

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – September 18, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, September 18, 2012. The meeting was held at Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker, 440 Broadview Terrace, Hartford, Connecticut 06106.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Poland called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

II. Public Participation

1. Shontá Browdy, parent, spoke to the Board regarding the confusion created due to the formation of two Hartford Parent Organization Councils (HPOC). She stated that the confusion was originated when elections were conducted in violation of the Bylaws. She stated that the Superintendent met with both groups to try to resolve the misunderstanding. She requested support from the administration to host elections to identify the new parent leaders. She concluded recognizing the new parent group wanting to take over, but explained that many parents have raised concerns regarding the way the elections were held.

Ms. Browdy also raised her concerns regarding transportation and the Choice program. She stated that there is a difference in the way how concerns raised by Hartford parents versus suburban parents are addressed. She requested equality for all.

2. Ivette Diana, parent, stated that she has been involved with Hartford Public Schools for over 21 years, and has served on PTO leaderships, SGC’s and various community groups throughout Hartford. She stated that she is the current elected president for HPOC. HPOC is an independent organization made of PTO leaders across the District. They held monthly meetings but they have not been held lately due to the confusion created by the two groups. She stated that the new council has provided evidence that the election was conducted according to the Bylaws. She requested an opportunity to work for the parents and on behalf of the students.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that she met with each leadership to discuss the situation. She reiterated her offer to meet with both groups and an independent mediator to come to an understanding. The goal is to have a strong parent organization and parent leaders.

3. Michael Downes, President of the Hartford Federation of Substitute Teachers, expressed his support for the appointment of Dr. Slater, and also stated his concerns regarding an issue concerning the delay in notification for the termination of a substitute teacher; he also commented on a delay on payments for substitute teachers.

4. Paul Holzer, Executive Director of Achieve Hartford!, spoke to the Board about the Choice Education Program. A program will be launched in partnership with the School Choice Office to address the Choice application process. 12 parents will receive training on the process so they are able to assist other parents in the District. He also stated that Achieve Harford will conduct parent workshops and invite parents to attend.

III. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Ms. Poland reported that Annie Fisher STEM magnet school was named the blue ribbon school of United States. He congratulated the principal, staff, parents, and students. A formal recognition will take place at a later meeting.

Mr. Poland reported that the leadership of the Board met with Dr. Kishimoto and folks from the *Sheff* movement to get an update on future plans for *Sheff*. He stated that the Board is in active conversation with them. Board members Mr. Cotto and Ms. Noel represent the Board and are involved with the *Sheff* movement in regular basis.

2. Report of the Superintendent

- Federal Grant Raise to the Top Grant Application

The Race to the Top Grant application is an application for 20-30 million dollars to go towards districts engaged in high level reform work. A team has been assigned for each component of the application. There is a very short time to turnaround the application. The application has to be submitted by October 15, and will be reviewed and signed off by the Mayor and the Commissioner of the Education.

Dr. Kishimoto presented a powerpoint regarding the framework of the application. A copy of the presentation is located in the official file for this meeting.

3. Committee Reports

- Human Resources Committee

Mr. Colon-Rivas stated that the Human Resources committee met to discuss matters regarding the recruitment and selection process, and recruitment priorities. Recruitment priorities have four components: to develop recruitment and selection system that is highly effective, the establishment of an infrastructure and pipeline for deans, assistant principals and principal recruitments, selection and matriculation; diverse timelines with emphasis on attracting educators of colors and other groups, and collection and analysis of data to identify trends for new hires.

- Policy Committee

Mr. Cotto stated that the Policy committee met to review the uniform policy. He stated that parents raised concerns regarding the logos. The committee met to review the policy and discuss the issue. The uniform policy will be revised and there will be some adjustments to accommodate more parents.

The committee also reviewed the policies on acceptable use of computers for staff and students. These policies are items number 5 and 6 on the current agenda and are being presented for second reading and adoption.

5. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Administrative Appointment (Supt. et al)

Mr. Wareing moved; Ms. Noel seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Donald Slater to the position of Chief Operating Officer; effective October 1, 2012.

Board members expressed their contentment for the nomination of Dr. Slater to the Chief Operating Officer position.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: Cotto

Absent: Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Contract Continuation Approval: College Board \$100,000 (Supt. et al)

During the 2011-2012 school year, Hartford Public Schools and College Board partnered to provide free SAT preparation and testing to all HPS Juniors and all HPS Seniors in intervention and redesign schools. Due to the success of this partnership, Hartford Public Schools would like to continue this partnership for the 2012-13 school year.

Mr. Wareing moved; Mr. Cotto seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve and sign the contract with College Board for the term delineated in the contract ending September 30, 2013, at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.

