

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – January 15, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, January 15, 2013. The meeting was held at Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, 280 Huyslope Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Poland called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

II. Public Participation

1. Dr. Aaron Lewis spoke on school policing. He was not satisfied with the promise of workshops that were supposed to be done, especially around expulsion rates.
2. Shante Browdy spoke on the same topic, stating that the Hartford Chief of Police spoke at the NRZ meeting, and that he expressed the policing in schools was in the Board of Education’s hands. In addition, she also spoke on the Choice process, noting that there are a low number of applications for 8th graders. Lastly, she mentioned the parental engagement framework, and a way for parent leaders to express their concerns.
3. Hyacinth Yennie spoke about her and other parents concerns in regards to the early start time for HPHS. She also spoke on the small learning community schools. She believes they are great; however they do not have the amenities that we used to have, such as cooking, sewing, arts, etc. She also addressed MD Fox Elementary, and she hopes the great teachers are still there, and will remain.
4. Shellye Davis spoke about the ABA program. Paraprofessionals are concerned with the command that outside consultants have when they are hired.
5. Mr. Rosario spoke on Adult Education, in regards to not to move them from 110 Washington Street. There are concerns around the risks of moving to Capital Community College.

Dr. Kishimoto mentioned that in her report there would be an update on Adult Ed. She mentioned that students would have an opportunity to tour the school.

6. Mr. Castillo addressed Adult Education as well. He felt it was too short notice, and they did not have a say in the matter. The decision has upset them. He wanted to remind them that parking is limited at Capital Community College, and their safety was at risk.

7. Ms. Damaris Bolorin spoke on Adult Education. She expressed concerns for the administration wanting to meet to discuss when the decision has already been made. She also expressed concerns for the HALO students being “thrown” into a building.
8. Mr. Hector Rivera Jimenez spoke on Adult Education as well. He never received his diploma, and tried to get his GED but failed. Frustrated, he took English classes in Middletown Adult Education.

Mr. Poland thanked them all for coming. He wished they had been at the public meeting held two months ago where they discussed the move to the new location, and unfortunately there was no one from the public. He stated that since there was no input from the public, it was decided not to move forward with the move as quickly as originally thought. He stressed that no decision has been made yet, and until the Board is satisfied, no decision will be made.

Mr. Cotto stated that he understood that the HPS administration had made a decision, but the Board of Education had not.

9. Mr. Yearwood, director of programs at Achieve Hartford, spoke on the lack of Choice applications being submitted by Hartford students. However, those same students have applied to RSCO, the magnet school application. Burr and Betances were an exception, and should be looked at. Ms. Noel asked for a copy of that data.

Dr. Kishimoto stated she would provide a report from the RSCO office.

10. Mr. Edwin Vargas spoke on Adult education, clarified that the decision was not, and has not been made.
11. Mr. Angel Arce also spoke on Adult Education. He stated he recently learned about the move.

III. Reports

1. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Kishimoto announced an award that was given to our dental team, who were recognized as a state wide model.

She also spoke on the election of two student representatives for the Board of Education. The student representatives have begun training. Dr. Kishimoto also wanted to share the report for the feasibility study on a two-way language program. This will be done at the January 23rd workshop meeting. The community was invited.

2. Committee Reports

o Policy Committee

Mr. Cotto reported that the committee discussed the issue of start times. He stated that if one school start time is move, others will have to be moved as well. He explained that Dr. Nardone will come back to the next committee meeting with a report on possible solutions. The committee also reviewed the process for applying for grants, and the naming of facilities. There will be a longer conversation for this, but the question is how to make the process of naming schools more streamlined.

- School Choice and Facilities Committee

Ms. Noel stated they spoke on Adult Education and the move. They also spoke on the innovative program at Capital Prep School. Ms. Noel stressed that committee meetings are open to the public.

IV. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Interim Administrative Appointment (Supt et al.)

Ms. Noel made a motion; Mr. Cotto seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Jonathan Swan to the position of Interim Assistant Superintendent Pre K – 12 Education; effective January 2, 2013 through June 30, 2013.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Second Reading and Adoption: Policy 5140 – Revised Student Attire (Policy Committee.)

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Ms. Noel seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the revisions for Policy 5140 – Student Attire.

