

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – November 20, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, November 20, 2012. The meeting was held at Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, 280 Huyshope Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Poland called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

II. Recognition of Hartford Parent University

Dr. Kishimoto stated that parents are engaging to form parent groups to lead in the reform efforts in the City of Hartford.

She recognized the Parent University for the ongoing leadership and development. She stated that the Parent University is a community based organization that provides workshops for parents. The first informational session took place on November 17. The sessions were led by the facilitators who received their training from the parent university. 16 facilitators graduated.

Dr. Kishimoto thanked Ms. Arciniegas for her leadership.

Ms. Arciniegas introduced the members of the Parent University.

III. Recognition of Parents Uniting Resources to Promote Outstanding Student Education (P.U.R.P.O.S.E.)

Dr. Kishimoto stated that this is a group of parents who live in the community that are working together to close the achievement gap. This group is led by Ms. Shontá Browdy.

Ms. Browdy stated that the main focus is to prepare parents to get their children ready with the skills needed to start school.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that parents from both groups were invited to be part of the Parental Engagement Planning process.

IV. Public Participation

1. Kevin Frazer, parent, spoke to the Board regarding the Parent University training. He commended the group and stated that the structure of the program was well organized and professional. Parents have an opportunity to engage in different classes.

Ms. Noel asked for the age of his children.

Mr. Frazer is the father of a Pre-K student, a 6th grader, and an 8th grader.

2. Susan Hutchinson, Parent, commended the work of the Parent University. She expressed her excitement for being able to participate in the different workshops. Ms. Hutchinson commended Ms. Arciniegas and the staff at the parent university. She stated that parents who attended the workshop will spread the word and bring along other parents.
3. Milly Arciniegas, Parent University, spoke to the Board regarding her experience as a volunteer for Hartford Public Schools, for 12 years. She stated that the goal of the Parent University is to increase capacity to improve the quality of education, and possibly to increase student achievement.

She acknowledged Mayor Segarra, Dr. Jose Colon-Rivas, teachers and administrator for their guidance, and support during the establishment of the Parent University.

Participants in the program include parents from Hartford, Wethersfield, Newington, among other towns.

4. Eric Robinson, Professor at Manchester Community College, spoke to the Board about the Parent University. He thanked Ms. Arciniegas for her initiative and drive. He spoke about the importance of parent involvement in the children's education.

V. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Poland reported that he, Ms. Noel, and Dr. Kishimoto attended the CABA/CAPT convention. Several districts participated. He stated that other Districts are trying to comply with changes that are brought to them by revisions in the Connecticut State Law regarding common core standards among others; some of these proposals are already in place in Hartford. He recognized that there is still a lot of work to do, that has to be done quickly and with diligence.

2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the Memorandum on the Agreement with the Hartford Police Department was signed off with the Chief of Police James Rovella. The goal of the MOA is to reduce involvement of police and court agencies for school related issues, and to ensure consistency of response to incidents regarding student behavior.

Ms. Noel commended the implementation of the model. She stated that the involvement of police officers to discipline students should be avoided.

3. Committee Reports

o Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. Wareing stated that the committee met in October. He stated that the Board is in good standing as the budget season begins. Transportation cost remains a concern. There are some ideas that can help mitigate deficits that will be discussed at future meetings.

o Policy Committee

Mr. Cotto stated that the policy committee met to review the policy on Promotion and Retention, and the policy on Grading Practices and Attendance.

- School Building Committee

Ms. Noel stated that the agenda includes item # 1 for the appointment of two Board members to the committee. She stated that items are reviewed and approved by the committee and later come to the Board for their final approval.

VI. Business Agenda

Ms. Noel made a motion to add an item to the Business agenda for the Acceptance of Funds for the Magnet School Incubation Funds from the State Department of Education in the amount of \$2,182,500. Mr. Poland seconded.

Mr. Wareing recommended adding the item to the end of the business agenda as item # A5.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Resolution: Appointment of School Building Committee Members (The Board)

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Ms. Noel seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education appoints Chairman Matthew Poland and Board member Elizabeth Brad Noel to serve on the Hartford School Building Committee, effective November 21, 2012. Board member Robert Cotto is appointed to serve as alternate as necessary. Superintendent Christina Kishimoto is a member of the Hartford School Building Committee; Donald Slater is appointed to serve as alternate for the Superintendent as necessary.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. First Reading: New School Design Specifications for Fred. D. Wish Museum School (Supt et al.)

The Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the design specifications for the Fred D. Wish Museum School.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the design specifications for this school were created at the school level with parent leaders, school members, and community members.

Discussion followed. No vote was needed at this time.

3. Grant Submission Approval: Parent Academy Program \$125,000 (Supt et al.)

The Connecticut State Department of Education is seeking proposals to support family engagement in student achievement through the establishment of Parent Academies. Hartford Public Schools will partner with The Parent Academy to submit a proposal to the Connecticut State Department of Education to jointly run a Parent Academy during the 2012-2013 school year.

Mr. Cotto made a motion; Mr. Poland seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to submit a grant application for the Parent Academy Program.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the State posted this grant available for 10 school districts. An RFP was issued. The Parent Academy was chosen among several other organizations that applied. There will be other parent organizations that will be working with the District to deliver parent workshops trainings throughout the City. The goal is to have 350 parents involved.

