

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Special Meeting – May 1, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, May 1, 2013. The meeting was held at McDonough Expeditionary Learning Academy, 111 Hillside Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Poland called the meeting to order at 5:56 p.m.

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

II. Business Agenda

1. Resolution: Adoption of the 2013-2014 General Budget - \$284,008,187 (Finance & Audit Committee)

The Connecticut General Statutes (CGS 10-222) requires that the appropriations for the General Operating Funds of the School District be approved by the Board of Education.

Mr. Poland moved, Mr. Wareing seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education adopts the FY 2013-14 General Budget in the amount of \$284,008,187, effective July 1, 2013.

Ms. Noel requested a list with the names of people for the schools that are meeting OSI and who are receiving performance pay.

Dr. Kishimoto stated the performance pay is based on contracts. The budget in front of the Board is for the 2013-14 and the amount allocated for OSI performance pay is a projection based on performance growth from the previous year. The results for 2012-13 will be available during the summer.

Ms. Noel asked regarding the reduction on the budget for Milner-Jumoke Academy while the enrollment projection is higher.

Ms. Altieri explained that the school will have \$1.7 million less for 2013-14. There are some funds that are sun-setting at the end of 2012-13. The one time fund that came from the State for technology and construction are coming to an end.

Ms. Noel asked if the budget will have adjustments due to student enrollment.

Ms. Altieri stated that this is part of SBB adjustment that is done every year. Enrollment per grade is examined and also the needs of the students whether they have special needs or ELL services, etc. The budget is adjusted upward or downward based on the school needs and is done with minimal disruption. The process is reviewed with each School Governance Council and principal for each and every school.

Ms. Noel asked if the college and career specialists are certified. She asked whether this was an opportunity to appoint someone who does not have certification for a lower salary.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that this is an opportunity to hire someone who can roll out multiple programming elements at the middle school level; there is the Hartford Promise work, the school choice, the course advancing work, etc. There are multiple aspects where it that may be better to have a college career specialist rather than a guidance counselor.

Ms. Dinnall oversees all guidance and college and career advising work. Ms. Dinnall also works with the schools to help them look at their needs ensuring that they have the appropriate staff providing services to the students.

Ms. Noel also requested the organizational charts for central office with the names of cabinet members listed.

Mr. Cotto stated that the finance team has been making things work in a difficult funding situation for a number of years. He stated that some parts of the budget are transparent and some parts are not. He stated that schools get the money and are told that that is the money they can spend, but in reality that is not the amount of money that they spend in the schools. He stated that that is the result of Choice. Other districts as West Hartford do not have choice and only have one budget.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that one of the actions that the Board took prior to adopting the Student Based Budgeting (SBB) process, was to look at the process of what it takes to run a school and matching that with SBB. The SBB was a philosophical approach of money following the child and at the same time turning the funding model upside down and putting the majority of the funds into schools. This was done by decreasing central office substantially by 180 positions in order to get to the point where 80% of the funds are in the schools. This is the second or third year where 80% of funds are in the schools. The challenge is, as the difficult fiscal situation continues in the City and in the State, to continue ensuring that 80% of the funds will remain in the schools.

Mr. Poland stated that the issues raised earlier could lead to an impression that there is something that is not quite appropriate in the way that we are funding the schools.

He recommended that the financial committee work with the finance team to develop a tutorial about how we operate individual schools.

Mr. Wareing stated that the Finance Committee will address the concerns regarding the SBB. Salaries and actual expenditures school-by-school will be examined with data including a couple of years back to check if there are disparities.

Mr. Wareing also addressed Mr. Cotto's comment regarding West Hartford having one centralized budget. He advised not to idealize other budget systems that may not work for Hartford. Going back to an old budget system may not be the most ideal move. He stated that the SBB system may not be perfect, but it is currently working in extremely difficult circumstances. He expressed his support for the budget as presented.

Mr. Poland stated that the Finance Committee will take on the task of reviewing the SBB process to learn whether there are systemic problems that can be fixed, or whether there are no disparities that can prove that the system works reasonably. He also stated that the SBB is a model of shared management of leadership of the budget.

VOTE

In favor: Hudson, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed by voice vote.

2. Resolution: Adoption of the 2013-2014 Recommended Special Funds Budget - \$130,562,648 (Finance & Audit Committee)

The Connecticut General Statutes (CGS 10-222) requires that the appropriations for the General Operating Funds of the School District be approved by the Board of Education.

Mayor Segarra moved, Mr. Wareing seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education adopts the FY 2013-14 Special Funds Budget in the amount of \$130,562,648, effective July 1, 2013.

VOTE

In favor: Hudson, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed by voice vote.

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.