

AGENDA

ITEM # 10

Regular Meeting – November 19, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at Sarah J. Rawson School, Hartford, Connecticut 06112.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Poland called the meeting to order at 5:53 p.m. A quorum was present.

<u>Present:</u> Matthew Poland, Chair Lori Hudson, Vice-Chair Cherita McIntye, Second Vice-Chair Robert Cotto, Jr., Secretary Honorable Mayor Pedro Segarra Elizabeth Brad Noel Jose Colon-Rivas Richard Wareing	<u>Absent:</u> Luis Rodríguez-Dávila
Superintendent Christina Kishimoto	

Dr. Kishimoto introduced the student representatives to the Board of Education, Kemonie Williams and Luke Powers, whose terms start in December.

II. Recognitions

- Hartford Public Schools Students Attend Peace Summit in Poland
- Special Police Officer of The Year – Hector Dones
- Chief Financial Officer of The Year – Paula Altieri

Chairman Poland made a motion to change the order of the agenda to start with the reports; Mr. Wareing seconded.

VOTE

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Hudson, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

III. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Chairman Poland expressed his support for children and families in Hartford. He stated that Hartford has the embarrassing distinction to have the worse achievement gap in the Nation. HPS is making progress on closing that gap. Less than half of the students have the opportunity to attend magnet schools, charter schools or suburban opportunities created by the *Sheff* process. The majority of the students are in

schools with poor achievement, chronic absenteeism and have the inability to read at the daily fair. He stated that for the Board and for many people in the City, this is not acceptable.

Over the past 30 years, public education in Hartford and the State Connecticut, has failed hundreds of thousands of children, mostly minority children. This failure has caused an incomprehensible and catastrophic adult illiteracy in Hartford. The state of public education in America is failing the state of democracy. Public education reform is an antidote because is creating a better public education system. It is not about magnet or charter schools. These are individuals, tools, choices, methods and options created as part of a much larger initiative to restore public education, to ensure that young people have the same opportunities whichever school they choose and to give parent choice. He expressed his disagreement with misinformed people who is trying to portrait him as anti-union, or pro-charter. He stated that he believes in public education, that all children deserve the same access to public education, that parents need choice; that we must close the economic divide, and that difficult work will yield results when smart people shared vision. He stated his believe and support for reform and public education.

2. Committee Reports

- Superintendent Search Committee

The committee met on November 18 with 10 members in attendance. This was the initial meeting. The profile for the future superintendent and the project plan drafts were distributed. Members will provide their feedback. The committee will report to the community monthly.

IV. Public Participation

Hyacinth Yennie, resident, spoke to the Board in support of contract approval for the Expeditionary Learning model, and the grant for the Parent Academy program. She highlighted the importance of parental involvement in schools. Ms. Yennie also raised concerns for Dwight School that is currently closed when it used to be blue ribbon school.

Annie Henry, parent of student at SAND school, spoke in support of SAND school, its teachers and principal. She concluded with a statement that the principal at SAND school does not receive enough support.

Kaleb and Kyle Burke, both students at SAND, asked to the Board to reconsider their decision to change the America's Choice model to the Capital Preparatory model.

Stephen Florez, Hartford resident and student at Glastonbury High School Agriculture Center, spoke in support of their school program and asked to bring that model to Hartford.

Samuel Figueroa, also spoke on support of Agriculture model.

Neil Berry, representing SAND and Clark schools, spoke regarding the Governor's support to Magnet nd Charter schools. He feels there is a conflict of interest; that magnet schools are supported with millions of dollars but is not the same for neighborhood schools. He stated parents have many questions and will provide the Board with a list of them.

Rafael Guadalupe, parent of a student attending 2nd grade at SAND school, spoke regarding the recommendation to turn SAND into magnet school. He recommended using the dollars to support the model that they currently have. He stated he is not against magnet schools; however, he is in disagreement of turning SAND into a magnet school.

Kayla Luciano, a senior at Capital Prep magnet school, spoke in support of the school. She stated that Capital Prep is a family with a rigorous model, but it is worth it.

Wendella Battey, non-resident, parent of a student graduated from Capital Prep, spoke in favor of the model. She stated that she chose to remove her son from a suburban school district and enrolled him at Capital Prep.

Shonta Browdy, parent, spoke regarding Renzulli Academy and shared her experience with her older daughter who attends Renzulli. She stated that the grade configuration and the number of seats for open choice is confusing. She recommended keeping the school for Hartford students and not to open it up to suburban students. She stated that the school was meant to be for gifted and talented students in Hartford.

