

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, August 28, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, August 28, 2012. The meeting was held at the Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker, 440 Broadview Terrace, Hartford, Connecticut 06106.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Ms. Hudson called the meeting to order at 5:52 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

II. Public Participation

1. Marilyn Jusino, Kinsella parent, spoke to the Board regarding an issue that her child had with a teacher at Kinsella Magnet school. Ms. Jusino stated that the teacher was disrespectful to the student and her. She met with the principal and the teacher, but the issue has not been resolved.

Dr. Kishimoto asked Ms. Jusino to meet with the assistant superintendent to address the matter.

2. Hyacinth Yennie, resident and advocate for children, spoke to the Board regarding the starting time for high schools. She recommended changing the bell time so the students can attend after school programs and still being able to work part time. The current schedule does not allow for the students to work part time or participate in sports.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that this item will be revised during the fall for the following school year. The entire school bus transportation will have to be looked at. Making a change will impact on the schedule of every school in the District. Principals and parents will be invited to the conversation.

3. Levy Kardulis, parent, expressed his disapproval for the difference between neighborhood schools and magnet schools. He stated that the magnet school buildings have more funding and they are well kept, neighborhood schools receive less funding so their buildings are usually neglected.

Mr. Kardulis also raised concerns for the lack of supplies for custodians. He stated that there is a shortage of supplies and personnel. He stated that custodians worked hard at nights and on weekends to have the schools ready for the first day of school, yet they have not receive the supplies to keep the schools well maintained.

4. Hestenina Soto and Latoya Thompson, HPOC members, introduced the new HPOC Council members. They expressed their commitment for working collaboratively with the District.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that there is conflicting information regarding the new leadership. She stated that it is very important for the administration to have a working relation with the HPOC leadership. She stated that two different groups are claiming to be the new leadership. Dr. Kishimoto requested to meet with both groups in order to recognize the new leadership for HPOC. She stated that it is important to reach an agreement between the groups, a united parent leadership is very important to continue the collaborative work.

5. Thais Ortolaza, PTO at Naylor, raised concerns regarding the mandatory logo for school uniforms. She stated that getting the t-shirts with logos is very expensive as opposed to getting plain t-shirts at retail stores. She recommended having the logos sold separately so they can be sewn or ironed.

Mr. Cotto invited Ms. Ortolaza to the Policy Committee to discuss the current policy on school uniforms.

6. Milly Arciniegas spoke on behalf of a parent at Milner. She stated that the parent was offered a position at Milner but since the turnaround took place, the offer was dropped. She stated that the parent dedicated several hours of volunteer work for the school. She recommended looking at the issue and correcting it.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that she was not aware of the issue. She asked Ms. Arciniegas to share the details so the administration can follow up.

Ms. Arciniegas, parent, spoke to the Board regarding the reading scores. She stated that while there are some areas to celebrate, there are other areas that need attention. She referred to a report sent by the district which showed a 20 points difference for reading in third grade between some of the schools. She stated that the information on test scores need to be available for parents so they know where the students are in reading. She also recommended going back to the old matrix system that showed the growth in comparison with the previous year.

Ms. Arciniegas also raised concerns for the schools uniforms being expensive and not accessible to parents.

7. Cureene Blake, Classical magnet parent, spoke to the Board regarding the improvements in the Welcome Center. She stated that the new location is more accessible to parents and students with more space and more personnel. Ms. Blake also raised concerns for the communication and the information available for parents. She stated that parents do not have easy access to the resources in the schools. She recommended improving parental involvement in the schools. She stated that principals need to understand that parental involvement is key for student success.
8. Shontá Browdy, parent, raised concerns for the school uniforms and the logos that some schools are requesting. She stated that logos make school uniforms more expensive. Ms. Browdy concurred with a comment made earlier regarding cleaning supplies. She stated that some schools are struggling with maintaining the buildings clean due to the lack of cleaning supplies.

