

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – January 20, 2015

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, January 20, 2015. The meeting was held at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, 25 Ridgefield Street, Hartford, Connecticut, 06112.

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**

Mr. Wareing called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m. There was a quorum present.

<u>Present:</u> Richard Wareing, Chair Beth Taylor, Second Vice-Chair Craig Stallings, Secretary Shelley D. Best Michael Brescia Robert Cotto, Jr.	<u>Absent:</u> Jose Colon-Rivas, Vice-Chair Matthew Poland Honorable Mayor Pedro Segarra
Superintendent Beth Schiavino-Narvaez	
Student Representative T.J. Noel-Sullivan Student Representative Gabriel Hilario	

III. Public Participation

1. Lakeisha McFarland spoke on Clark school, and thanked the Superintendent for her fast action. She also spoke on making sure we have clear communication with the community, so rumors are dispelled.
2. Hyacinth Yennie spoke on highlighting more good things in the Hartford Schools. She also spoke on Magnet schools vs. Neighborhood schools, and their inequity.
3. Beayanka Pinckney, whose two kids attend Moylan Montessori, spoke on concerns about the move to West Hartford, in particular, the loss of parent engagement.
4. Nancy Mendez spoke on parent engagement at Moylan Montessori, and the location has great potential. She asked for the Board’s support for the move to West Hartford.
5. Jaritza Rosado, parent volunteer at Burns Latino Studies Academy, spoke on the lack of parent participation with their PTO, as well as their School Governance Council. Also on the need for certified substitutes that know how to control the students.
6. Milly Arciniegas spoke on doing a better job in monitoring that policies are followed.
7. Shontá Browdy spoke on working with students and parents learning common core.
8. Jonathan Seamans, parent chair of SGC at Moylan Montessori, spoke on his support for the school’s move to West Hartford.
9. Sandra Inga, president of the Hartford Federation of Principals’ and Supervisors’ Association (HPSA) union, spoke on remarks made by Andrea Johnson at the last meeting, in regards to

Steve Perry still being a part of the Hartford Public Schools. She stated that the comments were not true, there was NO management agreement.

10. Michael Downes, president of the Substitute Federation of Teachers, spoke on health insurance and combining the pools. Also spoke on the Boys and Girls club partnering with HPS and his admiration of them. He also spoke on substitute certification being an issue.
11. Paul Holzer, Executive Director of Achieve Hartford, spoke on their annual report and recommendations, and the new website www.smarterhartford.org, will provide school finders, prepare schools, show data reports, and much more. We need to be much more aggressive with the coalitions, and finding more ways to find collaboration with the City and the Board of Education.
12. Ruth Tracy spoke on Moylan Montessori, and being in favor of the move to one building.
13. Rosana Bannock , staff member at Montessori Moylan spoke in support of the move.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Wareing thanked Hartford Public Schools staff for all of their hard work in regards to Clark School and the PCB situation.

2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Narvaez spoke on the passing of Victoria Morse, acting principal at STEM Annie Fisher School. She gave an update on Clark School, and provided the number for the new Clark School Hotline, for parents and community to call, which is 695-8504. Also spoke on the Strategic Planning Process kick off, and the newly formed Principal and Teacher advisory groups.

3. Committee Reports

- Policy Committee

Dr. Taylor gave an update on the committee meeting on the draft legislative agenda.

- Parent & Community Engagement Committee

Mr. Stallings yielded part of his time to Mr. Noel-Sullivan and Mr. Hilario, who gave a report on student senate. He also stated the committee spoke on safety and security in the schools.

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Administrative Appointment (Supt et al.)

Mr. Stallings moved; and Mr. Brescia seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Zandralyn Gordon to the position of Principal at the Classical Magnet School, effective January 21, 2015.

Mr. Cotto wanted to be clear on the process, and the School Governance Council's (SGC) involvement. Dr. Narvaez stated the SGC did approve and recommend Ms. Gordon.

Mr. Stallings also wanted to be advised of any SGC's that are selecting a principal, so they can be sure all policies are followed.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Approval of: Site for Montessori Magnet School, currently located at Moylan Expeditionary Learning School (Supt et al.)

The Hartford Public Schools administration has investigated several possible sites for Montessori Magnet School and is recommending a permanent location at 139 North Main Street, West Hartford, in the Cogswell Building on the campus of the American School for the Deaf.

This site has over 51,000 square feet to accommodate the current enrollment of school and the future expansion of the program.

