

## AGENDA

### ITEM # 1

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### Hartford Board of Education Minutes Regular Meeting – Tuesday, December 5, 2006 Webster Micro Society Magnet School – 5 Cone Street

#### I. Opening

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

At 6:14 p.m. Chairman Perez called the meeting to order. 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  
Superintendent Steven J. Adamowski  
Dr. Jacqueline Jacoby

Chairman Perez entertained a motion to suspend the rules to add Items (B), 1 & 2 Board of Education Organizational Meeting; Item (D) Financial Report under the Superintendent's Report and Action Items 17 and 18

**Ms. Richmond moved, Ms. Miranda seconded the motion to suspend the rules to add the items to the agenda, the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

##### B. Board of Education Annual Organizational Meeting

##### 1. Election of Officers - Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

Chairman Perez entertained a motion to open the nomination for the office of Chair. **Ms. Noel moved and Ms. Miranda seconded the motion to nominate Eddie Perez as Chair**, hearing no other nominations, nominations were closed and written ballots collected by Ms. Fagan, Support Administrator for the Board of Education.

**Ms. Noel moved and Ms. Richmond seconded the motion to nominate Ada Miranda as First Vice Chair**; hearing no other nominations, nominations were closed and written ballots collected by Ms. Fagan.

**Ms. Comer moved and Mr. Flores seconded the motion to nominate David MacDonald as Secretary**, hearing no other nominations, nominations were closed and written ballots collected by Ms. Fagan.

##### 2. First Reading – Amendment of Bylaws, numbers 9120, 9121 and 9221

**Item #2 – Mr. MacDonald moved and Ms. Noel seconded the motion to accept the first reading to amend the Bylaws to provide for the additional office of Second Vice Chairperson, and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.**

C. Report from Student Representatives

Group B Schools

- **Harford Public High School**

Nina To reported on activities at Hartford Public High. Academics - The Smaller Learning Communities continue to thrive. For example, the Law and Public Service Academy recently received funding for thirty internships and held an awards assembly for its freshman students. A school-wide awards ceremony is planned on December 14 to honor all students who are achieving academically.

Sports - The football team ended with a 6-3-1 season, and a winning streak of six games in a row. They also won the annual Turkey game against Weaver High School. The kicker and quarterback, holds the Connecticut record for the second longest field goal of 52 yards. The cross country teams, both boys and girls, won the city championship it was the first time in 12 years that the girls won the city championship. The girls' volleyball team won their first game against Sports and Medical Sciences Academy played in Hartford High's newly renovated field house. The girls swim team successfully began their first coop season with Bulkeley. The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held at the Farmington Marriott.

Community Activities - The senior class raised almost \$4000 from two events to put towards senior activities. Upcoming events include the Christmas dance, where attendees will be asked to donate canned food or a toy for a local charity, the alumni basketball game, held on January 6 will include cheerleaders and basketball players dating back to the 1960s, and the Aspira Club will be holding its second Annual Latin Dance. Recently, the students formed a student patrol to assist in the hallways. "Da Pub Sweepaz" began patrols on December 5. The first Pep Rally was held in the new field house.

- Sport and Medical Science Academy (SMSA)

Carlos Perez and Neysha Cruz reported that SMSA is gearing up for a strong recruitment season. Recruitment efforts will include magnet fairs and school presentations in Hartford and the surrounding towns. Advertisement promoting the school will be done in newspapers, radio / television, and print advertisement

In Sports – for the first time in SMSA's history the girls' varsity volleyball team made it to the semi-final round in the CSC tournament. The girls' soccer team was the first winning team in the school's history by capturing 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the CSC Conference. This was their first appearance in the state tournament and they won the magnet school soccer cup.

An 11<sup>th</sup> grade honor student from SMSA visited Japan in November with a contingent of ten other students from Hartford. The students stayed with a Japanese family and attended school there for a week. The SMSA student has been sharing her experiences with the school community.

An SMSA student has been accepted by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council to be among a selected group of students who will attend the national young leaders' conference in Washington, D.C. for a week in February.

To help students prepare for college, over half the senior class has received their meningococcal vaccine for meningitis through a successful flu clinic which took place at the school.

The entire SMSA staff used their professional development day to visit Connecticut College in New London to solidify partnership relations with the college. The staff took a walking tour of the entire campus.