Mr. Cotto stated this came about because of the public and parents that questioned the policy. Specifically, they questioned the part where students had to leave if they did not show up in uniform. There are three major changes to the policy; 1) there will be no more sole source vendors; 2) when available, the district will provide an iron/sew on logo, and 3) there will be a change in the language that states students be kept out of class for no uniform. It will be revised to state there will be principal discretion now, and the students will not be kept out of class.

Mr. Wareing stated he supports this. He is concerned however that some schools are stricter than others.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Acceptance of Funds: Magnet Schools Incubation Funding for Betances STEM Magnet School \$300,000 (Supt et al.)

The Hartford Public Schools has received funding from Connecticut State Department of Education in the amount of \$300,000 for the launch and implementation of the Betances STEM Magnet School. The SDE currently funds the magnet program at the school and the Betances STEM Magnet School was approved by SDE and the Hartford Public Schools Board of Education to open in the 2012-2013 school year. SDE has made available these funds to cover the costs of upgrades to the schools to enhance and ensure program compliance as a Sheff school. Grant funds will enable the school to undertake facility upgrades, and to purchase needed technical and lab equipment.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Ms. Noel seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$300,000 from the Connecticut State Department of Education, Magnet School Incubation Funding for Betances STEM Magnet School.

Dr. Kishimoto stated these funds would go towards upgrading technology and reconfiguring classrooms.

Ms. Noel expressed her concern over room for Betances STEM to grow in the current building.

Dr. Kishimoto stated they are looking into locations for this program to feed into. She also stated a great advantage was that the facilities are in walking distance of the Connecticut Science Center.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Segarra, Rodriguez-Davila, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Acceptance of Funds: Travelers Grant for Asian Studies Academy and High School Inc. \$280,000 (Supt et al)

Travelers, a Fortune 500 corporation located in the City of Hartford, is Hartford Public Schools' top corporate donor. Over the last five years Travelers has donated over \$5 million in support of our work. In addition, Travelers' employees have been fully engaged in the implementation of our reform efforts.

The Asian Studies Academy and High School, Inc. both have long standing relationships with Travelers and its employees. The \$280,000 grant will be used to support various activities at the schools. High School, Inc. will receive \$225,000 and Asian Studies Academy will receive \$55,000.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; and Mr. Colon-Rivas seconded that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$280,000 from Travelers and allocate said funds according to the agreed upon grant guidelines.

Ms. Noel wanted to give kudos to the Travelers for being an outstanding community partner.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Segarra, Rodriguez-Davila, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Contract Approval: Segal Company Health and Welfare Consultant \$244,999 BOE total contribution over three years, \$81,999 annually (Supt et al.)

In June 2012 the Board recommended that the BOE partner with the City to utilize the same Health & Welfare Consultant. An RFP was issued by the City & BOE for Health & Welfare Consulting Services. The primary role of the Consultant is to ensure the City & BOE receive the best health benefit coverage at the most competitive price. Scope of work includes:

- Prepare budget and rates for all health benefits.
- Prepare annual OPEB report and all related accounting work under GASB 45.
- Conduct RFP for various health related benefits.
- Prepare options and strategies for collective bargaining related to health benefits.
- Provide guidance on legal compliance with health care legislation.
- Develop strategies to enhance participation in wellness and reduce healthcare trend.

A committee from the City and BOE reviewed the proposals and interviewed the vendors. The Committee is recommending the Segal Company.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Ms. McIntye seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve partnering with the City in a three year contract with the Segal Company with two one year optional terms based on performance. The total cost of the three year contract for City and BOE is \$489,999 with the BOE contribution being \$244,999, \$81,999 annually.

Mr. Griffin stated all of the partners are working with Deidre Tavera to put them on the HPS intranet site.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Segarra, Rodriguez-Davila, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Contract Approval: H.D. Segur Insurance Broker \$130,000 (Supt et al.)

Recommendation to partner with the City in a three year contract with H.D. Segur
An RFP was issued by the City & BOE for Insurance Broker services. The primary role of the Broker is to ensure the City & BOE receive the best price and coverage terms on Property & Casualty insurance coverage.

A committee from the City and BOE reviewed the proposals and interviewed the vendors. The Committee is recommending H.D Segur.

H.D. Segur includes the following value added services in their fee:

- In-House Loss Control
- Claim Management Services
- Risk Management Services
- Property Surveys and Exposure Evaluation
- Due Diligence Services

This would be a three year contract with two one year optional terms based on performance. A total fee for three years for City and BOE is \$260,000 with the BOE contribution of \$130,000.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Mr. Colon-Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve partnering with the City in a three year agreement with HD Segur with two one year optional terms based on performance. The total cost of the three year contract for City and BOE is \$260,000 with the BOE contribution being \$130,000, \$43,333 annually.

Mr. Poland stated that from a financial point of view, we are in good shape and thanked Ms. Altieri for leading this effort.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Segarra, Rodriguez-Davila, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Contract Amendment Approval: MRW Connected, LLC \$60,000 (Supt et al.)

A contract with MRW Connected was approved by the Board and executed on August 28, 2012 for the 2013-2014 Recruitment Campaign to engage local and regional families to access the school selection available in Hartford Public Schools. If funding and new programs are approved by SDE, as part of the Sheff III agreement, this contract increase will enable the development of new and additional marketing and recruitment materials needed to promote New School Opportunities that may be available for the 2013-2014 school year.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; and Ms. McIntye seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute an Amendment to the contract with MRW Connected, LLC of \$60,000 for additional marketing and recruitment efforts, including print media, radio and other advertising to promote new school opportunities in Hartford for the 2013-2014 school year.

Ms. Noel expressed her concern over the money spent on more campaigns.

VOTE:

In favor: Poland, Wareing, McIntye, Cotto, Colon-Rivas

Opposed: 0

Abstained: Noel

Absent: Segarra, Rodriguez-Davila, Hudson

The motion passed by voice vote.

B. Executive Session (Collective Bargaining -The Hartford Principals' and Supervisors' Association HPSA, Local No. 22 (Supt Et al)

Mr. Poland made a motion; and Mr. Wareing seconded, to enter into Executive Session at 7:37 p.m.

Mr. Poland made a motion to reconvene at 8:19 p.m.

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

8. Approval of Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement: The Hartford Principals' and Supervisors' Association HPSA, Local No. 22 (Supt et al)

Mr. Wareing made a motion; and Ms. Noel seconded that the Hartford Board of Education approves the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with The Hartford Principals' and Supervisors' Association, Local No. 22, AFL-CIO. The Parties reached a tentative agreement on December 20, 2012; the membership of the bargaining unit ratified the tentative agreement on January 10, 2013.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Consent Agenda

9. Approval of Educational Specifications for Kinsella High School (Supt et al.)

Kinsella Magnet School for Performing Arts has been approved to expand from a PK-8 program to a PK-12 program. An additional facility dedicated to the high school portion of the program will be created. The high school educational program has been approved by both the Hartford Board of Education and the State Department of Education and ninth grade classes began in the fall of 2012. Educational Specifications for the future high school facility have been formulated by the school's leadership and the Program Manager as a component of the construction grant application process. At this time the Educational Specifications require the approval of the Hartford Board of Education in order for the process to move forward.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; and Ms. McIntye seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts and approves the Educational Specifications for the new high school portion of the Kinsella Magnet School for Performing Arts, dated January 15, 2013, and authorizes submission of the documents to the Bureau of School Facilities for purposes of securing a construction grant.

Ms. Noel stated she felt we need to wait for an enrollment study, particularly on the high schools. She does not support building another building.

Mr. Poland withdrew the motion on the consent agenda, due to the fact that if there is no discussion, it should not be on the consent agenda.

Ms. McIntye stated her concern was that we have already asked for the money from the State, and this was agreed on.

Ms. Noel stated that opening this as an academy at Weaver was discussed, and asked what happened to those discussions.

Mr. Cotto added that he felt that we missed a step. He did not feel comfortable in moving forward. If they do move forward, he would like a timeline of what was done, and what they were going to do.

Dr. Kishimoto stated this has been an ongoing process for the past 2 years. It had been considered to build this on Weaver's campus, but ultimately the decision was made to keep it separate.

Ms. Noel stressed that she is supporting Kinsella High School, but was concerned with the financials. She added it may make more sense to keep it at Weaver.

VOTE:

In favor: Poland, Wareing, McIntye, Colon-Rivas

Opposed: Noel, Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Segarra, Rodriguez-Davila, Hudson

The motion passed by voice vote.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at: 8:42 p.m.