

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes

Special Meeting – November 25, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Monday, November 25, 2013 at the Plaza Level Conference Room, 260 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut 06103

I. Call to Order

Chairman Poland called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was present:

<u>Present:</u> Matthew Poland, 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> Lori Hudson, Vice-Chair Luis Rodríguez-Dávila
Superintendent Christina Kishimoto	

II. Executive Session (Pending litigation: *Sheff v. O’Neill*)

Chairman Poland made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation: *Sheff V. O’Neil*; Mayor Segarra seconded.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Board entered into executive session at 5:05 p.m.

The executive session adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

III. Business Agenda

1. Approval to Implement Anticipated *Sheff* Agreement - Lighthouse (Dr. Kishimoto, Honorable Pedro Segarra, Mr. Poland and Dr. McIntye)

That the Hartford Board of Education further authorizes and directs the Superintendent to identify at least three (3) neighborhood and/or community schools as potential Lighthouse Schools, as well as the model(s) which may be implemented. The criteria to be used by the Superintendent in making these determinations shall include those used in considering re-designs, as well as any other relevant considerations. Thereafter, the Superintendent shall conduct one or more community forums to discuss the schools and models so identified. Based on the results of said community forum(s), the Superintendent shall determine whether one or more of the schools and/or models so identified should be removed from consideration and whether a school and/or model not already so identified should be considered. After making these determinations, the Superintendent shall identify one (1) neighborhood school as a potential Lighthouse School, based on whether the school has the potential to meet the Lighthouse school goals. Specifically, does the school have conditions necessary for school quality improvement and increasing natural diversity? The Superintendent shall meet with

and consider the input of the School Governance Councils, PTO's, other interested parents, other stakeholders, and the faculty and administration of said school. Based on the foregoing, the Superintendent shall recommend to the Board of Education one school for conversion to a Lighthouse School as well as the proposed model.

Mr. Wareing made a motion to substitute item No. 1 with the following:

The process to select the neighborhood school to be designated a Lighthouse School will include public community forums and will be determined by the Hartford Board of Education after an interactive process with School Governance Councils, PTO's, and other stakeholders, as well as the community at large.

The anticipated funding mechanism for a Lighthouse School, which will have to be approved by the Commissioner of Education and the Sheff Plaintiffs, shall be at least \$750,000 a year for at least three years.

Lighthouse Schools refer to schools designated for investment and initiatives designed to increase educational outcomes in priority school district schools serving neighborhood or city-wide student populations. The Lighthouse Schools initiative seeks to strengthen racial integration through natural changes to or stabilization of area residential patterns based upon the attractiveness of quality school investments and initiatives. Neighborhood enrollment patterns will not be altered with the designation of a Lighthouse School. Selection as a Lighthouse school is subject to a community-based process. All teaching personnel will remain Hartford Public School teachers.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes and directs the Superintendent to convene a Lighthouse School selection committee, which the Superintendent shall chair and which shall be composed of four members appointed by the Hartford Board of Education, including at least one parent of a Hartford Public School student and at least one member appointed at the recommendation of the Hartford Federation of Teachers.

The Lighthouse School selection committee shall conduct at least one community forum to discuss the Lighthouse School concept, solicit input concerning potential Lighthouse Schools and potential models for Lighthouse Schools. Appropriate models and designs for Lighthouse Schools shall utilize strategies, methods and best practices that have been proven to be effective in improving student academic performance. The quality of such

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Hudson, Rodriguez-Davila

The motion to substitute the agenda item passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Wareing moved, Mayor Segarra seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes and directs the Superintendent to convene a Lighthouse School selection committee, which the Superintendent shall chair and which shall be composed of four members appointed by the Hartford Board of Education, including at least one parent of a Hartford Public School student and at least one member appointed at the recommendation of the Hartford Federation of Teachers.

The Lighthouse School selection committee shall conduct at least one community forum to discuss the Lighthouse School concept, solicit input concerning potential Lighthouse Schools and potential models for Lighthouse Schools. Appropriate models and designs for Lighthouse Schools shall utilize strategies, methods and best practices that have been proven to be effective in improving student academic performance. The quality of such

Mr. Cotto stated that *Sheff* is about quality integrated education by raising ethnicity and socio economic status; he stated that the item does not address the issue. The item is similar to the school improvement grant on which a small amount of money is given to the school. He stated that there is no evidence that the item supports socio economic isolation; it seems to be more related to funding issues or adequacy.

Mayor Segarra stated that this is a court case and there can be downfalls or inconveniences with the fact that *Sheff* is a decision ordered, but we have some ability to at least impact the process.

VOTE

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

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Hudson, Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed by voice vote.

2. Approval to Implement Anticipated *Sheff* Agreement (Dr. Kishimoto, Honorable Pedro Segarra, Mr. Poland and Dr. McIntye)

Mr. Wareing moved, Mayor Segarra seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education approves the creation of a new Partnership Magnet School with Capital Community College, the Capital Community College Senior Academy;

Furthermore, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with Capital Community College regarding the creation of such new school; and

Furthermore, the Board of Education authorizes the conversion of High School, Inc. to a *Sheff* magnet school starting with the 9th grade in 2014-2015 with expansion to grade 12 by 2017-2018.

VOTE

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

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Hudson, Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed by voice vote.

II. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.