- University School of Science and Engineering

Katie Quish and Alexander Daniels reported on activities at the USSE. In Academic News--The PSAT and Stanford Test results arrived and will be reviewed with the students and their guidance counselors.

An introduction to College Night was held for all juniors and their parents, describing all steps of the college application process. Juniors were informed that they now qualify to take college courses at both University of Connecticut and Capital Community College for dual credit.

More advanced courses will be added to the senior curriculum next year such as calculus, advanced physics and additional computer programming and engineering courses.

Approximately 30 freshmen engineering students traveled to the University of Connecticut for a special program highlighting engineering opportunities at the University. Chemistry classes recently completed a unit on fuel cells, and a team of students were sent to participate in the Materials Research Society Fuel Cell Car Competition in Boston. The team placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 30 teams.

Extra-Curricular Activities News --Sophomores were offered an opportunity to participate in paid internships at The Hartford Insurance Company through the STAG Program.

The first basketball teams, for both boys and girls will participate in the winter athletic season.

The ACE Program (Architecture, Construction and Engineering) has started for the year, with students working together on a real engineering project with the club mentors.

The first open house of the year for interested incoming ninth graders will be held on Wednesday, December 13, from 6-8 pm

Hot Topics-- The freshman Banner Signing Ceremony will take place this Friday. It was purposely held a little late this year so that the new Superintendent could attend.

- Weaver High School

Britney-Ann Chung reported on the activities at Weaver High as follows:

#### Academic Items

- Financial Aid Workshop Co-sponsored by Weaver's Guidance Dept/University of Hartford's Education Main Street was held on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>
- The University of Connecticut held its Application Day at Weaver on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>
- University of Connecticut Campus visit was held on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>
- Freshmen Career Day Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity
- The Guidance Dept. in conjunction with Career Beginnings will sponsor a "9<sup>th</sup> Graders Go To College Day" to visit the University of Hartford on December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Southern Conn. University's Application Day will take place on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### Extracurricular Activities

- Foreign Language Club began meeting on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>
- Postponing Sexual Involvement first meeting was held on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at Mount Sinai Hospital
- Human Relations Club went to Children's Place on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>
- Senior Class Elections were held
- Cheerleading and Basketball tryouts were held Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Hot Topics

- Halloween Dance Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> (Fundraiser for the Senior Class)
- Turkey Game Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Spirit Week Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, Pep Rally Nov. 22 and Fashion Show fundraiser coming up.

#### D. Report from the Superintendent

Superintendent Adamowski stated that he asked Dr. Jacoby to assist him with tonight's meeting since she had planned the meeting agenda. He thanked everyone who contributed to his learning curve in his first week on the job. He acknowledged that there would be a lot of work ahead with tremendous potential, good people to work with, and every opportunity to succeed to be one of the finest school districts in the nation.

Superintendent Adamowski indicated to the Board that the next few informational meeting workshop sessions will be devoted to long-range planning issues to develop the vision for the future. This will involve addressing foundational issues that are relative to the vision, theory of action, long term goals, short term goals and a structure for accomplishing goals. Dr. Adamowski will be working with a couple of books "What School Boards Can Do" by Donald McAdams and "Effective School Boards" by John Carver. He asked that Board members complete the McAdams book to get ready for the workshop sessions. Dr. Adamowski further indicated to Board members that in order to get the desired outcomes the design has to be changed and it can no longer be business as usual. He asked the Board not to make decisions in isolation until everyone agrees on the direction the school system will go, to defer committee and taskforce meetings until there is an umbrella to structure and align the various issues.

- Financial Report

Mr. Julio Molleda, Chief Financial Officer reported that as of October 31, 2006 a total of \$54.0 million or 20.7% of the adopted budget of \$261 million has been expended, including fringe benefits. To date the fringe benefits are reflecting a small deficit, however, higher reimbursement amounts are anticipated from state and federal grants to address the deficit.

Transportation expenses continue to project a negative variance of \$3.3 million. Instructional staff line item savings is expected to cover the deficit.

Class size adjustments and roster reconciliation are being worked on in collaboration with the Human Resources Department and will be included in the next report.

#### Special Funds

Total expenditures are \$10.3 million with encumbrances and commitments totaling \$2.3 million.

- Citation

Denise Camejo, Paraprofessional at Breakthrough Magnet School was awarded a citation for her act of bravery in using CPR to save her neighbors life. Ms. Camejo learned CPR as a part of her paraprofessional training at the Breakthrough Magnet School.

