

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – March 17, 2015

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. The meeting was held at Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, 280 Huyshope Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, 06106.

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

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

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

III. Public Participation

1. Mr. Frenz Garay and several students from HMTCA/Bulkeley spoke on keeping Mr. Dominguez, who runs the pool and whose position was cut.
2. John Klimczak and Betty Gunn also spoke in support of keeping Mr. Dominguez.
3. Ashlee Early, Kayla Drayton, Chanelle Richardson, and Urana Biscette, students from Hartford Public High School spoke on the district’s ban on Wi-Fi access, and their need for it when it comes to classes and classwork.
4. Richard de Meij, teacher at HPHS Nursing Academy, also spoke in support of lifting the ban on wireless access.
5. Hyacinth Yennie spoke in support of Mr. Dominguez as well; also spoke on the need to do something about students that abuse teachers. She spoke on inside suspension and that students should be doing school work during that time; and advocated again for the schools to have Veterans Day off.
6. David Ionno spoke on Veterans Day and that it should be a district holiday. He also spoke on the unintended consequences of the Sheff vs. O’Neill act. Lastly he spoke on the Educational Cost Sharing, and the inequity of it.
7. Christine Ladd spoke on improving test scores, and the unfair treatment to students who didn’t perform as well as others did.
8. Levey Kardulis spoke on the air quality at all Hartford Schools, in light of the discovery of PCB’s at Clark School. He also spoke on his belief that the kids of central office administrators get in to magnet schools before Hartford parents do.

9. Raquel Calderon asked when the new building for Kinsella High School would be built. Also spoke on Hartford having less testing and more teaching.
10. Sandra Inga and Victor Cristofaro from Hartford Federation of Principals' and Supervisors' Association (HPSA) spoke on process, transparency and leadership. Process in regards to the budget process, and finding out *after* compliance meetings, that more cuts were to be made. Transparency in regards to feeling that the biggest cuts seem to be occurring at schools with the highest needs, especially Special Education. Mr. Cristofaro addressed the item on leadership, and why the cuts are being made by the finance department. Are they the best ones to make these decisions?
11. Kent Ashworth spoke on blended learning. He also wanted to invite board members to the GradNation student summit on April 16, 2015.
12. Michael Downes spoke on increasing money for neighborhood schools, the importance of Veterans Day being a district holiday, and that the professional development days for teachers should include substitute teachers.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Wareing gave a brief report on school discipline and chronic absenteeism going down by 10%, out of school suspensions down by 20%, and expulsions down by 75%, from this point last year.

2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Narvaez introduced the new student representative to the Board of Education, Mr. Abraham Fattouh, a junior at Bulkeley High School. Mr. Gabriel Hilario, previous student representative, has moved out of the district, and she thanked him for his work.

She continued with student shot outs, Gabriel Messa, from University of High School of Science and Engineering, and Hunter Regal, from Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker, who were finalists at the State's Science Fair.

Staff shout outs included Principal Leonard Epps having received an alumni award from the University of Hartford; Erin Wilson, teacher at Annie Fisher STEM Magnet School, for receiving the regional magnet teacher of the year for region 1, which includes Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

Peter Dart, principal at Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker, was recognized with the outstanding school administrator award; and Mr. Victor Rodriguez and Pete Ramos, Safety Officers for receiving community service awards.

Dr. Narvaez also recognized Social Work Month, and offered a proclamation that the week of March 16-20 be school social worker week in the Hartford Public Schools.

3. Committee Reports - None

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Authorization by the Board of Education: E-Rate Funding Application \$653,164.14 (Supt. et al)

Mayor Segarra made a motion; and Mr. Brescia seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to endorse the applications filed by MHIS on behalf of the district for E-Rate funding. Payment of the applicant's share, at a cost not to exceed \$653,164.14, is included in the current MHIS budget request for 2015-16.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Brescia, Cotto

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor, Stallings, Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Second Reading and Adoption: School Calendar for 2015-2016 (Supt et al.) - **TABLED**

Mr. Wareing made a motion; and Dr. Colon-Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the proposed 2015-2016 School Calendar.

Discussion over how the decision to not make Veterans Day a holiday was made, and it was determined that a task force was formed, run by CREC, that created a regional calendar which included not having Veterans Day as a holiday.

There was consensus on having Veteran's Day as a holiday for the 2015-16 School Year.

Mr. Wareing suggested postponing this item and having a special meeting on April 21st, before the budget meeting.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; and Mayor Segarra seconded, to postpone agenda item A2.

VOTE to postpone:

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Brescia, Cotto

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor, Stallings, Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Consent Agenda

3. Approval of School Construction Project as Complete and ED049F Submittal – Burns School (Supt et al.)

Mayor Segarra made a motion; and Dr. Colon-Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Language Lab at Burns School, State Project Number 064-0302 A, as complete. Furthermore, the Board of Education approves the request for final payment and submittal of the ED-049F form to the Office of School Facilities.

VOTE:

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Brescia, Cotto

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor, Stallings, Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.