

## AGENDA

### ITEM # 1

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### Hartford Board of Education Minutes Regular Meeting – Tuesday, October 3, 2006 Rawson Elementary School – 260 Holcomb Street

#### I. Opening

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

At 6:14 p.m. Chairman Perez called the meeting to order and Judith Fagan, Support Administrator for the Board of Education administered the roll call, and a quorum was present. 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  
Mr. Israel Flores  
Mr. David MacDonald  
Ms. Ada Miranda  
Ms. Sharon Patterson-Stallings  
Mr. Luis Rodriguez Davila  
Acting Superintendent Jacqueline Jacoby

Chairman Perez asked Gerald Martin, Principal of Rawson School to give welcoming remarks. Mr. Martin introduced his Vice Principal Shirley Harrison.

Chairman Perez and Dr. Jacoby recognized two School Resource Officers, a Hartford Public High School Teacher, and a Hartford Police Officer for their heroism in averting a serious incident at Hartford Public High School when a student was found with a gun facsimile. Their efforts made it possible for students to return to classes in a short period of time after a lock-down at the school.

The officers involved were Rufus Williams, Kenneth Kirkland, School Resource Officers; Michael Halloran, Teacher and Tyrone Boland, Hartford Police Officer. Chief Daryl K. Roberts was on hand to accept the citation on behalf of Tyrone Boland who was unable to attend the meeting.

Chairman Perez entertained a motion to suspend the rules to add Item #12 Administrative Appointment and Item #13 Resolution to Develop a Suspension Plan and Policy.

**Ms. Richmond moved, Ms. Noel seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

##### B. Report from Student Representatives

- Bulkeley High School

Eraldo Xhasa and Fludiona Naka reported that Bulkeley had a smooth opening of school with many new teachers and students have already completed the Stamford Testing. The Mass Mutual Program will be opened to students with a B+ or better average. Mass Mutual provides scholarship opportunities to seniors for a four year,

\$28,000 scholarship. Students are waiting to see when the Band position that was cut will be reinstated and filled. After-school clubs are just starting up and there is a program that is being run by The Village with everything from a Knitting Club to a Film Club. In sports, the girl's swimming team is conducting a cooperative program with Hartford High to compete together. The boys' soccer team is having an incredible season. Bulkeley is participating in the Foundation for Excellent Schools, 100 students have been chosen to participate in the program.

- Pathways To Technology

Joseph Wilkerson reported that Pathways have successfully started the school year with a new principal, over 100 new students, and the launch of a new website, [www.pathwaystotechnology.com](http://www.pathwaystotechnology.com)

Major events for September include: the first PTO meeting of the year, the first bowling team meeting, the reorganization of the rowing team and CAPT results was sent home to parents. The MOUSE squad which troubleshoots level one computer repairs began last week. Class officer elections were held last week and the candidates spoke. President, vice president, secretary, and treasurer were chosen for each class.

The first open house will take place October 4th from 6-8 p.m. An after school program has been setup to help students receive extra support in Language Arts and Math. There is also daily after school math tutorial being offered to all students. Pathways has been selected to have two seniors class representatives on a Hartford Public Schools trip to Japan in November. After an intense application process with interviews, Amber Rush and Yashwini Naridoo were selected to participate. Ms. Noel mentioned that next week the new principal and three students including Joseph Wilkerson would be interviewed on Channel 19 Brad's Beat.

- Weaver High School

Britney-Ann Chung and Oprah Ellis reported on the following: **Academic Items** - Prior to the opening of school Weaver held a successful orientation for freshmen and a cook-out for staff, students, parents, and the community. All students 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade took the Stanford Test September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. On October 18<sup>th</sup> all sophomores and juniors will be taking the PSAT's. **Extra Curricular** - October 12<sup>th</sup> Mass Mutual Academic Achievers club will have their first meeting with students from last year who had a B or better average will be inducted. The Varsity Football team is having a successful season and has won all of their games thus far. Future Business Leaders of America will hold their first meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Human Relations Club will go on their first trip to South Park Inn to help feed the homeless. **Hot Topics** - October 6<sup>th</sup> all academies are having an outing to bond with each other and also for recreational purposes. On Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> Britney-Ann Chung was interviewed by Katy Zacherie from Channel 3 news regarding Weaver High Schools CAPT scores. The Mayor and Superintendent took part in the interview on the overall CAPT scores of the City to be aired mid November.

