

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – December 16, 2014

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, December 16, 2014. The meeting was held at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, 25 Ridgefield Street, Hartford, Connecticut, 06112.

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

Mr. Wareing called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

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

III. Public Participation

1. Janet Tate, parent at Betances STEM spoke on the deficit of the facilities at her child’s school.
2. Hyacinth Yennie spoke on the MLK School building, and when will the renovation begin. She also spoke on the HPHS Library, and also holding parents accountable for their student’s education.
3. Donald Hill, parent at Betances STEM, also spoke on the facilities of the school, and his dissatisfaction at the lack of basic technology. He is however, impressed with the staff.
4. Agnie Mena, parent at Betances STEM, also spoke on her dissatisfaction on the facilities of the school.
5. Jane Russell, parent at Bulkeley High School, spoke on the lack of communication with her children’s academic progress.
6. Petra Mulero, spoke on her difficulty in dealing with her daughter’s school, until she attended Hartford Parent University and learned to advocate for herself.
7. LaShawn Robinson, parent of children at charter schools, talked about her children being suspended multiple times, and she felt it was because they didn’t have adequate education, and her children were bored. She also spoke on scholarships being available for all students.
8. Tynima Toney, parent at Milner School spoke on scholarship equity, and their lack of availability.
9. Milly Arciniegas, parent advocate, spoke on smart boards at Clark Elementary, and that two autistic classrooms have yet to receive them. Also spoke on Hartford Parent University, teaching

parents to advocate, but when they go to schools she feels they are given false information. She also feels there is retaliation against parents.

10. Sue Fernandez spoke on behalf on Capital Prep Magnet School, and the issue with their School Governance Council. If the Board is taking this seriously, then we need more than one part time person. She would like the issue of selecting a new principal to be settled, and that there is no need to continue an agreement with the current principal.
11. Levey Kardulis spoke on the MLK School renovation, and his disappointment it has not been touched.
12. Jeanette Hicks, parent of MLK students, spoke on how warm and welcoming the school is, on how she appreciates the support from the Village for Families and Children, but the appearance of the school does not reflect how wonderful it is. It needs to be renovated.
13. Karen Clarke, parent at MLK, also feels that MLK needs to be renovated, and she has been saying so for 5 years.
14. Icelena Daye, great grandparent of a Milner student, spoke on scholarship equity.
15. Mr. Matthew, parent, spoke on Betances STEM, and their need for renovation.
16. Arlene Pereira, MD Fox parent, spoke on the Pull Up Program and the fact that they were not notified of the change in the middle of the year.
17. Juan Benz also spoke on not being notified of the change of the Pull Up Program.
18. Ronnie Gineyard, spoke on his son being transferred out of Noah Webster.
19. Shellye Davis, president of the Paraprofessional union, spoke on the Board spending too much money, and the ABA program.
20. Andrea Johnson, president of the HFT, spoke on the Courant Editorial on keeping Capital Prep's principal, and that the decision to have Dr. Perry move on showed good leadership. She then indicated her disappointment on hearing there was an informal nonbinding pact that kept Dr. Perry on, but she has not seen documentation on this.
21. Janet Falconer-Crawford spoke on the MLK School, and the wonderful history its had. It has slowly deteriorated over the years and is need of renovation.
22. Aswad Thomas, spoke on the educational issues in Hartford.
23. Tracy Carter spoke on special needs students, and feeling that they are lost in the system.
24. Sharon Douglas, paraprofessional at Rawson School, spoke on ABA, children with Autism. ABA para's are being hired without knowing they are ABA para's, they are two different job descriptions, and are therefore unqualified and undertrained. She also spoke on the Smart Boards, and the classrooms not being set up for ABA students.
25. Michael Downes spoke on the health insurance, and the Betances STEM building.
26. Paul Holzer, Achieve Hartford, commended the Family & Community engagement committee. He also spoke on Sheff and hopefully launching phase 4. He also stated it was time to re-think certain Sheff policies.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Wareing spoke on the Capital Prep/Achievement First Basketball championship.

2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Narvaez wanted to commend the Sanchez school, awarded a special recognition from the U.S. Department of agriculture, she also acknowledged that the Pathways Academy of School & Design received laptops.

Dr. Narvaez continues with staff shout outs, Sonia Dinnall, director of College and Career Readiness, joined Obama's and Joe Biden at the White House, for a College Readiness Initiative, and Victor Rodriguez, named School Security Officer of the Year.

3. Committee Reports – No reports

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Contract Approval: the Connecticut Business & Industry Association Education Foundation / Lighthouse School Initiative Management Fee - \$158,958 (Supt et al.)

This contract will allow the Connecticut Business and Industry Association Education Foundation to provide project management services to Rawson School to support development of the its newly implemented STEAM: Business and Industry model. This includes, but is not limited to, hiring and supervising a Project Manager, Project Administrator, and developing business and industry partners to team with the Rawson School community in its implementation of the STEAM: Business and Industry model.

Mr. Brescia made a motion; and Mr. Poland seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association Education Foundation for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2015, at a cost not to exceed \$158,958.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Poland, Mayor Segarra

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor

The motion passed by voice vote.

2. Acceptance of Funds: Connecticut State Department of Education Lighthouse School Grant / Sarah J. Rawson School - \$750,000 (Supt. et al.)

On June 17, 2014, the Hartford of Education approved Sarah J. Rawson School to be a Hartford Public Schools Lighthouse School. Rawson School will adopt a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math model to continue to improve student achievement, provide an exciting neighborhood school opportunity to new and existing families and contribute toward stabilizing the neighborhood's residential patterns.

Dr. Colon-Rivas made a motion; and Mr. Brescia seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$750,000 from the Connecticut State Department of Education Lighthouse School Grant for Sarah J. Rawson School.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto, Poland, Mayor Segarra
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Taylor

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Approval of School Construction Plans and ED042 Submittal – Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy (Supt. et al)

Mr. Poland made a motion; and Dr. Best seconded, the Hartford Board of Education approves the final plans and authorizes the architects to submit the documents for the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment phase of work for Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy to the Office of School Facilities for their review and approval.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto, Poland, Mayor Segarra
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Taylor

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; and Dr. Best seconded, to go into executive session.at 7:32 p.m.

Mr. Wareing made a motion to re-enter the meeting at 7:41 and Dr. Best seconded.

4. Approval of: proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement: The Buildings and Grounds Supervisors (Supt. et al)

Mr. Cotto made a motion; and Mr. Stallings seconded that the Hartford Board of Education approves the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with The Buildings and Grounds Supervisors, Local 818 of Council 4, AFL-CIO, AFSCME. The membership of the bargaining unit ratified the tentative agreement on November 20, 2014.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Stallings, Best, Brescia, Cotto, Poland, Mayor Segarra
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Taylor

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.