

AGENDA

ITEM #1

Page 9
February 6, 2007
Page 1

Hartford Board of Education Minutes Regular Meeting – Tuesday, February 6, 2007 Parkville School – 1755 Park Street

I. Opening

A. Call to Order – roll call / Moment of Silence

At 6:15 p.m. Chairman Perez called the meeting to order. Judith Fagan, Support Administrator for the Board administered the roll call and a quorum was present.

Present:

Honorable Mayor Eddie A. Perez, Chair (at 6:00 p.m.)
Ms. Ada Miranda, First Vice Chair
Mr. David MacDonald, Secretary
Ms. Andrea Comer
Mr. Israel Flores
Ms. Elizabeth Brad Noel
Ms. Sharon Patterson-Stallings
Ms. Pamela Richmond
Mr. Luis Rodriguez Davila
Superintendent Steven Adamowski

I. Opening – 6:00 P.M. (Auditorium)

B. Call to Order - Roll Call and Moment of Silence

C. Report from Student Representatives

- Adult Education and Hartford Community Connections

Alicia Segarra reported on a number of activities related to Black History Month such as the West Indian Foundation presentation on West Indian culture and Black History trivia contest. Students will attend the Hartford Stage Company's production of "Fences" and will visit Real Art Ways to view "Mighty Times: The Rosa Parks Story." Puerto Rico Discovery Day activities were celebrated in November with keynote speaker Cándida Flores from La Casa de Puerto Rico. There were poetry readings, a salsa dance presentation by Rey Bermudez from Salsa Fundamentals and a musical performance by a former student. Kwanzaa Celebration was held in January. A Valentine's Day fund-raiser will be held on February 14, this activity will raise funds for a worthy purpose.

The North End Campus and Connections Program students are involved in a collaborative program with Our Piece of the Pie. Students are trained for six weeks and then do internships with various businesses in the community. A Hartford Hospital representative visited the school in January and spoke on various trainings offered at their School of Allied Health.

- Bulkeley High School

Eraldo Xhasa and Fludiona Naka reported that The CAPT testing is about to get started and the Principal is trying to get students excited with a lot of celebrations.

The Business and Finance Academy hosted the opening ceremony for the Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union branch at Bulkeley. Three paid interns work at the Credit Union branch a few hours a week which is connected to the full-service business center. Many students have already opened accounts and are finding this a useful place to help manage their money. The school store has been reopened and staff and students are able to purchase jackets and sweatshirts with the Bulkeley logo.

More than 20 students in the Mass Mutual Achievement Program attended the Picture Your Future Conference at the University of Hartford. Ms. Naka, was chosen as a host from the Hartford County group.

In February, the Foundation for Excellent Schools (FES) will be inducting a group of 9th graders as Century Program Scholars. The students will have workshops and activities in the five practices of FES.

The Smaller Learning Academies have all just finished their Marking Period with two award ceremonies. Over 200 students were recognized for their achievements and effort.

- Capital Preparatory Magnet

Amoy Brock and **Khiree Smith** thanked St. Paul Travelers for the grant to support a group of students visit to Cape Town, South Africa during the spring break. Students will explore issues of social justice as they compare to similar issues here in Hartford.

Many of the upper school students will commit Saturdays to assist lower school students in preparation for the CMT's.

Some students have been participating in a joint project with Trinity College and True Colors where they will address the intersection of "isms"

The ski club was featured on WFSB Channel 3 News and the Mock Trial team participated in a day long state-wide invitational conference at Yale University. The outings club has been hiking, skating and camping on Saturdays

After just one year of competing, both the girls' cross country and indoor track teams have won their conference. Along with this success football and basketball have enjoyed success. The middle school girls' basketball team is enjoying an undefeated season.

Juniors and seniors are being constantly courted by colleges throughout the region to visit and ultimately attend. Their acceptance letters continue to mount.

- Greater Hartford Classical Magnet

Raymond Fraser reported that the block schedule system is being tested allowing students to spend 75 minutes instead of 45 minutes in a classroom and only four courses instead of seven, courses are offered every other day allowing more focus. Classical students would like an offering of AP courses, none are presently offered.

- Pathways for Technology

Denise Mitchell reported on activities for the month of December and January. A number of staff along with the principal, went on a fact gathering visit to McKinnley Technology School in Washington, D.C., and Digital Harbor School in Baltimore, D.C., the first part of an HPS Grant that allows Pathways to look at other technology schools and align technology curriculum to other schools across the country.