- Sport and Medical Sciences Academy (SMSA)

Neysha Cruz reported that for the third consecutive year, SMSA has the highest CAPT scores in the City of Hartford. One hundred percent of the SMSA students who took the advanced placement in calculus passed the examination and the course. This was the first time in the history of the school that advanced placement calculus was offered.

On Friday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, the Boys' Soccer team tied with Windham Tech 2 to 2 in double overtime. The boy tigers soccer team are 3 – 0 – 1. This is the best standing in the entire state right now in this class and the first time the school has ranked number one in the state.

A brand new partnership has started with Connecticut College as part of the association with Foundation for Excellent Schools. Staff and students will visit Connecticut College in the near future to solidify this new relationship that opens up college opportunities for graduates.

SMSA has a new mentoring program that will allow staff members to develop a special relationship with a group of 10-12 students over a two year period. The ultimate goal of the mentoring program is to have every single student and family known and supported by at least one adult in the building. Each week the staff member will meet with his/her mentee to discuss topics such as transitioning to high school, preparing for the CAPT, preparing for the SAT, and the college application process.

SMSA is poised to begin marketing and recruitment efforts for the 2007 lottery. The magnet theme coach a newly created position will support recruitment and marketing efforts.

SMSA was selected to send a student to Japan this November with a contingent of ten other students from Hartford. Jessica Ofray, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade honor student was selected.

SMSA ran a successful summer school program, including hosting the city-wide advancement summer school program. Approximately 98% of the student population was tested with the Stanford Test for academic skills this past month.

- University High School of Science and Engineering (UHS)

Katie Quish and Alexander Daniels reported that several challenging new classes have been added to the curriculum this year, including AP English, AP Chemistry and Project Lead the Way, a nationally known engineering program. Selected students from the AP Chemistry class are traveling to Boston in November to compete in the hydrogen fuel cell car race.

Mrs. Susan Matthews, AP Biology teacher, is a finalist for the state of Connecticut Teacher of the Year award. UHS students did an awesome job on the first administration of the CAPT. Seventy three to 84% of all students met the graduation requirement on the various subtests on their first attempt at the test. In addition, USSE have the highest percentage of students in the district scoring at level five in reading, math and science. Sophomore and junior classes are now preparing to take the PSAT's this fall.

UHS will be involved in the Hartford Public Schools' trip to Japan in November. A UHS student will be participating, along with representatives from other magnet schools. The student was selected due to his interest in Asian culture.

UHS has a FIRST Robotics team this year, 78 students signed up for the team. Enrollment is now at 324 students, with many students still on the waiting list.

Construction can finally begin on the new building site, as the lease on the Mark Twain property has been signed along with the commitment to keep the community informed about UHS, a video production club that will create videos to be shown on Hartford's public access cable TV has started. UHS has its very first sports teams this year. The fall sports are soccer and cross country. The University of Hartford has scheduled campus tours for every junior this fall, which increases the relationship with the university.

### C. Report from the Acting Superintendent

Dr. Jacoby reported that the CAPT results will be reported at the next board meeting. While one third of Connecticut students experienced a decline on CAPT scores the district's 10<sup>th</sup> graders experienced encouraging gains. Math scores were up by six and one-half points overall and Hartford Public High School students showed an 11 point improvement in maths. Reading scores improved by 4.2% with Pathways students gaining 20 points. Hartford is still below the state average. Four schools achieved AYP, Classical Magnet, Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, University High for Science and Engineering and Capital Preparatory Magnet. All of the other schools are growing.

