



## ***Education Committee - Board of Representatives***

Diane Lutz, Chair

Megan Cottrell, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 17, 2018  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Education Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Lutz and Committee Member Reps. Aquila, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, and Graziosi. Absent or excused were Vice Chair Cottrell and Rep. Stella. Also present were Earl Kim, Tamu Lucero, Clarence Zachery, and John Perrotta, BOE; and Asst. Chief Wuennemann, SPD; and two members of the public.

Chair Lutz called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
<sup>1</sup> 1. <a href="#">E30.005</a>	REVIEW; Provisions for Pedestrian Safety Around Stamford Public Schools. 12/06/17 – Submitted by Rep. de la Cruz 12/18/17 – Held In Committee 5-0-0 01/29/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee 02/15/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee 03/12/18 – Moved to Pending 04/16/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee 05/14/18 – Moved to Pending 07/30/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee <b>08/20/18 – Report Made &amp; Held in Committee</b>	Report Made & Held

Chief Wuennemann explained that the SPD is in the process of evaluating all the crossings that have crossing guards ([attached](#)). There are currently 80. He gets many requests for crossing guards. There are several issues to consider: some crossings are busier than others, some have walk lights, some have school bus drop off/pick up. Additionally, some crossings have guards with few or no students, and some crossings have no guard but many students. The majority of the report is done, and he will get the information to the Committee once the report is complete.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:00:36

- <sup>2</sup>2. E30.013      REVIEW; Board of Education update from Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Tamu Lucero: "District Strategic Improvement Plan".      Report Made & Held  
04/04/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lutz  
04/16/18 – Held in Committee  
06/18/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee

Dr. Lucero gave an update to the Committee and discussed the District Strategic Improvement Plan concerning the Mind, Body and Heart initiatives with the following handouts: [Strategic Improvements](#), [Summer School](#), and [Early Grade Reading](#). She has been talking to principals about their visions for the schools. The Stamford Public School is a Learning Organization. Some of the initiatives that are being worked on are: student enrichment, physical fitness, emotional wellness, food insecurity, and chronic absenteeism. She will come to the next meeting and give another update.

- <sup>3</sup>4. E30.020      REVIEW: Heat Related Half Days and Plans for Addressing/Updating Cooling Systems in SPS.      Report Made  
09/07/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lutz

This item was taken up out of order. Mr. Kim and Mr. Zachery explained this issue. The guidelines from the Dept. of Health state that after two hours in excessively hot/humid rooms students should rotate to cooling spaces. However not all schools have enough of these spaces. Many of the older schools were designed to have cross ventilation with open doors and windows, but due to newer security issues, this cross ventilation does not occur. Window units are not the best solution because they pull in moisture and can increase mold issues. The ideal solution is a permanent one. There are capital funds available to provide cooling in classrooms. The Mayor has approved this as a joint project between the City and BOE. The BOE is hoping to get capital funding from the State. A short term solution is to get portable air conditioning units, 81 are needed. Monthly rental is approximately \$63,000 and the purchase price is approximately \$255,000. This should reduce the number of half days, but it will not eliminate them because rotating to cooling spaces is significantly disruptive to instruction. There are 11 schools that have this issue of excessive heat.

- <sup>4</sup>3. E30.019      REVIEW; Current [Snow Removal Ordinances](#) in the City of Stamford and Discuss Possible Proposals for Removal within Walking Distance of Schools.      Report Made & Held  
09/07/18 – Submitted by Rep. Lutz

The Committee discussed this item. Winter is much more difficult for children to walk to and from schools. Many children have to walk in the streets in the winter due to snow blocking sidewalks and intersections. A clear path to school involves many different types of properties: sidewalks, cut-outs, bus stops, and access to walkways. The ordinance needs a language change that involves the City removing snow mounds at

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:21:48

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:46:49

<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp: 01:14:57

crosswalks, and committing to clearing sidewalks around City-owned parks/ballfields and bus stops. The Committee will start making progress in steps until the goal of safe routes to school is achieved.

Chair Lutz adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Lutz, Chair

This meeting is on [Video](#).