse substitute, para-educator at LRU and a classroom para-educator at Irving.

You appointed Chris, who is online here tonight, for the high school last meeting but he couldn't attend. So, he's here tonight to recognize for the appointment and Jen's here to introduce him. But if you want to just finalize the last motion and then Jen can introduce Chris.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

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Ms. Olson: Introducing and welcoming Christopher DeLillo as a long-term substitute teacher. Welcome him to spend at Derby High School. Covering for civics and some of our social study elective classes. Certified social study teacher and he does have a background also in special education.

Mr. DeLillo: Thank you very much for the opportunity. Looking forward to working with you all.

Ms. Tovar: Any other appointments tonight?

Dr. Conway: No.

Mr. Marcucio: Thank you, Chris.

STANDING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

Motion that the Committee of the Whole that we move the item number eight, Standing Committee Consideration to the end of the meeting after item number 10, administrator's report. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.

Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Holly Oraziatti	Yes
Jim Gildea	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Karla Malerba	Absent

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

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FY27 BUDGET UPDATE

Dr. Conway: Nothing new to report on the budget on the '27 budget. Nothing new since last meeting. Still in the same place.

Mr. Marcucio: Nothing new on the budget at this point. So, we can skip over that.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

Early Childhood Program

Ms. Conway: Happy New Year everyone. So, as you could imagine at the preschool, we had the best month of December ever. We had the elf on the shelf. We had visits from the Grinch and Santa Claus. We were Santa Claus helpers. We made Christmas decorations for the parents. We celebrated every single solitary holiday in December. So, it was a month of parties.

Derby Middle School Report

Ms. Caggiano: So, November and December are very, very busy and quick. At the end of November, we did have, as we do every single year, we give out Thanksgiving baskets. Like my first year was probably ten or then 20. This year we did do 38 meals for the people in the community. So, it was a lot of meals. We partnered with the Connecticut Food Share this year, which was amazing. So, the food came in on an 18-wheeler. It had come from the Mack Restaurant Group. It was the turkey it looked like it had been cooked to perfection and families got it was beautifully prepared in boxes. It had everything in it and labeled. It really looked beautiful. A student had emailed me and said, Miss, it was delicious. While we prepare meals before and what we typically gave was a turkey and the fixings and the families would then need to cook that. This was ready to go, all fully prepared. But 38 families from all four schools were able to pick up that meal and have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Super excited to continue to partner with them and get that for our community.

We had a lot of fun in December. We held a Best Buddies movie night. So, that is for our students who are in the Learning Centers and their partners. We had about 50 kids here that night watching Home Alone and hanging out. It was really awesome. And especially for some of our students in the Learning Centers for their families. It's really a lot of fun. The kids came in their pajamas and for the parents like dropped them off at a night event. One young man was like, can I come tomorrow night. But it was wonderful and Ms. Cheverella had put that on. We did an underground 67th day of school that kids did not love that wearing 67 shirts and making 67 jokes all day. But it's middle school. Whatever is here it now stopped because it became an adult thing. We did a kickboard, little holiday shop.

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Our kids would be able to purchase some gifts for their parents for different things like that. So, December was busy and quick. And they're back and ready to roll for January. So, that's where we are. I was sad that we had a snow-day on the 2nd because historically we like to dress up and throw candy canes, we have matching outfits. While I appreciate the snow-day, I was sad. We look forward to do that again for next year. We have matching Elf costumes. We'll preplan.

Bradley School Report

Dr. Ciccarini: Good evening, everyone. Welcome back. I'll focus on December now. In the past obviously there is some stuff in the report. But in terms of good solid return back from a nice break. Kids came in very well rested, enthusiastic, ready to learn. Yesterday, Mrs. Giardini and I met with the majority of students, one grade level at a time just to kind of reset expectations for academics and behavior. Talked a little bit about uniform compliance. So, we met with each grade level, teachers and we kind of addressed some concerns that we had going into break in hopes that we can come back refreshed and reset for the new year.

And Bradley School's focus now is turning towards Smarter Balance, which is coming in May. We are pleased with some of our growth scores and our proficiency scores last year. We want to build upon those. So, we are going to be using the IEP through the Connecticut State Department of Education's website. We'll be able to start practicing some of those types of examples the kids are going to see in May. The coaches are already working alongside with the classroom teachers in grades three, four and five to start practicing not only the format of the test, but the types of questions the kids are going to be asked. And we actually talked about that as part of our academic expectations yesterday. So, we're hitting the ground running to start the new year. We're very excited for what's coming. We have mid-year assessments coming up. March assessments in both math screener and dibbles. So, we're curious to see and excited to see what the growth of our students are going to be when we tested them first in September to now in January.