- Results of the Election of Officers - Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

Ms. Fagan, Support Administrator for the Board announced the results of the written ballots. **Eddie Perez was elected to the Office of Chair by unanimous vote; Ada Miranda was elected to the office of First Vice Chair by unanimous vote, and David MacDonald was elected to the Office of Secretary by unanimous vote.**

Chairman Perez stated that he was proud of the eight individuals that started up with him as a team and ended up as a team, meeting significant challenges along the way. He thanked Ms. Noel for her service as Vice Chair and Ms. Richmond for her service as secretary. He stressed the importance of each Board member having a voice and making their own unique contribution.

E. Public Comment Portion

**Guillermina Bonquero**, Parent, addressed the Board in Spanish. Ms. Miranda translated her comments which summarized her frustration with being able to enroll her daughter into a magnet school for the past four years. Chairman Perez directed Ms. Bonquero to speak with Delores Bolton, Asst. Superintendent of Magnet Schools.

**Gerald Martin**, President of Hartford Principals and Supervisors Association and Principal of Rawson School, relinquished a part of his time to allow Delores Cole, Principal of Webster MicroSociety School, to give welcoming remarks and introduce staff members.

Mr. Martin addressed the Board regarding acknowledgment of his colleague's as qualified administrators that have been overlooked and unrecognized as viable candidates by the Human Resources Department, when conducting leadership searches and filling administrative positions. He requested that promises made by the previous administration regarding the hiring procedures for his union members, be confirmed by the new Superintendent.

**Pam Brunell** relinquished her time to Hyacinth Yennie who was not available to speak.

**Fran Murphy** relinquished her time to Cathy Carpino.

**Cathy Carpino**, President of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, addressed the Board regarding the new Office Referral Form, which she said did not receive input or review from the Discipline Taskforce that she serves on; neither will the form be supported by the teacher's union. She stated that the form is ineffectual in creating a school climate that is conducive to student learning and recommends that the district return to the Office Referral Form that was in use during the 2005-2006 school year.

**Sylvia Reid**, Resident, addressed the Board to seek financial support for an existing out-of-school suspension counseling program that would assist with the school suspension issue.

**Laura Taylor**, Parent, expressed concern regarding the Office Referral Form and concurs with Cathy Carpino's earlier comments. She also served on the Discipline Taskforce that had no input in the development of the form. Secondly, Ms. Taylor expressed her dissatisfaction with the perception of magnet schools versus the traditional school setting. She disagrees with the mentality that magnet schools are meant to be a total fix instead of a partial fix, to a major problem.

**Allan Mercado**, CCEJ (CT Coalition for Environmental Justice), addressed the Board regarding health and environmental issues related to the lack of retrofitting school buses in the City.

**June O'Neil**, CCEJ (CT Coalition for Environmental Justice), addressed the Board regarding the retrofitting of school buses.

**Melania Rivera**, Parent of students attending Greater Hartford Classical Magnet School, addressed the Board about the lunch menu offered at School. Secondly, she addressed the Board about the possibility of weapons entering the school and the need for police coverage.

**Sylvia Reid**, Education Chair at WECA, addressed the Board and Superintendent regarding engaging in dialog to address issues at Noah Webster School and other educational issues across the City.

**Ebony Adams**, Parent, addressed the Board regarding issues with the Special Education Department meeting the needs of her child and providing parent training as specified by law to help parents advocate for their special needs children.

**Larry Deutsch**, Co-President of Bulkeley High PTO, commented on the article from the Hartford Courant regarding a Military Academy. He does not support a military academy in a public school system and suggested other options to promote discipline, structure and respect in schools.

**Phillip Cloutier and Carla Nickelson**, Youth Organizers for HOPE (Hartford Organizing for Power and Equality) - Ms. Nickelson addressed the Board on the disciplinary action taken against a teacher that harassed a student and the need for a Board appointed committee to create a code-of-conduct and teacher discipline. Mr. Cloutier expressed support for the Safety and Order Taskforce resolution on the agenda.

**Edward Hagenlov**, WECA, addressed the Board regarding safety issues and punch list items at Hartford Public High School and the need for school bus retrofitting.

**Dave Ionno**, Parent and Secretary of Hartford Public High School PTO, addressed the Board about engaging in dialog to discuss alternatives to the idea of a Military Magnet School.

