

**HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting – February 17, 2015**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. The meeting was held at Sport & Medical Sciences Academy, Hartford, Connecticut, 06106.

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

Mr. Wareing called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m. There was a quorum present.

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

**III. Public Participation**

1. Hyacinth Yennie spoke on concern over students graduating with low grades, on having more trade classes in the high schools, on keeping Montessori in Hartford and her concern over the suspension rate being too high.
2. Janice Fleming and Carla Williams spoke on the organizational meeting. They are impressed with this Board, and the direction they are going in.
3. Paul Holzer spoke on the history of Clark school, and on Clark School parents being able to send their children to other schools, possibly less challenged schools.
4. Lakeisha McFarland disagreed with Paul Holzer, parent at Clark. She felt that the parents who spoke in the media about Clark do not and should not represent all of Clark School parents. She also feels nervous about the future of their school.
5. Group of students, including Marlon Cameron, Asia Martinez, Kendalynn Morales and Krystal Perez, spoke on the Glastonbury Agri-Science program, and thanked the Board for the chance to attend.
6. Larry Deutsch, spoke on the Montessori school situation and feeling we could have done a better job. We need to be more proactive on renovations, and other potential building issues.

## **I. Board of Education Annual Organizational Meeting**

- Election of Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair and Secretary

Mr. Wareing entertained a motion to open the nominations for the office of Chair. Mr. Poland nominated Mr. Wareing, and hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

Mr. Wareing entertained a motion to open the nominations for the office of First Vice Chair. Mr. Wareing nominated Dr. Colon-Rivas, and hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

Mr. Wareing entertained a motion to open the nominations for the office of Second Vice-Chair. Dr. Colon-Rivas nominated Dr. Taylor, and hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

Mr. Wareing entertained a motion to open the nomination for the office of Secretary. Dr. Taylor nominated Mr. Stallings, and hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

All written ballots were collected. Ms. Cristina Santiago, BOE Liaison, and Ms. Melinda Kaufmann, Assistant Corporation Counsel, announced the results of the written ballots: Mr. Wareing was elected to the office of Chair, Dr. Colon-Rivas was elected to the office of First Vice-Chair, Dr. Taylor was elected to the office of Second Vice-Chair, and Mr. Stallings was elected to the office of Secretary.

## **IV. Reports**

### **1. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Wareing assigned committee chairs and members as follows:

Finance and Audit Committee:

Chair: Craig Stallings

Members: Shelley Best, Matthew Poland, Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, Richard Wareing

Parent and Community Engagement Committee:

Chair: Shelley Best

Members: Robert Cotto, Jr., Beth Taylor, Craig Stallings

Policy Committee:

Co-Chairs: Mayor Pedro Segarra and Beth Taylor

Members: Michael Brescia, Jose Colon-Rivas, Matthew Poland

Human Resources Committee:

Chair: Mathew Poland

Members: Shelley Best, Michael Brescia, Jose Colon-Rivas

Hartford School Building Committee:

Members: Michael Brescia and Richard Wareing

Representative Assignments

- Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE): Richard Wareing
- Capital Region Education Council (CREC): Michael Brescia
- Hartford Public Library: TBD
- Metropolitan Learning Center: Michael Brescia

## 2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Narvaez wanted to commend TJ Noel Sullivan and Shamar Mohan, both juniors at Classical Magnet, for going undefeated in CT Debate Association High School Tournament. Breakthrough South was selected by Teach for America as a “School to Learn From”; only 4 schools in America were chosen.

Marta Bentham, Executive Director for Family and Community Engagement, is being presented with the Center for Children’s Advocacy 2015 Champion of Children Award, Dr. Narvaez also gave a Clark School update, reported on the Strategic planning Process kickoff, which was huge success, and recognized Black History Month.

## 3. Committee Reports

- Parent and Community Engagement Committee

Mr. Stallings reported that the committee discussed schools that have outstanding School Governance Councils (SGC’s). Schools that are in the midst of a principal search, we need to make sure the SGC’s are knowledgeable and trained.

## V. Business Agenda

### A. Items in Order of Importance

#### 1. School Administrative Appointment (Supt et al.)

Dr. Colon-Rivas made a motion; and Mr. Stallings seconded that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint Joseph Kopf to the position of Acting Principal, STEM Magnet School at Annie Fisher, effective January 2, 2015.

#### VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Taylor, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto, Poland

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### 2. Approval of Contracts: E-Rate Funding Application \$525,000 (Supt. et al)

The E-Rate program makes telecommunications and information services more affordable for schools and libraries in America by providing discounted telecommunications, Internet access, and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries, funded by the Universal Service Fund (USF).

The discounts range from 20 – 90% and Hartford will be receiving an 85% discount this year. As part of the FY 2015-16 funding application cycle MHIS and Procurement Services has tendered a redesigned RFP for Network Products/Services focused on achieving more favorable pricing opportunities. Reviews and awards were completed on January 29, 2015.

Mr. Poland made a motion; and Dr. Colon Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education Authorizes the Superintendent to execute contracts with Total Communications, Ergonomics Group, Consolidated Computing, EPlus, and CDWG, for the term to end June 30, 2018 with two one-year potential extensions; at a cost not to exceed \$525,000 per year which is the Hartford Public Schools share to match the Federal E-Rate funding share.

**VOTE**

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Taylor, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto, Poland

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**3. First Reading: Proposed School Calendar for 2015-2016 (Supt et al.)**

The Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the proposed 2015-2016 School Calendar.

No vote was needed at this time.

**B. Consent Agenda**

**4. Acceptance of Funds: 2014 School Security Competitive Grant Program \$783,361.60 (Supt. et al.)**

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection in consultation with the Department of Education and the Department of Construction Services encouraged all municipalities and school districts to apply for the Competitive Grant Program for school security as part of the Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety Act. The purpose of this grant is to reimburse municipalities for a portion of the costs associated with security infrastructure improvements, and continue with other security upgrades.

Mr. Poland made a motion; and Mr. Brescia seconded that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$783,361.60 from The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

**VOTE**

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Taylor, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto, Poland

Opposed:

Abstained: 0

Absent: Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.