The Community Service Club Can Drive yielded 444 cans which were donated to the Salvation Army in Hartford. The Club is volunteering at South Park Inn Homeless Shelter every month. The CAPT after school review program is still running Monday through Thursday. Students with perfect attendance at all sessions will be

entered to win one of three Dell Computers being raffled. Pathways is exploring the start of an athletic program in the fall of 2007. Meanwhile weightlifting and fitness classes are held at on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Ten students were selected by teachers based on professional attitude and work ethic as Pathways Ambassadors. The students will serve as tour guides for potential students who visit the school and may be called upon to assist in recruitment fairs. Community service hours will be granted for their time. The last open house was held on February 10. Many potential students have visited the school as recruiting season comes to a close.

The entrepreneurial club started classes on January 24 at the University of Hartford. Twenty six students will be participating in this years' seminar. The students are eager to get going with some of the students having already started their own businesses.

The FIRST robotics team is building and programming the robot. Twenty six of the 35 students are from Pathways. A scrimmage is scheduled for Feb 17 at Suffield High School. The New England Regional Competition at the EXPO Center will be held March 15, 16, 17.

In January, Pathways was informed that English teacher Kate Dougherty, and Math Teacher, Sabin Loveland, will join Principal Leone as presenters at the 2007 Magnet Schools of America National Conference. They will present how to integrate technology, staff, students and parents to increase school visibility in the recruiting process.

There is a push for 100% seniors to go to college. As of January 31, 2007, 75% of the graduating students had completed applications to four year colleges, of the application pool, 60% of the students already received acceptance confirmation to a four year program of their choice. Currently, 10 acceptance letters have been received to attend the University of Connecticut.

Finally, on February 1, 2007, a group of 25 students joined Mayor Perez, Elizabeth Brad Noel, Principal Leone, PTO Council President Sam Saylor, Pathways PTO President Florence Johnson and other local leaders in a press conference regarding the status of the school building site. It is an issue that concerns everyone at the school.

D. Report from the Chair

- Resolution to Award Honorary Diploma to Guirino "Sal" Conderino
That the Hartford Board of Education awards an honorary high school diploma to Guirino "Sal" Conderino in recognition of his service to the United States during World War II.

Chairman Perez asked Ms. Comer to read the resolution for the honorary diploma. Ms. Comer took the opportunity to recognize the men and women that are currently serving the country in the Iraq war.

E. Report from the Superintendent

Superintendent Adamowski thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the teacher's gathering held at the Convention Center, including corporate sponsors. It was the Superintendent's first opportunity to address teachers as a whole relative to the new direction of the school district.

Superintendent Adamowski announced that early Kindergarten registration was underway for September 2007, to get a good handle on the number of students for planning purposes. Families will receive a free uniform if registration is done prior to April 1.

Superintendent recognized two students. DayJohn Vazquez a third-grade student at J. C. Clark Elementary for

his art work that was chosen to be the official holiday greeting card for the school district and Tyrisse Ward a student at Simpson-Waverly for his art work that was chosen for the District's website. The students and their families were congratulated and presented with framed pieces of their artwork.

Superintendent Adamowski stated that he was pleased to report that the issue regarding the condition of the restrooms that was brought to his attention at last meeting during the public comment portion is being addressed. He asked Claudio Bazzano, Maintenance Manager to report on the progress of the upgrading and corrections. Mr. Bazzano reported that all the restrooms in the district were inspected, seven schools have been completed and three are presently being worked on. Training sessions were conducted with custodial staff. Funds were requested to develop a team solely dedicated to the upkeep of 850 multi-use restrooms across the district. Vandalism is an issue that has to be monitored. Superintendent Adamowski thanked the Buildings and Grounds Department and asked everyone to step up and take care of the school facilities.

- Financial Report

Mr. Molleda reported that for the sixth month period ending December 31, 2006. A negative variance is expected in the transportation line as a result of magnet transportation, a positive variance in the fringe benefit line due to increased reimbursement from Special Funds and a favorable performance in the unemployment compensation claim. Forty-one percent (41.2%) of the \$261 million adopted budget has been expended. Class size adjustments have been incorporated and are reflected in the teacher line item. An estimate of \$184,000 is expected from the State for the Special Education Equity Grant.

Special Funds total \$103.4 million for the period ending December 31, 2006 with a balance of \$7.3 million.

Ms. Noel asked if the transfer of funds for custodial supplies was a direct result of the upgrade of restrooms. She stated that this puts a dollar amount on the problem and reinforces the Superintendent's message that everyone work together due to the cost and unpleasant environment that this creates.