Dr. Best moved; Mr. Stallings seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate a non-binding letter of intent to purchase the Cogswell Building for an amount not to exceed \$2.6 million from the CT State Department of Education's Incubation Funds.

Mr. Brescia asked if City Council did not approve, what is the fall back plan.

Dr. Narvaez stated the fall back plan would be the portables.

Dr. Slater added portables would not push back the plan; it would still be operational for the 16-17 school year. No land would need to be purchased, but there would be loss of parking and other areas.

Mr. Stallings asked about maintenance on the campus.

Dr. Slater stated we are responsible, but the town of West Hartford is responsible for the streets surrounding the school.

Mr. Cotto asked if the kids at Moylan/McDonough, Zone 3, would still have lottery preference. The answer was yes, they would.

Discussion over transportation for Pre-K, since we do not currently provide that and it was stated planning needed to continue.

Discussion on the impact the location, being outside of Hartford, would have on parent engagement.

Mr. Cotto just wanted to comment on feeling that the Sheff deal is getting worse, and he doesn't currently support this for lack of answers.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia

Opposed: Best, Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote.

3. Acceptance of Funds: Nellie Mae Education Foundation, District Level Systems Change Grant \$898,025 (Supt et al.)

Hartford Public Schools has been awarded an initial planning and implementation grant from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, to be followed by three one-year grants. This grant will support the implementation of key systems level recommendations from the Transition Committee, including strategic planning centered around the needs and interests of students, such as the development of the High School Centers of Innovation, which will serve as laboratories to cultivate innovation and collaboration, provide a vehicle for continuous improvement and to support and sustain student-centered learning.

Dr. Taylor moved; and Mr. Brescia seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$898,025 from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

Mr. Cotto asked if the Board voted to apply to this grant, and Ms. Tavera answered no, they had not.

Discussion over what commitments and time HPS would have to put in.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Best, Stallings, Brescia

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote.

B. Consent Agenda

Mr. Wareing made a motion to accept all items listed under consent agenda; Mr. Brescia seconded.

4. Contract Amendment: Kellogg & Sovereign LLC. – Additional 2 years- \$66,200/year (Supt et al.)

In June of 2014 the Hartford Board of Education approved a contract with Kellogg & Sovereign LLC. for schools and libraries to successfully apply for E-Rate discounts on advanced telecommunications and information services. The term the contract was approved for was incorrect; therefore this amendment is seeking to issue the correct term of July 2013 – June 2016, at \$66,200/year.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to amend the contract with Kellogg & Sovereign LLC., for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016 at a cost not to exceed \$66,200 per year.

5. Acceptance of Funds: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation \$112,051 (Supt et al.)

On November 2012 the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a \$5 million District Charter Collaboration Grant to Hartford Public Schools, Achievement First and Jumoke Academy to advance collaboration between traditional district schools and public charter schools to pilot and spread College Ready strategies focused on teacher effectiveness, college ready tools and supports.

For the past few months the district has been in discussions with the Gates Foundation to allocate unused funds from Jumoke Academy/FUSE, a former partner for support of Thirman Milner School. On December 4, 2014, the Gates Foundation approved an amendment to our original grant in the amount of \$112,051 to support the district's efforts to implement common core and improve teacher effectiveness at Thirman Milner School thus amending our current grant agreement with the Gates Foundation.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$112,051 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

6. 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. The partners, who include The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, The City of Hartford, United Way and the Hartford Public Schools, 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.

7. Contract Approval: Various contracts – Connecticut State Department of Education, Extended School Hours Grant (Supt et al.)

Hartford Public Schools has been awarded the Extended School Hours Grant from the State Department of Education to provide extended school hours for academic enrichment, support and recreation programs. The grant is in the budget; however the following require Board approval due to the amount.

The following schools were identified to receive funding through this allocation; and partnering agencies were selected based on CSDE's outlined process:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford for a total of \$54,600

- Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan - \$30,000
- Global Communications Academy - \$24,600

ConnectiKids, Inc. for a total of \$58,000

- MD Fox Elementary School - \$28,000
- West Middle School - \$30,000

The Village for Families and Children for a total of \$52,893

- Burr School - \$30,000
- Clark School - \$22,893

Youth United For Survival (Y-US) for a total of \$60,000

- Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan - \$30,000
- McDonough Expeditionary Learning Schools - \$30,000

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute the contracts with the agencies listed above for the term delineated in the contracts ending June 30, 2015.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Best, Stallings, Brescia

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.