Ms. Browdy recommended improving the partnership with the Library and the school system so parents are aware of the resources available in the Library. She asked that parents be invited to participate in the activities and events held there.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the school year started with an event that had over 700 participants between the school and the library staff. She stated that there is a strong interest on building the

partnership with the library. She stated that another area of that partnership is the building of library branches in the schools.

Ms. Browdy also talked about the partnership with UCONN and the after school program at Renzulli. She recommended having the agencies working in the schools following the same standards that teachers follow when working with children.

9. Shellye Davis, Hartford Federation of Paraprofessionals, spoke on behalf of her organization in support of continuing working collaboratively with the administration. Ms. Davis stated that Dr. Kishimoto showed during her first year leading the District, that management and union can cooperate for the good of the students of the City of Hartford. Ms. Davis also stated that the union has some issues that are being dealt with human resources regarding Milner.
10. Andrea Johnson, President of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, raised concerns for changing the name of Thirman L. Milner School to Jumoke Academy at Milner. She stated that the administration and instruction will follow the Jumoke model, which is a charter school, but Milner is a Hartford Public School, so it should be listed by its official name. She recommended adding the description of the model following the official name. She stated that changing the name of the school is disrespectful to the person for whom the school was named for. The schools were named after people who made great contributions to the City of Hartford. Students who attend the school should have the knowledge of who the school was named for.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that this issue was raised earlier by Ms. Johnson. She stated that when the name of the school is decided, the name is reviewed by the school design team. There is no intention to not emphasize the name of the school, the intention is to emphasize that there is an academy "at", the name of the school.

Ms. Johnson stated that names of the academies at Hartford High and Bulkeley follow the official name of the school.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the name of the school and the history of the naming of the school are extremely important. The current Board and the prior Board made the decision to not change the name of school buildings. There are not current suggestions at the table regarding changing the name of a school.

11. Rosa Morales, resident, spoke to the Board regarding maintenance of school grounds. She stated that custodians cut and leave the grass by the curve, the rain and wind move the leaves and they crowd the drainers. She asked for the custodians to clean the drainers.
12. Paul Holzer, Achieve Hartford!, commented regarding the first day of school. He stated that it was a great opportunity to see the students and the staff during the first day of school. He also stated his support for the move of the welcome center to a bigger space that can accommodate more parents, and also for the creation of the Early Literacy and Parental Involvement Department with a cabinet level position. He talked about communication and recommended improving communication with parents and community organizations.

Mr. Holzer introduced his organization. Achieve Hartford! is an independent organization of business and community leaders supporting effective and sustained school reform in the Hartford Public Schools. Achieve Hartford drives accountability for results through the analysis of student achievement and school performance data, and the evaluation of student based budgeting and

school governance councils. Achieve Hartford! also promotes the engagement of all stakeholders for school improvement.

III. Reports

1. Report of the Superintendent

- First Day of School Report

Dr. Kishimoto reported that the first day of school was outstanding thanks to the teachers who worked to have the classrooms set up to welcome 22,000 students back to the District. She also thanked the custodians for having the schools ready and in great condition.

Within 30-40 minutes into the day, students were already engaged in content based learning. 3 schools were visited during the school bus tour and 5 additional schools will be visited the following day as part of Dr. Kishimoto's scheduled visits to schools on Wednesday's mornings.

Dr. Kishimoto also thanked the community members who participated in the first day of school bus tour. Participants included Board members, City Council members, business partners, non-profit leaders and administration.

The teachers' convocation took place on August 27. 1,700 plus teachers and principals attended the event.

- Opportunity High School Move Update

Dr. Kishimoto reported that the lease for 874 Asylum was discontinued for the present year. She stated that the Board has made a commitment to decreasing the number of leases and increasing and maximizing the use of the existing buildings.

Opportunity High moved during the summer into the building on Washington Street. It is sharing the building with Adult Education. Several activities took place to ensure that the building was ready for the students to come to the building. The updates included the demolition of some walls to accommodate the school, also included the replacement of ceiling and floor tiles, work on the floor and furniture, security system, light fixtures, among others. There is still more work to be done.

