



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Andy Sklover, Chair

Mary Savage & Frank Cerasoli, Co-Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, November 1, 2011
Time: 6:15 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center,
888 Washington Boulevard

The Education Committee met as indicated above. Present were: Chair Sklover and Co-Chairs Savage and Cerasoli and Committee Member Reps. Layton and Wallace. Reps. Uva and Young were excused. Also present were Representative and Board of Education member Polly Rauh; Winnie Hamilton, Acting Superintendent of Schools, Susan Rigano, and Susan Stanton.

Chair Sklover called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. E28.017	REVIEW; after school resources, including tutoring and mentoring opportunities.	REPORT MADE

Ms. Hamilton provided the [attached handout](#), which responded to the questions previously submitted by the committee. This handout lists the various organizations which provide mentoring and tutoring programs as well as funding sources. She referenced an article in *Principal Leadership*, which the district subscribes to, and the importance of community mentors as well as parents. The partnership with the parents provides 24/7 mentoring.

Ms. Hamilton mentioned assistance from the City's Youth Services Bureau and SPEF in securing mentors for our students, including outreach to our corporations. She referenced several examples including UBS and RBS. She noted that the district seeks to have the programs spread out through various schools and not to have the programs overlap. The University of Phoenix program is seeking to do a program with KT Murphy which will hopefully encourage students to attend college, with both mentoring and financial assistance. The City is also getting UCONN students to act as mentors to expose middle school students to the possibility of attending college – "reaching back and pulling up". She mentioned several other sources including Stamford Police Boxing and Yerwood Center. The District is in the process, right now, of

assessing all of these programs to determine if they are working and how do we follow up and replicate the successful ones in order to expose more students to these opportunities. In addition, in High School, there is a career oriented program by Credit Management Corporation. This is about careers and connects with the Finance Academy at Westhill HS. Ms. Hamilton also mentioned Future 5 and iMentoring. She discussed the success and longevity of the ALTA program, including the very successful parent engagement.

In response to a question from Representative Cerasoli, Ms. Hamilton described student mentoring as a way to connect students to role models, including for career exposure, and also provide academic support. For example, Pitney Bowes will provide a bus from Springdale to Pitney Bowes HQ where they provide a snack and then one or two people will act as a mentor to that student. If there is a particular concept the students are having a hard time with, the mentors will inform the school.

Ms. Hamilton noted that student tutors are different from the adult tutors. Top academic student or students in the National Honor Society (NHS) make themselves available in the media center. This is free of charge, peer to peer tutoring and it looks good on an academic resume. Chair asked how we track the number of student tutors and Dr. Hamilton mentioned the advisors at both of the high schools. At any given time you can have 35-40 NHS students. In addition, GE runs a Success Program at Westhill HS which pays students to tutor. The # of tutors are determined by the amount of funding we have that year.

Representative Wallace asked how students in elementary school would get mentoring. Dr. Hamilton confirmed that it would be after identification by a teacher.

Chair Sklover asked if there is any way to gauge how many students out of the total population are actually getting these resources. Dr. Hamilton confirmed that all schools know what students are in these programs, but she did not have the actual #s available. One of the things the Strategic District Improvement Plan includes is more assessments. However, there are so many factors in play so assessments can be challenging.

There are various sources of funds for tutoring as outlined in the handout –

- Title I funds are only provided at the elementary level and are for reading and math teachers during or after the school day. Eleven of the twelve schools are Title I, and they divide the money received from the state. How much each school gets is based upon the number of students who qualify. This money can be used for State-approved services. Parents elect the types of services that the schools provide and then the funds are earmarked based upon the parents' choice.
- The 21st Century grant is a competitive grant. Programs must be in partnership with a community agency. Schools write the grants and some

- write them very well. Mentioned Hart and Springdale in conjunction with a community agency.
- Priority school district funds from the state are done on a per pupil allotment
 - There is also the Extended School Hour grant wherein schools must also apply.
 - In the middle schools, there is no Title I funding available
 - Middle schools also have an After School Grant Program. 21st Century Learning Centers at Dolan and Rippowam and there is an After School Grant for TOR and Cloonan.
 - Scofield also has a Hewlett-Packard online course which the school obtained through a grant, so Scofield is not part of the 21st Century Grants referenced above.
 - ALTA is a grant for Hispanic students that has been very successful in engaging parents now for six (6) years.
 - LEAD program been around for years for Stamford High School students.
 - SHS has a UCONN prep program. Every year there is a student from that program who is accepted at UCONN Storrs. This supports students academic and career aspirations.
 - Project Open Door has been a tremendous asset to the school although challenged as “merit pay” by some. This program has done a good job of preparing students for AP courses.
 - Advancement by Individual Determination (“AVID”) is not listed on the chart but has also been successful in giving students academic skills.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Andy Sklover, Chair

This meeting is available on [video](#).