**Steve Fournier**, City of Hartford Resident, addressed the Board regarding the suggested Military Academy and the degradation of all school standards in the district which he believes is driving the need for a Military Academy.

**Millie Arciniegas**, Vice President, PTO Kennelly School, addressed the Board regarding unsanitary and deteriorating conditions of restrooms in the school district and asked for investigation and follow-up.

**Barbara Burke**, President, PTO Fox Middle School, addressed the Board regarding a new parent engagement initiative. "Parents Are Talking" is a program that is being developed for airing on Public Access Television. Parents will express their concerns and call-in on the topic of discussion. The program is expected to air by the end of January and will be chaired by Sam Saylor.

**Sam Saylor**, President of the PTO President's Council, addressed the Board regarding a Service Learning Program for students that will be administered by parents. This idea came about as a result of seeing certain elements of the school district run program not being addressed; such as having guidelines for organizations who accept student volunteers, also safety and transportation issues for student volunteers. He commended a number of school administrators for being attentive to the needs of parents and lastly he expressed support for a military academy.

## II. Consent Items

1. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Regular Meeting of November 8, 2006 (Supt. et al) (Pages158 -168)
2. Approval of Minutes of the Hartford Board of Education Informational Meeting of November 21, 2006 (Supt. et al) (Pages169-172)
3. Acceptance of Funds from Ms. Kathleen Linton for Bulkeley High School Art Department - \$5,000 (Supt. et al)

Ms. Kathleen Linton was a graduate from Bulkeley High School, class of 1961. She passed away on March 6, 2006 and had fond memories of her Art classes. Ms. Linton collected and appreciated good art and it was her wish that these funds be used for Art Education at Bulkeley High School.

4. Acceptance of Funds for Emergency Preparedness - \$7,439 (Supt. et al)

The Connecticut Association of School Based Clinics has been awarded Bio-terrorism Grant funding through a Federal Emergency Preparedness Grant. Funding will be used by the School Based Clinic Program for Emergency Preparedness efforts.

5. Acceptance of Funds for Hartford Public Schools Dental Program - \$9,620 (Supt. et al)

The Connecticut Health Foundation, through the Hartford / East Hartford Oral Health Collaborative grant will be used to purchase new dental equipment at Kinsella School Dental Clinic.

**Consent Items # 1-5 - Ms. Miranda moved, Ms. Comer seconded, and the items were approved unanimous by voice vote.**

Item #5 – Ms. Miranda asked if the Kinsella Dental Clinic is functioning as a full service clinic. Diane Dimmock, Coordinator of Health Services explained that Kinsella is only a preventive site, however there are full service dental clinics at other sites in the district and all students are eligible to visit those other clinics.

### III. Action Items

6. Consultant Approval: Olivia Davis - Spectrum in Motion for Kinsella Magnet School of the Arts - \$25,000 (Supt. et al)

The contract supports classroom teacher's development in arts strategies for curriculum and instruction and will conduct classroom instruction throughout the school year for Kinsella students.

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

Item #6 – Ms. Noel asked if the program will be funded through the Magnet Schools grant. Pamela Totten-Alvarado, Principal of Kinsella replied that it will be Magnet School funding.

7. Contract Renewal Approval: The Village of Families and Children for the Young Parents Program - \$16,381 (Supt. et al)

This grant funding will support a contract with The Village of Families and Children to provide services to teen parents and pregnant adolescents in Hartford Public and Bulkeley High Schools. This is a long term grant that has been evaluated by the State and has proven to be effective.

**Items #7- Ms. Richmond moved, Ms. Miranda seconded, and the item was approved unanimous by voice vote.**

Item #7 – Ms. Comer asked if there was a similar program at Weaver High School. Pam Clark, Clinic Nursing and Support Supervisor replied that Weaver has a similar program.

Ms. Noel would like to know what the current problems are that students face in this area and the variety of services that are available for young parents beyond this program. Chairman Perez commented that this information will be included in the comprehensive report that will be submitted by Leah Fichtner, Asst. Superintendent of Student Support Services in late March.

Mr. Flores asked about the number of students that are not being served by this program. Ms. Clark replied that there are many of these types of programs available. In the last ten years there has been a decrease in the rate of teen births although it is still higher than the national average. The idea is to address the issue beforehand. Specifically, there has been a decrease from 700 births per year in the 1990's to 400 births per year presently. There has been an increase in the middle school population and a decrease in STD's.

