

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – February 19, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, February 19, 2013. The meeting was held at America’s Choice at SAND School, 1750 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06120.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Poland called the meeting to order at 5:53 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

II. Board of Education Annual Organizational Meeting

1. Election of Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, and Secretary

Mr. Poland entertained a motion to open the nominations for the office of Chair. Mr. Wareing nominated Mr. Poland to the Office of Chair, Mayor Segarra seconded; hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

Mr. Poland entertained a motion to open the nominations for the office of First Vice Chair. Mr. Poland nominated Ms. Hudson to the Office of First Vice-Chair, Mayor Segarra seconded; hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

Mr. Poland entertained a motion to open the nominations for the office of Second Vice-Chair. Ms. Noel nominated Ms. McIntye to the Office of Second Vice-Chair, Mr. Wareing seconded; hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

Mr. Poland entertained a motion to open the nomination for the office of Secretary. Mr. Colon-Rivas nominated Mr. Cotto to the Office of Secretary, Mr. Wareing seconded; hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

All written ballots were collected. Ms. Cristina Santiago, BOE Support Administrator, announced the results of the written ballots: Mr. Poland was elected to the office of Chair, Ms. Hudson was elected to the office of First Vice-Chair, Ms. McIntye was elected to the office of Second Vice-Chair, and Mr. Cotto was elected to the office of Secretary.

III. Oath of Office

The Oath of Office was administered by Ms. Melinda Kaufmann, Assistant Corporation Counsel.

IV. Public Participation

1. Hyacinth Yennie spoke on student empowerment, and encouraged the new student reps to be the student voice. She also spoke on the recent snow storm, and how the equipment was broken and could not be used. In addition, she spoke on HPS going back to community schools, and making sure they are all quality schools. Ms. Yennie also voiced her support for Mr. Jose Colon.
2. Parents of Montessori students spoke on the Air Kinder Middle School. One parent spoke on how happy they were with the education, but was disappointed on the Air Kinder Middle School not opening this fall. She invited dialogue on how they can work together to open the middle school. Another parent spoke on not being told they were not opening until 2 days before the lottery application deadline.
3. A parent of Moylan Montessori also spoke. She was concerned about their pathway and growth.

Dr. Kishimoto stated this was an ongoing conversation with the Commissioner of Ed, and this was a funding issue. They were working on that challenge.

4. Milly Arciniegas spoke on the budget, and the Office of Talent Management. She questioned the Cultural Diversity training, and when the parent piece was coming in. She also spoke on HPS employees and their salaries not matching their degrees. She also included the Family Resource Aides and Family Support & Service Providers that are doing the same job but their salaries were different. She also spoke on the framework and how the Title I application states we are done. We need transparency. We have a policy that the board shall conduct a meeting with parents yearly, on Title I funds. That has not happened last year or this year.

V. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Poland reviewed the committee assignments and membership.

2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Kishimoto introduced Jocelyn Arroyo and Minnie Lesperance, Student Representatives to the Board. She also stated that she and Mayor Segarra have kicked off a college readiness tour.

3. Committee Reports

- o Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. Wareing stated the committee received the yearly audit report. He stated that a major concern was that SPED tuition and transportation looks to exceed the budget, and may consume the surplus that the District previously had.

Mr. Poland asked if we could internalize SPED for next year. Mr. Wareing answered that the District is a little way off from that, but it is currently working on it.

- o Policy Committee

Mr. Cotto stated the committee discussed the policy for federal grants, and the lack of policy for applying to private grants.

- School Building Committee

Ms. Noel stated that West Middle School renovation was discussed, as well as the Quirk Middle School, and Journalism & Media Academy move to Tower Avenue. Mr. Poland added that there was progress on the \$27 Million owed to us by the State.

- School Choice and Facilities Committee

Ms. Noel stated that the committee received a presentation from Capital Preparatory Magnet School and from Achievement First.

VI. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Administrative Appointment (Supt et al.)

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Mayor Segarra seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Steven Dellinger-Pate to the position of Portfolio Director; effective July 1, 2013.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Dávila, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Administrative Appointment (Supt et al.)

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Mayor Segarra seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Carol Wright to the position of Interim Principal, Culinary Arts Academy at Weaver; effective January 28, 2013.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Dávila, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Administrative Appointment (Supt et al.)

Mayor Segarra made a motion; and Mr. Wareing seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Jose A. Colon to the position of Principal, Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan; effective February 20, 2013.

Mr. Cotto stated he would abstain, since he felt that the SGC's were not fully incorporated in this process. He had asked for documentation and to date, has not received any.

VOTE:

In favor: Noel, Poland, Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Segarra, Hudson

Opposed: 0

Abstained: Cotto

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Davila, Hudson

The motion passed by voice vote.

4. Revision: School Calendar 2013-2014 (Supt et al.)

Mayor Segarra made a motion; and Mr. Wareing seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the revision of the 2013-2014 School Calendar which now indicates the correct dates for Thanksgiving.

The 2013-2014 as approved by the Board on February 21, 2012 erroneously identified the 2013 Thanksgiving Holiday as November 21st, 22nd. The correct dates are November 28th, 29th.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Davila, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. First Reading: Proposed School Calendar for 2014-2015 (Supt et al.)

Mayor Segarra made a motion; and Mr. Wareing seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the proposed 2014-2015 School Calendar.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Davila, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Acceptance of Funds: Parent Academy Program (Supt et al.)

Mayor Segarra made a motion; Mr. Colon-Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$79,166 from the Connecticut State Department of Education for the Parent Academy Program.

The Hartford Board of Education further authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract between Hartford Public Schools and the Parent Academy, LLC, for the operation of the Parent Academy beginning February 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2013 in the amount of \$79,166.

The Hartford Board of Education also authorizes the Superintendent to make necessary reductions should the State of Connecticut reduce its commitment to Parent Academy.

Mr. Poland asked about the equality in partners. He stated it sounded like we weren't partners, that it was more like a contract of services.

Dr. Kishimoto stated the grant's purpose was to move forward the work of parental engagement.

Mr. Poland wanted to get an opinion on the use of the word partner; he felt that this contract gave superiority to the agency.

Mr. Poland accepted a motion from Mayor Segarra to separate the item as presented. Mr. Wareing seconded.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Dávila, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6A. Acceptance of funds. Parent Academy Program (Supt et al.)

Mayor Segarra made a motion; Mr. Wareing seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$79,166 from the Connecticut State Department of Education for the Parent Academy Program.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Dávila, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6B. Execution of contract. Parent Academy Program (Supt et al.)

Mayor Segarra made a motion to table Item; Mr. Wareing seconded.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Dávila, Hudson

The motion to table item 6B passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Contract Approval: Jumoke Academy Memorandum of Understanding – Milner School \$345,000 Annually (Supt et al.)

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Mayor Segarra seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Jumoke Academy, Inc., as required by the Turnaround Plan for Milner School. The negotiated compensation for each year of the agreement is \$345,000.

Mr. Cotto asked where the funding was coming from. Ms. Cutler-Hodgman stated it was a part of the turnaround plan that was approved by the Board.

Mayor Segarra asked about the Governors current proposal, and where this fell in that.

Ms. Altieri stated it came from the Commissioner's Network grant.

Mr. Cotto asked about the competitive bidding process, and if this was sole source, why was the sole source form not included.

Dr. Kishimoto explained that it was governed by the grant.

Mr. Colon-Rivas asked about the absence of the measure of standards for Pre K, since they did have a Pre K and it was not included on that report.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that it will be included.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: Cotto, Noel

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Dávila, Hudson,

The motion passed by voice vote.

B. Consent Agenda

8. Approval of Final School Construction Plans for Play Equipment- Global Communications Academy at Quirk, (Supt et al.)

Ms. Noel made a motion; and Mr. Wareing seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the final plans and authorizes the architect to submit the documents for the Play Equipment phase of work for the above referenced school project, to the Bureau of School Facilities for their review and approval.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Dávila, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.