Irving School Report

Mr. Russo: Good evening everyone. Irving School has been great for the month of December. I want to share a few highlights. Rolling along right in December we had our student success teams full speed ahead both our academic and behavioral meetings. In these meetings, we have a team of coaches, interventionists, classroom teachers, PPS staff, administration making decisions for kids that are struggling whether it's academic or behavioral. It's a very meaningful meeting. We have agendas. We move them right along. Teachers come prepared with data in the sense of making the best decision for the kids

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moving forward. And I have to say something that I think Ms. Giardini and I gets more acclimated to we'll be very proud of because it is making a difference. But it all leads to the leadership of the team. Our academic team is led by our school psychologist. Our PPS team is led by one of our social workers. And these two work really hard to make sure that again we're making the best decisions for our kids. So, I'm very proud of that.

In the human capital area, our school climate team met twice this past year. Now the school climate is something that has changed a little bit with the direction from the State of Connecticut. And Dr. Rafferty has been a guiding light for us all of our school climate. But the team at Irving School team members including the Derby Police Department, family members, both kids and adults and the staff from our teaching ranks, para ranks and administration and again the PPS team and it really was a rich discussion on how to make the school climate the best that it could be at Irving School.

But the most important highlight is of all the stuff that's in place now really make it good. It is going really well. And the team was able to point out the things that really had driven the culture and the climate to be successful at Irving. In operations, something we started, we're having weekly admin team meetings. Not to just add another meeting on our schedules, but we're talking about the issues that we're all dealing with together. So, if someone had a question for me that they've already spoke to Ms. Giardini about or Ms. Milewski about, we're going to be on the same united page for the best decision possible at Irving School. So, this is something that I want to keep up growing because if you ever come to visit Irving School, I don't know if I saw Ms. Giardini today. And we're both in the building. So, we have to intentionally plan for those times to sit down and discuss the things that are going to happen in our building.

And then in culture and climate elementary school kids use the number 67 a lot. And they still do, every day, all day. So, we had a 67th day spirit day and PTO came in the night before and decorated the school. Made signs, went way above what I thought they were going to do. Had signs made, balloons. The kids came in. Some of them had their own decorated shirts on, a lot of staff, including the principal at Irving School had a 67-shirt on and it was very fun. And it was a good test for the culture of the building, I don't know how it got to where it is but the kids had fun, the adults embraced it. Even though many teachers at Irving School had banned those numbers being said in their classrooms, I did make two teachers exceptionally angry by okaying the 67-spirit day and PTO brought it to my attention, but they joined in as well. But it was just a fun day and it was really a way to kind of start the holiday season.

Ms. Giardini: We had kindergarten and first-grade teachers participate in the Connecticut Light Summit at the University of Hartford where with the opportunity of many other

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districts in Connecticut to talk about the importance of really meaningful intentional play and how it's connected to academic learning. Not only for their academic success but also for their social emotional and behavioral success as well. So, teachers were very excited to participate in that, we rejuvenated with some new ideas and are implementing really beautiful play dates learning opportunities in their classroom.

Mr. Russo: Pretty amazing stuff.

Derby High School Report

Ms. Olson: So, we've been focusing all year at Derby High School creating opportunities and experiences for students. A chance for them to apply their learning and really grow themselves as leaders. So, a couple of the programs I want to highlight is the first one right there, great picture of our mock trial crew. They are actually going to be coming to the Board meeting at the end of the month. So, they had their formal competition. This is the case that we had talked about the opioids epidemic case, where Nick Van Steenberg was a defendant in that trial. And our students took on the roll of prosecutors, of defendants, of witnesses and did an absolutely outstanding job. They did win one of their cases. They competed against Weston High School and Fairfield Warde Ludlow, so really prestigious schools that they competed against. The feedback that they received back from the Judges in the case was really very specific to each individual participant. Got a lot of praise. They were both experienced teams, so for them to have gotten a win from one and the other one from a point perspective was very close gives us great hope for the future of the program.

