

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – June 23, 2015

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, June 23, 2015. The meeting was held at Journalism and Media Magnet Academy, 150 Tower Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, 06112.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Mr. Wareing called the meeting to order at 5:42p.m. There was a quorum present.

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

III. Public Participation

1. Craig Wall, parent at Renzulli, expressed his disappointment at not having felt heard in regards to the Renzulli move.
2. Justin McGlamerry, parent at Renzulli, also felt disappointed in the administration for what he felt were broken promises.
3. Jarrad McGlamerry, parent at Renzulli, also spoke on her disappointment, at the location of the school, and on the children being with unsupervised adults.
4. Luz Collazo and Marta, parents at Kinsella, thanked central office for their work on the location of Kinsella Magnet High School.
5. Kristen Goff, parent at Renzulli, spoke on the HPS vision/mission on our website, and feeling they are not being applied to the situation at Renzulli. She feels that according to our vision/mission, high performing schools were to be autonomous, so there was no reason for Board/District intervention at Renzulli.
6. Beankey Pinckney, PTO President at Moylan Montessori, came to discuss SGC Elections. She feels that the policy states that the election is supposed to be in conjunction with the PTO, and she feels that was not done. She is asking for the election to be done over again.
7. Milly Arciniegas, Hartford Parent University, has been here about 15 years, and has seen parent engagement at all levels. She feels the policies on parent engagement need to be clear. Parents and students should be able to look at policy and provide input.
8. Calichi Melendez, Renzulli parent, also expressed her disappointment and lack of trust in the district's capabilities.

9. Shonta Browdy, Renzulli, felt that Renzulli parents have been extremely disrespected and is angry about the denial of an extra security guard.
10. Tiana Concepcion, Kinsella student and student body president, is excited about the new location of Kinsella Magnet High School.
11. Dr. Sandra Justin, Former president of the CT Science Supervisors Association, is here to give an award to Dr. Sandra Inga, the Fred J. Simone Outstanding Science Supervisor Award.
12. Andrea Johnson, President of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, sent a grievance to the superintendent, regarding a violation of the HFT bargaining agreement. Achievement Network, an outside vendor, came visit MD Fox School, and the staff was not notified.
13. Michael Downes, president of the Hartford Federation of Substitute Teachers, came to discuss the health insurance and sharing with the City of Hartford.
14. Michael Lanagan, teacher at Kinsella, spoke in encouragement of the move to Rensselaer.
15. Mary Manwearing, parent at Kinsella, spoke in encouragement of the move.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair
2. Report of the Superintendent
3. Committee Reports

- Finance & Audit Committee

Mr. Stallings editorialized his report, and spoke on the lack of equity in funding, on not believing the Board should help the City out of their debts, and the complexity of finances in the Hartford Public Schools.

- Parent and Community Engagement Committee

Dr. Best reported that the committee met on the violence at Clark bus stops, and looking at restorative justice practices district wide. They also met on the School Governance Council Principal search process, and making them even more effective.

- School Choice and Facilities Committee

The committee met on the items being presented on tonight's agenda. He will speak to them as they come up for vote.

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Administrative Appointments (Supt et al.)

Dr. Colon-Rivas made a motion; and Mr. Stallings seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint the following individuals to the positions indicated:

- a. Corinne Clark Barney to the position of Principal, Early Reading Lab at Betances School, effective July 1, 2015;
- b. Audrey Boutaugh, to the position of Principal, High School, Inc., effective July 1, 2015;
- c. Sheri Tanner to the position of Principal, STEM Magnet School at Annie Fisher, effective July 1, 2015.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Contract Approval: The CauseWay Agency \$350,000 (Supt et al.)

The Hartford Public Schools will contract with the CauseWay Agency in the next phase of the Choice Marketing and Recruitment campaign. The HBOE Choice Campaign requires an updated plan to meet the new demands of the current educational marketplace. A competitive RFP was issued on April 2, 2015 and a review committee recommended The CauseWay Agency.

Dr. Colon-Rivas made a motion; and Mr. Brescia seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the Causeway Agency for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016, at a cost not to exceed \$350,000, renewable annually for a term of three years.

Dr. Best expressed her concern over not just being bilingual, but bicultural as well. She added her concern over the word choice, as she feels it's not really a choice.

Ms. Rey stated this is more about the training, meaning educating the families on the choices, to make knowledgeable selections, and that leads to training on college selection.

Mr. Cotto stated his concern over spending money on marketing over funding schools, and how they are spending the money. Are there things that can be done for less, such as the online surveys.

Discussion over how this is more than just marketing, it is educating our community on our schools, on the process, on empowering them to learn and make their own educated choices.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Stallings, Best, Brescia

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote.

3. Approval of Site for Kinsella High School (Supt et al.)

As part of the Sheff negotiations Kinsella Magnet High School of Performing Arts was approved for expansion to a 9-12 high school and the Hartford Public School administration

has identified a property at 275 Windsor Street for the new school location. The faculty and school SGC have been consulted, and support this location.

The State Department of Education requires the grant application identifies a site for the new Kinsella Magnet High School of Performing Arts before the grant expires, June 30, 2015.

