

## AGENDA

### ITEM # 1

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## Hartford Board of Education Minutes Regular Meeting – Tuesday, July 11, 2006 West Middle School 927 Asylum Avenue

### I. Opening

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

At 5:45 p.m. Chairman Perez called the meeting to order and Judith Fagan, Support Administrator for the Board administered the roll call. Chairman Perez then called for a moment of silence.

#### Present:

Honorable Mayor Eddie A. Perez, Chairman  
Ms. Elizabeth Brad Noel, Vice Chair  
Ms. Pamela Richmond, Secretary  
Ms. Andrea Comer  
Ms. Ada Miranda  
Ms. Sharon Patterson-Stallings

Acting Superintendent Jacqueline Jacoby

#### Absent:

Mr. Israel Flores  
Mr. David MacDonald  
Mr. Luis Rodriguez-Davila

#### B. Oral Report of the Acting Superintendent

##### Summer School

Dr. Jacoby reported that summer school began with over 5000 students she is particularly pleased with the advanced placements of about 115 students who are taking advanced courses in algebra, calculus, biology, chemistry, physics and languages.

##### Parent Power Institute

There is a Parent Power Institute taking place at the University of Hartford with 100 parents attending.

##### Central Registration

Central Registration will be moved to 260 Constitution Plaza, July 24 until the end of August to facilitate the busiest period of registration. About 3000 parents are expected and a shuttle bus service will be provided from Barnard-Brown School to Constitution Plaza.

##### Uniform Policy

A lot of behind-the-scenes work is taking place with the implementation of the uniform policy. Assistance is available to parents who are unable to purchase uniforms.

##### Graduation

Dr. Jacoby congratulated the all graduates and their families. She shared a success story of a Hartford Public High School graduate who was an intern in a prestigious law firm while he was in high school and is now a practicing attorney in the same law firm.

C. Oral Report from the Board of Education Chair

Chairman Perez thanked Dr. Jacoby for her service to-date, the fact that she has hit the ground running and has been able to communicate with the Board on her initiatives to make sure the momentum is on-going to open the new school year. He encouraged the public to communicate with the Superintendent's office on challenges. Chairman Perez also sent his congratulations to the graduates.

D. Public Comment Portion

**David Ionno, Parent and Secretary of Hartford Public High PTSO** addressed the Board on several issues including war, Peace and Conflict Resolution Program in Webster School, Special Education students in Magnet Schools, and a 6:00 p.m. starting time for Board of Education meetings.

**Jose Velez, Hartford Organization for Power & Equality (HOPE)** addressed the Board regarding a teacher's harassment and his personal experience with this issue.

**Sabrina Flintroy, Parent of students at Sports and Medical Sciences Academy and West Middle schools**, addressed the board on the issue of a teacher insulting students at Sports and Medical Sciences Academy she expressed her intolerance for this type of behavior.

**Tonya Laconte, Attorney on behalf of HOPE** addressed the Board regarding information she requested at the last regular meeting regarding the Central Harassment Team where student's complaints can be reported. She was told that someone would be in contact with her, but to date she had not been contacted. Chairman Perez asked her to immediately meet with Gail Johnson, Executive Director of Human Resources and that she would definitely receive information within 48 hours.

**Hyacinth Yennie, School Volunteer** thanked the board for serving the children of Hartford. She sent a message to parents to take control of their children and speak to them on safety issues. She recommended that the Central Registration Department be moved to a school building where parking is accessible to parents.

**Samuel Saylor, President, PTO Parents Council** expressed his dissatisfaction with the manner in which a student was treated by a teacher concerning awards; as reported by his mother to the Parent Central Office. Mr. Saylor showed a suggestion box which will be used in the Lemonade Listening speak-outs sessions across the City. Parents will be asked to make suggestions thinking out of the box.

**Vimarie Quinones, Parent** addressed the board in support of her nephew Jose Velez who she believes was unfairly treated by his teacher and the possible effects on his academics and self esteem. She asked that the teacher be dealt with consequentially. Mayor Perez assured Ms. Quinones that there is a process in place and the situation is being handled by the Superintendent.

II. **Consent Items**

1. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Special Meeting of June 5, 2006 (Supt. et al) (Pages 87-88)
2. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Regular Meeting of June 6, 2006 (Supt. et al) (Pages 89-98)
3. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Regular Meeting of June 20, 2006 (Supt. et al) (Pages 99-104)

**Items #1, 2&3 – Ms. Noel moved, Ms. Richmond seconded, Ms. Miranda abstained from Item #3 due to her absence from that meeting, and the item was approved by voice vote.**

### III. Action Items

4. Acceptance of Funds from Stanley and Jean Frank for Weaver High School - \$20,000 (Supt. et al)

Mr. Stanley Frank, a 1955 graduate of Weaver High School and wife Jean, have donated \$20,000 to Weaver High School. The funds will be used for scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 over the next four years to a student who has committed to a college and is in need of financial assistance. The scholarships will be given in the name of Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Frank.