Mr. Cotto raised his concerns for mixing two groups of populations. He stated that mixing the two schools in one building can create conflict between the two groups. He asked for the measures taken to ensure that each school has a distinct area. He also requested an update to be provided in January.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that an update can be provided regarding the move. She stated that the District is supporting both schools so they can work together without conflicts, if there is conflict, it can be resolved quickly. Both schools will have floors and unique spaces. Adult Education is in the first floor exclusively and Opportunity High is in the second and third floor exclusively. They have separate stairways, separate security system, separate resources, and unique classroom spaces that belong to each of the program.

An update on new developments and opportunities for Adult Education will be provided at an upcoming workshop.

- Overview of State Commissioner of Education Message

A report provided by the Commissioner of Education focused on providing high levels support across the State for turnaround schools. Milner is one of the turnaround schools that the State is working in partnership with the District. There will be additional grants and funding opportunities for Districts to do reform related work.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that Hartford Public Schools was acknowledged by the Governor and the Commissioner of Education for the quality of the reform work, for the turnaround plan for Milner, and for being successful in two other turnaround grant opportunities for the opening of an additional family resource center at Clark, and for additional funds for early literacy targeted for Burns Elementary School.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the Commissioner also made a presentation regarding Common Core and what is coming down the line. He asked the Districts to get ready and start integrating the common core standards into the curriculum. Hartford Public Schools has been doing it for years and will continue to develop the curriculum and assessment in alignment with common core.

- Superintendent's Priorities for Quarter One

One of the Superintendent's priorities is the weekly visits to the schools to meet with parents and teachers in the classrooms to get their feedback.

October is the College Awareness month for Hartford Public Schools. There are several activities and programs related to the work around college, advising and awareness for six through twelve grades.

Community forums will continue this year. Dr. Collins-Ayanlaja will join the Superintendent for the forums, and she will also hold forums as the Chief Academic Officer. Five community forums were held in the previous year, related to the Strategic Operating Plan.

Dr. Kishimoto will be reaching out thoroughly to get input into the Parent and Engagement Plan framework. The plan will be brought to the Board for discussion at a later time.

2. Committee Reports

- Human Resources Committee

Mr. Colón-Rivas reported that the Human Resources committee met during executive session to discuss the results of Dr. Kishimoto's end of the year performance evaluation. The final report will be presented to Dr. Kishimoto before September.

- Policy Committee

Mr. Cotto stated that the Policy committee met to discuss the Acceptable Use policy. Committee members also discussed the grading policy and the credit recovery program.

IV. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

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

- a. Dolores Cole to the position of Executive Director of Early Literacy and Parent Engagement; effective August 29, 2012.
- b. Doreen Crawford to the position of Principal, Jumoke Academy at Milner; effective August 20, 2012.

Mr. Cotto asked for the organizational chart for the executive director of Early Literacy to see where it fits with the Central Office organization.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the executive director reports to the assistant superintendent for early literacy and parent engagement. This position has a director of literacy who reports to Ms. Cole along with two principals from the Early Reading Lab at Betances and Burns.

Mr. Cotto asked if the School Governance Council for Milner had a process for the selection of the principal.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that a different process was used for Milner. She stated that the turnaround plan submitted to the State included the work of the SGC. Due to changes in the membership of the SGC, the principal was not selected following the regular process. She stated that the turnaround plan identifies the leader as someone who has the Jumoke Academy experience. The turnaround plan was signed off from everyone at the table and has five letters of support from the School Governance Council parents.

Mr. Cotto stated his disagreement with the process that did not follow the policy for the redesigning of schools and the process for selection of principals.

Mr. Cotto asked if Hartford Public Schools has any agreement with the Jumoke Academy and whether there is any financial obligation. He also asked if the principal will report to the Jumoke Academy.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that a management agreement contract is being drafted for the implementation of the Jumoke design that focuses primarily in the curriculum and parent engagement structure that they use. The principal reports to the superintendent and will remain a HPS employee along with all the teachers in the school. Thirman L. Milner remains a HPS.

