

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – March 19, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, March 19, 2013. The meeting was held at Hartford America’s Choice at S.A.N.D. School, 750 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06120.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Poland called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

II. Public Participation

1. Tiana Morales, parent, raised concerns regarding the conditions of the Martin Luther King building and the relocation of the West Middle School. Ms. Morales also spoke regarding the elimination of the Pre-K program at West Middle and requested that the Board reconsider its decision to close the program. She requested dialogue with parents regarding this decision.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the Martin Luther King facility has been recognized as in need of renovation work overall. The District is currently looking at the facility to see how it can be improved for current students, and also looking at spaces that are not currently in use due to low enrollment. These spaces are currently being cleaned and prepared for use.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the Pre-K program will be combined and will be active as long as there is demand for the program. West Middle is moving to a temporary location at MLK; there will be a combine Pre-K classroom for both schools since they are in the same facility. The construction plans for renovation of West Middle include a Pre-K program.

Ms. Noel stated that she went on a tour with the principal and visited the building and classrooms. She stated that there are many empty spaces that have become storage areas. She also stated that the building needs improvements but it has a strong structure.

2. Hyacinth Yennie, resident, asked for an update regarding the request to change the schedule of Hartford High to start early. Ms. Yennie also spoke about accreditation for high schools, and also recommended building more community schools and not magnet schools. Ms. Yennie concluded speaking in support of the appointment of Marjorie Jackson as the principal for M.D. Fox.
3. Shontá Browdy, parent, concurred with early comments regarding the Martin Luther King building needing maintenance and renovation improvements. Ms. Browdy spoke regarding turning schools into magnet. She stated that the decision to turn schools into magnet should be discussed and communicated with parents in advance of making the changes due that many parents choose neighborhood schools and do not want their children enrolled in magnets.

4. Ms. Browdy also spoke regarding the enrollment cap at Jumoke, She stated that if enrollment cap is implemented for one redesign school, it should also be implemented at all other schools because schools with enrollment caps are successful when they are in control of classroom enrollment.
5. Andrea Mosquita-White, parent, raised her concerns regarding the differences between the neighborhood schools and the magnet schools. She stated that one of her children attends a magnet school and her other child attends a community school. She stated that even though magnet schools have all the resources and they have great facilities, the child enrolled in a non-magnet is happier. Ms. Mosquita-White also spoke about the disparities between the two programs and the need for more field trips and books. She asked the Board to work in the differences and to provide more resources for non-magnet. She asked that parents' feedback is taken in consideration and also to exercise true parental engagement with parents at the table when making decisions.
6. Milly Arciniegas, parent, spoke to the Board about diversity training for teachers. Ms. Arciniegas stated that the Board addressed the topic in April of 2012; yet, no information regarding the training is available. She stated that she has contacted central administration to obtain the information but it has been unsuccessful; an FOIA was issued to obtain this information.

Ms. Arciniegas also spoke regarding the parent involvement policy and stated that the District is not in compliance. She stated that parents should know that there is a policy on parental engagement and asked that the Assistant Superintendent for Parent Engagement work with parents to review the policy. Ms. Arciniegas also spoke about School Governance Councils and stated that the District is non-compliance on this area as well; the changes made to the SGC program have not been successful. Ms. Arciniegas concluded raising concerns for the schools that are failing including those that are magnet schools.

7. Jane Rusell, parent, spoke to the Board on behalf of HPAC and raised concerns regarding the policies that are not being followed.
8. Beayanka Narraine, parent, spoke on behalf of parents who came in support of Moylan Montessori becoming a magnet school.
9. Kimberly Danelsw, parent of students attending Moylan Montessori and the Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan, stated her support for the Montessori program.
10. Andrea Johnson, President of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, spoke to the Board about the Jumoke Academy school calendar that is not in alignment with Hartford Public Schools' calendar. She stated that there have been some difficulties since the inception of the school and those have become larger with time. Ms. Johnson stated that teachers met with Dr. Sharp to discuss extending the school year; these meetings took place without the participation of the Office of Talent Management. She stated that teachers are not in agreement with the items proposed by Dr. Sharp regarding the working conditions.

