

39.

**TOWN OF WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT  
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
Town Council Chambers  
March 6, 2018  
RECORD OF VOTES & MINUTES**

The Special Town Council Workshop on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 was called to order at 6:30 P.M. Councilors in attendance were: Chairman Vincent Cervoni, Craig Fishbein, Thomas Laffin, John LeTourneau, Joseph A. Marrone, III, Gina Morgenstein, Vincent F. Testa. Councilor Christopher K. Shortell and Councilor Zandri were absent. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr. and Assistant Town Attorney Geoffrey Einhorn were also present at the meeting.

Roxane McKay Chair, BOE, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

BOE Members in attendance were: Kathy Castelli, Erin Corso, Karen Hlavic, Patty Purcell Tammy Raccio, Pat Reynolds, Ray Ross, Mike Votto, Roxanne McKay

Chairman Cervoni welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

*In Attendance: Police Chief William Wright, Fire Chief Richard Heidgerd, Dr. Menzo, Cynthia Lavalette, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, Stephen Civitelli, Health Department & Craig Turner, Director of Youth & Social Services*

1. Presentation on the measures that are in place for security and mental health in our schools and community.

Dr. Menzo spoke in great detail on how schools respond to emergency situations. He talked about layers of safety and mentioned that each school has a safety committee that meets on a regular basis.

Craig Turner spoke about student behavior, issues of depression and suicide and how to respond to these issues.

Fire Chief Richard Heidgerd spoke about life safety, annual inspections, fire drills and egress from school buildings.

Chief Wright spoke about several issues such as lockdown drills that take place at least three times a year, police officers having card keys to schools, police cruisers having floor plans of each school, an upgrade to a two-way radio system to be in better communication with school administrations in the event of an emergency. He also spoke about the camera system and the constant interaction between school administrators and the Police Department. He stated that the Police and Fire Department have been practicing and training for years on how to respond to an active shooter.

Mr. Civitelli spoke about a health improvement plan, violence prevention and mental health.

Chairman Cervoni opened the meeting to public comment.

Jennifer Parmelee, 36 Bristol Street, asked how lockdowns are decided.

Jared Lieu, 59 Curtis Avenue, questioned the policy on guns in schools.

Resident from Whiffle Tree Road spoke.

Mary Lou Sadonis, 40 Briar Lane, Meriden, asked to share a petition requiring all schools have metal detectors.

Julia LaFond, 10 Courtland Drive, spoke about the possibility of creating a student center.

Erin Conroy, 13 Burke Heights Drive, spoke about cultural issues.

Christopher Prorok, 29 Mellor Road, spoke about the seriousness of words, "Say what you mean and mean what you say".

Tyler DePino, 65 Terrace Gardens, asked how do you deal with a student that has a mental disorder.

John Cerreta, teacher at Dag Hammarskjold Middle School, inquired about more training for teachers from the Police Department.

John Turenne, 7 Ryan Drive, spoke about basic discussion of right and wrong and the fine line between underestimating versus overreacting.

Christina Tatta talked about having armed guards or SRO (School Resource Officers) at schools.

Carolyn Cricco, 6 Southside Drive, spoke.

Lisa Teodosio and Patricia Wetmore spoke about how to keep their children safe from threats.

John Conte, 29 Gregory Road, questioned why it is required to hire an armed police officer for a school dance, but not required to hire an officer at the schools. He thinks we need to teach children how to defend themselves.

Jennifer Brencher, 5 Haller Avenue, spoke about students suffering from depression and thoughts of suicide and the stress it puts on their friends.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**  
**MADE BY: FISHBEIN**  
**SECONDED BY: LETOURNEAU**  
**MOTION: PASSED**

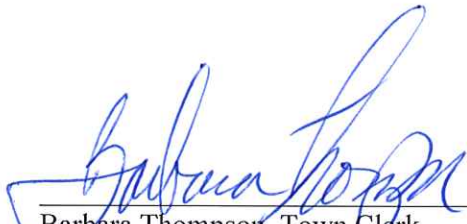
The Council adjourned the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Moss  
Council Staff  
Meeting digitally recorded

  
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Vincent Cervoni, Chairman

27 MARCH 2018  
Date

  
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Barbara Thompson, Town Clerk

3-28-18  
Date

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 3-9-18  
AT 12:00 AND RECEIVED BY  
Barbara Thompson TOWN CLERK