Dr. Jacoby congratulated Hartford Magnet Middle School (HMMS), principal, students and staff for being selected as a Blue Ribbon School. Blue Ribbon status was awarded to HMMS for sustaining academic achievement over the past four to five years. A pep rally will be held at the school on Friday.

Dr. Jacoby reported that Susan Matthews was selected as a semi-finalist for the Connecticut Teacher of the Year. She is a biology teacher at the University High for Science and Engineering.

Dr. Jacoby reported that University High has received \$895,000 in a partnership grant for a community computer training program. Also, University High will partner with the University of New Haven on a new curriculum 'Project Lead the Way' a curriculum that goes directly into engineering.

Dr. Jacoby reported that paraprofessional's request at the past board meeting for retroactive pay is being addressed and professional development training is being developed with Capital Community College.

Dr. Jacoby reported that Supplemental Education Services (SES) a Title I mandate for schools that are identified as needing improvement may receive free tutoring services. Fairs have been held to alert parents to the services.

Dr. Jacoby reported that the district was the recipient of a \$1.4 million grant over a five year period for Smaller Communities in high schools. The grant will permit personalizing learning for students, promoting rigorous and engaging instruction as the new Superintendent may want to do.

- Financial Report - July and August 2006

Dr. Jacoby stated that the Finance Committee met and budget line expenditures were looked at.

D. Report from the Board of Education Chair – no report

E. Public Comment Portion

**Sam Saylor**, President of the PTO President's Council addressed the Board on several issues. He first commented on the abbreviated presentation of the financial report, which he said is traditionally delivered by the Chief Financial Officer in layman terms so parents have an understanding of how the money is being spent.

Mr. Saylor asked that the Parent and Community Engagement Taskforce chaired by Ms. Patterson-Stallings become a standing committee of the Board to give parents an official voice that would allow reporting by the PTO Parents Council similar to the student representative's report to report on initiatives for parent engagement.

Mr. Saylor reported on some of the initiatives that are being worked on, such as the goal to do 15,000 hours of parent involvement, parents and teachers engagement series, Parents Leadership Training, sale of parent power cards instead of candy sale. There is a program with Leadership Greater Hartford whereby leaders are being trained in practicing positive behaviors to develop a guide to build positive character and positive relationships in children and the community. He requested help from the Mayor in providing transportation for parents to attend meetings.

Mr. Saylor addressed concerns of students being required to do volunteer hours but the Board is unable to determine if facilities are safe. He commented on a parent whose child is getting bullied by a teacher.

Mr. Saylor announced that there would be a second event of 'Night of 1000 Parents' on October 12 at 4:30 p.m. at Bulkeley High School, to welcome the new Superintendent.

Ms. Noel thanked Mr. Saylor for supporting the recommendations of the Wellness Committee

**Ebony Adams**, parent of a student at Hooker School of Environmental Studies and Member of AFCAMP addressed the Board on suspension. She believes that prior to a child getting suspended teacher should try to work with the parents. She stated that more intervention programs were needed.

**Milo Smith**, Parent of a Student at Hartford Public High School and a member of AFCAMP addressed the board regarding suspension. She stated that other measures and preventive programs are needed instead of outside suspension. She asked that School Police Officers should receive further training on how to speak to students and not label them.

**Devine Mason**, a parent of an eight year old child. Ms. Devine stated that schools and parents need to work together. Last year her child was suspended thirteen times due to difficulties he experienced. She is a single mother of four children, who works and is unable to stay home when her child is suspended. She spoke on behalf of parents who are not as strong, and asked that everyone step up to the plate to do their part.

**Hyacinth Yennie**, Volunteer at Hartford Public High School, addressed the board regarding a sense of urgency in completion of the Hartford Public High School building. She is concerned that there are fewer workers on the job at this time and the school has no library. She asked that additional workers be hired to complete the school building.

**Rufus Williams, School Resource Officer**, thanked the Board for recognizing the work of SRO Officers who are working to keep schools safe. He is thankful that no one was hurt in the incident at Hartford High.

