

**HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting – December 18, 2012**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, December 18, 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 5:40 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

Mr. Poland spoke on the tragedy in Newtown, held a moment of silence.

**II. Dialogue Session**

1. Hyacinth Yennie, resident, spoke on the importance of considering parents suggestions and feedback; she recommended being more proactive and not reactive. Ms. Yennie highlighted the importance of art programs being available for students in neighborhood schools. She advised that the State may provide money to build new magnet schools, but they do not continue to provide money to maintain them. She requested an update on the status of a petition made to change the schedule of high school hours to 7:15 a.m. through 2:00 p.m.
2. Natalia Warburton, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, spoke on behalf of Wish School students in support of the item for the approval of the Museum School at Wish. She shared her excitement for the classes becoming a-hands on learning experience.
3. Christine Ladd, a school counselor at SMSA, spoke on the issue of students being accepted to colleges. She felt the issue was the way we calculate the GPA. Some colleges use a conversion scale.

Dr. Kishimoto stated there is a committee looking into this.

4. Andrea Johnson, president of the HFT, spoke on agenda item # 3; the name change of Breakthrough II School. Ms. Johnson stated she has spoken before on this topic, in regards to the official name of schools being placed second. She feels that the person who the school has been named for is being disrespected. Ms. Johnson referred to policy 3505A that indicates there should be time for the public to have their input.

**III. Reports**

1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Poland spoke on the fiscal cliff and the impact it can have on education. He encouraged us all to let our legislators know that we expect a decision before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## 2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Kishimoto asked Joe Sikora and Donald Slater to provide an update on the schools security. Mr. Sikora stated that as soon as the events in Newtown happened, Dr. Kishimoto assembled a security crisis team. An electronic message was sent in English and Spanish to all parents, letting the students know that they were safe. Dr. Kishimoto also reached out to Newtown offering our support. Mr. Sikora reached out to the Chief of Police, to maintain a sense heightened security. Winston Johnson mobilized our school psychologists.

Mr. Cotto asked about the radio equipment that School Safety Officers (SPO) have. Mr. Sikora stated that SPO's are equipped, and they have direct access to the Hartford Police Department. Mr. Cotto also asked about the training they receive. Mr. Sikora stated that all School Safety Officers receive continuing training.

Dr. Kishimoto also asked Jackie Coleman for a report on the arts in HPS. She provided the Board with a one-page update; a copy of this report can be found in the official file of this meeting. Hartford Performs has become a legal entity. Arts integration programs are at 19 schools this year, which includes a Hartford Performs professional development.

## 3. Committee Reports

### o Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. Wareing reported that the most significant discussion at the meeting was on the Carl Perkins grant. Measures have been put in place to make sure the money is not returned to the state as happened the year before. Mr. Wareing believes we will be impacted by the fiscal cliff, but do not know the magnitude. The Governor has said he will not touch ECS funding, which means the cuts may come in grant money.

### o Policy Committee

Mr. Cotto stated that item #2, Policy Number 5140: Student Attire was discussed at the committee, and they were looking at ways to make uniforms more affordable.

### o School Building Committee

Ms. Noel stated they did not meet in November. She said they will be meeting tomorrow on Adult Education and the proposed move to Capital Community College. She mentioned these meetings are open to the public.

## IV. Business Agenda

### A. Items in Order of Importance

#### 1. Approval and Adoption of 2012-13 District Performance Measures

Mr. Wareing made a motion, Ms. Noel seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education approves and adopts the 2012-13 District Performance Measures.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the Board adopts 10 district performance targets annually, and they then tie in with the schools accountability plans. They have reviewed and adjusted last year's targets.

There was Board discussion over the concern on the approach in evaluating schools, when not all schools are equitable in conditions. There was also discussion around a concern regarding setting unrealistic goals.

Dr. Kishimoto responded that it is a realistic gain with strategies and interventions and that it was aligned with the State and their expectations. The board will receive in February an analysis on the progress of the Third Grade promise.

There was Board discussion over closing the achievement gap at the thirteen year mark. It will not be, however we would have surpassed State standards. It was agreed that HPS does not want to undersell itself to the State, so we either raise our goals, or lengthen the time frame to close the achievement gap.

VOTE:

In favor: Noel, Poland, Wareing, McIntye

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Rodriguez-Davila, Hudson, Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote.

2. First Reading: Policy 5140 - Student Attire (Policy Committee)

The Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the revised Student Attire Policy.

Mr. Cotto stated that this policy came from parents. There are three main parts to the revision of the policy and they are: 1) Eliminating the sole source vendor for the purchase of uniforms. Parents will have various options to buy from. 2) Provide sewn on logos so parents can buy cheaper shirts, and sew or iron on their school logos. 3) A change in wording of the policy. The wording before was that students were not allowed in a classroom without uniform. It will be revised to state that although students are expected to come in uniform, there may be emergency situations where they can't, and the principal will have discretion at those times.

Discussion followed. No vote was needed at this time.

3. First Reading: Formal Name Change of Breakthrough II (Supt et al.)

The Board of Education for the Hartford Public Schools accepts the first reading for the formal name change of Breakthrough II to Breakthrough Magnet North Campus at Mark Twain School.