**Item # 4- Ms Richmond moved, Ms. Noel seconded and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

Item #4- Dr. Jacoby explained that the \$20,000 being donated by Stanley and Jean Frank to Weaver High School will be used for scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each over the next four years. There is a selection process in place to award the scholarships to students.

Ms. Noel stated that Stanley Frank was a 1955 graduate of Weaver and that the Franks should be given the opportunity to meet the students that are awarded the scholarships as was done in the past.

5. Submission / Acceptance of Funds from Focused Monitoring Planning Grant - \$10,000 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Public Schools has applied for a State Improvement Grant in the area of Focused Monitoring Improvement. In December 2005, the district was monitored by the State Department of Education's Bureau of Special Education in the area of over-identification of Latino students in special education. In order to reduce the identification of Latino students as learning disabled and speech and language impaired, recommendations were made in the corresponding funding offered for use in this effort. Funds will be dedicated to training in the area of developing early intervention strategies for students in lieu of referrals to special education.

**Item # 5- Ms. Noel moved, Ms. Miranda seconded and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

Item #5 - Dr. Jacoby explained that this is an intervention/prevention program, to service all youngsters with an emphasis on Latino students and there is a thorough plan in place to carry this out.

Ms. Noel applauded the receipt of funds because the district has been accused of over-identification which the funds will help to reduce. She asked for the number of Latino students that has been over-identified for Speech and Language, these are students that will not necessarily need Special Education. Dr. Dallemand, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education responded that the district is in compliance with the State of Connecticut and the number has reduced substantially over the year.

6. Acceptance of Funds and Contract Agreement: St. Francis Connecticut Youth Suicide Prevention, Early Intervention Initiative - \$210,000 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Public Schools partnered with St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in their application to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) for funding under Youth Suicide Prevention. The three year grant was awarded to St. Francis and the State of Connecticut Mental Health and Addiction Services. The purpose of the program is to develop and implement a depression screening and treatment program to identify at-risk middle school youth, providing on site services and referral for family services and interventions from June 1, 2006 – May 31, 2009.

**Item # 6- Ms. Richmond moved, Ms. Noel seconded and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

Item #6 - Dr. Jacoby stated that this is another prevention/intervention program that will be piloted at Quirk Middle School. The program will revolve around depression and youth suicide and she is recommending this program to the board.

Ms. Comer commented that she is pleased that it is suicide prevention but hopes that it is a broader issue that will also address depression that leads to outward acts of violence against other individuals. She wondered why Quirk Middle was picked as a pilot as opposed to Fox Middle School which has suffered losses due to violence this past school year and student's grief has not been addressed. Marybeth Delgaudio, Asst. Dir. of Safe Schools/Healthy Students and Prevention Manager responded that Quirk Middle School was chosen because it has the most established middle school, school based health clinic. This did not mean that the program will not be rolled out to other schools. Also there is a component that will train Social Workers as well as a health teacher's curriculum will be implemented at the high schools.

Ms. Noel stated that as chair of Student Support Services Taskforce for the Board it has been revealed that support services is one of the most important areas to help students learn but is sometimes neglected and not focused. She believes prevention is a good goal.

7. Consultant Continuation Approval: Mary Mackley - \$27,900 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Public Schools will enter into a contractual agreement with Mary Mackley to continue providing professional development in the form of training high school teachers of English in the reading/writing/thinking strategies and increase the number of teachers to coach who have been implementing the strategies presented in the 2005-2006 workshops and will implement the strategies presented in the 2006-2007 workshops.

8. Consultant Continuation Approval: Sheila Brown - \$20,500 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Public Schools will enter into a contractual agreement with Sheila A. Brown to continue providing professional development in the form of training middle school teachers of English in the reading/writing workshop model and increase the number of teachers to coach who have been implementing the strategies presented in the 2005-2006 workshops and who will implement the strategies presented in the 2006-2007 workshops.

9. Consultant Continuation Approval: Carole Jonaitis - \$21,000 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Public Schools will enter into a contractual agreement with Carole Jonaitis to continue providing professional development in the form of training high school teachers of English in the reading/writing/thinking strategies and increase the number of teachers to coach who have been implementing the strategies presented in the 2005-2006 workshops and will implement the strategies presented in the 2006-2007 workshops.

**Items #7, 8 & 9- Ms. Richmond moved, Ms. Noel seconded and the items were approved unanimously by voice vote.**

Items #7, 8 & 9 - Dr. Jacoby explained that all of the items are about professional development and it is wrapped into the focus on writing skills across the curriculum. The teacher evaluations revealed that the training was very meaningful and helpful. However, it should be tied in with student's success in the future.

Ms. Noel asked if the training is offered to teachers on professional development days so as not to have substitutes in the classroom. With the demands of professional development connected with Inclusion, she wondered if this would be a conflict. Dr. Jacoby will look closer at the PD schedule but agreed that this should be done on professional development days, Dr. Jacoby further commented that Inclusion is about education (curriculum & instruction) by strengthening instruction in the classroom Inclusion is part of the process.