## II. Consent Items

1. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Regular Meeting of September 6, 2006 (Supt. et al) (Pages 121-128)
2. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Special Meeting of September 12, 2006 (Supt. et al) (Pages 129-130)
3. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Informational Meeting of September 19, 2006 (Supt. et al) (Pages 131-136)
4. Acceptance of Funds from the Aetna for Hartford Public Schools Dental Program - \$15,000 (Supt. et al)

The Aetna has agreed to fund the Hartford Public Schools Dental Program in expanding services for the Molar Express mobile dental van. The Molar Express has been providing comprehensive services to Burr, Dwight, M D Fox and West Middle Schools for the past 5 years. With significant unmet dental needs at West Middle School, the Aetna has agreed to fund an additional day of Molar Express services with a dentist to provide restorative dental care.

**Consent Items # 1-4 - Ms. Miranda moved, Ms. Noel seconded, and the items were approved unanimous by voice vote.**

## III. Action Items

5. Acceptance of Funds from the State of Connecticut for two (2) Hartford Adult Education Programs Totaling - \$3,745,987 (Supt. et al)

(5-1) Adult Education Cooperating Eligible Entity (CEE) grant provides mandated adult education services through a collaborative relationship between an eligible organization and the local educational agency which provides adult education programs. The CEE supplements existing adult education services through enhanced activities such as services to special populations, specific literacy education, additional support services or a unique academic curriculum.

There is collaboration with three Cooperating Eligible Entities: Urban League of Greater Hartford, YMCA Read to Succeed Adult Reading Clinic and Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford. – \$223,035

(5-2) The Hartford Adult Education Centers provides various state mandated educational services to adult learners in pursuit of English Language proficiency, secondary education completion, adult basic education and the acquisition of skills needed for postsecondary opportunities. Classes are offered at various times throughout the day and evening – \$3,522,952.

**Item #5 – Mr. Flores moved, Ms. Richmond seconded and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

Item # 5 – Dr. Jacoby explained that she received enrollment information from Patsy Darity, Senior Director of Adult and Alternative Education that about 6,500 students and adults enrolled and participated in many of the programs from this grant. One-third of Adult Education programs are funded through the Board of Education and two-thirds through the State. The grants will help to provide a variety of opportunities for students who are not making progress in a more traditional setting and adults who can benefit from additional learning.

Ms. Noel stated that this has been a very important program for many individuals in Hartford and the age limit is now 16, she asked what percentage of students taking part in these programs are in the 16-19 age group. Ms. Darity replied that a student has to be at least 16 years to participate and Dr. Jacoby added that the data that was shared shows a range of 16 – 18 year olds. Chairman Perez commented that there are students who are leaving the traditional high schools and finding their way back to Adult Education to do a GED. Dr. Jacoby added that there is a misperception about passing the GED. Youngsters need to be informed that there is a lot of studying before they choose that route.

6. Submission and Acceptance of Funds from St. Paul Travelers for the Youth Violence Prevention Project - \$149,885 (Supt. et al)

This is a collaborative youth violence prevention-school attendance improvement initiative that will serve at least 200 very high-risk students at Bulkeley and Weaver High Schools—the poorest and most at-risk high school students in Greater Hartford. Additional funds will be sought to serve 100 HPHS youth. The project will utilize the services of all its partners and build on the successes of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative. Partners include Office of the Mayor, the Hartford Police Department, Capital Workforce Partners, Our Piece of the Pie, and the Urban League of Greater Hartford.

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

Item #6 – Dr. Jacoby explained that this grant will fill some of the gaps from the Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant. Ms. Comer asked for specifics on what will be funded. Leah O’Neill-Fichtner, Safe Schools Health Students Director stated that many at risk students who return to school are not ready to go back into the classroom. A partnership was developed with the Police Department and other partnerships to provide academic support, leadership skill building and engage students who are interested in returning to make them ready to return to the classroom and achieve and not fail again. The purpose of the grant is to provide academic support and engagement through community partnerships and truancy prevention program with the Police Department and Future Workforce Investment System.