8. Contract Renewal Agreement: National Academy Foundation (NAF) Membership Agreement - \$4,000 (Supt. et al)

The National Academy Foundation (NAF) has an on-going relationship with Hartford Public Schools to provide model development and ongoing implementation support for the NAF sponsored career academies in the district. The current National Academy Foundation academies include: Academy of Finance at Bulkeley High School and Weaver High Schools and Academies of Information Technology at Hartford Public and Weaver High School. This agreement has to be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Education as an indication of acceptance.

**Items #8 - Mr. MacDonald moved, Ms. Noel seconded, and the item was approved unanimous by voice vote.**

Item #8 – Ms. Noel gave background information on the Finance Academy at Weaver High School prior to her departure as a guidance counselor at the school. She asked for a report of the program as it presently functions, including guidelines of important components of Smaller Communities. She heard that some students were not able to pursue internships which she believes may be due to lack of a strong preparation in the field, and if so will need to be addressed to enable students to be prepared to move into the workforce.

Mr. MacDonald commented that Smaller Learning Communities are an important initiative in the district. It gives the district an opportunity to look at how high schools are organized to provide more individualized education focus and strengthens the school-to-career options.

9. Acceptance of Five “19 Schools” Code Update Projects at Hooker, Bulkeley, Weaver, Barnard-Brown and Rawson schools (Supt. et al)

That the Hartford Board of Education accepts the five “19 Schools” update projects as complete and authorizes the submission of final ED049F forms with the State Department of Education’s, Bureau of School Facilities for closeout and audit of the projects.

**Items #9 - Ms. Richmond moved, Ms. Noel seconded, and the item was approved unanimous by voice vote.**

Item #9 – Chairman Perez explained that the projects are longstanding and have not been officially closed out to seek reimbursement from the State. There are two projects remaining to be closed out.

10. Approval of the Superintendent as Authorized Signatory for Hartford Public Schools. (The Board)

That the Hartford Board of Education for the Hartford Public School System designates Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Steven J. Adamowski, as the authorized signatory for the district on approved contracts, grants, etc. in compliance with district policy.

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

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

The Hartford Board of Education appoints Superintendent, Dr. Steven J. Adamowski to serve on the Hartford School Building Committee.

**Items #11- Ms. Noel moved, Ms. Richmond seconded, and the item was approved unanimous by voice vote.**

12. Magnet Federal Grant Proposal for 2007-2010 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Public schools has received federal grant to assist in funding eight magnet schools 2004-2007. The District is now seeking the approval of the board for the following schools to be the next round of Magnet schools that will be funded by federal grant: Burr, Dwight, Hartford Montessori School and the Corporation Academy and modify plans at the Sports and Medical Sciences Academy.

**Items #12 - Mr. MacDonald moved, Ms. Ms. Noel seconded, and the item was approved unanimous by voice vote.**

Item #12 – Mr. MacDonald explained that the School Choice Committee has been looking at how to proceed with the Magnet Grant Proposal for a number of months. The committee felt that this was a great opportunity to consider additional magnet schools as a result of the Sheff vs O’Neil Decision. A lot of data and themes were studied and the committee came up with the present list of schools that will be suitable to pursue.

Dr. Adamowski expressed concern that the portfolio of choices has not yet been fully planned or determined at this point, neither an awareness of what the end game will be. With that concern in mind, he explained that the pros and cons have been weighed and it was determined that it would be more beneficial to commit to this proposal given the financial implications of not doing so at this time. In the future he would not recommend that this be done in a piecemeal manner. Part of the work he is doing in the next few months will be to define what the system will look like in the next five years.

Ms. Comer asked what will happen to the magnet program if the district cannot address the racial implications that are implied in the Sheff decision.

In responding to Ms. Comer’s question Dr. Adamowski cited consolidated cases in Seattle and Louisville that deals with the degree to which race can be used as a determiner of magnet school enrollment. Backing up to the 1950 Brown Decision where the courts decided that unless there was deliberate planning of segregation, school boards were not responsible for correcting it. This was in response to the growing number of districts that were minority majority. The courts did not address interdistrict voluntary segregation or the rules in which that would occur. In the Seattle case where there is a distinct group of Asians, African Americans and Latinos-- race is used only as a tiebreaker to create a higher diversity in the schools. If it is the opinion of the court that the consideration of race cannot be used in any form, then there would be the addition of the suburban/urban case. Research suggests that the one factor that matters in a child’s achievement level is income. And this may not be cause for a wholesale change but will need to be watched carefully and may have to adjust the manner in which the Sheff case is implemented.