F. Public Comment Portion

Jackie Maldonado, Parent, addressed the board regarding school lunches and the recent report published by the newspapers regarding unsanitary cafeteria facilities standards in the district. She views this as another symptom of on-going issues in the district.

Damaris Bolorin, Parent, addressed the board regarding the report on school lunches and unsanitary cafeteria facilities in the district. She asked for a change in the Food Services Department leadership.

Chairman Perez indicated that the Superintendent would address the issue.

Milagros Vega, Parent, addressed the board regarding school lunches.

Superintendent Adamowski expressed that he shared the concerns of parents regarding the newspaper article on cafeteria facilities violations. He offered facts surrounding the report. The data was based on a 2004 inspection by the local health department that yielded violations in the cafeteria facilities. None of the violations had to do with food and all of the violations were corrected. He also clarified that all of the district meals are prepared by in-house staff and not contractors.

Eddie Davis, Resident, congratulated Mr. Conderino on receipt of his diploma from Weaver High School and Superintendent Adamowski for recommending the appointment of Sally Biggs as Principal of Hartford Magnet Middle School. He addressed the Board on school uniforms, asking the board to amend the uniform policy to include grades 9-12. He voiced concerns on the decline in graduates from district high schools saying he would like to hear about more success in schools. He offered help to implement the Superintendent's theory of Action.

Hyacinth Yennie, Volunteer, Hartford Public High, addressed the board on setting high expectations in the school district.

Cathy Carpino, President, Hartford Federation of Teachers (HFT), addressed the board regarding the changes in job description for staff as well as the proposed school calendar. She offered HFT's participation in the selection of external or public private partnerships for choice schools, to ensure quality providers and would expect that teachers are a part of the HFT collective bargaining agreement.

Chairman Perez thanked Ms. Carpino for her leadership and support for the charge of the Board and the Superintendent to turn the school district around.

Millie Arciniegas, Parent, thanked Superintendent Adamowski for his handling of the restroom issue. She addressed the Board regarding an emerging collaborative effort with parents and the PTO to start a Parent Teacher Engagement Committee, she gave a detail of their agenda.

Edward Hagenback, Resident, addressed the board regarding the rally for Pathways To Technology School. He hopes the issue of a permanent location can be resolved. Secondly, he was thankful for the work on the restrooms, and lastly he spoke about punch list items for Noah Webster School.

Barbara Burke, PTO President, Fox Middle School, addressed the Board regarding a request for an organizational chart to compare and track changes. She welcomed the changes to the new entrance of the Central Office eighth floor.

Sam Saylor, President, PTO President's Council, spoke in support of the site for Pathways To Technology School. He thanked Dr. Adamowski for the book that he gave to the PTOs, his handling of the restroom issue, and the tearing down of the walls on the eighth floor lobby at Central Office. He is hoping that parents have a direct voice to the Superintendent represented in the nine member cabinet proposal to the Board on current meeting agenda.

Michael Downs, President of the Hartford Federation of Substitute Teachers, welcomed Dr. Adamowski to the School System and the City. He stated that he would not be in support of a military academy but instead would like to see a vocational educational high school. He appreciated the congenial manner in which left over items on HFST union contract were being discussed.

II. Consent Items

1. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Regular Meeting of December 5, 2006 (Supt. et al) (Pages 173-183)
2. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Informational Meeting of December 19, 2006 (Supt. et al) (Pages 184-194)
3. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Workshop Meeting of January 16, 2007 (Supt. et al) (Pages 1-8)
4. Acceptance of Funds from St. Paul Travelers for Teaching American History - \$50,000 (Supt. et al)

St. Paul Travelers grant will provide project support for the Teaching American History Program. This trains fifth grade teachers to provide students with more extensive knowledge of American history. Teachers will have day seminars and week long institutes at seven historic sites including Sturbridge Village, The Freedom Trail/ Boston National Historic Park and Mystic Seaport are some of the sites. A cohort of fifth grade students will also attend the same sites for field study experiences.

5. Acceptance of Funds from the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services for the Husky School Based Initiative Program - \$40,000 (Supt. et al)

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$40,000 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Social Services for the HUSKY School Based Outreach Initiative.

6. Acceptance of Funds from St. Paul Travelers for Capital Preparatory Magnet School - Social Justice South Africa Initiative - \$30,000 (Supt. et al)

Capital Preparatory Magnet School is a college prep middle and high school with the theme of social justice; students are required to do research and conduct/participate in projects relating to the theme. St. Paul Travelers grant will fund 13 Capital Preparatory Magnet School students to participate in a Social Justice South Africa Initiative trip. Funds will be used to pay for transportation, boarding and supplies.