Ms. Comer asked about staffing. Ms. O’Neill-Fichtner replied that there will be one project staff person who will be an hourly employee of the Hartford Public Schools. There will be a contract with the Urban League for engagement at Weaver High School, and Our Piece of the Pie for engagement at Bulkeley High School, funds need to be identified for engagement at Hartford Public High School. The employee will be a new part time hourly employee.

Ms. Noel asked if this was a follow-up from the Project Success Program over the summer. Ms. O'Neill Fichtner replied that it was for students who did not qualify for summer school. Work was done to build leadership to encourage them to return to school, students learned a lot about themselves and their community, the students did return to school in September.

7. Consultant Approvals for various consultants for Kinsella Magnet School of the Arts to support classroom teacher's development for arts strategies for curriculum and instruction and provide modeling and enrichment programs - totaling \$71,200 (Supt. et al)

(7-1) Hartford Stage Company - The program consist of an extended day program, staff professional development and an in-school residency program involving student contact - \$22,000

(7-2) Alisa K Bowen of The House of Salsa will conduct classroom instruction throughout the school year, and after-school training. Trained Hartford Public Schools staff will work to develop instructional strategies to support student achievement via the arts - \$19,800

(7-3) Dr. Susan Snyder of Inventive Designs for Education and The Arts (IDEAS) will coordinate model teaching, coach, train, and identify teachers at Kinsella for arts infused instruction. Trained Hartford Public Schools Staff will work to develop instructional strategies to support student achievement via the arts. - \$15,000

(7-4) Tom Lee will provide modeling and enrichment programs for Kinsella students and coordinate staff professional development, student workshops, and performance director via "Town Meetings" - \$14,400

**Item #7- Ms. Richmond moved, Mr. MacDonald seconded and the item was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

Item #7 - Dr. Jacoby explained that funding for the consultants are coming out of the Magnet Schools grant. One of the strands of the Magnet Grant is to enhance the theme of the school. The theme of Kinsella School is the arts and each of the contracts has a different program.

Mr. MacDonald asked for an explanation of the work that Dr. Susan Snyder and the IDEAS curriculum she would be using. Pamela Totten-Alvarado, Principal of Kinsella School replied that Inventive Designs would be continuing their work to provide professional development to classroom teachers as far as arts infusion within the classroom. Looking at the entire curriculum and applying the arts so all the modalities are being used within instruction to enhance student learning and mastery.

Ms. Noel asked if a lot of the programs are after school. Ms. Alvarado replied that Hartford Stage is during the day and also a part of the extended day program. IDEAS is during the day and on district professional development days. Tom Lee is directly related to the School's Improvement Plan for vocabulary development sequencing in Grades 3 and 4 during the school day content literacy block. Alisa Bowen dance program is during the school day and a part of the extended day program. The program enhances and strengthens literacy.

Mr. Flores asked if the funding is through the Magnet Schools State grant. Ms. Alvarado replied that it was.

8. Approval of Educational Specifications and Authorization to Submit a School Construction Grant Application for the University High School of Science and Engineering Magnet School – Temporary Classroom Space: (Supt. et al)

The purpose of the educational specifications and grant application authorization is to obtain project funding for the provision of temporary classroom space for students enrolled in the University High School of Science and Engineering while construction of a new school takes place. The State Department of Education secured \$1,000,000 in funding from the General Assembly to support the costs of the temporary space. The Bureau of School Facilities requires the educational specifications and grant application to release reimbursement payments to the City of Hartford.

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

Item #8 – Dr. Jacoby explained that this is a supplement grant. She had an opportunity to view the 12 portables, there are bathrooms and running water and this is a two year lease. Included in the cost is that the property will be returned to its original form after the removal of the portables.

Chairman Perez explained that this is a special allocation from the State Legislators due to lobbying from the University of Hartford as an extension of the space they have already donated to the district for the University High for Science and Engineering. If the construction is started on schedule for the new building there will still be a potential capacity issue for one class. The application is needed to get reimbursed for expenses that have already occurred.