The attorney coach, Attorney Sussman. He will be joining us again, we're very proud of that partnership. Attorney Sussman comes to our US legal class, once a week, he's been working with the kids in the classroom with Mr. Butterworth. And it was absolutely amazing. So, you'll see our students. You'll hear a little bit more directly from them. That's a great picture of them. Pretty official in that way to apply to their learning. This is our second year of that program. So, the trials are once a year in the late fall, early winter. We won't be able to compete again until next year.

Laz mentioned that we had our instant decision week and it was really very successful. I did include in there about the report about all the acceptances that we received, that students received but their scholarships were really outstanding. Many of our students were receiving merit scholarships. Many received presidential scholarships. And those scholarships are renewable. So, where you see that 25,000, it's really 100,000. So, as long as they continue to remain academically eligible and they continue, that would be a renewable scholarship. So, big, big things for students.

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Our dual enrollment course registration with the community colleges is up and running right now. Our students in junior and senior year throughout the State of Connecticut are eligible to take up to two free courses at the community colleges. Those are called, they're dual enrollments. So, they're Derby High School students who are also taking high school courses. Our counselors worked with them. They've had their recommendations.

So, right now the students are meeting with the counselors at the community colleges for course selections, January 23rd. So, we have a number of students who are in that process. We'll have the final number by the end this week to know how many students officially are committed. But that's a great opportunity. It's zero cost for tuition. And an opportunity for kids to earn credit before they even land on a college campus.

We also have the American Legion Oratorical Contest. That is coming up on January 15th and invite the Board to be able to join us. It is after school hours. Right after school at 2 o'clock. But we have five students that are going to be competing. That is a record number for us. But those students are going to be speaking about the US Constitution. I will just tell you that program is pretty official. If you remember last year our students actually ended up taking third in the State of Connecticut. Then landed as a third-place finish throughout the state. But the students have to speak without any podium, no microphone. It's a oratorical contest. They have to have a eight to ten minutes correlation on the US Constitution. It is very personalized. People can find anything about the Constitution that they are passionate about. The topics were very interesting. So, I'm excited to see how our students perform there. But they've done really great things from the past number of years.

Hoby Youth Leadership just closed out. We've opened it up. It's Statewide International Program with the State of Connecticut a leadership conference at Southern Connecticut State University at the beginning of June. It is open to Sophomores, so we put it out to the whole class. We had a number of students go through a process where they had to fill out a formal application. They had to prepare essays. And then we had a selection committee. Each student who was interested sat through an interview and answer questions about leadership means to them and how they can bring that back. This program really helps build leadership potential in students. There are guest speakers. There are service projects. There are some names on there that you might remember, recognize. You know some students that are going to be participating. They are going to be invited in June to come to the program, so they'll talk about their experience. I do want to give John Saccu a shout out so this program was \$400 tuition. And we know that the barrier for families for the past number of years, that turned into a grant for two tuitions at \$400. Our student council has sponsored for a third one. But this year seven students were selected. We were short four tuitions. So, \$1,600 we needed to come up with. The students all agreed

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that we're going to be all in. Everyone is going. We're going to fundraise and figure it out. I reached out to John Saccu to see if he would consider sponsoring one of our students to help at least relieve that burden of one. John had access to some funding through some grants and has read through the applications and had partnered with us and had selected four students that he is going to commit to sponsoring. So, we now have full sponsorship for all seven students to be able to participate in that program, which we're very excited about.

The other just continue on college readiness. Typically at this meeting we will be reviewing our program of studies. We paused it because we need a little bit more time. We're working with UCONN right now. We've been working with our faculty to be able to identify teachers who can, that are eligible to take current courses that we're teaching at Derby High School and make them a dual credit for early college experience. We've heard about that through UCONN ECE Program a couple meetings ago. And we're excited that right now it looks like there are some classes that can easily be transitioned. And our students can not only earn Derby High School credit but potentially UCONN credit as well. We'll know that answer certainly by the end of January. So, we hope to have our Program of Studies by February for you.

And last, just one thing to share, during the holidays, I think every school has done some things to kind of bring up a little bit of spirit certainly with students but all also with our staff. We had a fun department holiday card contest. Each department created a holiday greeting card. We actually made about 15 different cards from the administrator's team. But the students voted on the winning admission. And today, our social studies department, they were the victors. Some highlights from the high school.

So, for the American Legion, right now we have, our school counselors are running that. So, Jen Ostroski has taken the lead for a number of years with that program. Our social studies teachers now have kind of gone all in. They partnered with a student and help, once the students get their speeches together, a faculty member can be able to support that.

