

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – January 17, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. The meeting was held at America's Choice at SAND - 1750 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Richmond called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

<u>Present:</u> Ms. Pamela Richmond, Vice Chair Ms. Lori Hudson, Second Vice-Chair Ms. Sharon Patterson-Stallings, Secretary Ms. Elizabeth Brad Noel Mr. David MacDonald Mr. Israel Flores Mr. Luis Rodríguez-Dávila Mr. Robert Cotto, Jr.	<u>Absent:</u> Ms. Ada Miranda
Superintendent Christina Kishimoto	

II. Public Participation

1. Jane Cravedi, parent, spoke on behalf of the parents and students from Achievement First Hartford who came in support of the expansion of Achievement First.

Dr. Kishimoto thanked Ms. Cravedi for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the parents and students.

2. Representative Doug McCrory, expressed support for the expansion of Achievement First into a high school.
3. Andrea Johnson, HFT president, spoke to the Board about the need to have the voice message for Connect Ed with current information. She also raised concerns for the opening of the schools at a regular time during inclement weather. Many neighboring schools were delayed for a couple of hours, but Hartford did not follow the same rule. This action compromised the safety of the staff and the students.
4. Paul Holzer, Achieve Hartford!, spoke to the Board regarding the board members transition. He thanked the current Board for their work and leadership. He also expressed support for the expansion of the Achievement First School. He stated that Hartford families were promised high quality schools in their neighborhoods. He also stated that the overall CMT gain for Achieve Hartford was 14.5 points during 2009-2011. He recommended moving forward with the expansion.
5. Joy Walker Binnie, parent, spoke to the Board in support of the agenda item for the Achievement First expansion.

III. Reports

- Report of the Chair
- Report of the Superintendent
 - Status Update: Intra-District Choice Application Process

Ms. Enid Ray, School Choice Director, provided a brief overview of the school choice applications. She stated that the deadline is January 20, 2012. The number of applications received is low, but 500 applications were received over the weekend, so that could bring Hartford to an equal or better level at the end of the season, in comparison with last year. She stated that the deadline is January 20 and the raise is still on; there are some schools that have a high demand and there are some schools that may not meet compliance, but the applications continue to stream-in day by day. The Intra-district application deadline is January 31; Hartford is about 61% complete for transitional grades. Both of these processes have active campaign on their way.

- Assumptions for Strategic Operating Plan Success

Dr. Kishimoto stated that a full-day central office retreat was held on January 6, and was joined by two parent leaders. The focus was on the progress of the Strategic Operating Plan (SOP). Participants engaged on a response to the question: "What must go right for the Strategic Operating Plan to be successful?" Dr. Kishimoto stated that there were twenty seven different responses; six common assumptions or practice for the SOP implementation. She shared some of the responses: (1) there must be stake holder buying; (2) the goals must be linked to budget and the operational plan; (3) we need to ensure a high level of professional development and continue to build the capacity of the parent leaders, the staff and school based leaders; (4) effective communication, both internally and externally; (5) effective use of data; and (6) there must be enthusiasm.

- Committee Report
 - School Choice and Facilities Committee

Ms. Patterson-Stallings reported that the committee met twice to discuss the proposed expansion of Achievement First and the management agreement with Great Path Academy. The CEO of Achievement First attended the meeting, as well as the CEO of Jumoke Academy, who provided a presentation on the history, the students and the achievement results of their academy. They expressed the desire of the staff, the students and the parents to have a local school that will provide the same high quality, rigorous, college preparatory curriculum that their school provided. Over sixty eight parents came to support the expansion of the school into the ninth grade and later into the twelfth grade.

IV. Business Agenda

Mr. MacDonald made a motion to suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda for the appointment of the Executive Director for Pupil Support Services; Mr. Flores seconded.

VOTE:

In Favor: Flores, Hudson, MacDonald, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond.

Opposed: Cotto, Rodríguez-Dávila

Abstained: Noel

Absent: Miranda

The motion failed.

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Expansion of Achievement First Hartford (Supt. et al)

Hartford Public Schools is the only district affiliated charter arrangement in the state of Connecticut with Achievement First (AF); wherein, the school educates Hartford students in exchange for a school building, personnel support, programmatic autonomy, and financial support. AF Hartford is one of the highest achieving schools in the state.

Mr. MacDonald moved, Mr. Flores seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves in concept the expansion of AF Hartford into a high school, including a negotiated per-pupil funding and a to-be-determined space for the school.

Ms. Noel offered a motion to postpone the item until February. Mr. Cotto seconded the motion.

Ms. Noel explained that the item should be table until the February meeting due that there will be a new majority of the Board then.

Ms. Richmond stated that several constituents came in support of the expansion of Achievement First and provided their voices and their positions on this matter. It would be a waste of time not to honor them by moving forward with the item. Ms. Richmond further explained that the Board still has sitting members and they will continue to do business.

Mr. MacDonald concurred with Ms. Richmond. He stated that there is no excuse for delaying moving forward.

VOTE:

In Favor: Cotto, Rodríguez-Dávila, Noel

Opposed: Flores, Hudson, MacDonald, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond

Abstained: 0

Absent: Miranda

The motion to table the item failed.

Ms. Noel expressed her concerns for the implementation of a new high school and its demand. She recommended conducting a study regarding the implementation of new high schools and the projected enrollment.

Mr. MacDonald stated that there is a cohort of students who is ready to move to ninth grade. The opportunity should be provided to these students.

Ms. Patterson-Stallings stated that when the school was approved by the Board, the Board made a commitment to expand the school into a high school, if successful.

Ms. Cotto thanked the parents for attending the meeting. He stated his disapproval for the process on how the school expansion was promised to the community before consulting with the Board. He

raised concerns for the order of priorities and the future plans for Weaver and MLK School.

