

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL, OTHER DRUGS AND
YOUTH SERVICES**

November 10, 2010

5:30 PM

Chairman Ouellette called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Ouellette, O'Neil, Osborne, Craig, Arnold

Messrs.: T. Brennan, K. Burkush, S. Legasse, M. Boldin

Chairman Ouellette addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Communication from the Office of Youth Services, Manchester School District and Manchester Police Department regarding:
 - Truancy data
 - Discipline data
 - Juvenile crime and violent crime data
 - Data related to youth alcohol and other drug use in Manchester
 - Youth employment data

(Note: Information was requested at the 06/28/2010 Committee meeting)

Chairman Ouellette stated the purpose of the meeting today is to review the data that we had asked these three departments to pull and get us information. We will go through the information to make sure that this information is...the ultimate goal of this meeting is to bring this information and send it forward to a joint session of the Board of School Committee and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. I wanted to get this Committee the information to make sure we have everything that we wanted...*tape inaudible.*

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Arnold, it was voted to discuss this item.

Mr. Thomas Brennan, Superintendent, stated what we have done is... *tape inaudible.*

Chairman Ouellette stated I'll leave it up to the Committee on how they want to go through the information. I know Alderman O'Neil was the one who requested a lot of the truancy data.

Alderman O'Neil stated the one item that really got my attention was the truancy issue... *tape inaudible*. Before we go there, while we are all here, I am very pleased to hear of the changes and the passion in the School administration about the violence in the school, just from what I hear and I commend you for that. We have great principals at our schools. I'm hearing very good things. I don't know if there is any data, Dr. Brennan, that you were able to track for the past year about this issue. I don't know if Lieutenant Legasse has data on his end from the Police Department. Is there anything memorable about what is going on in the schools?

Mr. Brennan replied *tape inaudible*. I would not be surprised... We have anywhere from 93% to 94%... *tape inaudible*.

Ms. Karen Burkush, Assistant Superintendent, stated *tape inaudible*.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have a couple things to follow up on. Does this reflect K through 12? Are you able to break it down at all by elementary, middle and high school? Have you seen anything... is it consistent where not only are you seeing improvement in the high school, but at the lower levels? Are you seeing improvement at the middle schools and the elementary schools?

Ms. Burkush replied *tape inaudible*.

Alderman O'Neil stated Dr. Brennan suggested to me that this first semester we had... Tom, I'm going to guess that there are measurable numbers versus last year, but then there might be some new categories so I wasn't sure.

Mr. Brennan replied *tape inaudible*. It is very difficult for us to research.

Alderman O'Neil stated the other item is the CLAS.

Chairman Ouellette stated yes, we are going to discuss that.

Alderman Craig asked *Tape inaudible*.

Tape inaudible.

Mr. Scott Legasse, Manchester Police Department stated *tape inaudible*. I talked to Tim today and it has been confirmed... I did ask if they had...

Chairman Ouellette asked would that be theft involving an item that is inside of a vehicle?

Alderman O'Neil stated that is what I was going to ask. How is it classified?

Chairman Ouellette asked like an I-pod that is stolen from someone's car?

Mr. Legasse replied it could be that that is the way it is entered. *Tape inaudible.*

Alderman O'Neil asked is there anything...software or something?

Mr. Legasse replied there is a program that we are pulling numbers from.

Tape inaudible.

Alderman Arnold asked Scott, you are going to find out about the 75? I have a couple quick questions. One is these numbers are good through when? Today?

Mr. Legasse replied we pulled them a month and a half ago to try to sit down and go over them.

Alderman Arnold stated I ask because some of them are nominally lower, but we still have time left to go.

Mr. Legasse stated I can say that for data purposes... *Tape inaudible.*

Alderman Arnold stated on 2-10, drug offenses, the last three year's the range has been over five years 32 to 36 and 19 in 2010. Any explanation or just good for us?

Mr. Legasse replied I don't know. *Tape inaudible.*

Alderman Arnold stated it is reasonable to assume that by year's end it will more inline with past years. Too bad, but okay.

Alderman Osborne stated I had a bullet on all the ones you just discussed. How about suicide? Isn't suicide a situation in the schools, not necessarily in the schools, but in general? I've been hearing of that a lot of TV because of all the bullying and everything else.

Mr. Brennan replied *Tape inaudible.*

Alderman Osborne stated we all know it is a factor of depression.

Tape inaudible.

Alderman Osborne stated I hope that never increases.

Chairman Ouellette stated there was one this year. Marty, do you have anything to add so far?

Alderman Arnold asked are we receiving and filing this and sending it to the joint meeting?

