

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – November 18, 2014

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, November 18, 2014. The meeting was held at L.W. Batchelder Elementary School, 757 New Britain Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, 06106.

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**

Mr. Wareing called the meeting to order at 5:40p.m.

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

III. Public Participation

1. Hyacinth Yennie commended the HPHS and Mark Twain Libraries for doing an excellent job. She re-iterated the need for adequate books and supplies. She also spoke on making sure we observe Veteran’s Day.
2. Shownta Brody spoke on feeling that we don’t delve into real issues enough, that we need to speak plainly and in truths. She also spoke on our students receiving a proper educational foundation, taking into account the social piece, and without that, we won’t ever be able to fix HPS.
3. Milly Arciniegas spoke on the transition report, and feeling that we can expedite some things, such as the Choice Process. She feels that families need to understand this better. She also spoke on the good of community forums, but also needing a forum with students.
4. Troy London, SGC chairperson of HPHS Nursing, started to speak on the interview process with Melony Brady, but couldn’t finish.
5. Jim Vick, teacher that has worked at Batchelder for 9 years, gave praise to Mr. Casey on doing a good job, especially having gone through 5 principals plus an interim recently. He would have left Hartford if not for getting a good principal. Recently however, he stated that Student Based Budgeting resulted in the loss of 6th and 8th grade teachers, therefore some classrooms were ‘collapsed.’ Socially, the kids were behaving much better, but unfortunately, now that they are joined, the students have reacted in a negative manner. He strongly suggests at looking at Student Based Budgeting.

6. Andrea Johnson spoke on Student Learning Objectives, SLO's, created from math assessment data from the previous year, and what is being demanded of teachers is unrealistic. She also spoke of an event on November 5th that the Superintendent was invited to, and they are still waiting as of today for the feedback that the Superintendent promised them.
7. Patricia Delaney, a teacher at Batchelder with 31 years' experience in the Hartford school system, also spoke on the SLO's. She does not believe in them, nor does she think they are attainable. She stated this is an inverted triangle, and does not feel comfortable signing off on this. She understands this is to close the achievement gap; however, this is a 'one size fits all' policy. Do not ask them to achieve a one size fits all policy, when we haven't achieved equity in all of the schools.
8. Kathy Evans, Program Development Director at Organized Parents Make a Difference (OPMAD) came to introduce herself, make the Board aware of all of their programs and to invite them over.
9. Christine Ladd, guidance counselor at Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, spoke on the "magical transformations" that don't work, using Jumoke Milner as an example. She spoke on data, and that data itself has no power, and is often used to tell lies.
10. Paul Holzer, from Achieve Hartford, spoke on the stories they have been running in their newsletter centered on Sheff. One great question that never gets asked is WHO applies to these schools. Lastly, he wanted to give some ideas on the next Sheff negotiation, ideas to get Sheff to move towards equity, and they will release these recommendations on December 1st.
11. Raquel Calderon wanted to speak on her excitement on the changes the Superintendent is trying to make, and asked people to support her, including teachers. She also asked for schools to have better technology, façades, and cleanliness.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair – the chair had no report
2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Narvaez wanted to give school recognitions, and recognize Chronic Absenteeism Month. She recognized and congratulated all 26 schools on reducing absences, and these 4 schools have seen the sharpest decrease: Capital Preparatory Magnet School, McDonough Expeditionary Learning School, Hartford PreK Magnet, and Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan.

She made an announcement regarding Rosie Perez visiting Burns Elementary School.

Financial Report:

Ms. Paula Altieri, Chief Financial Officer, gave the 1st Quarter Financial Report as of September 30, 2014. She is not expecting variances at this time.

3. Committee Reports
 - Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. Wareing stated the committee received the 1st Quarter Financial report, and discussed the OPEB Trust.

- Human Resources Committee

Mr. Poland gave a report, stating the committee reviewed the Expeditionary Learning and New Perspectives Contracts, and they recommend approval. They also reviewed the status of the Code of Conduct, and the framework for the Superintendent's evaluation. They would like to follow the State's framework. The significant change is not relying on metrics, instead on qualitative aspects. They also anticipate the evaluation will include feedback from the public. Mr. Poland stated the framework is available online.