The Hoby Youth Leadership. That's actually something that I've been facilitating. We do have support from our rotary as well so they sat on our selection committee. Jenn Moffat and Karla (phonetic) they are the faculty advisors for that.

Athletic Department Report

Ms. Moffat: Hello, everyone. Good evening. I see everyone's smiling faces after the holidays. So, you would think at the end of November, early December it's kind of like everything is kind of winding down, getting ready to go into winter. But that's kind of when our Unified Sports starts up. So, we could celebrate Joe Cappell (phonetic) for cross-

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country all-state, recently named Alan Gattison for football for all-state. We'll be celebrating him next Sunday. There's a lot of things that happen around that time of the year with Unified Sports. So, Coach Ali and I accompanied a group of 20 Unified Sports Athletes. This year was Staples for the Unified Sports and Connecticut Special Olympics leadership summit. That's where we were given officially our banner. We already had our banner here but now it's officially at that summit. So, we were able to bring 20 student athletes. So, that was a very exciting opportunity for them.

Then we hosted a kindness activity on November 13th, which led us to host Waterbury and Oxford for a basketball tournament, holiday hoops as well as a spontaneous dance party during that, which was amazing. That was a great way for almost winter break at that point.

Our Derby High School Unified Sports, we picked our athletes this week. So, we're getting off the ground, the middle school as well. I'm very excited we're doing a lot of crossover events like last year between the middle school and the high school as well as hosting some other schools. Coach Landolfi told me today that she spoke with a couple of the teams that we'll be hosting in May for our corn hole tournament and they got cool pen pal experience for them set up for them to be able to get to know people through writing letters and then they come here in May and they'll be able to meet each other and meet the pen pals that they've been communicating back and forth with all year. So, we're excited about that.

On December 5th, Mrs. Sheridan and I have 12 students to the leadership conference down at Southern Connecticut State University where they attended numerous breakout sessions and had the opportunity to bring different leadership skills that they may not have present yet back to Derby High School and utilize them on our team. So, we're very excited for those student athletes as well.

As far as winter sports, we are off and running. Everyone at this point has had either a game or a meet except for cheerleading. Cheerleading's first competition is scheduled for the 17th. So, we are full out running in winter sports right now.

Dr. Conway: An update to the previous filing. Every district in the NVL that has played Waterbury that of her actions that she's filing with the OCR. At this particular point, more filing from any district or individual at this point going to CIAC that is going to OCR has gone anywhere besides just the filing. That they can participate.

Mr. Gildea: Although we have the right not to play.

Dr. Conway: Yes, to some extent. So, if you recall when this first came up when we played a game in the fall this goes back to that. Because when we played Wilby we were then added to that list. This goes back when we played Wilby, we met with the students and the

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parents. And they wanted to play. Connecticut follows current federal law, which they can participate. Now I know that there's an executive quarter but that doesn't supersede Connecticut. What we did is in this situation, met with all the students, all the parents and then move forward.

Without getting specific to an individual, what I did look at when we first met back in the fall during girls volleyball was, through CIAC and anyway, through Waterbury, Superintendent of Waterbury, this was not a situation in which the athlete dominated other athletes on the court in any way. That was my first thing, the safety. But in this particular situation that was not a concern in what we learned is last year before what was happening at the federal level I would say the same individual was playing on the same court with the same team. And it was not an issue then either.

Mr. Gildea: We won the first two sets when we played Wilby.

Dr. Conway: We did. We won the first two sets playing Wilby. This particular situation is not an athlete that dominates the game being played. We can see where that could happen. We ask the players first and then the parents.

Mr. Foley: Did any girl chose to opt out?

Dr. Conway: One girl chose not to play.

Mr. Marcucio: Is this against the one school in Waterbury or is this the whole town?

Dr. Conway: The whole league. So, any team that has played that Waterbury team is being named in that. There is no federal filing yet.

Special Education Department Report

Mr. Giordano: Good evening everyone. So, I would just like to formally announce Angela as a new Supervisor to special education at the elementary school. From a special education standpoint here obviously, two new people to the district. We're streamlining a lot of the processes that have been in place. We're putting in new spin the tanks to some degree from the Central Office standpoint. Trying to make things a little bit easier for us. Making things easier for our teachers and it all trickles down to the students.