9. First Reading: Food Allergy Management Plan - (Supt. et al)

Food allergy is a growing food safety concern in the United States and creates a challenge for our schools. Approximately 6% of school aged children have a significant food allergy and may be at risk for anaphylaxis, a potentially life threatening allergic reaction. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute [CGS] 10-217a a Food Allergy Management Plan has been developed to effectively manage the health and safety needs of children with life threatening allergic conditions in Hartford Public Schools. This management plan will be used as a guide in each school to identify students with food allergies, focusing on food allergy education, awareness, avoidance and immediate treatment of allergic reactions.

**Item #9 - The item was accepted as a first reading.**

10. Reschedule of Board of Education Regular Meeting date from Tuesday November 7, 2006 to Wednesday, November 8, 2006 due to State Elections. (Superintendent and Board)

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

**Items Received Under Suspension of the Rules**

12. Resolution (Superintendent and Board)

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

Item #12 – Ms. Comer stated that back in January the Mayor formed the Safety and Order Taskforce and asked her to chair the taskforce. He asked the taskforce to look at the possibility of implementing school uniforms which was implemented at the beginning of the school year; and to look at programs and policies in place to determine what is working and what changes are needed. Ms. Comer named a few individuals and organizations who have voiced their concerns about the suspension policy. The resolution asked for a list of inside suspension rooms, including those that are operational and those that are not and the reason. A proposed alternative suspension program that can be incorporated in the Code of Discipline and implemented district-wide, and a determination as to the staffing and other requirements needed to implement an outside suspension program.

Chairman Perez asked Ms. Comer if the report should come to the full Board or through the Safe and Order Taskforce. Ms. Comer replied that any recommendations will ultimately have to be acted on by the board; the Safety and Order Taskforce can review and make recommendations prior to going to the board. She would like this to move as quickly as possible.

Chairman Perez asked Ms. Comer if she is looking for something to be implemented by the beginning of the year, this would give him a benchmark to work on with the Superintendent. Ms. Comer replied that the beginning of the year would be a good time to start.

Ms. Noel commented that approaching youngsters with a good attitude as observed at Rawson School at the beginning of the school year will be a step in the right direction.

Mr. MacDonald spoke in favor of the resolution he stated that the Board has placed safety and order at the top of their agenda. He thanked Ms. Comer for bringing the resolution to the Board's attention.

Ms. Patterson-Stallings stated that as a member of the Safety and Order Taskforce she strongly supports the resolution. She commented that in addition to the Boys and Girls Club there are churches that have offered their facilities for outside suspensions and the community is concerned about this issue, she is glad that it is moving forward.

13. Administrative Appointment (Superintendent and Board)

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

Item #13- Dr. Jacoby stated that it is with pleasure that she supports Leah O'Neill-Fichtner to be appointed to the one year or less position of Senior Director of Student Support Services. The intent of the position is to look at various ways the district is supporting students to maximize instruction. The idea is to look at what is being done to be sure they are the best practices. The position will assess and streamline functions to improve instruction and support students.

Ms. Noel commented that as the chair of the Student Support Services Taskforce this is an important issue and the district has been suffering from lack of support in this area. She is pleased that this will be an opportunity to explore which direction the district will go in.

**IV. Receive and File Items**

11. Budget Allocation - July and August 2006 (Supt. et al)

**Item #11- The item was received**

Item#11 – Mr. Flores commented that the allocation changes are reviewed in detail by the Finance and Audit Committee. These allocation changes are received and filed because it does not meet the guidelines for the board to vote.

Ms. Patterson-Stallings explained that the Reading Consultant at Rawson School asked her to announce that October is Dyslexia Awareness month in Connecticut and there will be an open house at the Capitol on Monday, October 23 at 3-5:00 p.m.

Chairman Perez announced that that there would be an informational meeting on October 17 and a regular meeting on November 8.

**V. Adjournment  
At 7:42 p.m. the meeting was adjourned**