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# RADICAL ADVOCATES FOR CROSS-CULTURAL EDUCATION

OUR MISSION IS TO CHALLENGE SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION BY ADVOCATING FOR CULTURALLY  
COMPETENT EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES.

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## **Open Letter to:**

**Mayor Neil O'Leary, Board of Education President Charles Stango  
and Waterbury Teachers Association President Kevin Egan**

Keeping public schools as the bedrock for democracy must be our highest priority. Therefore, we must fully democratize all aspects of educational experiences for students and their families. The practice of keeping public sector union negotiations private is undemocratic. At this juncture, we ask the Waterbury Board of Education (BOE) and the Waterbury Teachers Association (WTA) to stop the on-going negotiations.

We request the negotiations be suspended temporarily until an applicable framework is accepted by the BOE and WTA that will prioritize students' needs over job protections for employees.

We request that a citizen advisory board (CAB) be allowed to observe all negotiations between the Board of Education and the Waterbury Teachers Association. This CAB should consist of at least one parent representing Waterbury's public elementary schools, middle schools and high schools; at least one student representative from each of Waterbury's public high schools; and at least one member from a local educational advocacy group.

Respectfully,

Dr. Arlene Arias, Chantae K. Campbell & Robert M. Goodrich  
Co-founders  
Radical Advocates for Cross-Cultural Education