

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – June 25, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Tuesday, June 25, 2012. The meeting was held at Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School, 5 Cone Street, Hartford.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Poland called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

Chairman Poland accepted a motion from Mr. Wareing to change the order of the agenda to move the public dialogue and committee reports to follow the business agenda. Dr. McIntye seconded.

VOTE

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Wareing
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra, Rodríguez-Davila.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

II. Recognition of Students and Educator

2012 District-Wide Science Fair Winners: Dr. Kishimoto recognized the students and teachers who participated in the District Wide Science Fair.

National Merit Scholar: Charles Wentzell, Senior Student at the University High School of Science and Engineering

Teacher of Year: Keith Sevigny, Science Teacher, Annie Fisher STEM Magnet School

III. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

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

- a. Eduardo Genao to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Early Literacy and Parent Engagement, effective July 1, 2012.
- b. Michelle Puhlick, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, effective July 1, 2012.
- c. Tory Niles-Outler, to the position of Principal, Great Path Academy, effective July 1, 2012.

Ms. Noel made a motion to have the candidates introduced themselves to provide an opportunity for new Board members to meet the candidates; Mr. Colon-Rivas seconded.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Candidates introduced themselves to the Board and expressed their excitement for the opportunity given to work in their new leadership roles.

VOTE

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra, Rodríguez-Dávila

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Approval of Turnaround Team for Milner Elementary School (Supt. et al)

Mr. Wareing moved, Ms. Noel seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education appoints the following individuals to serve on the Turnaround Team for Milner Elementary School:

- a. Dr. Christina Kishimoto – Superintendent and Committee Chair
- b. Commissioner of Education or Commissioner's designee
- c. Kevin McCaskill, Hartford Public Schools – Administrative Rep
- d. Shay Teal, HPOC – Parent Rep
- e. Andrea Johnson, Hartford Federation of Teachers – Teacher Rep
- f. Jay Gutierrez, Hartford Federation of Teachers – Teacher Rep
- g. Joshua Hall, Hartford Federation of Teachers – Parent Rep

VOTE

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Approval of Educational Technology Plan for 2012 – 2015 (Supt. et al)

Every three years, in order to remain eligible for E-Rate funding, the Connecticut State Department of Education requires all districts to revise their Educational Technology Plan. Using the state template, the plan components were developed during January through April 2012, and reviewed and approved by our Regional Education Service Center as required. The final adopted plan needs to be submitted to the CSDE prior to July 1, 2012 in order to maintain E-rate eligibility.

Mr. Poland made a motion, Mr. Wareing seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Educational Technology Plan for 2012-2015.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

4. Approval of Facilities Use Agreement with High Roads at Simpson Waverly (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve and sign the Facility Use Agreement with High Road of Wallingford. The Agreement will allow HPS to exchange space at 55 Waverly Street for reduced tuition costs for HPS students.

5. Approval of Facilities Use Agreement with High Roads at 245 Locust Street (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve and sign the Facility Use Agreement with High Road of Wallingford. The Agreement will allow HPS to exchange space at 245 Locust St. for reduced tuition costs for HPS students.

Mr. Poland made a motion to table Item 4 and 5 until the August Board meeting. He explained that the agreements for both facilities are still in negotiation. Mr. Wareing seconded the motion.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion to table items 4 and 5 passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Second Reading and Adoption: Revised Policy 2151 Approval of Nominees for Administration Appointments (Policy Committee)

The Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the revised policy on Approval of Nominees for Administration Appointments.

Mr. Poland made a motion to table the item until the Board has an opportunity to discuss the policy draft during the Retreat scheduled for July. Mr. Wareing seconded the motion.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion to table the item passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Approval of the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2012-13 School Year (The Board)

Mr. Poland made a motion to suspend the Bylaws in order to change the start time for workshop meetings from 6:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mr. Wareing seconded.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Poland made a motion to approve the Board of Education meeting schedule for 2012-13 School Year as presented; Mr. Wareing seconded.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Consent Agenda

Ms. Noel made a motion to remove items 8, 9, 10 and 12 from the consent agenda to the business agenda to allow an opportunity for discussion on the items.

Mr. Poland explained that the difference between the items that are on the business agenda and those under the consent agenda is very clear. The items included in the consent agenda do not need further discussion. He requested voting individually on the motion to remove the items.