Ms. Noel raised her concerns regarding the implementation and the use of the term successful when there are three schools where over 30% of the students got in the 200's. She also stated that magnet schools are performing well, but the data presented included suburban students, so it makes it difficult to find out how Hartford students are performing.

Ms. Noel also disagreed for having all the students taking the SAT's to have results of 40% of the students walking into a failing situation and spending \$100,000 to do so. She concluded stating that many students who score low can look at opportunities at community colleges and they do not need to take SAT's.

Mr. Wareing concurred with Ms. Noel regarding the use of the term successful. He stated that this is an important issue that needs to be continually addressed so the students do better in the future.

Mr. Cotto stated that there are fewer schools that required SAT's; more schools are looking at the quality of the school curriculum in high school. Schools also look at the students and their interests, talents and abilities, and the extracurricular internship opportunities that they had.

Mr. Cotto raised concerns for having juniors and seniors taking a test that may not actually fit with their particular plans. He stated that he would not want to discourage students from taking the SAT's if they will be going to college; however, low score may in fact discourage students from going to college.

Mr. Cotto also stated that families with low or moderate income can get fee waivers for SAT's and they can apply to take it for free. He concluded stating that he is not against SAT's, but recommended finding a better way to spend the resources in something other than the SAT's.

Mr. Rodríguez-Dávila stated that the previous Board made a decision to raise the bar. A core class curriculum was implemented along with the support, intervention and investment. The results of those interventions were supposed to provide a student body that would score well in the SAT's. It did not work as planned. He raised his concerns for renewing a contract when an evaluation for the services provided last year has not been provided to the Board yet.

Mr. Colon-Rivas stated that he is not opposed to the SAT, but he advised to be careful when considering the same implementation for this year when the payoff was not as expected. He recommended changing the implementation of strategies.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the first year of implementation was to provide a baseline to know where the students were standing. It was known that they were not performing well. The commitment was made to use the data as a baseline to plan the implementation for 2012-13. The implementation was successful in terms of the goal to identify how the students were performing, and also to be able to plan the work with the faculty to rollout the support for 2012-13.

The baseline was created by administering the test and working with College Board around the alignment with the curriculum; the faculty was able to receive training to work with students on individualized basis through their student success plans. It is also tide tide to the college readiness approach and the Hartford promise work.

The design provides transparency around the data on how the students are performing, the program focused on how to increase students' performance on the SAT's, and to be able to talk about performance in the context of their access to college. This was part of a larger college and career readiness framework which will be presented to the Board at a later time.

The timeline was set for the implementation of the SAT and it was part of the goal set last year for college and career readiness. Data regarding the percentage points that needed to be raised was not available because there was no baseline. There were students who were self-selected to take SAT's, as well as students delaying taking the SAT's, therefore, delaying their college application. This is an area of support that the District wanted to provide for students and families around understanding the whole college process.

Equally important was to have access to the PSAT data because the conversations begin in the sophomore years around scholarships that are available to students based on their PSAT results, and understanding how to focus the strategies to being able to raise those results.

Ms. Noel recommended that all the students take the PSAT. She also requested the data for 2011 to be able to compare.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that all of the sophomores took the PAST. She stated that the District does not have to pay for the PSAT that every sophomore takes. She added that every rising junior this year has a PSAT score and every junior and rising senior have a SAT score. This is the first year when data is available for each individual student on how they performed on the PSAT. Students will be able to compare and plan through the college advising process.

Dr. Kishimoto also stated that there is excitement from parents in support for this item.

Ms. McIntye stated that the Board understands the value of the process; the problem is in the execution. She requested clarification on how the data is received; how the information is relayed to students; and the type of counseling process offered. She also requested an explanation on how success is defined and how it will look at the end of the year.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the counseling and advising process framework is being developed internally with principals. It is an eight-component process based on national standards for college and career advising and guidelines. The discussion around the framework will be set during the budget cycle due to the financial implications that need to be addressed to ensure that is fully funded for the following year.

Dr. Kishimoto added that success will be achieved by having the students set individual goals for raising their scores. The other component is the rollout of professional development work with high school teachers regarding understanding the reports and map it back to their curriculum.

Mr. Poland stated that this is the first item under discussion and there are significant reservations that are being expressed. He concurred with Ms. McIntye regarding her question on how to roll this forward. He added that it is too early for the Board to make a commitment before seeing the framework. He also expressed his concerns regarding the financial implications and other issues present in the schools. He stated that the Board is being asked to move on a significant investment for an item that is not part of an official plan. He asked if there was urgency on moving forward with the contract.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the in-school test dates need to be set, the contract allows the administration of the test at each school, during the school day. Students do not have to register or have to take it on a Saturday. This removes the typical barriers in taking the test and having it as part of the curriculum. The administration of the test is set for the fall, so there is urgency around passing this item.

