



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

Megan Cottrell, Chair

Ramya Shaw, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Education Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Cottrell and Committee Member Reps. Strain, Weinberg, and Williams. Absent or excused were Co-Chair Shaw, and Reps. Baines and Pierre-Louis. Also in attendance were Matt Quiñones, Director of Operations; Alice Knapp, Susan LaPerla, and Elizabeth McKay, Ferguson Library.

Chair Cottrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

| <b>Item No.</b>             | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Committee Action</b> |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 11. <a href="#">E31.045</a> | REVIEW; overview of the public library system in Stamford.<br>3/5/2025 - Submitted by Reps. Cottrell and Shaw | <b>Report Made</b>      |

Ms. Knapp reviewed the [attached presentation](#) and there was discussion.

Some key services offered at the libraries:

Teachers are allowed to borrow books for their classes for an extended period of time.

Librarians can customize packages of books for classes according to topics being studied.

For younger children there are learning kits “to go” that both teachers and parents can borrow which include books, puppets, and supplemental activities.

Student ID numbers can serve as a library card, and requested books can be delivered to the schools.

There is an easy to use e-book collection specifically designed for students, and also a collection for younger children.

Ferguson Library plays a big role in supplementing school libraries. Last year 2,600 physical books supplemented the schools. This year so far 3,600 books have supplemented the schools.

Purple Bus visits elementary schools. Upon request it can go to middle and high schools with books on specific study units.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:00:45

Bookmobile goes to pre-schools, neighborhoods, and parks.

The first permanent “story walk” was installed in Jackie Robinson Park with help from the Parks & Recreation Dept. Ferguson Library is looking to install more as these promote both physical activity and reading.

[Tutor.com](#) is a free service available to students. The tutors are vetted the same as if they work in the SPS. Students have access to free standardized test preparation.

Adult programs:

Libraries work closely with adult continuing education to have necessary books available. Programs on interviewing skills, resume writing, and technology.

Small business support coaching.

Lawyers in the Library program offers free counseling

Financial literacy program. This has been mainly for adults but recently a two-part program for students was held. In April there will be a financial aid program. Outside members of the community come in to teach these programs.

- <sup>2</sup>2. [E31.046](#) REVIEW; overview with what’s going on with school construction. **Report Made**  
3/5/2025 - Submitted by Reps. Cottrell and Shaw

Director Quiñones reviewed this item and there was discussion.

The [Long Term Facilities Plan](#) is the guiding document for the current school construction program. This plan was created to provide a district-wide perspective of facility needs and a strategic plan of consolidation, renovation, and investments to see how best to invest in construction and facility upgrades. The strategic plan was established for a 20-25 year span.

The Administration has committed to facilitating the work around Phase I, which consists of four parts:

- 1) Westhill High School: new building on current campus.
- 2) Roxbury K-8: new building on current campus of Roxbury Elementary School.
- 3) South School K-8: two campuses, one at current KT Murphy Elementary School and one at 87 Lockwood Avenue city building.
- 4) Small capital: smaller renovation related projects throughout the district.

Director Quiñones shared the [attached presentation](#).

The Westhill High School project is currently in the design phase. The costs significantly increased post-COVID to \$461M. The square footage has been reduced, which has reduced the cost estimation to \$446M.

A big component is the natatorium (swimming pool). There has been advocacy to keep the pool because other community programs use the pool. These programs cost much less than private pool facilities.

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:32:55

Authorization from the State is being sought during the current legislative session. The team is working with the state delegation to propose language to update authorizations to allow the project to move forward. Local authorizations will be next – Board of Finance, Planning Board, and Board of Representatives. Then the bidding process begins. This will lead to the GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price). There is a stipulation that the Board of Finance approves the GMP.

Timeline:

Westhill is scheduled to break ground in Spring of 2026.

Roxbury is scheduled to break ground late Summer or early Fall of 2026.

South School is currently in RFP process to select architect for design process.

There will be more community engagement opportunities planned than in the past.

A system to report neighborhood concerns during construction is being set up and should be available within approximately one month.

Chair Cottrell noted there is a website [spsbuilds.com](https://spsbuilds.com) that is a very useful resource for information on current school construction projects.

Chair Cottrell adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Cottrell, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).