Chairman Ouellette replied we are not going to receive and file, but just send it. What I would like to see, and we are going to get to the CLAS thing, is a presentation go to the joint meeting and at that time, we will take any suggestions and comments from both Boards, have them go back and discuss that and make a final presentation to us with recommendations as to where we go from here and how we identify the problems we have and recommended solutions. The reason why I want to fast track this a little bit is because we have always wanted to get another truancy officer. We have had meetings with the Mayor in terms of the budget numbers, but if we don't have these discussions at some point and at least begin the discussions then it is always going to get pushed off. My goal is to get all of this information through the budget process and at least get it on the table knowing full well that we are not going to be able to fund any of these positions through our budget process, but there may be a grant out there or something we haven't looked at. That's the goal that I would like to work towards to finish this process up by sometime in February to coincide with the budget process.

Tape inaudible.

Chairman Ouellette stated I think the final product will have some recommendations towards those goals.

Mr. Marty Boldin, Office of Youth Services, stated whenever a young person is diagnosed... *Tape inaudible.* I think people are aware if it is their child, but in general, OYS is the only resource they have. There is a real lack of services. From the data that Lieutenant Legasse gave, the number of alcohol influenced arrests, while we are seeing that our numbers are definitely improving, we still have a significant situation. When we get them at OYS, we are working with the family. It is a significant issue.

Alderman O'Neil asked how do we know how accurate this data is?

Mr. Boldin replied the data that is reflected is for the last six years and it is the single most important....while there may be issues with specific parts of the question...*Tape inaudible*. It is great to know that one of the most thrilling pieces of data is the...*Tape inaudible*.

Alderman O'Neil asked who is providing data to Makin' it Happen?

Mr. Boldin replied Makin' it Happen is with the School District.

Alderman O'Neil asked what is the process? How many schools do you get data from? This is what the students are responding?

Tape inaudible.

Alderman O'Neil asked are we able to take the data versus actual referrals? Has anyone ever questioned them for a correlation?

Mr. Boldin replied yes. The number of young people who were coming to us at OYS is much more significant than... *Tape inaudible*. Just to be clear, for every ten young people who are out there, about three of them should have some kind of problem. *Tape inaudible*. A lot of the kids who are referred to us aren't...our kids are obviously more likely to have it, but I guess what I wanted to show here was that the kids who are coming to OYS... *Tape inaudible*.

Alderman O'Neil asked is there anything on page four that OYS or the Police get out of looking at those charts? Is there anything that pops out and says we are missing something?

Tape inaudible.

Alderman O'Neil asked is that different than alternative schools or is that the same thing?

Mr. Brennan replied *Tape inaudible*. What it does is get them to graduate.

Tape inaudible.

Chairman Ouellette stated we are going to head into CLAS. It is an acronym and it stands for Collaboration to Locate Absent Students. Superintendent, why don't you give us a brief overview as to what CLAS is, what it is supposed to do and what the goals are?

Tape inaudible.

Alderman O'Neil stated this definitely caught my attention. *Tape inaudible.*
Should we wait until we get some direction from...

Tape inaudible.

Chairman Ouellette stated my goal is not to slow anything down so I'm more than willing to move forward on anything that this Committee feels is important enough to move forward with right away.

Alderman O'Neil stated without the challenges of them delivering the final product, if we had to... *Tape inaudible.* For years, the US Attorney has put money into discretionary money or overture money, but I think in order to put it out there for a grant, we would have to get our application in. We need to have a plan. I certainly encourage that. *Tape inaudible.* There is a policy that probably has to be updated at the School District. I don't think OYS was playing with it.

Tape inaudible.

Alderman O'Neil stated we have to make sure it is not taking away from other things that you are doing.

Chairman Ouellette stated that may be able to tie into the Community Policing Division as well.

Tape inaudible.

Chairman Ouellette stated I'm going to entertain a motion, after we vote on the presentation, but I'm going to suggest that when we make that motion, we probably forward that motion to the Joint Board as well so then we will get a vote from both Boards.

Tape inaudible.

Chairman Ouellette stated I appreciate your comments, but I think it was very clear after our first meeting that we work very well as a Committee to get what we wanted and what you wanted to come out into the forefront.

On motion of Alderman Arnold, duly seconded by Alderman Craig, it was voted to forward this item to a joint meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Board of School Committee.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted that the Manchester School District, Police Department and Office of Youth Services develop a plan to reactivate the Collaboration of Locate Absent Students (CLAS) Program. Further, this plan will be presented at a joint meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Board of School Committee.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Arnold, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee