

AGENDA

ITEM # 8

Regular Meeting – February 21, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Tuesday, February 21, 2012. The meeting was held at Classical Magnet School, 85 Woodland Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106.

I. Call to Order

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

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

Mr. Poland requested a moment of silence for the passing of former President of the Board of Education, Ms. Thelma Dickerson. Ms. Dickerson was also the founder of the Jumoke Academy.

II. Recognition of former Board of Education Members

Mr. Poland recognized the accomplishments of former Board members who left this year. He stated that they were members of the Board of Education during a significant time in the history of the school District. They allowed all to participate developing reform for the City and always keeping in mind the students first.

- Ada Miranda, Board member December 2002 – January 2012
- Israel Flores, Board member June 2005 – January 2012
- David MacDonald, Board member December 2005 – January 2012
- Pamela Richmond, Board member December 2005 – January 2012
- Sharon Patterson-Stallings, Board Member December 2005 – December 2009; September 2010 – January 2012.

III. Public Participation

1. Carlos Morales, parent, spoke in support of the change of leadership at Burns. He stated that Dr. Kishimoto met with the Burns Community and School Governance Council.
2. Nicholas Serrambana, student at Classical Magnet School, expressed his concerns regarding the change of leadership at Classical. He requested that the replacement of the principal is treated as a high priority. He also raised concerns for the transfer of Ms. Papas who was also a key leader at Classical.

Dr. Kishimoto thanked student Serrambana for representing the students' voice and for expressing their concerns. She invited the student to be part of the selection process for the new principal.

3. David Ionno, resident, expressed his commitment to Hartford. He also spoke to the Board regarding the new appointed members. He stated that none of the appointed members have children in the school system. He raised concerns for the conditions of Hartford Public High School and the fracture of the school into small academies. He spoke regarding Choice and the cost of transportation for bussing the students across the City, and also about Veterans Day.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that an invitation will be sent to a group of constituents to discuss the Veterans Day issue. The goal is to have an educational program around Veterans Day; half the District is observing that and the other half does not. He invited Mr. Ionno to participate in the meeting.

4. Mark Bissonnette, father of two students at Classical, raised his concerns regarding the change of leadership at Classical Magnet and the process taken by the administration. He stated that the decisions were not shared with the school community. He mentioned the Core Beliefs and stated that the beliefs are not being followed. He concluded stating that parents need to be involved in the decision process.
5. Marissa Lapane, parent of two students at Classical, spoke to the Board regarding the change of leadership at Classical. She stated that the School Governance Council has a great task ahead. She thanked Mr. Sullivan for his leadership. She concluded stating that the school community is strong and is moving forward to find the new principal.
6. Shontá Browdy, HPOC vice president, spoke to the Board regarding the appointment of the executive director for Special Education. She also spoke in favor of the Great Path Academy item. She asked for clarification regarding transportation for special education students who do not have door to door transportation. She also requested the Board to look at School capacity and enrollment around the Choice process.
7. Patrick Bracken, 7th grade language teacher at Classical, stated that Classical is a great school and will continue to be a great school. He stated that the new principal should be hired as soon as possible. The uncertainty of who the next principal will be, could be damaging to the school. He stated that many suburban students' parents have concerns regarding the future of the leadership. He recommended making the appointment as soon as possible.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the leadership was changed but everything else about Classical remains. The process to select the successor for Mr. Sullivan will be a very engaged process. Mr. Sullivan will also be part of the process to select the new principal.

8. Shellye Davis, Co-President of the Paraprofessionals Union, stated her concerns for the schools that are struggling with budget needs. She spoke regarding the differences between funding for magnet schools and neighborhood schools. She stated that students with special needs are given the minimum and sometimes less than required. She recommended finding the money to hire more paraprofessionals and more support for special needs children.
9. Gena Glickman, President of the Manchester Community College (MCC), stated that the MCC, the Department of Education and the superintendent worked very close on the agreement between the Hartford Public Schools and MCC. She stated that Hartford expertise on partnerships with

Universities and Colleges are ideal to lead the Great Path Academy. She recommended the Board approving the agreement with MCC.

10. Margaret Nanff, Hartford Consortium, spoke to the Board in support of the partnership between the Manchester Community College and the HPS for the operation management of the Great Path Academy.
11. Joseph Bednarz, member of the MCC, spoke to the Board in support of the partnership between the HPS and the MCC. He stated that Hartford's expertise makes the best organization to manage the school.
12. Catherine Seaver, Director of Business Technology at MCC, spoke to the Board in favor of the partnership between the HPS and the MCC. She stated that during the interview, HPS responded with great interest for the Hartford students who attend the school. She recommended the Board approving the partnership.
13. Michael Meotti, Board of Regents, expressed his support for the partnership between the HPS and MCC.
14. Ivette Rivera Dreyer, Finance Director at MCC, spoke to the Board in support of the partnership between the HPS and the MCC. She stated that MCC has also other partnerships in Hartford.
15. Duncan Harris, MCC Dean of students, expressed his support for the partnership between the HPS and MCC for the managing of the Great Path Academy. He stated that the contract negotiation was a win-win for both entities. He stated that this is a mutually beneficial partnership.

Dr. Kishimoto thanked the MCC community members who came in support of the agreement with MCC.

16. Elaine Pappas, President of the Hartford Principals and Supervisors Association (HPSA), welcomed the new Board members and expressed HPSA desire to work with the new leadership and the superintendent. She stated that HPSA has negotiated a contract with the Board and asked that the contract is followed fairly and consistently with all of its members. She expressed HPSA support for the progressive initiatives for Hartford students.
17. Andrea Johnson, President of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, welcomed the new Board members and wished the best for a smooth transition. She introduced the HFT officers: Mr. Joshua Hall and Mr. Jay Gutierrez. She mentioned some of the extra programs that students are part of thanks to the initiatives of the HFT; the City Soccer League, the Mayor Mike's Little League Baseball program, and the Susan B. Davis Scholarship Fund; HFT also donates money to the CT Science Center. She concluded stating that the HFT was charter as a union in 1946.
18. Steve Dellinger-Pate, Principal of Pathways Magnet School, spoke in support of the partnership between the MCC and HPS. He stated that Pathways will be partnering with Goodwin College, so this will be the fifth school in the portfolio to be part of a college opportunity.
19. Paul Holzer, Achieve Hartford!, spoke to the Board regarding parent engagement, accountability and communication which were part of the phase I of the reform. He stated that communication and accountability are important and recommended working together in phase II. He stated that the change of leadership at Classical is an example of the need for improvement in communication. He

spoke in support of the partnership between HPS and MCC. He commended the leadership of the leaving Board members and recommended having a smooth transition.

20. Milly Arciniegas, parent, expressed her sympathy for the passing of Ms. Thelma Dickerson. She also stated that parents have worked hard to make a change in Hartford and the District needs to continue working together to continue the progress. She thanked the leaving Board members for their hard work and the time sacrificed away from their children and families to work for the children of Hartford. She also thanked them for treating parents as equal partners. Parents will continue to push for more progress; parents know that the reform is successful because they were treated as equal partners. She stated that it was not easy for parents to understand what was happening in the schools, but children started to succeed and parents started to buy into the reform. She asked the Board to continue guiding parents to the educational success for all the children.

IV. Reports

- o Report of the Chair

Mr. Poland listed the appointment of members of Committees and Task Force:

- i. Finance and Audit Committee
 - Chair: Richard F. Wareing
 - Members: Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, Luis Rodríguez-Dávila, Cherita McIntye
 - ii. Human Resources Committee
 - Chair: José Colón-Rivas
 - Members: Lori Hudson, Elizabeth Brad Noel, Richard Wareing
 - iii. Parent and Community Engagement Committee
 - Chair: Matthew K. Poland
 - Members: Luis Rodríguez-Dávila, Lori Hudson, Cherita McIntye
 - iv. Policy Committee
 - Chair: Robert Cotto, Jr.
 - Members: Pedro E. Segarra, Luis Rodríguez-Dávila, Brad Noel
 - v. School Choice and Facilities Committee
 - Chair: Elizabeth Brad Noel
 - Members: Robert Cotto, Richard Wareing, José Colón-Rivas
 - vi. Special Education Instruction and Student Achievement Task Force
 - Chair: Lori Hudson
 - Members: Luis Rodríguez-Dávila, Matthew K. Poland, Robert Cotto, Jr.
- o Report of the Superintendent
 - Recognition of Sally Biggs, Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, selected the *2012 CAS Middle School Principal of the Year* by the Connecticut Association of Schools

Ms. Biggs thanked the Board and Superintendent for the recognition and also acknowledge the work of her staff that made the award possible. She thanked the leaving Board members for the support provided over the years.

- Early Reading Success – Kindergarten Program

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the District has been researching on an extended kindergarten year for students who have not demonstrated kindergarten standards by the end of the year. Kindergarten support needs to be increased to mitigate the early reading skills deficit. This will contribute to meet the third grade promise to the families and the community.

There is an opportunity in the Governor's Bill to a competitive CSD Grant that is focused on programs that provide more time, intervention support, and a focus on a higher need schools. The program will be pilot in schools that may potentially be part of the Commissioner's network of schools. Milner and Burns will be part of the network and Clark school may be as well. Milner and Burns are part of the identified twenty five State-Wide low performing schools that will be part of the Commissioner's network. There are two possibilities, either the State will take over the schools completely and have a transition plan for the schools back to the District in several years, or they will partner with the District for a strategic plan to address the needs of the highest need schools in a collaboratively manner. Hartford Public Schools is seen as a District that has a strategic plan for closing the achievement gap. Only two districts are looked as possible partners with the State Department of Education. This demonstrates how far HPS has come with the reform.

Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Assistant Superintendent for Pre-K – 12 Education, and Lesley Fredericks, Interim Chief Academic Officer, provided a brief overview for the Kindergarten system.

- Historically from 2006-2011 –10% of kindergarten students repeat kindergarten;
- Consistently– 50% of our students enter first grade below the proficient reading level;
- Kindergarten reading level has been a steady predictor of reading success on grade 3 CMT;
- Common Core expectations are more rigorous.

Improvements to Kindergarten System:

- realigned systems to Common Core State Standards to include higher expectations
- increased expectations -DRA2 from level 4 to level 6
- significant assessment component to identify students at risk of early reading failure

District DRA2 January Assessment 48% of students are proficient and above

Below Basic- 6.8%

Basic - 45.3%

Proficient – 31.4%

Advanced – 16.6%

Time as a Variable

Kindergarten: Year 1 (2011-2012):

- Burns Latino Studies Academy, Milner Core Knowledge, Betances Early Reading Lab
- June Extension for two weeks – June 18th – June 29th 2012 for kindergarten students achieving at below proficient on the DRA2

Extended Kindergarten: Year 2 (2012-2013):

- Half day Program
- Early Start consistent with the rest of the district (July 9th-August 10th)
- Schools in the Below Proficient Category (Burns Latino Studies, Milner Core Knowledge, Betances Early Reading Lab, MD Fox, America's Choice @SAND, Moylan Expeditionary Learning
- 11 month school year – New kindergarten students attend school July 30, 2012 through August 17, 2012 and return for district's first day on August 28, 2012. They will remain with their class for 10 days in June.

A copy of the presentation is located in the official file of this meeting.

- CMT/CAPT Testing Schedule

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the CMT test started on March 6. CMT and CAPT testing are moved quickly to ensure that the students get through with testing quickly. The additional time is dedicated to students who need to make up test because they miss the school day for various reasons. The schedule is available in the schools and also on the District's website.

A copy of the schedule is available in the file of this meeting.

- Financial Report as of December 31, 2011

Ms. Altieri, Chief Financial Officer, provided the financial report.

General Budget Financial Report as of December 31, 2011:

For the six-month period ending December 31, 2011 we have expended a total of \$91.4 million or 32.2% of the 2011-12 General Fund Budget of \$284.0 million. Total encumbrances amount to \$55.1 million and represent 19.4% of the General Fund Budget.

Below, is a summary of the significant changes or variances since the first quarterly report:

- The General Fund Financial Statements reflect an anticipated increase in our appropriation from the City of Hartford in the amount of \$642,545. This increase was mandated by the State Department of Education in an effort to comply with the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR).
- We are forecasting the following variances through December 31, 2011:
 - A negative variance in the Rental of Facilities budget of \$178,702. As reported during the first quarter report, the variance is attributable to the settlement and payment of the costs associated with the leased facility at 2550 Main Street.
 - A negative variance in the Transportation budget of \$2.2 million. As reported during the first quarter report, the variance is attributable to increasing student transportation needs.
 - A positive variance in the utilities budget of \$197,305 through December 31, 2011.
 - A positive variance in the Fringe budget of \$6.7 million through December 31, 2011.

Special Funds Financial Report as of December 31, 2011:

For the six-month period ending December 31, 2011, we expended a total of \$50.55 million or 41% of the 2011-12 Revised Special Funds Budget of \$124.8 million. Total encumbrances amount to \$10.2 million and represent 8% of the Revised Special Funds Budget.

There are no forecasted variances to report at this time.

At this time of the fiscal year, many unknown and somewhat volatile factors may impact year-end projections. These factors include but are not limited to: Special Education mandated services, future healthcare claims, and many other unknown or unforeseeable circumstances. We continue to monitor expenditures closely to ensure funds as expended as appropriate and aligned with District priorities.

A copy of the full report is located in the official file of this meeting.

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

Mr. Colón-Rivas made a motion, Mayor Pedro Segarra seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint the following individuals:

- a. Clare Kennedy to the position of Executive Director of Elementary Pupil Support Services, effective February 21, 2012.
- b. Tammy Counts to the position of Executive Director of Secondary Pupil Support Services, effective March 6, 2012.

VOTE:

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

Opposed: Rodríguez-Dávila

Abstained: 0

Absent: 0

The motion passed by voice vote.

2. Approval: Management Agreement - Great Path Academy (Supt. et al)

At the January 17 Board of Education meeting, the Superintendent was authorized to negotiate a management agreement with Manchester Community College. This agreement has a 5-year term and outlines the duties assigned to Hartford Public Schools and Manchester Community College.

Mr. Wavering made a motion to table the item until the next meeting. Ms. McIntye seconded.

Discussion followed.

VOTE:

In favor: Colón-Rivas, Cotto, McIntye, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: Hudson, Mayor Segarra

Abstained: Noel

Absent: 0

The motion to table the item passed voice vote.

3. First Reading: Educational Specifications for the Weaver High School Redesign (Supt. et al)

The facility will be altered to serve 1,600 students in three distinct schools in grades 9-12. The proposed schools include the anchor Culinary Arts Academy (400 students), the Academy of Architecture and Urban Design (600 students), and the Academy of Arts and Sciences (600 students). A construction grant application to cover this work will be submitted before June 30, 2012. The project carries a budget of \$127 million and is projected to receive a state grant of 80% of eligible project costs.

Mr. De La Paz, Chief Operating Officer, provided a brief presentation on the item. A copy of the presentation is located in the official file of this meeting.

Ms. Noel thanked for the data submitted. She stated that the School Choice Committee will meet to review this item. She invited the entire Board to attend the meeting.

Discussion followed.

No vote was needed at this time.

4. Second Reading and Adoption: Proposed School Calendars for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 (Supt. et al)

Mr. Wareing made a motion, Mr. Colón-Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the proposed 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 School Calendars.

VOTE:

In favor: Colón-Rivas, Cotto, Hudson, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: 0

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Consent Agenda

Mr. Wareing moved, Mr. Rodríguez-Dávila seconded, that the Board approve the following agenda items:

5. Approval: 960 Main Street Lease Addendum (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education is currently occupying and using for its central offices and business operations space on the 8th and 9th floors as well as a portion of the basement of the former G. Fox Building at 960 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut. Currently, there is a need for additional, more accessible space for the Welcome Center. The City's Office of Corporation Counsel, and the Landlord's counsel have negotiated an expansion of the lease

to add an additional one thousand eight hundred fifty four (1,854) square feet on the first floor of 960 Main Street.

6. Acceptance of Funds and Contract Approval: MRW Connected, LLC \$60,000 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Public School will contract with MRW Connected, LLC, for the design and development of a new website to effectively communicate the HPS' newly-developed brand and to serve as the district's primary communication tool. The funding for this contract will come from the Hartford Public Schools Ingenuity Fund established through a contribution from the Travelers Foundation and held at The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

7. Resolution: Board of Education Representative Assignment to the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (The Board)

The Hartford Board of Education assigns Matthew K. Poland as the Hartford Board of Education representative to the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.

8. Resolution: Board of Education Representative Assignment to the Capitol Region Education Council (The Board)

The Hartford Board of Education assigns José Colón-Rivas as the Hartford Board of Education representative to the Capitol Region Education Council.

9. Resolution: Appointment of Suffield Regional Agriscience Consulting Committee (The Board)

The Suffield Agriscience Consulting Committee serves as a link between the Center and the local towns' agricultural community and educational system. Its members serve in an advisory capacity making recommendations for program, facilities and curriculum. State regulations Sec. 10.64 states, "each Board of Education shall appoint to said committee, two representatives, who have a competent knowledge of agriculture and who need not be members of such board. The Suffield Regional Agriscience Center nominates Kenya Howard and Idalia Gonzalez to serve on their advisory committee.

10. Administrative Appointment (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Dianna Roberge-Wentzell to the position of Assistant Superintendent Pre-K – 12 Education, effective March 1, 2012.

11. Interim Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint the following individuals to the positions indicated:

- a. Timothy Sullivan to the position of Interim Principal, Burns Latino Studies Academy, for the period of February 6, 2012 through June 30, 2012.
- b. James Fagan to the position of Interim Principal, Classical Magnet School, for the period of February 6, 2012 through June 30, 2012.

12. Approval of School Construction Plans and ED042 Submittal – M.D. Fox School (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 MD Fox School – State Project #064-0299 Phase 4 – Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E).

13. Acceptance as complete and ED049F Submittal – Latino Studies Academy at Burns School (Supt. et al)

The State Department of Construction Services, Bureau of School Facilities (BSF) requires that the School Building Committee and Board of Education certify that they accept school construction projects as complete prior to BSF approving the final payment and sending the project to audit. The Hartford Board of Education accepts the roof and classroom restoration work at Burns School, State Project Number 064-0301 RR/CV, as complete. The Board of Education further approves the request for final payment and submittal of the ED-049F form to the Bureau of School Facilities in order for the audit to commence.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Hudson, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: 0

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.