

**Hartford Board of Education  
 Informational Meeting – Tuesday, June 19, 2007  
 MHIS Conference Room, 260 Constitution Plaza**

**I. Opening**

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

At 5:46 p.m. Vice Chair Miranda called the meeting to order. Nancy Williams, Support Administrator for the Board, administered the roll call and a quorum was present.

<u>Present:</u> Ms. Ada Miranda, First Vice Chair Mr. David MacDonald, Secretary Ms. Andrea Comer Mr. Israel Flores Ms. Pamela Richmond Superintendent Steven Adamowski	<u>Absent:</u> Honorable Mayor Eddie A. Perez, Chair Ms. Sharon Patterson-Stallings Ms. Elizabeth Brad Noel Mr. Luis Rodriguez-Davila
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**II. Executive Session**

Ms. Miranda announced that the Board would go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

**At 5:49 p.m. Ms. Richmond moved to go into Executive Session; Mr. MacDonald seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

At 6:10 p.m. the Board returned from Executive Session. Nancy Williams, Support Administrator for the Board, administered the roll call and a quorum was present.

<u>Present:</u> Ms. Ada Miranda, First Vice Chair Mr. David MacDonald, Secretary Ms. Andrea Comer Mr. Israel Flores Ms. Pamela Richmond Superintendent Steven Adamowski	<u>Absent:</u> Honorable Mayor Eddie A. Perez, Chair Ms. Sharon Patterson-Stallings Ms. Elizabeth Brad Noel Mr. Luis Rodriguez-Davila
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**III. Action Item**

1. Approval of Educational Specifications and Authorization to Submit a School Construction Grant Application: Lewis Fox School (Joint School Choice and Integration Committee/Facilities Task Force)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the educational specifications for the additions and renovations of Lewis Fox School and authorizes the Superintendent to submit an ED-049 form for a school construction grant for the project work.

**Item #1 – Ms. Comer moved; Ms. Richmond seconded the motion.**

Mr. MacDonald stated that the Joint Committee of School Choice and Integration and Facilities Taskforce reviewed the proposed plan. It's an exciting plan that will create a campus environment and good educational opportunity, while contributing to the revitalization of the neighborhood. University of Hartford and the Artists' Collective, among others, have already committed to the

revitalization of the neighborhood. The K-12 model is one that the Board would like to develop but will seek input from parents, community members, and all other parties involved.

**After discussion, the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **IV. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Miranda asked Superintendent Adamowski to present Phase I of the All-Choice System of Schools.

According to Superintendent Adamowski, Phase I schools will be planned in 2007-2008 and opened in 2009-2010. Development of existing capacity and partners will be needed. Several of these models will open to only a few grades because of the lack of prior knowledge. Many can be utilized in the redesign category schools.

#### **New School Incubation**

The first school suggested was the **Breakthrough II (K-8)**, based on the current Breakthrough School, which is the most successful model in the district. It would be located in the north east or north west area of the city because Breakthrough I is located in the south end of the city. The school would begin in grades PreK-3. The school will advance one year until it reaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It's also being recommended to begin as a charter.

The second school suggested is a **Primary-Upper Elementary Montessori**. The district is contracting with CREC and the New England Montessori Training Center to train Hartford teachers. This school requires prior experience, so the school enrollment would begin with ages 3-6. The idea is to open the school in 2008-2009. The intent is to incubate the primary program, which will not be its permanent location. Another would open in 2009-2010.

There are only 2 Montessori high schools in the country. Neither is located in a country setting. The administration is currently looking at a rural setting for such a high school, which would fall in line with Maria Montessori's idea for such a school.

Ms. Richmond asked of the targeted enrollment for the primary-upper elementary. Superintendent Adamowski answered that there would be approximately 350 students for the entire school. Ms. Miranda asked if it would be opened as a charter or a magnet. Superintendent Adamowski stated that there isn't a compelling reason to become either one. The normal set of rules may not apply to this school. Ms. Miranda stated that there is a great demand from suburban districts for Montessori schools. Superintendent Adamowski will be meeting with Commissioner McQuillan to discuss this plan and offer it as a possible avenue for the State to address the Sheff settlement.

**Achievement First** is a replication of the Amistad Academy. Ms. Comer led a field trip of community leaders to the school in New Haven. The school begins with grades K-5 and will advance until it reaches the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There has to be a culture where students can model other students as they come into the school. It will be offered through a charter affiliation. Rep. Fleischmann has introduced legislation to allowing districts to affiliate with charter schools, by providing a school site. The district will receive State funding, lessening the cost of per pupil expenditure to the district.

**International Baccalaureate Pathway (K-12)** would begin at the Pre-K-2 level because prior knowledge is key to student success. It would eventually build-up to grade 4. This would lead to a foundation for grades 6-10. The Diplomat Program (grades 11-12), which is the equivalent of taking 6 AP courses, would be the last level developed. Outside students will not be accepted beyond grade 9. Each graduate would receive tuition to a four-year college from the Say Yes Foundation.

Ms. Richmond stated that the Board received information last year that the AP course offerings had greatly increased, and the number of students taking these courses has increased. Ms. Comer asked

for a possible geographic area for the school. Superintendent Adamowski responded that the thought is to locate it in the north end.

