

# HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES

### Regular Meeting – October 16, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Tuesday, October 16, 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 5:50 p.m. A quorum was present.

<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 Jose Colon-Rivas Richard Wareing	<u>Absent:</u> Luis Rodríguez-Dávila
Superintendent Christina Kishimoto	

#### II. Public Participation

1. Shamika Lodenquai, student, spoke to the Board regarding bell times for High School Students. She requested changing the schedule to regular high school hours starting at 7:15 a.m.
2. Devon Ferrel, student, spoke to the Board about having more after school busses and late buses for high school students.
3. Minny Usperance, Nursing Academy Student, spoke to the Board regarding curriculum and students struggling with grammar. She spoke about increasing the number of after school buses or late buses, and changing the schedule for high schools back to 7:15 a.m. through 2:15 p.m.
4. Hyacinth Yennie, resident, spoke to the Board regarding the starting time for Hartford High students. She recommended changing the schedule to allow students to start and end earlier, so they are able to participate in sports or to work part time jobs. Ms. Yennie raised concerns for principals leaving the District. She recommended working on a plan to retain principals. She also talked about accreditation and stated that only one HPS high school is accredited.
5. Samariya Smith, Global Academy PTO president, spoke regarding the changes in the plans for the Quirk building. She requested establishing a formal memorandum of understanding to work with the City and the Hartford Police Department for the use and access to the gymnasium, auditorium, and pool.
6. David Ionno, resident, spoke regarding the *Sheff* movement and the Choice process. He stated that the former superintendent promised to have slots available for Hartford students in their neighborhood schools. He also spoke about observing Veterans Day.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the Veterans Day issue will be addressed when looking at calendars for future years.

7. Millie Soto, Clark PTO, raised concerns regarding the decrease in reading scores for third grade students.
8. Levey Kardulis, parent, raised concerns regarding principals leaving the District. He also raised concerns about the schools' budget; he stated that the budget should be spent in classrooms and not in building improvements.
9. Jane Russell, member of the PTO and member of the SGC, stated that her children attend Burns school. Ms. Russell was a member of the redesign team for Burns Latino Studies Academy. She stated that the design did not work due to the lack of adequate leadership. She stated that the person in charge of the supervision did not take the steps necessary to make the program successful.
10. Milly Arciniegas, parent, raised concerns regarding communication and also for the decrease in test scores for third grade reading. She also raised concerns regarding principals leaving the District.
11. Nancy Mendez, parent of two children attending the Montessori School, thanked the Board and Superintendent for the improvement of programs available in the schools.
12. Stephannie Romero, parent of a child attending Betances, thanked the Board for changing Betances school to a magnet school. She also stated that success of the students involves many factors including parents, the school, and the community as a whole.
13. Jasmine Alicea, Betances FRA, expressed her contentment regarding the support provided to the school to transition to a magnet school.
14. Maria Gomez, parent, stated that her son was suspended and sent to court for a gang incident that occurred in the school. She stated that the students who were involved with her son when the incident took place are still enrolled in the school. She also stated that her son was accepted at Opportunity High but there are many protocols that they have to follow so he was not able to enroll in the school.
15. Marie Rodriguez, parent, spoke to the Board regarding the contract with Leadership Greater Hartford.
16. Sam Saylor, parent, spoke to the Board regarding the perfect attendance program that was cancelled and asked the Board to reinstate the program. He also expressed concerns for having the PTO leadership divided.
17. Shonta Browdy, parent, spoke regarding the curriculum for the Nursing Academy; she stated that the curriculum differs with other Districts. She also spoke regarding early literacy.
18. Michael Boisvert, resident, spoke to the Board in support of the Quirk resolution. He also spoke regarding childhood obesity and its effect on learning.
19. Andrea Johnson, President of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, spoke to the Board regarding the Race to the Top Grant (RTTT) and the proposal to the Gates Foundation. She stated that the writing proposal was written in collaboration with two Charters that have no collaboration with the HFT. She raised concerns for the time in which the proposal was shared with the HFT which was 12 days earlier; even thou it has been around since 2009. She stated that the Gates proposal

does not represent Hartford teachers and does not have the HFT collaboration. She also stated that part of the Gates grant was embedded in the HFTT. She asked the administration to work in a collaborative manner with the HFT.