Ms. Noel made a motion to remove item number 8 from the consent agenda; Mr. Rodriguez-Davila seconded.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: Poland

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote.

Ms. Noel made a motion to remove item number 9 from the consent agenda; Mr. Colon-Rivas seconded.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: Poland

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote.

Ms. Noel made a motion to remove item number 10 from the consent agenda; Mr. Rodriguez-Davila seconded.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: Poland

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote.

Ms. Noel made a motion to remove item number 12 from the consent agenda; Mr. Rodriguez-Davila seconded.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: Poland

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote.

B. Consent agenda (continued)

Mr. Poland made a motion to move the items in the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Wareing seconded.

A. Contract Approval: Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth \$92,000 (Supt. et al)

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the contract with Johns Hopkins University – Center for Talented Youth for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2013, at a cost not to exceed \$92,000.

13. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 20, 2012 (The Board)

14. Approval of the minutes of the public hearing held on April 17, 2012 (The Board)

15. Approval of the minutes of the special meeting held on May 3, 2012 (The Board)

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Business Agenda (continued)

8. Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

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

- a. Monica Brase to the position of Principal, Latino Studies Academy at Burns School; effective July 1, 2012.
- b. Michael Maziarz to the position of Principal, Hartford Public High School Engineering and Green Technology Academy; effective July 1, 2012.
- c. James Motes to the position of Principal, Classical Magnet School; effective July 1, 2012.
- d. Dirk Olmstead to the position of Principal, Parkville Community School; effective July 1, 2012.
- e. Tayarisha Stone to the position of Principal, John C. Clark Elementary and Middle School; effective July 1, 2012.

Candidates shared their excitement and thanked the Board for the opportunity to work leading the schools.

Mr. Rodríguez-Davila stated that the Hispanic population represents 60% in the City and even a higher percentage in the schools, yet, they do not have representation. He stated that the District cannot find qualified Hispanic candidates to fill leadership positions.

Mr. Poland stated that School Governance Councils represent the broad representation of the schools' community. He stated that the schools have a system of working closely with the shareholders in the process of hiring of candidates.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. Acting Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

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

- a. Gerardo Heredia to the position of Acting Principal, America's Choice at SAND School; effective July 1, 2012.
- b. Marjorie Jackson to the position of Acting Principal, M.D. Fox School; effective July 1, 2012.
- c. Elaine Pappas to the position of Acting Principal, Journalism and Media Academy; effective July 1, 2012.
- d. Debra Wyrebek to the position of Acting Principal, Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School; effective July 1, 2012.

The candidates introduced themselves and thanked the Board for the opportunity given.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

10. Interim Administrative Appointment (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Irene Coe to the position of Interim Principal, R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts; for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the District received the late resignation of the principal at Kinsella Magnet School. Ms. Irene Coe, who is a retired principal who had served the District for many years, has accepted to fill the interim position. Ms. Coe will assist Kinsella's School Governance Council in the selection of the new principal during the fall.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Wareing recommended that the discussion regarding the vacancies for principal positions is included on the retreat agenda.

12. Approval of Revised Educational Specifications for the Renovation of Weaver High School (Supt. et al)

Since the approval of Educational Specifications for the renovation of Weaver High School in March of this year, enrollment projections have been revised downward from

1600 students to 1350 students. The City Council is considering a revised funding allocation of \$100 million in response to the reduction in enrollment. As the Educational Specifications must be submitted in support of the State construction grant application, which carries a June 30 deadline, approval of revised document by the Hartford Board of Education at its June meeting is required.

Mr. Wareing asked for the nature of the revisions made to educational specifications.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the difference is the adjustment of the number of students based in an enrollment projection study, also a decrease in the amount submitted to City Council. All the other specifications remain the same.

Ms. Noel stated that there are other changes including the renovation of the auditorium and associated spaces.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the renovation of the auditorium and the gymnasium were originally included. The only difference is that the Auditorium will have some work to ensure that is ADA compliant.

Ms. Noel raised concerns for the removal of the pool from Weaver.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the pool and the gymnasium are two spaces that are not part of the construction project; however, the intent is to have all of the pools in the City of Hartford to eventually go out for an RFP to have a third party manager running the pools after hours during the summer and evenings. The pools will be available for the community with opportunities for swinging lessons for Pre-K through 3 children and their parents.

Ms. Noel asked to change the language regarding the gym and the pool so there is no confusion.