Mr. Poland made a motion to table the item; Mr. Wareing seconded

VOTE:

In favor: Cotto, Noel, Poland, Wareing, McIntye

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Rodriguez-Davila, Hudson, Segarra

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

4. Second Reading and Adoption: New School Design Specifications for Fred D. Wish Museum School (Supt et al.)

The Fred D. Wish School will be a PK-8 museum school that will engage in in-depth learning through “learning modules” which are interdisciplinary, inquiry and project-based. Students will engage in a hands-on method of learning, develop and use research skills that will require the use of multiple sources of technology, and use the surrounding museums and community business partners to develop an understanding of concepts studied.

Mr. Poland moved, Ms. Noel seconded; that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the design specifications for the Fred D. Wish Museum School.

There was Board discussion over the cost and where the money was coming from.

Dr. Kishimoto answered that it is a practice with new designs that for two years after adoption, there is a startup grant on top of the SBB allocation.

Ms. Noel made a motion to make an amendment that it includes a certified guidance counselor. Mr. Wareing seconded it.

Ms. Noel then withdrew the motion, due to Mr. Wareing’s comments that it was not the role of the Board to dictate staff. It should be part of a broader discussion. Mr. Wareing concurred with the withdrawal.

Mr. Poland recalled the original motion: that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the design specifications for the Fred D. Wish Museum School.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Acceptance of Funds: Extended School Hours Grant \$403,846 (Supt et al.)

The Extended School Hours Grant is part of the Connecticut State Department of Education Priority District Grants. These funds are to provide extended school hours for academic enrichment, support and recreation programs for Hartford Priority Schools.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Mr. Cotto seconded that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$403,846 from the Connecticut State Department of Education for the Extended School Hours program.

Mr. Roldan and Ms. Madeline Vasquez provided an overview of the program. Ms. Noel questioned the timeline since the funds will not be received until January of 2013, ending in June 2013. Ms. Vasquez mentioned that the State does not release the funds until later.

Mr. Cotto asked if these were programs already in place. Mr. Roldan reiterated what the Superintendent mentioned, that these were supplemental funds, they were for programs in place and this works to finish off the year.

Mr. Cotto asked for a report on all of these programs and funding.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Contract Approval: Ricoh USA, Inc. \$ 472,196.72(Supt et al.)

The purpose of this master maintenance agreement is for Ricoh to provide copier supply and maintenance for all equipment currently serviced by Ricoh at the schools and Central Office Departments.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Ms. Noel seconded that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to retroactively approve the use of Ricoh USA, Inc. to maintain and service the Ricoh copier equipment fleet, for the term of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013; at an amount not to exceed \$472,196.72.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Contract Approval: The Flippen Group, LLC. \$197,500 (Supt et al.)

The Flippen Group/Capturing Kids' Hearts model will provide Hartford Public Schools (HPS) staff with effective, research-based strategies to create a culture and climate conducive to teaching and learning. In addition, the model will help HPS staff to relate to and support students who are at-risk of non-completion.

Ms. Noel made a motion; Mr. Wareing seconded that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with The Flippen Group, LLC, for the term delineated in the contract ending December 20, 2013, at a cost not to exceed \$197,500.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. Contract Continuation Approval: Expeditionary Learning \$169,000 (Supt et al.)

This contract is a continuation of services with Expeditionary Learning (EL) to provide ongoing professional development and support in the Expeditionary Learning Model at the McDonough Expeditionary Learning School and the Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan, as a part of Hartford's portfolio district of high performing schools. This includes, but is not limited to, on-site and off-site professional development and access to EL school designers.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Mr. Cotto seconded that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute the contract with Expeditionary Learning, for the period of December 1, 2012, through August 31, 2013, at a cost not to exceed \$169,000.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. Payment Approval: Hartford Partnership for Student Success \$95,000 (Supt et al.)

The School Community Partnership was convened in 2007 to act as the planning body for the development of community schools in Hartford. The community schools model was selected for its focus on whole child development and the integration with the school day for purpose of supporting student achievement and the emerging reform effort at Hartford Public School. Most recently the partners voted to expand the scope of the partnership focus and establish the Hartford Partnership for Student Success.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; Mr. Cotto seconded that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to issue payment in the amount of \$95,000 to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, as partnership fiscal agent and employer of record, in support of the Hartford Partnership for Student Success.

There was Board discussion over the concern that not all schools are receiving adequate after school programs.

Ms. Ward continued by stating that they have a data team now that includes City members, and are building capacity tremendously. This will allow them to track data more effectively now.

Mr. Poland stated that many of these organizations do this work anyway, so wants to make sure we are doing the right thing, in that schools are feeding money to these nonprofit organizations.

Ms. Ward responded that it's actually the opposite; it's the agencies that are actually going out and raising funds to provide to the district. The schools are only responsible for transportation and security costs. Those costs are covered with grants.

Mr. Roldan also added that the organizations aren't always close to the child's home, so having them at the school gives the students access where they otherwise might not have it.

VOTE:

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**B. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Poland made a motion to approve all items listed in the consent agenda; Mr. Wareing seconded.

**VOTE:**

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

10. Contract Approval: American Appraisal Association, Inc. \$69,750 (Supt et al.)

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with American Appraisal Associates, Inc. to conduct a fixed asset inventory for the purpose of updating the MUNIS fixed asset module and provide for an accurate insurance recovery in the case of a loss; for the term of February 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013, at a cost not to exceed \$69,750.

11. Approval of School Construction Projects as Complete and ED049F Submittal – Milner School and Batchelder School (Supt et al.)

The Hartford Board of Education accepts the roof replacement work at Milner School, State Project Number 064-0306 RR, and at Batchelder School, State Project Number 064-0305 RR, as complete.

**V. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at: 9:17 p.m.