20. Calixto Torres, resident, spoke to the Board regarding the reform and the work involved to raise scores. He stated that there have been many improvements. He stated that the issues emerged between the administration and the Board diverts the attention from education and reform. He advised caution when leading with issues with the administration publicly.
21. Kevin Brookman, resident, spoke to the Board in support of the Quirk resolution. He stated that the collaboration with the school system and the Police Department will address two important issues: safety and education. He also raised concerns regarding bonuses for staff.
22. Herman La Funtaine, former HPS Superintendent, stated his support for superintendent Kishimoto and her leadership. He recommended the Board and Superintendent working collaboratively and asked them to keep their focus on education and the students.
23. Alyssa Peterson, resident, spoke in support of the Quirk resolution. She requested a report regarding the status of the Public Safety Academy that was scheduled to start in 2012.
24. Joan Taraskiewicz, teacher at SMSA, spoke regarding testing. She stated that testing requires the use of computers and technical assistance, and causes disruption. She stated that students are tested three times a year and that does not help to raise the scores. She asked the Board to consider eliminating some tests.
25. Ivette Diana, parent spoke to the Board regarding an incident that occurred at his son's school. She stated that her son attended the Second Chance Program at Bulkeley, but the program did not help him. She recommended removing programs that do not work. She also recommended addressing bullying in the schools.
26. Carmen Rodriguez, resident, spoke to the Board in support of the Quirk resolution.
27. James Rovella, Hartford's Chief of Police, spoke to the Board in support of the Quirk resolution.

### **III. Reports**

#### **1. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Poland stated that the Superintendent and the Board are committed to the growth of the school system; committed to the reform and the children, and to work with the same effort on behalf of the children.

#### **2. Report of the Superintendent**

##### **o School Choice Marketing Campaign**

Dr. Kishimoto made a presentation about the choice marketing campaign. A copy of the powerpoint is located in the official file of this meeting.

#### **3. Committee Reports**

- Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. Wareing stated that the committee met to review in full detail, the end of the year financial report, and also discussed issues regarding transportation, MERF and OPEB.

- Human Resources Committee

Mr. Colon-Rivas stated that the committee met to discuss the hiring process for principals. The committee reviewed the timeline for the process and members provided feedback and recommended looking at best practices in other districts regarding the hiring process for teachers and principals.

- Policy Committee

Mr. Cotto stated that the committee met to continue discussion on the school uniform policy and the practice of having schools with sole source vendors for uniforms that have logos. The committee reviewed a report regarding the uniforms per school, and discussed the possibility of having logos available for parents.

#### **IV. Business Agenda**

##### **A. Items in Order of Importance**

1. Resolution: Approval to Turn Over Quirk West to the City of Hartford for Use By The Hartford Police Department (Mayor Pedro Segarra)

Mr. Wareing moved, Mayor Segarra seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education (hereafter the "Board") approves that the City of Hartford will allow the Hartford Police Academy (Academy), the Police Explorers, and the Police Activities League (PAL) to remain housed in the west building of the former Quirk Middle School for an indefinite period of time;

Furthermore, the Board authorizes that the Hartford Police Department and City of Hartford shall establish a youth programming agreement with a community stakeholder that shall be identified at a later date; and, the Hartford Police Department, on behalf of the Academy, the Police Explorers, and PAL, and the Board of Education, on behalf of Global Communications Academy, shall establish a joint-use agreement for the auditorium, gym and pool facilities presently located in the west building and the playing fields just north of the former Quirk Middle School campus.

As the property owner, the City of Hartford reserves the right to modify this agreement, or the use of the former Quirk Middle School campus, at any time subject to the consent of the Board of Education.

Ms. Hudson stated her concerns with the process. She stated that the process should involve the community and Global Communications Academy SGC to develop an agreement between the school and the police department.

Mayor Segarra stated that when the building became vacant, the policy academy leased part of the building. Since then, the presence of the academy has brought safety to the neighborhood. He stated that the City and the School system should work collaboratively to share the resources.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that Hartford Public Schools had an MOU with the police department that expired in June 2012. The Board was exploring other options for the use of the space and there was also an interest of retaining the police department.