Ms. Richmond stated that the Board was part of the decision and was involved in the process.

Ms. Richmond recalled the original motion; that the Hartford Board of Education approves in concept the expansion of AF Hartford into a high school, including a negotiated per-pupil funding and a to-be-determined space for the school.

VOTE:

In Favor: Flores, Hudson, MacDonald, Noel, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond

Opposed: Cotto, Rodríguez-Dávila

Abstained: 0

Absent: Miranda

The motion passed by show of hands.

2. Authorization to Negotiate a Management Contract for Great Path Academy with Manchester Community College (Supt. et al)

Hartford Public Schools was selected by Manchester Community College as the management entity for the Great Path Academy through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate a management agreement with Manchester Community College.

Mr. MacDonald made a motion, Mr. Flores seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate a management agreement with Manchester Community College. Upon successful negotiation, the Board shall vote on the acceptance of the agreement.

Mr. Cotto made a motion to table the item until the February meeting. Mr. Rodríguez-Dávila seconded.

Ms. Richmond asked for Corporation Counsel's advice regarding conflict of interest for Board Member Cotto.

Ms. Kaufmann, Assistant Corporation Counsel stated that an employee of CREC should recuse from the voting due to the conflict of interest.

Mr. Cotto stated that he is currently on unpaid leave from CREC and employed by the Connecticut Voices for Children. He further clarified that he is not receiving benefits, neither accruing seniority from CREC. He also stated that he will need more clarification regarding the conflict of interest, therefore, this would be a good opportunity to table the item.

Ms. Kaufmann stated that she does not have the particular information for Mr. Cotto, but typically, when someone is on a leave of absent, he or she is still considered an employee. Therefore, if Mr. Cotto is an employee, he will need to recuse himself from voting.

Ms. Kaufmann further explained that Board members are bound by the City's Ethics Code which defines financial interest or any source of income direct or indirect that a person has received within the past three years, or is presently receiving, therefore in Mr. Cotto's case, there is conflict of interest.

Mr. Cotto asked if there is also a conflict of interest for a sitting councilman who is also a Board member, to vote on an item that may have an impact on the budget.

Ms. Kauffmann made a reference to a letter sent earlier regarding conflict of interest in Mr. MacDonald's case. She stated that Mr. MacDonald will have a conflict of interest if he was to vote in both places, at the Board and at City Council. He could not vote in anything related to the budget or construction matters. Those are the issues that create a conflict of interest.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Richmond recalled Mr. Cotto's motion to table the item until the February meeting.

VOTE:

In Favor: Cotto, Rodríguez-Dávila

Opposed: Flores, MacDonald, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond

Abstained: Hudson, Noel

Absent: Miranda

The motion to table the item failed.

Ms. Richmond recalled the original motion made by Mr. MacDonald and seconded by Mr. Flores; that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate a management agreement with Manchester Community College. Upon successful negotiation, the Board shall vote on the acceptance of the agreement.

VOTE:

In Favor: Flores, MacDonald, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond

Opposed: Cotto, Rodríguez-Dávila

Abstained: Hudson, Noel

Absent: Miranda

The motion passed by show of hands.

3. First Reading: Proposed School Calendars for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the proposed 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 School Calendars.

Mr. MacDonald made a motion, Mr. Flores seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the proposed 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 School Calendars.

4. Administrative Appointment (Supt. et al)

Ms. Hudson made a motion, Mr. Flores seconded, that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Kelvin Roldan as the Chief Institutional Advancement Officer; effective February 1, 2012.

Mr. Cotto explained that he is abstaining from voting because the Organization that he works for, lobbies State Legislators, and Mr. Roldan is a State Representative.

VOTE:

In Favor: Flores, Hudson, MacDonald, Noel, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond, Rodriguez-Davila

Opposed: 0

Abstained: Cotto

Absent: Miranda

The motion passed by show of hands.

5. Contract Approval: Qqest Software Systems, \$412,810 (year 1)/\$661,538 (five year cost) (Supt. et al)

Qqest Software Systems will supply the Hartford Schools with all items required to fully operate an automated time and attendance system along with a service agreement for the Time Force software and time clocks for the duration of the contract term.

Mr. MacDonald made a motion, Mr. Flores seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the contract with Qqest Software Systems for the term delineated in the contract, at a cost not to exceed \$661,538 over the next five years.

VOTE:

In Favor: Flores, Hudson, MacDonald, Noel, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond

Opposed: Cotto, Rodríguez-Dávila

Abstained: 0

Absent: Miranda

The motion passed by show of hands.

B. Consent Agenda

Mr. Flores moved, Ms. Noel seconded, that the Board approve the following agenda items:

6. Approval of School Construction Plans and ED042 Submittal (Supt. et al)

The State Department of Education's 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 following projects:

MD Fox School – State Project #064-0299 Phase 5 – Play Equipment

Asian Studies Academy at Bellizzi - State Project #064-0298 Phase 2 – Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E)

7. Approval of New Construction Project Close-Out and ED049F Submittal (Supt. et al)

The State Department of Education's Bureau of School Facilities (BSF) process for close-out of construction projects requires the ED049F application to be completed and filed by the Superintendent. The Hartford Board of Education certifies that that all matters have been addressed and/or completed and authorizes the Superintendent to submit the ED049F application for the following project:

- Breakthrough Magnet School – New Construction State Project #064-0271

VOTE:

In Favor: Cotto, Flores, Hudson, Noel, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond, Rodriguez-Davila

Opposed: 0

Abstained: MacDonald

Absent: Miranda

The motion passed by show of hands.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.