Miguel Mateo, and Rubina Bhura, students at Capital Prep, spoke in support of the Capital Preparatory model.

Eddie Abreu, parent at SAND, spoke to the Board regarding the plans for SAND, and asked the Board to do something about the school.

Ms. Martinez, another parent, regarding Annie Fisher magnet school. She asked for more transparency with the plans for kindergarten and Erdkinder.

Ms. Arciniegas, parent, thanked Dr. Kishimoto on partnering with the Hartford Parent University.

Michael Downes spoke on Charter schools. He stated that it is an elitist form of education meant to eliminate immigrants and the poor. He feels the money should be put into neighborhood schools. He then spoke on the contract for substitute teachers, and wanting to prevent collusion.

Douglas McCrory State Representative, stated that the Board has a difficult decision to make. Hartford has a large achievement gap and that Connecticut does not handle change well. He also stated that parents have to have a choice on where to send their kids.

Shellye Davis, Hartford Federation of Schools Paraprofessionals, stated that resources, or lack thereof, are the real problem in the schools. She spoke regarding Clark and the Board's decision to not to close the school, and she commended their wisdom.

Andrea Johnson, president of the HFT, spoke regarding the lack of communication around the Board's decision to close SAND school.

Christine Ladd spoke against turning SAND into a Capital Prep model.

Kevin Rivera, student at Capital Prep spoke in support of the Capital Prep model.

Scott Wojnarowicz, teacher at Capital Prep also spoke in support of the Capital Prep model. Kelly Horan, also a teacher, spoke on behalf of Capital Prep. She feels that even though Capital is a magnet school, they are educating zone-2 students which is where SAND is located.

Bill Morrison, raised concerns regarding the failing Hartford students and false OSI data. He spoke his concerns regarding closing Clark and turning it into Achievement 1st, and now SAND is being closed and turned into Capital Prep. He asked to take Windham and the ousted Mayor as an example.

Mr. Ronald Linker, teacher, spoke to the Board regarding changing name of schools to academies, not improving results with the name change, but continue failing the students.

Robin Boyko stated that with more money, SAND can provide the same rigorous education as Capital Prep.

Art Feltman, Parent Academy, spoke on behalf of his organization and stated their track record of working with more than 100 parents in HPS. He raised his concerns regarding the contract with Parent University, and that he was not sure that it was the best for Hartford Public Schools.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the City's Request for Proposal was clear year ago, that after a year, the contract would be up for RFQ process. The Parent Academy did not apply this time around.

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. First Reading: Policy 0000 Core Beliefs (The Board)

That the Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the revised Policy on Core Beliefs.

No vote was needed at this time.

2. First Reading: Policy 0100 Mission – Vision – Strategy (The Board)

That the Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the revised Policy on Mission – Vision – Strategy.

Mr. Cotto stated that there will be three (3) new Board members coming in January; also a new superintendent. He asked whether it was respectful to change the policy before the new members are on board.

No vote was needed at this time.

3. Approval of Extension of Memorandum of Understanding with Our Piece of the Pie, Inc. (Supt et al.)

Mayor Segarra made a motion, Ms. McIntye seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a one year extension of the current Memorandum of Understanding with Our Piece of the Pie in order to continue the recuperative model at Opportunity High School. This agreement would continue the current agreement through June 30, 2015. Funding for the program shall not exceed \$3,656 per student for a minimum of 150 students for FY 2014-15, which will represent no increase over FY 2013-14.

Mr. Cotto questioned if this grant was above the per pupil allowance. He also questioned the fact that the school is low on the OSI scale; yet, the grant is being extended instead of "re-designing" as any other school would have to. He advised on exercising the same for all schools and not to simply close them because of a low OSI number.

VOTE

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Hudson, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Acceptance of Funds: Extended School Hours Grant \$404,347 (Supt et al.)

The Connecticut State Department of Education awards these funds to Priority School Districts every year to provide extended school hours for academic enrichment, support and recreation programs.

Mr. Wareing made a motion, Mayor Segarra seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$404,347 from the Connecticut State Department of Education for Extended School Hours programs and to make the necessary contractual agreements with community organizations for the delivery of services.

Furthermore, the Hartford Board of Education further authorizes the Superintendent to make necessary reductions should the State of Connecticut reduce its commitment to the Extended School Hours programs.

