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News Release

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PTO Officers Take Oath of Office - Superintendent Outlines a Model for Parent Empowerment-

March 22, 2007 – Officers representing all Hartford Public Schools' Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs) were formally sworn in at the March 20 Board of Education meeting. The oath of office was administered by Board Chair Mayor Eddie A. Perez.

“This is the first time in that PTO officers have been sworn in by the Board of Education,” said Mayor Perez, who is also Chairman of the school board. “This ceremony underscores our belief in the importance of parental involvement in the educational process,” Perez said.

The officers pledged to perform their duties to the best of their ability, to conduct themselves with dignity, honesty, and respect for others, and to seek the cooperation of their fellow parents, teachers and administrators as they work for the improvement of Hartford's system of schools.

The idea for the pledge came from Sam Saylor, president of the PTO Presidents' Council, who brought it to Mayor Perez and Hartford schools Superintendent Steven J. Adamowski.

“Dr. Adamowski and the Mayor embraced the idea right away,” Saylor said. “They saw it as a way to say that parents play an integral role in the transformation of our schools.”

Following the swearing in ceremony, the Superintendent presented a “[Model for Parent Empowerment](#)” consisting of three avenues for parental empowerment. The first and most powerful way is the parents' ability to select a school for their children from among a number of distinctive schools of choice within their transportation zone.

The second opportunity would be to get involved in the decision-making process at their school through the establishment of “Governance Councils” at each school. The school

governance councils would include school administrators, teachers, parents, as well as community and/or neighborhood business leaders. The Council would make decisions regarding budget, hiring of the principal, and other programmatic and operational issues at the school.

Finally, parents would learn specifically how they can support their child's learning by signing a parent/student contract. The contract would set forth expectations and responsibilities that would be required in order to effectively support their child's education and to become contributing members of the school community.

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