7. Acceptance of Donations of Books from Elenor C. Smith - \$22,666 (Supt. et al)

Elenor C. Smith lived in Hartford as a child and was pleased to have the opportunity to give back to the community specifically in the field of education. She selected the five schools that are participating in the Haskins Lab Reading Program to receive the donation of children's literature. Those schools are Sanchez, Moylan, Webster, Wish and Rawson.

Consent Items #1-7- Ms. Comer moved, Mr. Flores seconded, and the items were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Item #7 - Ms. Noel thanked St. Paul Travelers and Elenor Smith for their contributions to the schools.

Item #6 - Ms. Noel congratulated Capital Preparatory Magnet students on their upcoming trip to South Africa and Ms. Comer congratulated the principal for his acquisition of the grant from St. Paul Travelers.

III. Action Items

8. Contract Approval: Capital Community College for the Parapro Exam - \$30,000 (Supt. et al)

Capital Community College was awarded the bid and an RFP was issued, to provide the ParaPro Exam Preparation training to Hartford Public Schools Paraprofessionals, February 2007 through April 2007.

Item #8 - Ms. Richmond moved, Ms. Noel seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Item #8 - Ms. Noel asked if the courses being offered meet the needs and are paraprofessionals seeking out the opportunities. Dr. Adamowski explained that only pre-existing paraprofessionals would be affected, since paraprofessionals who are presently hired must have a two year degree. He further explained the issue as it relates to the NCLB law. The District will be in a targeted assistance mode for Title I funds. Under such circumstances only paraprofessionals who work in the Title I Program are subject to the requirements for the two year degree or the Parapro Exam. This becomes a manageable issue since most of the paraprofessionals who have not met the requirement are in the area of Early Childhood Education and Special Education. There are no expected issues but the long term approach is to have the people who are not successful in passing the exam--enroll in courses toward obtaining a two year degree.

9. Second Reading/Adoption – Series 9000 - Amendment of Bylaws, # 9120, 9121 and 9221 (The Board)

The Board Bylaws currently provide for only the following Board Officers: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. Addition of the office of Second Vice Chairperson will allow for improved efficiency and better provision for contingencies.

Item #9 - Ms. Richmond moved, Mr. MacDonald seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

10. First Reading – Series 0000 - Policy #0100 Vision, Mission, Strategy (Supt. et al & The Board)

That the Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of Policy Number 0100 to revise the policy to clearly define and measure the Mission, Vision and Strategy that the Hartford Public Schools will employ as it begins to implement a new theory of action.

Item #10 - Mr. MacDonald moved, Ms. Noel seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

11. First Reading – Series 3000 – Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Regulation #3230(b) and Policy # 3310(Supt. et al, The Board)

The Board of Education approves the first reading of the amendment to Regulation #3230(b) and Policy #3310 to increase the amounts required for board approvals for gifts, donations and contracts/consultant agreements.

Item #11 - Ms. Noel moved, Ms. Richmond seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

12. First Reading-Series 5000 – Students – Amendment of Board Policy #5116 (School Choice & Integration and Facilities Taskforce Committees)

That the Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading to amend Policy Number 5116 to provide a system where all schools are schools of choice.

Item #12 – Mr. MacDonald moved, Ms. Noel seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Item #12- Ms. Noel commented that the choice concept is an exciting important step that will not happen overnight.

13. Recommendation: 2007-2008 District Budget Guidelines (Finance and Audit Committee)

That the Hartford Board of Education approve guidelines for development of the 2007-2008 district operating budget.

Item #13 - Ms. Richmond moved, Mr. Flores seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

14. Recommendation: Superintendent's Cabinet (Supt. et al)

That the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendations to align senior management level positions and salaries to district mission, vision and strategy.

Item #14 - Ms. Richmond moved, Ms. Miranda seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Item #14 – Superintendent Adamowski explained that this reflected the first phase of the reorganization of Central Office relative to the District's vision, mission and strategy, to address instructional leadership and to have the capacity to differentiate relationship with each school based on performance.

Ms. Comer asked which one of the positions will relate to the concern regarding access to the Superintendent by parents. Dr. Adamowski replied that this would be the first of three phases of reorganizing Central Office. It is anticipated that a Department of Family Services will be created in the second phase. This will expand capacity to do a number of things, such as train Family Resource Aides, establish a Parent Ombudsman position--establishing the capacity to communicate better with constituents in general. Not being in the Superintendent's Cabinet does not preclude reporting directly to the Superintendent in certain circumstances. Dr. Adamowski will speak further on a general framework for parental empowerment at the March meeting when there will also be an induction ceremony recognizing the PTO status and their contribution to the school system.

