



Hartford Board of Education
Special Meeting – Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Dr. Frank T. Simpson-Waverly School,
55 Waverly Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06112

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order (5:30 p.m.)
- II. Business Meeting
 - A. Resolution Requesting Commissioner's Exercise of Statutory Authority Relative to John C. Clark Turnaround Committee (The Board)
- III. Adjournment

Upcoming Board of Education Meeting

- BoE Workshop Meeting: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the R. J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, 65 Van Block Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106. Topic: 2014-15 Recommended Budget.
- Public Hearing on 2014-15 Recommended Budget – Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. Location to be determined.

REVISED AGENDA

ITEM # 1

RESOLUTION

APRIL 8, 2014

REQUEST TO EXERCISE STATUTORY
AUTHORITY RELATIVE TO
JOHN C. CLARK TURNAROUND COMMITTEE

THE BOARD

BACKGROUND

WHEREAS John C. Clark Elementary School ("Clark") is a Hartford public school that serves approximately 370 students in kindergarten through eighth grade; and

WHEREAS, on or about January 22, 2014, Stefan Pryor, the Commissioner of Education of the State of Connecticut (the "Commissioner") initially selected the Clark School to participate in the Commissioner's Network of schools; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §10-223h(b)(1), the Hartford Board of Education (the "Board") established a Turnaround Committee consisting of an Hartford Public Schools ("HPS") administrator, two HPS teacher representatives, two parents, the designee of Dr. Christina Kishimoto, the Superintendent of HPS and the designee of the Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, the Turnaround Committee held numerous meetings between January 30 and March 27, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Clark School Governance Council met on March 27, 2014, and unanimously recommended to the Turnaround Committee pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §10-223h(d) that Friendship Public Charter School ("Friendship") be the lead partner at Clark with respect to Clark's participation in the Commissioner's Network; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2014, the Turnaround Committee moved to adopt the Friendship as lead partner for the Clark; and

WHEREAS, one member of the Turnaround Committee voted "no" on the motion; and

WHEREAS, per State Department of Education guidelines the Turnaround Committee must reach "consensus" in order to adopt a turnaround plan; and

WHEREAS, per State Department of Education guidelines, a "consensus" is defined as "only if no member of the turnaround committee votes against submitting the plan to the state;" and

WHEREAS, the one "no" vote deprived the Turnaround Committee of ability to submit a plan; and

WHEREAS, there is significant support within the Clark community expressed by parents and other stakeholders to partner with Friendship;

RECOMMENDATION

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes and directs the Superintendent or designee to request that the Commissioner of Education of the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §10-223h, develop a turnaround plan for John C. Clark School. Such plan shall include Friendship as the lead partner, define the necessary components of the plan in detail, and be developed in collaboration with the parents/guardians of the students of Clark, the teachers, and the Superintendent or designee. Further, the Board authorizes and directs the Superintendent or designee to negotiate the financial impact of such Commissioner developed plan with all appropriate collective bargaining units.