Mr. Cotto requested a copy of the management agreement.

Mayor Segarra stated his support for both appointments.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Hudson, Mayor Segarra, McIntye

Opposed: 0

Abstain: Cotto, Rodriguez-Davila

Absent: Noel, Poland, Wareing

The motion passed by voice vote.

2. Contract Approval: MRW Connected, LLC - \$200,000 (Supt. et al)

Mr. Cotto moved; Ms. McIntye seconded, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with MRW Connected, LLC, for the 2013-2014 Choice Marketing and Recruitment Campaign; for the term of August 28, 2012 through June 29, 2013; at a cost not to exceed \$200,000.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the marketing contract for the Choice Campaign comes to the Board annually. This year the marketing approach is being combined for Choice to focus in all the schools with one marketing campaign. The RFP was issue with that development. There were several responses for the RFP. The selection was made based in the application and the presentation.

Mayor Segarra asked for the contract with Bauza and whether the contract with them is for a different marketing campaign. He asked if MRW Connected is Hartford based.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that Bauza was successful for the previous year. The RFP is issued every year for the marketing campaign. MRW was selected this year. They are based in Massachusetts. MRW was also contracted for the development of the HPS website.

Ms. McIntye asked if there were any Hartford based companies that applied to the RFP.

Mr. Genao stated that there were other Hartford based companies; Bauza was one the companies that applied. The selection was made based in the proposal and presentation.

Mr. Cotto stated that HPS has a constitutional obligation to provide a free, equal education. He asked for the reason why the schools need to be advertised.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that Hartford has a system of schools that are choices that families need to be exposed to. The marketing approach is about the exposure of all of the school options that families have. Under the *Sheff* agreement, Hartford is obligated to provide access and information about the magnet options. The State also advertises the magnet options.

Mr. Cotto stated that one of the results of a demographic study is that the option or theme of a school is not relevant, magnets are far more attractive.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the issue of choices has many complications, so the District needs to make it as simple as possible for parents. *Sheff* brings a complication to a set of information that parents receive about the *Sheff* related options. That information cannot be one-sided. Families need to know the other options as well.

The demographic study is not intended to be a study about any type of research based question that provide these conclusions. The demographic study was meant to provide a demographic report so decisions can be made regarding the schools that need to be shut down, expanded, or built. It helps understand what is happening in the community in terms of the demographic. It is not a choice study.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Hudson, Mayor Segarra, McIntye

Opposed: Cotto

Abstain: Rodríguez-Dávila

Absent: Noel, Poland, Wareing

The motion passed by voice vote.

3. Contract Continuation Approval: Northwest Evaluation Association - \$276,600 FY 2012-13, \$225,400 FY 2013-14 (Supt. et al)

Dr. Kishimoto introduced the item. Northwest Evaluation Association will contract with the Hartford Public Schools to provide testing and reporting services, commonly referred to as Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). The MAP test supports the District's systematic intervention plan. The results will establish a baseline and allow educators to identify learners in need of additional support.

Mayor Segarra moved; Mr. Colón-Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the continuation of the contract with Northwest Evaluation Association, for the period of August 28, 2012 through August 27, 2013, at a cost not to exceed \$276,600; and for the period of August 28, 2013 through August 27, 2014, at a cost not to exceed \$225,400.

Mayor Segarra asked if the program had been evaluated for the first two years of implementation.

Ms. Frederick stated that this is the first year of implementation with a computer adapted testing. The test was expanded for 2nd through 12th grade in the previous year; 26 schools participated and approximately 3,800 students were tested. The evaluation was that the schools found it very helpful and they were able to use the data to identify the students in more need of intervention; and identify how the school was doing overall in relation to the common core standard.

Ms. McIntye asked for the number of students covered by the contract.

Ms. Frederick stated that all students will be tested, from 1st grade through 12th grade.