Mr. Cotto referred to the resolution and stated his concerns for having the Police Department for an indefinite period of time occupying the building. He recommended adding a timeline to the resolution so the Board does not lose the building from educational purposes. He stated that the YMCA facility is empty and the Police department can be placed there.

Ms. Noel concurred with Mr. Cotto. She raised concerns for having the Police Academy for an indefinite period of time in the building.

Ms. Hudson stated that the major concern is that there was not engagement of parents. Global community does not know the details of this collaboration.

Ms. McIntye asked if there is assurance regarding the collaboration.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the commitment is to give access to the 100 students that are enrolled at Global Communications. The construction project was done with the assumption that those students will have access to all areas in the building.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Hudson made a motion to table the item and return with an agreement that has all the details. Mr. Cotto seconded.

VOTE:

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

The motion to table the item failed.

Ms. Noel made a motion to amend the resolution to change the timeline from an "indefinite period of time" to "two years"; Ms. Hudson seconded.

VOTE:

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

The motion to change the timeline failed.

Mr. Poland recalled the original motion; that the Hartford Board of Education (hereafter the "Board") approves that the City of Hartford will allow the Hartford Police Academy (Academy), the Police Explorers, and the Police Activities League (PAL) to remain housed in the west building of the former Quirk Middle School for an indefinite period of time;

Furthermore, the Board authorizes that the Hartford Police Department and City of Hartford shall establish a youth programming agreement with a community stakeholder that shall be identified at a later date; and, the Hartford Police Department, on behalf of the Academy, the Police Explorers, and PAL, and the Board of Education, on behalf of Global Communications Academy, shall establish a joint-use agreement for the auditorium, gym and pool facilities presently located in the west building and the playing fields just north of the former Quirk Middle School campus.

As the property owner, the City of Hartford reserves the right to modify this agreement, or the use of the former Quirk Middle School campus, at any time subject to the consent of the Board of Education.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed by voice vote.

2. Resolution: Approval of Continuation of Prior Enrollment Policies and Practices at Milner School (Board Members: Robert Cotto, Jose Colon-Rivas, and Elizabeth Brad Noel)

The Hartford Board of Education directs the Superintendent to follow the prior policies and practices and requires that no limit to new enrollment at Milner School is allowed.

Mr. Poland made a motion to table the item until more information is received from the State Department; Mayor Segarra seconded.

VOTE:

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

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

3. Acceptance of Funds: Connecticut State Department of Education for Hartford Adult Education Programs - \$1,723,088 (Supt. et al)

This grant provides funding for state mandated educational services to adult learners in pursuit of English Language proficiency, secondary education completion, adult basic education and the acquisition of skills needed for postsecondary opportunities.

Mayor Segarra moved; Mr. Wareing seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept a total of \$1,723,088 from the State of Connecticut Adult Education Program for the Adult Education Center in Hartford.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Acceptance of Funds: Connecticut State Department of Education - Cooperating Eligible Entity Grant for Supplemental Adult Education Programs - \$269,109 (Supt. et al)

The Cooperating Eligible Entity Grant provides mandated adult education services through a collaborative relationship between the Adult Education Center in Hartford and three Cooperating Eligible Entities: Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford, YMCA Read to Succeed Adult Reading Clinic, and Urban League of Greater Hartford. This grant supplements existing adult education services through enhanced activities such as services to special populations, specific literacy education and additional support services.

Ms. Noel moved, Mr. Wareing seconded that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept a total of \$269,109 from the State of Connecticut Cooperating Eligible Entity Grant for the supplemental Adult Education programs described above.

Mr. Colón-Rivas asked to obtain information regarding the collaboration with the organizations and how they are aligned with Hartford Public Schools' work. He asked that the report is presented as part of the upcoming Adult Education workshop.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Contract Continuation Approval: NCS Pearson, Inc. \$600,000 / 2 years (Supt. et al)

The Waterford Early Reading and Success-Maker programs are current literacy resources being utilized in K-5 classrooms to support core literacy instruction. NCS Pearson, Inc. will provide onsite technical service and educational consultant service, two years of Technical Partnership Plus and two years of Partnership Plus which are offerings that entitle HPS to up to one hundred forty (140) days of educational consultant service and onsite technical service per year.

Mr. Wareing moved, Ms. Noel seconded; that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with NCS Pearson, Inc. for the term of October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2014, in the amount not to exceed \$600,000.