Ms. Johnson stated that she has received a letter from Dr. Kishimoto stating that Ms. Johnson has not worked hard enough to have the teachers on board with the proposals. Ms. Johnson stated that the HFT works on behalf of teachers to protect them so their rights are not violated. She stated that there is confusion on regards of the extended school year due that many teachers did not have knowledge of the extended year when they were hired. Ms. Johnson stated that the proposal included working twenty five additional days, including Saturdays, and taking only two

days off during the winter break. She requested that the original plan agreed by the committee is followed.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that a full committee meeting will take place with the commissioner. This meeting has been delayed due to the legislative session.

11. Michelle Chase, resident, stated that her children were outplaced to Bloomfield due to their special health care needs. She requested that a representative of the District is at the table during the meetings. She stated that having a representative is critical to collaborate with other systems of care.

Dr. Kishimoto recommended contacting Ms. Kennedy, Special Education Director, to identify another representative.

III. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Poland stated that the original plans to move the Adult Education program will not move forward. There will be discussion with educational leaders in the region about Adult Education needs, the resources available in the District, and whether the program will move into a new facility. The meetings will begin in April and a decision will be reported at a later time.

2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Kishimoto reported that Hartford has completed the standard on-time administration of the CMT/CAPT exam across all grade levels and content areas. Hartford is currently in a period of make-up exam for students who may have missed the exam, to we ensure that 100% of the students take the exam. Dr. Kishimoto thanked for teachers and staff for their hard work in the process and to ensure that the students are welcome and that they feel comfortable and not anxious about the exam which is an important part of the curriculum.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the Board is at its 5th year of the *Sheff* stipulation. Chairman Poland and Dr. Kishimoto participated in closed doors negotiations related to the extension of the stipulation agreement by one year. After the one year extension, negotiations will continue for future years.

There are a few items that have become public and were released to the Board for action. She explained that because these items were discussed behind closed doors, they could not be released to the public. More information will be forthcoming as the negotiations continue during the next four or six weeks.

Dr. Kishimoto introduced Mr. Christian Johnson, executive finance director, who presented the second quarter financials as to January 31, 2013.

General Budget Financial Report as of January 31, 2013:

For the seven-month period ending January 31, 2013, the District has expended a total of \$115.32 million or 40.6% of the 2012-13 General Fund Budget of \$284.0 million. Total encumbrances amount to \$40.48 million and represent 14.3% of the General Budget.

We are presently forecasting the following variances;

- A negative variance is forecasted in Student Transportation of \$1,300,233, or 6% of the student transportation budgets. During the first quarter report, the student transportation budget was forecasted with a negative variance of approximately \$350,000. The negative variance is forecasted to grow to \$1.3M due to increased demand for Group 2 Special Education student transportation.
- A positive variance in Fringe and Insurance of \$2,137,323, or 4.7% of fringe and insurance budgets. The variance is attributable to the following:
 - A positive variance of \$ 488,836 in pension obligations resulting from a favorable actuarial valuation reducing our annual required contribution to the MERF pension plan;
 - A positive variance of \$1,358,808 in Employee Health Insurance based on favorable health insurance claims submitted through January 31, 2013;
 - A positive variance of \$8,405 in Property and Liability Insurance;
 - A positive variance of \$ 281,273 in Contributions resulting from:
 - Higher than anticipated employee co-premium sharing totaling \$165,062;
 - Higher than anticipated state subsidies for retirees totaling \$116,211

Special Funds Financial Report as of January 31, 2013:

For the seven-month period ending January 31, 2013, we have expended a total of \$56.76 million or 45.7% of the 2012-13 Special Funds Budget of \$123.5 million. Total encumbrances amount to \$8.54 million and represent 6.9% of the 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: mandated services, healthcare claims, utility usage and rate volatility, and many other unknown or unforeseeable circumstances. We continue to monitor expenditures closely to ensure funds are expended as appropriate and in alignment with District priorities.

A copy of the full report can be found in the official file of this meeting.