VOTE:

In Favor: Colón-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Public Participation

1. Hyacinth Yennie, Advocate for children, read a petition signed by students from Hartford High. The petition asked for changing the schedule of the school to the normal high school schedule from 7:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Ms. Yennie also requested to increase the number of custodians at Hartford High. She stated that the building needs more maintenance.

2. Carlos Morales, SGC chair at Burns, spoke in support of the appointment of Ms. Brase to the principal position at Latino Studies Academy.

Dr. Kishimoto thanked Mr. Morales and the SGC members for their commitment during the selection of the new principal, also for engaging the school community in the process of selection.

3. Marie Rodriguez, parent at Kinsella, spoke to the Board on behalf of several parents in support of Ms. Totten Alvarado. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the students at Kinsella had raised scores during the leadership of Ms. Totten-Alvarado.
4. Mr. Jonathan, parent and a member of the SGC at Kinsella, spoke to the Board in support of Ms. Totten-Alvarado. He requested to the Board to reconsider letting Ms. Totten-Alvarado leave. He stated that the school has shown significant progress during her leadership.
5. Raquel Calderon, substitute teacher, spoke in support of Ms. Totten-Alvarado. She recommended reconsidering the decision to retire Ms. Totten-Alvarado.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that Kinsella will have an interim principal effective July 1st. Dr. Kishimoto will meet with the SGC to discuss the next steps moving forward.

6. Francisco Loubriel, parent, spoke in support of Ms. Totten-Alvarado. He asked the Board to reconsider the retirement of Ms. Totten-Alvarado.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the SGC is transitioning at Kinsella, but she will meet with the current SGC to discuss the next steps

7. Andrea Johnson, President of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, spoke on behalf of the Chapter members of the HFT which are the health professionals, the secretaries, the child development associates and special police officers. She stated that they all pay into the MERF, the City's pension plan. She raised concerns for recent negotiations that are taking place for the health professionals which include new rules for new health professionals who will no longer be able to contribute to the MERF. Instead they will receive a contribution pension plan.
8. Jackie Aviles, CoPresident of the Hartford Federation of Paraprofessionals, spoke to the Board regarding the pension. She stated that the paraprofessionals' federation is not in support of changes to the pension plan. The collective bargaining agreements do not include pension issues. She stated that including those in the negotiation is an unfair labor practice and recommended the board to reconsider the decision to change the pension plan.
9. Gabriel Nieves, student at Kinsella, spoke to the Board in support of Ms. Totten-Alvarado. He recommended retaining Ms. Alvarado in the school.
10. Maria Vargas, parent at Kinsella, spoke in support of Ms. Totten-Alvarado and recommended reconsidering the decision to change the principal at Kinsella.
11. Carmen Rodríguez, resident, spoke to the Board regarding a lawsuit that took place in 1968 between the City of Hartford, the Hartford community and the Police Department. The lawsuit resulted in an agreement in which the City promised the opening of a Police Academy. She spoke to the Board in support

of the creation of a Police Academy at Quirk.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that there is ongoing dialogue with the City and the Hartford Public Schools regarding opening an additional Public Safety Academy. There is one safety academy run regionally through CREC and is located in Enfield.

HPS is committed to open the Law and Government Academy dedicated to public safety with a group of 75 to 100 students starting in August. Dr. Kishimoto explained that the school is starting with a conservative number because the school run by CREC is not filling their seats. The District will need to know if there is a demand for a larger number of seats. If the seats are filled for the first year and for each consecutive year, then the school will be rolled into a separate academy, if there is a full demand for 400 seats. 400 is the minimum number needed to substantiate a separate academy.

12. Levey Kardulis, parent, expressed his disapproval for the Board voting on items before hearing the public comments. He also spoke to the Board regarding the shortage of custodians at Milner and at several other schools. He spoke regarding the inequity of funding between magnet schools and neighborhood schools.

Mr. Kardulis also spoke regarding special education students and ELL students. He stated that these students have more needs yet there is less funding and less resources available for them.

13. Alyssa Peterson, spoke to the Board in support of the creation of the Public Safety Academy. She stated that the City of Hartford was under a court order to hire more minorities for their police department. The City will put extra efforts to bring more minority candidates who are prepared to apply to the police department. She referred to an article in the Courant from April 2012, which states that the academy was being created for 2012. She requested a formal letter or statement regarding future plans for the Police Academy.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.