Mr. Brescia made a motion; and Dr. Colon-Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the site for Kinsella Magnet High School of Performing Arts.

Discussion over the concern that 'building' new schools will at some point lead to having to close others.

VOTE

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

Opposed:

Abstained: Stallings

Absent: Taylor, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote.

4. Contract Continuation Approval: Teachscape \$116,675 (Supt et al.)

Hartford Public Schools has contracted with Teachscape since March 2012. The 2015-16 school year, will mark Teachscape's fourth full school year of implementation. Teachscape is a web-based platform that supports HPS in its core business of teaching and learning. Services received include observation and evaluation system, and observation training and assessment. Benefits include paperless processing of evaluation documents, performance data reporting tool, and a professional learning resource.

Dr. Colon-Rivas made a motion; and Mr. Wareing seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Teachscape, Inc. for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016, at a cost not to exceed \$116,675.

Discussion over how Teachscape can be used better, collecting more behavior and discipline data, and tie it in to equity as a whole.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Stallings, Best, Cotto

Opposed: Brescia

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote

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

That the Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the following policies:

- a. Revised Policy No. 4111.1 - Affirmative Action: Equal Employment Opportunity
- b. Revised Policy No. 4112.8 – Nepotism: Employment of Relatives
- c. Revised Policy No. 4118.1 – Nondiscrimination

No vote was needed at this time.

B. Consent Agenda

Mr. Wareing made a motion to accept all items listed under consent agenda; and Mr. Brescia seconded:

6. Acting Administrative Appointments (Supt et al.)

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

- a. Desmond Caldwell to the position of Acting Principal, Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker, effective July 1, 2015;
- b. Maribel Corbett to the position of Acting Principal, M.D. Fox Elementary School, effective July 1, 2015.

7. Approval of Educational Specifications for the renovation of Martin Luther King Jr. School (Supt et al.)

On June 8, 2015, the Hartford City Council approved a resolution authorizing the City and Board of Education to apply for a School Construction Grant from the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services for up to \$68 million to renovate as-new the Martin Luther King Jr. School located at 25 Ridgefield Street, Hartford, CT. The State grant will reimburse the City for approximately 80% of eligible project costs. The application deadline for the School Construction Grant is June 30, 2015.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the educational specifications for the renovation of Martin Luther King Jr. School, at a cost not to exceed \$68 Million.

8. Approval of School Construction Plans and Ed042 Submittal – Clark School (Supt et al.)

The State Department of Construction Services, Office of School Facilities (OSF) requires that School Building Committees and Boards of Education certify that they have approved the final construction documents for school construction projects prior to OSF review of the plans. Once the plans are reviewed and approved by OSF, the projects are allowed to go out to bid.

At this time ARCADIS/O&G Program Management has reviewed and recommends approval of the construction package for the below listed activities which will advance the construction project being performed at the following school:

Clark School – State Project #TMP-064-PJCD
Phase 1 – Pilot Remediation Effort

That the Hartford Board of Education approves the final plans and authorizes the consultants to submit the documents for the Pilot Remediation phase of work for the above referenced school project, to the Office of School Facilities for their review and approval.

9. Contract Continuation Approval: the Connecticut Business & Industry Association Education Foundation / Lighthouse School Initiative Management Fee - \$110,736 (Supt et al.)

On June 17, 2014, the Hartford Board of Education approved Sarah J. Rawson School to be a Hartford Public Schools Lighthouse School. Rawson continues to develop its Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) model to improve student achievement, provide an exciting neighborhood school opportunity to new and existing families and contribute toward stabilizing the neighborhood's residential patterns. The Connecticut

Business & Industry Association Education Foundation (CBIA EF) will continue to manage the scope of this project.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association Education Foundation for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016, at a cost not to exceed \$110,736.

10. Contract Continuation Approval: American Appraisal \$183,000 (Supt et al.)

The Fixed Asset inventory will provide the HPS with an accurate record of its investment in fixed assets and also improve internal control over these assets and provide for an accurate insurance recovery in the case of a loss.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with American Appraisal, Inc. for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2019, at a cost not to exceed \$183,000.

11. Acceptance of Funds: Travelers Foundation Grant \$375,000 (Supt et al.)

Travelers is a long-standing funder of Hartford Public Schools. Through support via grant funding as well as extensive employee engagement in our schools, Travelers has been and is a major partner in advancing the priorities of the district focused on student achievement.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$375,000 from Travelers Foundation and allocate said funds according to agreed upon grant guidelines.

12. Acceptance of Funds: Travelers Grant/Ingenuity Fund \$137,000 (Supt et al.)

Travelers is Hartford Public Schools' top corporate donor and an active partner in the district's reform. The Ingenuity Fund is a source of funds for projects determined to be priorities of the district's strategic plan and which fall into the Traveler's funding guidelines.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$137,000 from the Travelers Ingenuity Fund which is held at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and allocate said funds according to agreed upon grant guidelines.

13. Reauthorization of Healthy Food Certification Statement

The Hartford Board of Education adopts the Healthy Foods and Beverages in Hartford Public Schools Policy and submits the Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2015-2016 stating "will meet said standards during the period of July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016".

14. Approval of the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2015-16 School Year (The Board)

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.