3. Committee Reports

- Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. Wareing reported that the committee reviewed the second quarter finance report at full length. He stated that although the overall regular transportation expenditure is good, it is also creating a small deficit in the transportation line. The budget assumptions for next year will be more cautious and aligned with historical data rather than what we think we can save.

Mr. Wareing also spoke regarding the fringe benefits. He stated that in the past year, the District has accomplished some substantial savings out of the fringe benefits account, which was a result of a very aggressive management of the fringe benefit accounts. This year we will see some savings as well; however, there is a limit of how much we can save out of this account. He also spoke regarding financial challenges for future years.

- Policy Committee

Mr. Cotto reported that the policy committee met to review a set of policies in terms of adding a new category for gender identity and expression. This was done to align with recent State changes. The committee also discussed changes in the administrative regulations for the student expulsion policy and discussed the legislative agenda.

- School Choice and Facilities Committee

Ms. Noel stated that the committee met to review the Choice application and lottery update. The committee reviewed the details of the applications and the students' first choice. The committee also discussed the planning for Weaver treasures during construction. Ms. Noel stated that there are several items that are treasures in the building. The District is looking at places to use as storage for those items while the school undergoes construction.

IV. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Acceptance of Funds and Approval of Memorandum of Understanding: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation \$2,773,069 (Supt et al.)

Mr. Wareing moved; Ms. Noel seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for the fiscal management and disbursement of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the District-Charter Collaboration Grant.

Furthermore, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$2,773,069 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

VOTE

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

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Davila, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote.

2. Acceptance of Magnet Incubation Funds \$600,000 (Supt. et al)

Mr. Wareing moved; Ms. Hudson seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the incubation grant award of \$600,000 from the State Department of Education to secure a new location for Betances STEM for the 2013-2014 school year.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Davila, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Approval to Develop New *Sheff* Magnet Schools (Supt. et al)

Ms. Wareing moved, Ms. Hudson seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the development of the Montessori Magnet School at Moylan and the Hartford PreK Magnet School as new *Sheff* Magnets to open in the 2013-2014 school year.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Davila, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. First Reading: Various Hartford Public Schools Policies (Policy Committee)

The Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the revised Policy No. 4111.1 (4211.1) on Affirmative Action: Equal Employment Opportunity; Policy No. 4118.1 (4218.1) on Nondiscrimination; Policy No. 4118.3 (4218.3) on Harassment; Policy No. 5000 on Concepts and Roles in Students Policies; Policy No. 5162 on Nondiscrimination and Policy No. 5163(a) on Harassment.

No vote was needed at this time.

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

Mr. Wareing moved; Mr. Colon-Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the proposed 2014-15 School Calendar.

VOTE

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

Opposed: Noel

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Mayor Segarra, Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed by voice vote.

6. School Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

Mr. Wareing moved, Mr. Poland seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint the following individuals to the positions indicated:

- a. Marjorie Jackson to the position of Principal, M.D. Fox School, effective March 20, 2013.
- b. Ken O'Brien to the position of Principal, R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, effective July 1, 2013.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Davila, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

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

- c. Carol D. Birks to the position of Portfolio Director, effective June 3, 2013.
- d. Kathleen England to the position of Portfolio Director, effective May 20, 2013.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Davila, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Consent Agenda

Mr. Wareing moved; Mr. Poland seconded, that the Board approves the following consent agenda items:

- 8. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 18, 2012 (The Board)
- 9. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 20, 2012 (The Board)
- 10. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 16, 2012 (The Board)
- 11. Approval of the minutes of the special meeting held on September 25 (The Board)
- 12. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 18, 2012 (The Board)
- 13. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 28, 2012 (The Board)
- 14. Approval of the minutes of the special meeting held on August 1, 2012 (The Board)
- 15. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 25, 2012 (The Board)

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Davila, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

V. Executive Session

Mr. Wareing made a motion, Ms. Noel seconded, that the Board enter into executive session to discuss the appointment of a principal position. A quorum was present.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: McIntye, Rodriguez-Davila, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

The executive session adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.