From the operation standpoint where the coffee cart that's running at the high school and the middle school both which picked up holiday theme for hot chocolate and coffee. So, it's a good time for our special education students. We also had, as Ms. Caggiano noted was the Best Buddies event at the middle school last week. Angela had coordinated a pre-K 3 to 12 meet PD for specialized program teachers. It also focuses on devices for our speech and language pathologists. And then just a couple weeks ago we completed a in

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house TMT training at the elementary school. We're also running another one in January for the secondary level.

STANDING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

Mr. Marcucio: I sent out the information to you. I want to get your input before any decisions are made. We're considering changing the seven committees to three. And that would, with everybody being on two or three committees, everybody would be on one committee and along with that we would change the first Tuesday of the month meeting to a standing committee meeting. That's what it was supposed to be a long time ago. And then it became a regular second Board meeting. So, we would be taking the administrators that were here tonight, we'd put into the Thursday night meeting with the two other ones that are usually on a Thursday night.

Ms. Mongillo: All the committees would meet on the same night.

Mr. Marcucio: Everybody would be on one committee instead of two or three. We would have a meeting and open the meeting just like we would normally do. And if there was business to do that night we wanted to hire somebody, we could do that at that meeting also. Then we would break off into the standing committees.

Ms. Mongillo: And how would we do that? How would Dr. Conway be in three places?

Dr. Conway: If they're all in the same building I would have. Or you run it consecutively one after the other. So, if they're concurrent, it's more challenging but we have admins that could sit in on them. If they are consecutive, but I would go from one after the other after the other.

Mr. Marcucio: If there was an important issue, you could go to that one.

Ms. Tovar: Is that allowed under bylaws?

Dr. Conway: Under current bylaws, no, you would have to change the bylaws to make any of these changes.

Mr. Marcucio: You would have to change the bylaws.

Mr. Foley: Board of Alderman is consecutively.

Mr. Marcucio: Yep. Each committee meets one after the other.

Dr. Conway: Each committee meets one after the other. Again, you open a meeting, close it. Open the next meeting, close it. Open the next meeting, close it.

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Mr. Gildea: First, all three would have to be posted separately. So, you couldn't do it in the middle of the meeting. All three would have to be posted separately.

Mr. Marcucio: Yes.

Mr. Gildea: All three would have to be posted with the secretary of the State's Office by January 31st in theory.

Mr. Marcucio: So, we would have to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Gildea: Yes. I'll be honest, remotely, I don't know how you would do all three in the same room in the same building unless you did meeting one, meeting two, meeting three. That way you go to all three or could, but most importantly to comply with FOI, Freedom of Information, you're doing three different zoom meetings, three different postings so. So, I don't know how you could do it other than you doing it that way. You'd have your standing meeting. You'd have to adjourn that. Because each one of these meetings would have to be their own meetings, posted by themselves, on file. So, I think you'd have to do it that way.

Ms. Tovar: After reading the thought processes for this, I don't see being able to condense both meetings to those committees three, that we can keep it 45 minutes to an hour each. I can tell you that Athletic usually runs.

Mr. Marcucio: That was 45 minutes to an hour was considering meeting all at the same time.

Ms. Tovar: Even if we did meet all at the same time I don't think if we condense, you know.

Mr. Gildea: I don't understand how we can do it all at the same time.

Ms. Tovar: Because there are so many topics we discuss per our individual committee that I just don't see that all happening within that time frame. I think we're going to spend more time trying to accomplish that than what we do with our current set up right now.

Mr. Gildea: I think what the alderman do is meeting 5 to 6 is meeting one, 6 to 7 is meeting two and 7 to 8 is meeting three. So, they have three meetings in the same night. I'm not saying I'm for or against, I'm just saying you'd almost have to get rid of that meeting, that first month meeting. Because when you're having four, then you're opening up the standing committee and then you're having three other ones.

Mr. Marcucio: Could the Board do those meetings on a separate night?

Mr. Gildea: No, they do it all in the same night.

Mr. Marcucio: I mean, is it the same night as the regular Board meeting?

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Mr. Gildea: No.

Mr. Marcucio: So, it's a separate.

Mr. Gildea: Yes, sir. We would have to amend our existing policy and standing committees. We have another policy that says in order to amend policies, you have to refer the policy to your existing policy committee who then changes the committee. So, per our policy, we would have to go to a policy committee to change a policy.