10. Contract Approval: African Caribbean American Parents of Students with Disabilities - \$10,000 (Supt. et al)

Hartford Public Schools has a long standing collaboration with the parent advocacy group, AFCAMP, to provide support and training to parents of students with disabilities. In order to further this endeavor to development partnerships within our schools, AFCAMP has developed a proposal which outlines the provision of services such as workshops in the area of special education law, practices and procedures for parents of students in the following schools; Milner Elementary, Fox Middle, Hartford Public High School.

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

Item #10 - Dr. Jacoby explained that this is training and support for parents of students with disabilities. She is very impressed with the parent training that is going on this week at the University of Hartford. This is another component of parent training that she is very in favor of. Chairman Perez clarified that the training would take place until June 2007 not 2005.

Ms. Comer stated that it is a good investment for educational training of the parent who is an integral part of the inclusion process. Ms. Patterson-Stallings commented that this organization will be a blessing to parents.

11. First Reading: Instructional Technology Plan 2006-2009 (Supt. et al)

The Connecticut State Department of Education is requiring all districts to revise their instructional technology plans using their newly developed template. As per state requirements, this plan has been submitted to CREC for review. As of December 2006, districts will be required to show evidence that technology is being integrated into the content areas.

**Item # 11- The item was accepted as a first reading.**

Item #11 - Ms. Noel commented that she has a copy of a report on technology from a professor at Arizona State University which she strongly recommends. The professor is a pioneer teacher on incorporating technology into the classroom. Ms. Noel also commented on the need to have staff available to replace or repair computer equipment. Dr. Jacoby explained that she did a thorough review of the plan and it is thoughtfully done. The plan looks at repairing and replacing equipment, that teachers and students have clusters of computers in their classrooms, it equips 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders with technology and it addresses the NCLB law that all 8<sup>th</sup> graders are able to use technology. Dr. Jacoby will send an update to board members. Technicians are working hard this summer to get all equipment up and running.

Chairman Perez applauded the professionalism of the MHIS Department and stated that very few municipalities are able to combine the information technology function as successfully.

Ms. Miranda commented that the technology plan is a good example of clear measurements connecting with student achievement.

12. Adoption: Amendment to School Attire Policy (The Board)

That the Board of Education approve the amendment to the School Attire Policy to provide for navy blue, gray or khaki pants and light blue, white or yellow shirts for all students grades PK-8. This change would remove maroon shirts, which are not nearly as common as yellow shirts in existing voluntary school uniforms. With these changes the policy would capture the vast majority of existing uniform wear.

**Item # 12- Ms. Noel moved, Ms. Richmond seconded and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **IV. Executive Session – Collective Bargaining**

At 6:45 p.m. the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive session to discuss collective bargaining. Chairman Perez invited Dr. Jacoby and Gail Johnson, Executive Director of Human Resources to join. At 7:05 p.m. the Board returned from Executive Session and a roll call was done, the attendance remained the same as it was at the beginning of the meeting.

13. Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement – Hartford Federation of School Health Professionals – Local 1018 A/B, AFT, AFL-CIO (Supt. et al)

That the Board of Education approves the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with The Hartford Federation of School Health Professionals, Local 1018A/B, AFT, AFL-CIO.

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

14. Appointment of the Acting Superintendent to the School Building Committee (The Chairman)

The Hartford Board of Education appoints Acting Superintendent, Dr. Jacqueline Jacoby to serve on the Hartford School Building Committee, until December of 2006.

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

15. Budget Allocation – May 2006 (Supt. et al)

**Item # 15- Ms. Miranda moved, Ms. Richmond seconded and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

Item #15 - Dr. Jacoby explained that the Chief Financial Officer was on vacation and will present a comprehensive report at the August meeting.

16. Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

That the Hartford Board of Education approve the appointment of Margaret A. Swaye as Director of K-8 Literacy and Language Arts.

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

Item #16 - Dr. Jacoby explained that the Item should read Pre-K not K, that the board members had a chance to review Ms. Swaye's resume; that the position is a key position in Hartford although she did not have the pleasure of meeting her. Ms. Swaye was interviewed and recommended by Dr. Terry, Deputy Superintendent. Dr. Jacoby is pleased to have her join the district.

**Ms. Miranda moved. Ms. Noel seconded the motion to add Item #17, the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

Items considered under the suspension of the rules

17. Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

That the Hartford Board of Education approve the appointment of Beryl I. Bailey as Principal of Clark School and Josephine R. Smith as Principal of Betances School

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

Item #17 - Dr. Jacoby stated that she met with the candidates earlier during the day. Josephine Smith comes from a background as an Assistant Principal, literacy facilitator and classroom teacher. She is bilingual and her primary focus will be instruction. Beryl Bailey has been with the school system in a variety of positions with a speech and language background which will be helpful in moving forward in literacy. She is very skilled in data analysis which she says determines the speed of instruction. Dr. Jacoby recommends both principals to the leadership team.

Both principals introduced themselves.

Chairman Perez announced that the board would try the starting times at 6:00 p.m. for the September, October and November meetings and reassess for the winter.

**V. Adjournment**

**At 7:20 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.**