VOTE

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Hudson, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Contract Approval: Expeditionary Learning \$239,500 (Supt et al.)

Through the Expeditionary Learning model, teachers will use active pedagogy to help students become engaged and collaborative learners: to make connections, to find patterns, to see events from different perspectives, to experiment, to go beyond the information given, and to develop empathy and compassion for events, people, and subjects.

Mayor Segarra made a motion, Mr. Wareing seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Expeditionary Learning for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2014, at a cost not to exceed \$239,500.

VOTE

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Hudson, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Contract Approval: Expeditionary Learning / Common Core Consulting Services \$202,500 (Supt et al)

Expeditionary Learning is considered a national leader in developing high quality curriculum and professional development aligned to the Common Core Standards and the Common Core Shifts. This proposal reflects a set of services to support district staff in effective alignment with Common Core State Standards and the instructional shifts that the standards require for teachers and leaders.

Mr. Wareing made a motion, Mayor Segarra seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Expeditionary

Learning to provide consulting services for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2014, at a cost not to exceed \$202,500.

VOTE

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Hudson, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0
 Absent: Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Executive Session (1. Personnel matter: Betances Early Reading Lab School staff; 2. Pending litigation: *Sheff v. O’Neill*)

Mr. Cotto requested that the public receives the plan and also an explanation as to why the Board will enter into executive session to discuss *Sheff*. Ms. Kaufman, Assistant Corporation Counsel; advised that due to confidential negotiations, the Board will discuss the updates during executive session.

Mayor Segarra made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters at Betances Early Reading Lab School, and the pending litigation *Sheff v. O’Neil*; Mr. Wareing seconded the motion.

The Board entered into executive session at 8:44 p.m.

The executive session adjourned at 10:43 p.m. Those in attendance:

<p><u>Present:</u> Matthew Poland, Chair Lori Hudson, Vice-Chair Cherita McIntye, Second Vice-Chair Robert Cotto, Jr., Secretary Honorable Mayor Pedro Segarra Elizabeth Brad Noel Jose Colon-Rivas Richard Wareing</p>	<p><u>Absent:</u> Luis Rodríguez-Dávila</p>
<p>Superintendent Christina Kishimoto</p>	

7. Approval to Implement Anticipated *Sheff* Agreement (Dr. Kishimoto, Chairman Poland, Mayor Segarra, and Dr. McIntye)

Mr. Wareing made a motion, Mayor Segarra seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the conversion of the High School, Inc. to a *Sheff* magnet school starting with the 9th grade in 2014-2015 with expansion to grade 12 by 2017-2018; approves the creation of a new Partnership Magnet School with Capital Community College, the Capital Community College Senior Academy; authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with Capital Community College regarding the creation of such new school; approves the creation of SAND as a Lighthouse School Design, with a non-profit management organization, Capital Preparatory Schools (“CPS”), managing both SAND (“Capital Preparatory School II”) and Capital Preparatory Magnet School; and authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with CPS regarding its role in managing the schools on behalf of, and in conjunction, with the Hartford Public Schools.

Dr. Colon-Rivas made a motion, Ms. Noel seconded; that Capital Preparatory Magnet School proposal is removed from item No. 7 Approval to Implement Anticipated *Sheff* Agreement.

Mayor Segarra voiced his support over the Capital Preparatory model, however, he advised to not to move forward until parents and the school community are engaged and in agreement. Ms. Hudson concurred.

Mr. Wareing stated everyone at the table agrees Capital prep is a great model and the Board has an opportunity to replicate a great school. He also stated that *Sheff* litigation is very difficult and everything has to be kept a secret, so nothing can be disclosed until an agreement is reached and the Board is expected to vote on it within days or weeks at the most. It takes time for the Board to understand all the implications, and also for the community to be engaged. The Board now has an opportunity to replicate a model that works; there is also an opportunity to set precedent that the *Sheff* process can be used to benefit neighborhood schools. He stated that removing the Capital Prep proposal from the resolution means removing \$3 million funding for a neighborhood school. He stated that the process at which the community is not engaged is appalling, but the Board needs to use its judgment, even if its constituents are not in agreement with it.

Mr. Poland reminded that the Board made the same decision with Clark School a week ago. He stated that Clark was postponed not because of *Sheff*, but because a commitment made to parents to not to impose anything without their input.