- Parent and Community Engagement Committee

Mr. Stallings gave a report, stating the committee heard a presentation from the Choice Office. They also had the student board representatives attend the meeting, and discussed possible changes for the student senate.

- Policy Committee

Dr. Taylor gave a report, stating the committee made preliminary revisions to our online learning policy and the discussion over the need for a comprehensive assessment.

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Administrative Appointment (Supt et al.)

Mr. Poland made a motion; and Mr. Stallings seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Melony Brady to the position of Principal at the HPHS Nursing Academy, effective November 19, 2014.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto, Poland

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Mayor Segarra, Colon-Rivas

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Contract Continuation Approval: Common Core English Language Arts Consulting Services Contract \$168,500 (Supt et al.)

Hartford Public Schools seeks to continue the contract with Expeditionary Learning (EL) to provide professional development to support district staff in effective implementation of the Common Core State Standards and the instructional shifts that the standards require for teachers and leaders.

Mr. Poland made a motion; and Dr. Taylor seconded that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Expeditionary Learning for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2015, at a cost not to exceed \$168,500.

Discussion over the difference between expeditionary learning themed schools, and this expeditionary learning contract, this contract is for common core training for schools across the district.

Mr. Stallings asked about training for parents, to support the child at home, and that being something we should look at.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto, Poland

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Mayor Segarra, Colon-Rivas

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Contract Continuation Approval: New Perspectives on Learning \$87,300 (Supt et al.)

The Hartford Public Schools will contract with New Perspectives on Learning to provide consulting services to support district staff in effective alignment with CT Core Standards for Mathematics and the instructional shifts that the standards require for teachers and leaders.

Mr. Stallings made a motion; and Mr. Poland seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with New Perspectives on Learning for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2015, at a cost not to exceed \$87,300.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto, Poland

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Mayor Segarra, Colon-Rivas

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Second Reading and Adoption: Hartford Public School Policies on Parent Organizations and School Governance Councils (Policy Committee)

Mr. Stallings made a motion, and Dr. Best seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the following policies:

- a. Parent Organizations - **TABLED**
- b. School Governance Councils

Discussion over the Parent Organization policy, and the definition of a parent organization. It was agreed that no one should be excluded, regardless of ability to pay. Decision made to bring policy back to committee, to clarify definition.

Motion was made to separate and table Policy #1210 – Parent Organizations.

VOTE (for Policy # 1211 - School Governance Councils)

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto, Poland

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Mayor Segarra, Colon-Rivas

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. First Reading: Hartford Public School Policy on Attendance (Policy Committee)

Mr. Poland made a motion; and Mr. Stallings seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the Policy on Attendance.

No vote was needed at this time.

B. Consent Agenda

6. Acceptance of Funds and Contracts Approval: Connecticut State Department of Education Tobacco Settlement Funds \$172,000 (Supt et al.)

Hartford Public Schools has been awarded with Tobacco Settlement funds to support schools in need of additional before and after school services. The programs must offer academic, educational enrichment and recreational activities that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students within the designated schools.

The following schools were identified to receive funding through this allocation; and partnering agencies were selected based on CSDE's outlined process:

- a. McDonough Expeditionary Learning School in partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford - \$67,000 for the implementation of a new after school program
- b. SAND School and Martin Luther King, Jr. School, in partnership with the Village for Families & Children - \$105,000 split evenly for both schools for the expansion of after school programming under their current Family Resource Centers.

Mr. Poland made a motion; and Mr. Stallings seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept the funds in the amount of \$172,000 from the State of Connecticut Tobacco Settlement Funds; and authorizes the Superintendent to execute the contracts with the agencies listed above for the term delineated in the contracts ending June 30, 2015.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto, Poland

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Mayor Segarra, Colon-Rivas

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Acceptance of Funds: Family and Community Engagement Planning Grant \$50,000 (Supt et al.)

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has awarded the Hartford Public Schools a planning grant to work in collaboration with Hartford Parent University to engage stakeholders in a review of the findings of the Transition Plan, in particular the area outlining family and

community engagement, examination of existing structures, activities, and alignment of effective strategies to key district priorities.

Mr. Poland made a motion; and Mr. Stallings seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$50,000 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto, Poland

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Mayor Segarra, Colon-Rivas

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.