Dr. Kishimoto also stated that when the three strategic goals were set, some of the data points that are important were identified in order to build out frameworks. This is one of the data points that the Board discussed. There are some frameworks that will be available up front, but not for every component of the work that the administration is performing.

Mr. Poland recalled the original motion.

VOTE:

In favor: Wareing
Opposed: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila
Abstained: McIntye
Absent: Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion failed.

Ms. McIntye stated that parents are very invested in this process. The Board understands the value of the process, but a critical part is to get a return on the investment. She requested that the data is presented in a way that it continues to be constructive.

Mr. Poland stated that the Board needs to feel comfortable to vote, also to have the framework available to be able to understand the process on which the SAT operates.

3. Approval of Facilities Use Agreement with Specialized Education of Connecticut / High Roads Program at Simpson Waverly (Supt. et al)

Mr. Cotto moved; Ms. McIntye seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve and sign the Facility Use Agreement with Specialized Education of Connecticut, Inc. for the term of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015. The Agreement will allow HPS to exchange space at 55 Waverly Street for reduced tuition costs for HPS students.

Dr. Nardone presented the item. Discussion followed.

Board members expressed their support for the item and requested a report on the program.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Approval of Facilities Use Agreement with Specialized Education of Connecticut / High Roads Program at 245 Locust Street (Supt. et al)

Mr. Wareing moved; Ms. Noel seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve and sign the Facility Use Agreement with Specialized Education of Connecticut, Inc. for the term of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015. The Agreement will allow HPS to exchange space at 245 Locust Street for reduced tuition costs for HPS students.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

Ms. Noel moved; Mr. Wareing seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the revised policy on Acceptable Computer Network Use.

Mr. Cotto asked for the process on which the policy will be communicated to the staff.

Dr. Nardone stated that once the policy is approved by the Board, it is posted on the website and also forwarded to all employees in the school system.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

Mr. Wareing moved; Ms. Noel seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the revised policy on Acceptable Computer Network Use and Internet Safety.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Acceptance of Funds / Contract Approval: Connecticut State Department of Education Family Resource Center Program \$660,000 / \$110,000 per site (Supt. et al)

Mr. Wareing moved; Ms. McIntye seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$660,000 from the Connecticut State Department of Education for the operation of the Family Resource Centers as follows:

- The Village for Families & Children for the operation of the Family Resource Centers at Burns Elementary School, Martin Luther King Elementary School, America's Choice at SAND Elementary School, and John C. Clark Elementary School;
- Mi Casa Family Services and Educational Center for the operation of the Maria C. Sánchez Elementary School Family Resource Center; and
- The Family Resource Center at the Early Reading Lab at Ramon Betances School, managed by Hartford Public Schools.

Dr. Kishimoto presented the item. Discussion followed.

The Board requested a report on the programs.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Executive Session

Mr. Poland made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss Collective Bargaining - Hartford Educational Support Personnel – Local 82; Mr. Wareing seconded.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Executive Session started at 7:52 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

The Executive Session adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:12 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

8. Approval of Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement: The Hartford Educational Support Personnel – Local 82 (Supt. et al)

Mr. Wareing moved; Ms. Noel seconded, that the Board of Education approves the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Educational Support Personnel, Local 82, AFSA, AFL-CIO. The Parties reached a tentative agreement on August 17, 2012; the membership of the bargaining unit ratified the tentative agreement on September 12, 2012.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Poland made a motion to remove item number 10 from the consent agenda to allow discussion on the item; Mr. Wareing seconded.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

10. Acceptance of Funds: *Jean and Pauline Pedimonti Twin Sisters Scholarship Fund* - \$50,000 (Supt. et al)

Mr. Poland moved; Ms. McIntye seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds from Mr. Stan Frank of Gem Jewelry for the *Jean and Pauline Pedimonti Twin Sisters Scholarship Fund*, in the amount of \$50,000.

Board members thanked for the generosity of the benefactor, Mr. Stan Frank. They asked that Mr. Frank is invited to attend a Board meeting so he can be recognized for his generosity.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Consent Agenda

9. Contract Continuation Approval: State Education Resource Center \$68,200 (Supt. et al)

Mr. Poland moved; Ms. McIntye seconded, that the State Education Resource Center (SERC) is assisting the Hartford Schools to build internal capacity and skills to increase achievement, improve social behavior, and increase post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities through the provision of professional development as a result of conducting needs assessments in the areas of transition and the system of general supervision. The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve and sign a one year contract, contingent upon funds, with the State Education Resource Center, for the period of October 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, at a cost not to exceed the amount of \$68,200.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Rodríguez-Dávila, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Hudson, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.