VOTE

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Hudson, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra

Opposed: Wareing

Abstained: 0

Absent: Rodriguez-Davila

The motion to remove the Capital Preparatory proposal from Item No. 7 passed.

Amended motion:

Mr. Wareing made a motion, Mayor Segarra seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the conversion of the High School, Inc. to a *Sheff* magnet school starting with the 9th grade in 2014-2015 with expansion to grade 12 by 2017-2018; approves the creation of a new Partnership Magnet School with Capital Community College, the Capital Community College Senior Academy; authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with Capital Community College regarding the creation of such new school.

Mr. Cotto recommended that the Board ask the State to renegotiate the entire settlement, and review all the details.

Mr. Wareing expressed his concerns for the item as amended and also for the High School Inc. component which will take seats from Hartford students to allow suburban students coming in. He stated that if the Capital Prep item was included in the resolution and everything was "one deal", he would have voted in favor, but not at this time.

Chairman Poland recalled the motion as amended.

That the Hartford Board of Education approves the conversion of the High School, Inc. to a *Sheff* magnet school starting with the 9th grade in 2014-2015 with expansion to grade

12 by 2017-2018; approves the creation of a new Partnership Magnet School with Capital Community College, the Capital Community College Senior Academy; authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with Capital Community College regarding the creation of such new school.

VOTE

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Noel, Poland,
Opposed: Cotto, Hudson, McIntye, Mayor Segarra, Wareing
Abstained: 0
Absent: Rodriguez-Davila

The motion failed.

C. Consent Agenda

Mr. Wareing made a motion to accept all the items under consent agenda as one item;
Mr. Cotto seconded:

8. Authorization by the Board of Education: E-Rate Funding - \$771,709 (Supt. et al)

That the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to endorse the applications filed by MHIS on behalf of the district for E-Rate funding. Payment of the applicant's share, at a cost of approximately \$771,709 is included in the current MHIS allocation budget for 2013-2014.

9. Payment Approval: Hartford Partnership for Student Success \$95,000 (Supt et al.)

The School Community Partnership was convened in 2007 to act as the planning body for the development of community schools in Hartford. The community schools model was selected for its focus on whole child development and the integration with the school day for purpose of supporting student achievement and the emerging reform effort at Hartford Public School. Most recently the partners voted to expand the scope of the partnership focus and establish the Hartford Partnership for Student Success.

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to issue payment in the amount of \$95,000 to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, as partnership fiscal agent and employer of record, in support of the Hartford Partnership for Student Success.

10. Contract Approval: University of Saint Joseph and Hartford Pre-Kindergarten Magnet School Internship Program \$81,625 (Supt et al.)

Through a partnership with the University of St. Joseph, we have developed an internship program that serves as a pipeline for future Pre-Kindergarten teachers throughout our District and State. Interns learn as they work with certified teachers and child development associates providing high quality Pre-K instruction daily in each PreK3 and PreK4 classroom at the Hartford Pre-Kindergarten Magnet School.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the University of Saint Joseph for the term delineated in the contract ending June 16, 2014, at a cost not to exceed \$81,625.

11. Acceptance of Funds: Hartford Foundation for the Public Giving \$70,000 (Supt et al.)

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds up to \$70,000 from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for the purpose of providing Hartford

Public School students in grades 5 through 8 and pertinent teachers and administration staff with a hardcover copy of the Oxford American Dictionary & Thesaurus, 2nd Edition.

12. Approval of School Construction Plans and ED042 Submittal for Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy (Supt. et al)

The State Department of Education, Bureau of School Facilities (BSF) requires that School Building Committees and Boards of Education certify that they have approved the final construction documents for school construction projects prior to BSF review of the plans. The Hartford Board of Education approves the final plans and authorizes the architects to submit the documents for the Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy – State Project #064-0304 MAG/EA, Phase 1 – Addition and Alterations.

13. Acceptance of Funds and Contract Approval: Parent Academy Program State Grant (Supt. et al)

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept the funds in the amount of \$79,166 from the Connecticut State Department of Education for the Parent Academy Program;

Furthermore, the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Hartford Parent University for FY 2013-14 in an amount not to exceed \$79,166 should the grant be awarded to Hartford Public Schools.

14. Resolution: Authorized Signatures – Child Nutrition Programs

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes Superintendent Christina Kishimoto or in her absence, Donald Slater, Chief Operating Officer, to sign claims for reimbursement and required reports for Child Nutrition Programs.

VOTE

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Hudson, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 p.m.