



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

Michael Molgano, Co-Chair    Andy Sklover, Co-Chair    Mary Savage, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, July 15, 2010  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center,  
888 Washington Boulevard

The Education Committee met as indicated above. Present were Co-Chair Molgano, Co-Chair Sklover, Committee Reps. Cerasoli, Wallace and Young. Absent or excused were Committee Reps. Layton and Savage. Also present were Joshua Starr, Superintendent, Stamford Public Schools; Robin Altman, Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship ("NFTE"); Patricia Lavalle, NFTE volunteer; Celeste Johnson, Reinventing Stamford; and Fred Lavalle.

Co-Chair Molgano called the meeting to order at 7:05.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
1. <a href="#">E28.009</a>	REVIEW; status of entrepreneurship programs within the Stamford Public Schools and the role of NFTE, including opportunities for expansion and extending to 8 <sup>th</sup> graders.	Report Made

Ms. Altman described the NFTE program and its role in the Stamford Schools and responded to questions from the committee.

Nationally:

- NFTE is a non-profit organization with the mission of giving at-risk youth a clear pathway to success
- NFTE works only in schools or community-based organizations in which a minimum of 40-50% of the students are entitled to a free or reduced-price lunch
- They give students a sense of empowerment and success and a sense of ownership of their futures
- They use an interactive and experiential approach to make the learning fun and germane to their lives
- The culmination of the program is the presentation of a formal business plan, which is presented first to the class and then may be presented in regional and national competitions
  - A Westhill team just placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in a regional competition
- NFTE is in 11 states and several countries
- The course requires:
  - a NFTE-trained teacher
    - Teachers receive a day-long training session
    - There are on-line webinars
    - Coaches assist teachers at schools

- NFTE curriculum (there is a brand new curriculum which all of the teachers have been trained in). A copy of the textbook will be available in the Board office for the next few weeks.
- Student slide presentation of business plan at the end of the year
- A trip to NYC wholesale district
  - The students gets \$50 to purchase items, which they then market and sell
  - They must plan before they go by knowing their target audience and doing formal or informal polling
  - Students must do bookkeeping
  - Students return \$50 but keep any profits
- Some schools use the program as part of a larger curriculum, i.e. economics

She further explained how the program works in Stamford:

- At Westhill HS there are 3 12<sup>th</sup> grade classes, which are year-long
- SHS has 1 class which is a mix of grades
- There will be a class at AITE next year
- They are also at Stamford Academy
- The class is an elective class
- Students learn of it from guidance counselors, word of mouth and press about the competitions

Ms. LaValle reported that there are statistics on the effectiveness of the program nationally. The statistics reflect a 32% increase in interest in college; a 40% increase in occupational aspirations; that 99% of the participants would recommend it to others; and that 70% go on to post-secondary education.

- Her experience is that the students like NFTE and become more involved in school because they see how what they are learning can be used
- She became more involved after judging and seeing a film about the program, a copy of which is available in the Board office.
- Rep. Sklover noted that NFTE had also been mentioned in a recent article in the NY Times. The link to this article as well as others is located at <http://www.nfte.com/news/>.
- Ms. LaValle also provided a power point about the program, a copy of which is [attached](#).

Ms. Altman discussed using the program in middle school

- There is a brand new middle school curriculum called “Exploring Careers” which focuses on learning about yourself, what a career is and how to make a decision about a career
- It is less intense than the HS curriculum
- Projects may be done as a team rather than individually
- Some schools weave it into the existing curriculum
- Teachers receive training on this curriculum

There are also summer business camps

- Have done at Stamford Boys & Girls Club in the past
- Discourage using the textbook in the summer, but can be done on-line
- Mostly a ½ day program

Co-Chair Molgano adjourned the meeting at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Molgano