15. Authorized Signatories for Child Nutrition Program (Supt. et al)

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes Superintendent, Dr. Steven J. Adamowski or his designee; the Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Julio Molleda to sign claims for reimbursement and required reports for the Child Nutrition Programs.

Item #15 - Ms. Noel moved, Me. Flores seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

16. Authorized Signatories for Vending Commission (Supt. et al)

That the Hartford Board of Education for the Hartford Public School System designates Chief of Administration and Operations, Sandra A. Cruz-Serrano and Coordinator of Specially Funded Programs, Shirley C. Thompson. To sign as the authorized signatories for the Student Vending Commission Bank Account with Bank of America, effective February 1, 2007.

Item #16 - Ms. Miranda moved, Ms. Richmond seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

17. Approval of Six Capital Improvement Projects for 2007-2016 (Supt. et al)

The Board of Education approved the submission of six capital improvement projects in concept and scope for the City of Hartford's 2007-2016 Capital Improvement Plan at the November 8, 2006 meeting. The Board requested that professional cost estimates be developed for each of the six projects listed at Fox Elementary, Weaver, Bulkeley and Betances schools.

Item #17 - Ms. Richmond moved, Mr. MacDonald seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

18. Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement: The Hartford Federation of School Secretaries Local 1018-C, AFT, AFL-CIO - (Supt. et al)

Negotiations for the new contract started in May 2005 and the parties reached a tentative agreement on November 30, 2006. The membership of the bargaining unit ratified the tentative agreement on December 19, 2006.

Item #18 - Ms. Noel moved, Ms. Comer seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Item #18 – Ms. Noel is pleased for the extension of the secretarial time at the end of the school year.

19. Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement: The Hartford School Support Supervisors Association, Local 78, AFSA, AFL-CIO - (Supt. et al)

The current contract expired on June 30, 2005 and negotiations for the new contract started in March 2006. The parties signed the tentative agreement on January 19, 2007, and the membership of the bargaining unit ratified the tentative agreement on January 11, 2007

Item #19 - Ms. Richmond moved, Ms. Noel seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

20. First Reading - Proposed School Calendar for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 (Supt. et al)

That the Board of Education accepts the proposed 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 School Year Calendars as a first reading.

Item #20 - Ms. Miranda moved, Ms. Noel seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Item #20 – Superintendent Adamowski explained that the two year calendar works well for planning, There are three elements that are geared to support student achievement. First to add 10 additional days prior to state assessments in March; by starting school the last week in August and scheduling a spring break in March instead of February and April. Secondly, to increase instructional time overall, from 176.5 to 179 days. Finally, a mandatory extension at the end of the year for students who are not reading on grade level at the end of first, second and third grades. The purpose of the first reading is to provide additional time for comments to be considered.

Ms. Noel commented that this is a step in the right direction and asked if the other surrounding districts were looked at for alignment with vacation breaks since there were Hartford students that attend schools in other district and other district students who attend Hartford schools. Dr. Adamowski indicated that there are a variety of starting times for school districts in the area and the February break is a New England phenomena, it is practical to have instructional time just before State testing. These are just a few things that need to be done if the district is serious about raising student achievement.

Ms. Comer thanked Dr. Adamowski for the explanation of the thought process that went into creating the calendar.

21. Budget Allocation Changes - November and December 2006 (Supt. et al)

Item #21 - Ms. Richmond moved, Mr. Flores seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

22. Continuation of Acting Administrative Assignments (Supt. et al)

That the Board of Education approve the continuation assignments of Freeman Burr as Acting Executive Director of Human Resources, Carol Jackson-Lawhorn as Principal of Simpson-Waverly and Tina Jeter as Principal of McDonough School.

Item #22 - Ms. Miranda moved, Ms. Noel seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

23. Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

That the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Sally Ann Biggs as Principal of Hartford Magnet Middle School.

Item #23 - Ms. Noel moved, Mr. Flores seconded, and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Item #23 – Ms. Noel commented that she worked with Sally Ann Biggs at Weaver and is excited that she will be rejoining the District. Superintendent Adamowski stated that she will be coming aboard in April and will have an opportunity to work with Dr. Bolton to transition. This will establish a mode to fill principal positions, so people are not walking in cold.

Ms. Biggs thanked the board and indicated that it was a pleasure to rejoin the District staff. She is up to the challenge to continue the success at Hartford Magnet Middle School.

V. Adjournment

At 8: 15 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.