Ms. Noel asked for how the Parent Academy Program was chosen.

Mr. Genao stated that one of the requirements of the grant is to partner with an organization that has proven experience on providing the services. The Parent Academy was chosen because it met all the requirements and has a proven record.

Mr. Cotto asked if the funds will end after June 13, 2013 and whether there is commitment from the District

Mr. Genao stated that this is one time allocation to see how this works. If it works well, the grant will continue. The partnership ends in June 30 and there is no obligation after that.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that if the State decides to reissue an RFP, there will be more organizations that will be ready to apply. There is no commitment to continue with this organization. Part of the opportunity is to reissue with enough time and made more planning with other organizations.

Mr. Cotto asked for HPS financial obligation to support this program.

Mr. Genao stated that the program is funded solely by the grant. HPS commitment is to provide support through teachers and personnel that have experience providing the services. Some of the grant money will be used to compensate Hartford for the teachers' time.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the Hartford Delegation went after this money for Hartford, when the State Board received the proposal; they decided to extend the grant to ten different districts. It took quite a while for the State Board to approve this grant at a time when the focus of everyone was on the Race to the Top grant.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Contract Continuation Approval: Connecticut Public Broadcasting and America's Choice at SAND \$90,000 School Improvement Grant (Supt et al.)

The Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network has agreed to continue partnering with the America's Choice at SAND School for a third year to provide an after-school program that exposes 7th and 8th grade students to the media industry with a curriculum focus on developing writing and communications skills.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Ms. Noel seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to execute a contract with Connecticut Public Broadcasting for the term delineated in the contract ending May 2013; at a cost not to exceed \$90,000.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that this partnership has been developing over three years to identify an elementary school that would feed into the Journalism and Media Academy.

Dr. Slater stated that this is the third year of the contract with the Connecticut Public Broadcasting which started at SAND school. The contract is funded by the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Mr. McCaskill stated that this program is creating a pathways for the Journalism and Media Academy. It is an opportunity to have access and exposure to a field that is not usually available in urban settings.

Ms. Donna Sodipo, CPBN, stated that the project started at SAND with inter-disciplinary work being done as part of the core curriculum. Students engage in technology and know how to use it. The project has a full curriculum and the attendance is tracked. 22 students received direct in-class instruction last year; 50 students were served and the program was offered to 60 students. This year the project started with 25 students and CPBN is scheduled to work with 60 students in total.

Ms. Noel asked if any of the students who graduated applied for the Journalism and Media.

Ms. Swan stated that the program was implemented in 2010-11 and the planning for the implementation did not finish until the beginning of the following year; it was an after school program. This year and the previous year, is a combination of a core group. He stated that CPBN has an academic measure and evaluation of participation and attendance.

CPBN provides the technology that will be housed in SAND school. This is part of the cost included in the \$90,000. The total cost is approximately \$120,000. There are other organizations supporting the remaining cost. Bank of America is one of the organizations supporting this project.

Board Members recommended that when a contract is presented to Board for approval, and it is at its second or third year of implementation, an evaluation of the program is submitted to the Board along with the recommendation.

Discussion followed.

VOTE:

In favor: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Noel, Poland, Rodriguez-Davila

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0
Absent: Hudson, McIntye, Mayor Segarra, Wareing.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A5. Acceptance of Funds: Magnet School Incubation Funds \$2,182,500 Connecticut State Department of Education (Supt. et al)

Ms. Noel made a motion; Mr. Cotto seconded, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept the funds for the Magnet School Incubation Funds from the State Department of Education in the amount of \$2,182,500.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the State Department has made available funds for schools that are considered incubation schools to cover for the cost of portables, and to add technology.

Dr. Slater explained that the State Department of Education approved the funds for the addition of Portable classrooms for the Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy; for the equipment for two science laboratories at HMTCA, and for the renovation, reconfiguration of space, and technology upgrades at Breakthrough II.

Ms. Noel recommended improving the partnership with CREC.

Dr. Slater stated that ongoing discussions are taking place with CREC and they are very supported of the expansion of Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy.

Mr. Poland stated that the issue with portables with CREC had been resolved. CREC is in agreement with HPS regarding this process.

Mr. Cotto stated that there are a number of complaints regarding the portables and the esthetics. He asked to look for space at Trinity.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the District has held multiple conversations with Trinity College. They do not have an availability to share science classroom space which is why the portables will be built. There are some shared spaces that are part of the partnership. But in terms of traditional classroom spaces, they are not available.

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Consent Agenda

Mr. Cotto moved the item under the consent agenda; Rodriguez-Davila seconded.

5. Approval of School Construction Plans and ED042 Submittal (Supt. et al)

The State Department of Education, Bureau of School Facilities requires that School Building Committees and Boards of Education certify that they have approved the final construction

documents for school construction projects prior to the Bureau of School Facilities review of the plans. The Hartford Board of Education approves the final plans and authorizes the architects to submit the documents for the following schools:

1. Global Communications Academy at Quirk - State Project #064-0294
2. Journalism and Media Academy at Barbour School – State Project #064-0296

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.