### **New School Design**

These can serve to replace very low-performing schools.

The first in this category is the **Career Technical Academies (10-12)**. Tenth-grade students who have successfully completed the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy at HPHS will have a choice of approximately five career-technical academies from which they can choose. The academies may include nursing, journalism and media, horticulture science, culinary, forensics and advanced manufacturing. It's a jumping-off program for students to receive certification and then move on to a higher level of certification.

The presumption is that Pathways will not move to HPHS for next school year; the school will remain in Windsor. There is some interest from Pathways parents to visit HPHS. Based on this, advanced manufacturing and technology academies will be placed at HPHS. All of these academies connect to two- and four-year colleges. These would also be open to BHS and WHS students.

Ms. Comer asked if the administration has spoken with any of the respective industries in Hartford. Superintendent Adamowski responded that there is discussion of working with area industries to provide students with internships in their senior year. Additionally, there will be a need to increase graduation requirements to incorporate the career pathway.

**Core Knowledge School (K-8)** is based upon the work of E. D. Hirsh. This model is designed to close the gap in prior knowledge of cultural literacy for low-income children. Schools are characterized by teacher development units within the topics.

**Compact School (K-8)** would be developed in partnership with the Hartford Federation of Teachers (HFT) and with the assistance of UConn with professional development. There is a thin union contract that waives most work rules, coupled with a high level of staff autonomy. Direct Instruction (DI) would be utilized for early literacy. The district had previously utilized DI, and there are a considerable number of teachers who would like to utilize this approach.

**British Primary School (K-6)** is highly dominant in the Caribbean and West Indies. The school could be staffed with district teachers who have been taught under this model. Additionally, there are teachers and a principal who have taught and worked in such a school.

**STEM (K-5)** is based on the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math national model. It would initially be a feeder to Hartford Middle Magnet. It could grow to a K-8 and become a feeder to existing secondary magnet schools, such as the UHSSE.

Mr. MacDonald asked the district to consider how these proposed school models will work with the Sheff agreement, how the schools will feed into each other, and how to streamline the process to enter the schools.

**Paideia (K-5)** is based on Mortimer Adler's work and offers a classical, liberal arts education. This school would feed into the Classical Magnet School (6-12). Dr. Thompson is currently looking at this model for Simpson-Waverly School.

Mr. Flores asked if these schools would be integrated into the redesign schools because Simpson-Waverly is not a redesign school. Superintendent Adamowski responded that these choices ought to be offered to parents and children in low performing schools. Simpson-Waverly is not in redesign, and if it increases achievement, it probably will not be considered for the Paideia model. Mr. MacDonald asked about Simpson-Waverly's status as a magnet school. Superintendent Adamowski said that it will have to be explored.

### **School Consolidation**

Superintendent Adamowski recommended that Twain move into Rawson (K-8), as anticipated by the completion of the expansion and renovation of Rawson. This could be accomplished by the end of the next school year.

Superintendent recommended that the 7<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment at Fox Middle be discontinued for 2008-2009, enabling the Fox facility to be renovated or replaced with a new school beginning in 2009-2010.

Superintendent Adamowski stated that Adult Education should be offered to adult students. The current programs would be consolidated into one facility at 110 Washington Street, which is centrally located and on the bus line. The program would expand Adult Basic Education, GED, and Workforce Development programs, which is not currently offered, to students over the age of 21. Students who need one year of credits (4-5 credits) will be able to attend Adult Education.

The current south end location will be utilized as swing space for Kinsella, which will be under renovation for the next 18-24 months. The long-term lease of the north end location will have to be resolved. HTLA will be moved to the Quirk campus. A regular education teacher, a special education teacher, and a paraprofessional will be available to every 14 students.

Ms. Comer stated that every student who wants to re-engage should be given every opportunity to re-enroll in school. Ms. Richmond stated that the Urban League of Greater Hartford (ULGH) exhibits core competencies and offers students a GED and workforce development programs. Given that, the district may want to partner with the ULGH, so the district doesn't spread its resources thin. Superintendent Adamowski stated that there has been some suggestion that this shouldn't be handled by the district and should be parceled out to community organizations.

Ms. Miranda asked if the clinical support will remain on-site for HTLA students. Superintendent Adamowski responded affirmatively. The change will take effect next school year. The annex will remain where it currently resides. Ideally these programs would be attached to a secondary school, so students could be mainstreamed where possible.

Superintendent Adamowski stated that in August the Board will be asked to approve Phase I, in whatever modified form, and pass a resolution to close the schools in the redesign category at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, so the planning process can begin.

Ms. Comer asked if all of the sites will be known for the proposed models. Superintendent Adamowski stated that it may not be nailed down until December. Ms. Comer stated that due diligence needs to be done to include the school communities. Mr. MacDonald reiterated those thoughts. Ms. Miranda also stated that people have to be fully informed of the process, especially with the closing of schools.

Superintendent Adamowski reminded the Board that there is the remaining issue of finding the future sites for Capital Prep and Pathways. Superintendent Adamowski and Mayor Perez had a successful meeting with the Pathways PTO. Superintendent Adamowski apologized to those groups who have not been communicated with because there is a lot to communicate.

### **V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.