Mr. Flores suggested that the establishment of a bilingual magnet school be explored due to the large bilingual population in Hartford.

13. Budget Allocation - October 2006 (Supt. et al)

**Items #13- Ms. Comer moved, Ms. Richmond seconded, and the item was approved unanimous by voice vote.**

**IV. Receive and File Items**

14. 2005-2006 – Student Mobility Data Collection Report (Supt. et al)

The Connecticut State Department of Education requires that school districts report mobility data for students enrolled in grades seven to twelve. The information categorizes dropouts.

15. 2005-2006 ED-166: Disciplinary Offense Record(Supt. et al)

The Connecticut State Department of Education requires all school districts to report specific information regarding the suspension or expulsion of students ED166.

16. 2006 Graduation Class Report (Supt. et al)

The Connecticut State Department of Education requires that data regarding graduates be reported each year.

**Items #14, 15, 16 were accepted as receive and file items.**

Items #14,15,16 - Chairman Perez explained that these are items that are of interest to the Board and are generally discussed at an informational meeting. However, the Superintendent has requested the next few meetings to outline his theory of action and strategic planning using some of the information contained in these reports; to explain where the district would like to be in five years. Some of the information will also be used in measuring the Superintendent's goals. The reports would be revisited for discussion purposes. Ms. Noel is still hoping for time to ask questions and discuss the reports.

**V. Items for Consideration under the Suspension of the Rules**

17. Resolution for Reform of Disciplinary Procedures (Safety and Order Taskforce)

In January 2006, Mayor Eddie A. Perez formed the Safety & Order Task Force. The committee was formed to report on the scope of disciplinary incidents; to review disciplinary practices and procedure; and to oversee the implementation of a citywide school uniform policy. This Resolution sets forth the Task Force's recommendation for reform of the disciplinary practices and procedures in the Hartford Public Schools.

**Items # 17 - Mr. MacDonald moved, Ms. Miranda seconded, and the item was approved unanimous by voice vote.**

Item #17 - Ms. Comer thanked members of the Safety and Order Taskforce for their work on the committee and stated that the taskforce was put together for reviewing the suspension policy. She shared facts from the Yale Child Study Center and the Advancement Project which states expulsion rates are higher among older pre-school students and that African American boys are more likely to be expelled than girls. These statistics are reflected in the prison population. For these reasons she has pushed hard so that problems can be addressed early.

Dr. Adamowski commended Ms. Comer, stating that if there was any concern is that it be placed in the larger context, under the umbrella of student attendance. He stated that attendance is the largest inhibitor of student achievement in the school system with a good portion contributable to the suspension rate. He thanked Ms. Comer for expanding the timelines to enable the district to address this as a component of the attendance issue.

Chairman Perez thanked Ms. Comer and encouraged the Superintendent to stay focused on this issue. The idea is to do as much as possible to prevent out-of-school suspension since it has already been established that between attendance and suspension there is less time for learning, resulting in low test scores.

18. Administrative Appointment (Supt. et al)

This would be to appoint Dr. Jacqueline Jacoby as Acting Special Assistant to the Superintendent.

**Items # 18 – Ms. Noel moved, Ms. Richmond seconded, and the item was approved unanimous by voice vote.**

Item #18 – Dr. Adamowski explained that this appointment would allow Dr. Jacoby to stay until March and provide assistance. Focusing on student retention and the drop-out rate, identifying and initiating some of the major points of leverage and how they may be impacted. The other area she will be looking at is the overall approach to teacher quality. This will include a recruitment plan, a teacher induction program, the district's involvement in Teach for America, the ability to access alternative routes, administrative leadership in the schools, the ability to have a real administrative development leadership program for both existing and aspiring administrators. Dr. Adamowski further stated that the two greatest point of leverage in terms of raising student achievement are teacher quality and building leadership. He would like to use this opportunity to focus Dr. Jacoby's talents on improving student achievement in the district.

Chairman Perez announced subsequent board meetings in January and February.

**VI. Adjournment**

**At 8:26 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.**