VOTE:

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

Absent: Hudson, Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Contract Approval: MRW Connected, LLC \$150,000 (Supt. et al)

Hartford Public Schools will contract with MRW Connected, LLC for the design and development of an employee intranet that will serve as a primary communications tool and a forum of learning and engagement among district teachers, principals, school staff, and administration.

Mr. Cotto moved; Ms. McIntye seconded, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute a contract with MRW Connected, LLC for intranet design and development for the term of October 19, 2012 through June 30, 2013, in the amount not to exceed \$150,000.

Discussion followed.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Hudson, Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Contract Continuation Approval: Boys and Girls Club of Hartford \$100,000 (Supt. et al)

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish working procedures between the Hartford Public Schools and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford, Inc. in providing space to operate the Hartford Public Schools' Hartford Alternative Learning Opportunities (HALO) educational program.

Mr. Wareing moved; Ms. Noel seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a Contract Agreement with The Boys and Girls Club of Hartford, Inc., for the period ending June 30, 2013; at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.

Mr. Colon-Rivas asked for a report regarding the program and the behavior data.

Mr. Poland stated that the HALO program can be run at a different location. He stated that the question is whether the HALO program is more successful for being housed at Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Cotto concurred with Mr. Poland. He asked if the Boys and Girls Club is the most cost effective location for the program.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the location met the need three years ago when the District was looking at a location with a positive learning environment, but it is time to review the program location.

Mr. Wareing recommended revisiting the program location and to not to renew the contract for the following year. He stated that the program should be run at one of the facilities that the City owns.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. Contract Approval: Leadership Greater Hartford \$66,200 (Supt. et al)

Leadership Greater Hartford is a non-for-profit organization that will provide training and support to all of the School Governance Councils in Hartford as needed in the areas of budget planning, school compacts, etc.

Ms. Noel moved; Mr. Colon-Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Leadership Greater Hartford for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2013, at a cost not to exceed \$66,200.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Poland accepted a motion from Ms. Noel to remove items number 9, 10 and 11 from the consent agenda; Mr. Cotto seconded.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. Acting Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

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

- a. Jose Colon to the position of Acting Principal, Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan; effective October 17, 2012.
- b. Suzanne Goodison to the position of Acting Principal, James H. Naylor / CCSU Leadership Academy; effective October 15, 2012.

Board members raised concerns regarding principals leaving the District. They requested a full report as part of the upcoming Office of Talent Management workshop.

Discussion followed

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Hudson, Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

10. Interim Administrative Appointment (Supt. et al)

Mayor Segarra moved; Mr. Wareing seconded that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint James Fagan to the position of Interim Principal, Asian Studies Academy at Dwight/Bellizzi; for the period of October 15, 2012 through March 1, 2013.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Hudson, Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

11. Resolution: Appointment of School Building Committee Member (The Board)

Mayor Segarra moved, Mr. Cotto seconded that the Hartford Board of Education appoints Donald Slater to serve on the Hartford School Building Committee for a term of two years, effective October 17, 2012. The Superintendent of schools holds a permanent seat on the School Building Committee; Alexander Nardone is appointed to serve as alternate for the Superintendent as necessary.

Ms. Noel made a motion to table the item; Mr. Cotto seconded.

Ms. Noel recommended having Dr. Slater, Chief Operating Officer, assigned to the committee.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Hudson, Rodriguez-Davila

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

**B. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Wareing moved; Ms. McIntye seconded, that the Board approves the items listed under the consent agenda.

12. Contract Continuation Approval: Hartford Stage \$65,000 (Supt. et al)

This is a continuation of a partnership between the Office of Academics and Hartford Stage. The focus is on engaging and addressing the literary needs of middle school students while equipping teachers with arts integrated, theatre-based teaching techniques.

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Hartford Stage for the term delineated in the contract ending March 31, 2013, at a cost not to exceed \$65,000.

13. Approval of School Construction Project as Complete and ED049F Submittal – Classical Magnet School (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the Classical Magnet School - State Project # 064-0285 MAG and accepts the afore mentioned school project for public school purposes. Furthermore, the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute and submit an ED049F application to the Bureau of School Facilities for review and approval.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, McIntye, Noel, Poland, Mayor Segarra, Wareing

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Hudson, Rodriguez-Davila

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.