Mr. Cotto asked for how the results are used.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the assessment is to inform the teachers. They receive immediate feedback by student so they can use it to address instruction. The assessment also provides the District with information on how well the students are doing at mastering with the common core standards.

Mr. Cotto raised concerns for purchasing an expensive system that replicates what teachers have been doing for years. He asked if that is an indication about the ability of teachers to assess students and their needs.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that teachers find this to be an important tool that they can use to be able to monitor progress.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Hudson, Mayor Segarra, McIntye, Rodriguez-Davila

Opposed: Cotto

Abstain: 0

Absent: Noel, Poland, Wareing

The motion passed by voice vote.

4. Contract Continuation Approval: SunGard Public Sector - \$118,125 (Supt. et al)

Performance Plus is a web-based, district-wide system that assists educators to track and analyze student performance against State standards; map and manage curriculum as well as build and administer local online benchmark assessments. Performance Plus arms educators with information to make data driven decisions that enhance instruction and increase both individual student achievement as well as overall district achievement.

Mr. Cotto moved; Mayor Segarra seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the continuation of the contract with SunGard Public Sector, for the period of August 28, 2012 through August 27, 2013; at a cost not to exceed \$118,125.

Mr. Cotto stated that he is familiar with SunGard program. He stated that the program is helpful to compare results from different assessments. He asked if the program can be connected with Powerschool.

Ms. Frederick stated that the program has the capability to connect with Powerschool. There are nightly feeds to keep the data fresh for all results from CMT, CAPSS, SAT, and PSAT. Any teacher working with the students have the information at hand.

Mr. Colón-Rivas asked if any evaluations have been conducted for contracts over the last three years.

Ms. Frederick stated that she is not aware that a formal evaluation has been conducted. She stated that the District seek for the principals' feedback.

Mr. Colón requested that the program is evaluated and to get a report on the usage of the programs. He also asked for the protocol for new teachers.

Ms. Frederick stated that new teachers receive training. Information that is currently available will be presented to the Board.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Hudson, Mayor Segarra, McIntye, Rodriguez-Davila

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Noel, Poland, Wareing

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. First Reading: Revised Policy No. 4118.6 Acceptable Computer Network Use - Employee Use of Technology (Policy Committee)

The Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the revised policy on Acceptable Computer Network Use.

Mr. Cotto stated that the policies on Acceptable Computer Use for Employee and Students are presented first reading. He requested feedback from the Board and the public.

6. First Reading: Revised Policy No. 5171.1 Acceptable Computer Network Use and Internet Safety for Students (Policy Committee)

The Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the revised policy on Acceptable Computer Network Use and Internet Safety.

B. Executive Session

Ms. Hudson accepted a motion from Mr. Colón-Rivas to enter into executive session to discuss the job performance of a principal. Ms. McIntye seconded.

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

The Executive Session adjourned at 8:38 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

C. Consent Agenda

Mr. Colón-Rivas made a motion; Mr. Rodríguez-Dávila seconded that the Board of Education approves the agenda items listed under consent agenda:

7. Acting Administrative Appointment (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Jay Mihalko to the position of Acting Principal, Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School; effective August 6, 2012.

8. Resolution: Authorized Signatures – Child Nutrition Programs (The Board)

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes Superintendent Christina Kishimoto or in her absence, Alexander Nardone, Chief of Staff, to sign claims for reimbursement and required reports for Child Nutrition Programs.

9. Grant Submission / Acceptance of Funds: Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grant \$40,000 (Supt et al.)

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to submit the grant application and to accept funds in the amount of \$40,000 from the Connecticut State Department of Education / Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grant; for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

10. Approval of School Construction Projects as Complete and ED049F Submittal (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves as complete the Richard J. Kinsella Magnet School - State Project # 064-0292 MAG/EA; the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy - State Project # 064-0279 MAG/N, and the University High School - State Project # 064-0287 MAG/N; and accepts the afore mentioned school projects for public school purposes;

Furthermore, the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute and submit the ED049F applications to the Bureau of School Facilities for review and approval.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Hudson, McIntye, Rodríguez-Dávila

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.