Mr. Marcucio: Is it legal for me for a Chair to appoint a special committee to handle this until, I'd like to appoint a special committee to work with the budget since we're in between here and also one to work with the policy if we have to before we could straighten out the policy. So, if you want to keep the seven, you know. The more members you have on the committee, the harder it is to get together with everybody at the same time.

Ms. Tovar: Our conflict has been more with scheduling, when Jen had games, I want to make sure because I need them there as the Athletic Director. And Doc, he's a busy man too. So, I want to make sure that everybody has time, that's been more of our issue. I don't think we've ever not had an issue with a quorum.

Mr. Gildea: I think there's always going to be subcommittees. Like negotiations is going to be hard to do just once a month, right. Because when you're in the middle of negotiations you'd have to meet more. Student health and safety, when you're expelling kids, that's going to be a tough one.

Mr. Marcucio: That's not going to happen in the third year of the contract. This time it's a four-year contract, isn't it.

Dr. Conway: For the teachers. Yeah. The next ones we have coming up the last two is going to be admins in '26. Theirs is up in '27. And after that, nurses.

Mr. Foley: That starts at the '26 school year.

Dr. Conway: Yes.

Mr. Gildea: And the expulsion committees, they meet once a month.

Mr. Foley: Right.

Ms. Tovar: And Holly would fill in for Laura, right, Doc. I'm saying until.

Ms. Mongillo: There's a lot of topics in three committees to cover. And I just can't imagine efficiently getting through those topics.

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Mr. Marcucio: Well, you'll have more time because you don't have to go to two or three committees.

Ms. Tovar: Does it make sense in our current bylaws to combine maybe those two?

Mr. Marcucio: I checked online in the valley schools. Shelton has four committees. Oxford had four committees. And Ansonia has six. And Seymour has six. I mean if you want to cut them down to have three or four or five. And still there are some people who have to serve on more than one committee.

So, where do we go from here?

Dr. Conway: I guess, what's happening now with the budget, we had a committee to oversee the budget piece right now.

Mr. Gildea: With all due respect, we have a policy that calls for six committees. We have a policy that says we have six standing committees. In my opinion, we should adhere to the policy, fill the committees. And then the policy committee can then put in place, can look at how we do subcommittees and then make changes during their meeting. But, to me, we have a policy in place. In my opinion, we're knowingly, not following the policy we're changing about.

Mr. Foley: A workshop?

Dr. Conway: You can call a workshop.

Mr. Gildea: I just think we should follow policy.

Ms. Tovar: Are we sitting in the existing committees that we have in.

Mr. Marcucio: It's a new term. I have to appoint new committees.

Ms. Tovar: Should we send an email to you our interest.

Mr. Marcucio: That's what the bylaws say.

Ms. Tovar: Okay.

Mr. Marcucio: Have to have them by a certain date.

Dr. Conway: Just so you follow the policy. You wouldn't not have committees. The chairman would assign members to the current committees until there's such time there is a recommendation for a change in the structure of the committee and then you have a first read and then a second read in this case, because it is a significant change than just, you know, the statute change, you have to change your policy. Because even with that, I know

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we do a second read on every policy but with simple technical changes that are either required by law or otherwise done in the first read, something like this needs two reads.

Mr. Gildea: And if I could, we don't know if it's going to get five votes. So, to me, I don't think we should knowingly not follow our own policy.

Mr. Foley: Now who would replace Laura?

Dr. Conway: It's up to the chair. The chairman can assign any of the nine members to any committees of the same committees that existed.

Mr. Marcucio: Until such time as the policy has changed.

Ms. Nuzzo: You just assign to us. We don't get a choice.

Dr. Conway: You do.

Mr. Marcucio: You ask me. You tell me I want to be on this committee. But it's still my choice to appoint you to whatever committee I want.

Ms. Tovar: What if you don't want to be on that committee?

Mr. Marcucio: You don't have a choice.

Ms. Mongillo: I'm on ACES.

ADJOURN

Motion that the Committee of the Whole adjourn its meeting. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Holly Orazietti and a second by Ms. Erica Nuzzo.

Ken Marcucio	Yes
Dan Foley	Yes
Kim Tovar	Yes
Rebecca O'Hara	Yes
Holly Orazietti	Yes
Jim Gildea	Yes
Erica Nuzzo	Yes
Melissa Mongillo	Yes
Karla Malerba	Absent

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Ms. Oraziotti: Making motion.

Ms. Nuzzo: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Adjourned at 7:47.

Marianne Samokar

Recording Secretary

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