

# HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES

### Regular Meeting – December 20, 2011

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Tuesday, December 20, 2011. The meeting was held at America's Choice at SAND - 1750 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103.

#### I. Call to Order

Mr. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

<u>Present:</u> Mr. David MacDonald, Chair Ms. Pamela Richmond, Vice Chair Ms. Sharon Patterson-Stallings, Secretary Ms. Elizabeth Brad Noel Ms. Ada Miranda Mr. Luis Rodríguez-Dávila Mr. Robert Cotto, Jr.	<u>Absent:</u> Ms. Lori Hudson Mr. Israel Flores
Superintendent Christina Kishimoto	

#### II. Public Participation

1. Hyacinth Yennie, Resident, spoke to the Board regarding bell times for Hartford High School. She recommended looking at the attendance rate; she stated that several students have to leave the school earlier because they have sport activities or part time jobs. She also raised concerns for the grading system. She spoke regarding early start programs for pre-kindergartens and recommended looking for the funding for pre-school programs. She concluded stating that principals should be held accountable for parental involvement in their schools.
2. Lorna Shipp, PTO spoke to the Board regarding healthy eating and childhood obesity. She recommended promoting healthy foods in the schools through educating the students.
3. Corey McCall, Student at Pathways, spoke to the Board regarding his placement in the school and also his credits. He stated that his grades are very low.
4. Carrie McCall, Parent, advocated for her son who spoke earlier. Her son is an eleventh grader who has earned only nine credits.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that this issue will be followed up by the assistant superintendent.

5. Milly Arciniegas, Parent, thanked the Board and Superintendent for their leadership. She spoke regarding Ms. McCall's case. She raised concerns regarding the problems that occur in the schools due to the principal neglecting the cases. She also spoke in favor of the business item regarding the multilingual study.
6. Paul Holzer, Achieve Hartford!, spoke to the Board regarding options for parents and students. He referred to the applications for School Choice. He stated that there are some issues in the choice process. He recommended sending data and applications in a timely manner and making

principals accountable for reaching the number of applications per school. Mr. Holzer concluded recognizing the Board for their dedication and leadership.

7. Shontá Browdy, HPOC member, spoke to the Board regarding the lottery system for magnet schools. She spoke regarding a situation where a student was retained in eighth grade at a magnet school, even though he came from a neighborhood school where he was a ten grader.

### III. Reports

- o Report of the Chair

Mr. MacDonald reported that the present meeting will be the last meeting that he will be chairing. He recognized the work and leadership of Board members during the times of the reform and turning around student achievement. He also recognized the extensive work that the Board undertook in the hiring of Dr. Adamowski, whose commitment to closing the achievement gap was only equal to the Board's commitment. The Board joined the "Reform of School Governance in Action Program", as a way to learn what was working in other urban districts and how to apply those lessons to Hartford. Reform policies that were aligned with the character of Hartford were chosen. One of the most important lessons was to give time for policies to work, and sustainability became an important goal for the Board in everything that was done. Thanks to the Board's commitment, the achievement gap shrank in more than one third, and the graduation rate increased from 29% to 50%. Mr. MacDonald concluded thanking Dr. Kishimoto and the staff, the teachers and principals for their work and commitment.

- o Report of the Superintendent
  - Central Office Realignment

Dr. Kishimoto reported that the changes in Central Office are being made to ensure that the staffing model is aligned with the structure around the strategic operating plan. One of the changes will be to create an intervention team under the Office of Academics and under the leadership of Ms. Frederick, who is currently serving as the interim Chief Academic Officer. The intervention team will be moved from the Pre-K – 12 Assistant Superintendent Office to the Office of Academics, in order to have both the behavior intervention and academic intervention in an integrated approach.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that Ms. Taylor, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Support Services, did a great job in creating a partnership with the University of Connecticut around Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS). The university has agreed to continue to work with Hartford Public Schools. Mr. McKnight is part of the Office of Learning Support Services and has been doing the work around PBIS. He will be joining the Office of Academics as well.

The Special Education team will be taken from the Learning Support Services Office into the Assistant Superintendent Pre-K – 12 Education. The purpose of this change is to team up supervisors of principals. We currently have three supervisors, two at the elementary level and one at the secondary level. The supervisors will be teamed up with the Director of Special Education, so it is an integrated approach of looking at general and special education when looking at both the supervision of schools as well as the academic implementation that occurs throughout the district. The changes will come through in February through March.

Professional development will be under the Office of Talent Management, so we look at recruiting, retaining and supporting of staff and ensuring that talent remains in the Hartford Public Schools.

Ms. Noel asked for a copy of the Central Office Organizational Chart.

- Strategic Operating Plan Work Groups and Charges

Work teams and steering committees have been organized around the strategic operating plan. The teams have been identified and the invitations will be sent to serve in the work teams. Each of the strategic operating plan goals will have a steering committee. These committees will remain in place for multiple years since this is a five year strategic operating plan.

- Summary of Superintendent's Education Forums

Dr. Kishimoto stated that five forums were conducted. These forums provided an opportunity to meet with community members and to talk about the strategic operating plan, also provided an opportunity for them to ask questions. The forums were dialogue oriented sessions where several issues were raised. The first issue raised was a desire to continue to be involved in the phase II of the reform work, and wanting to continue to be a partner around the goals. Questions were raised about sports, music and arts and how they will be represented or addressed because they do not show explicitly in the strategic plan. Training and the hiring of new employees who will be working with different ethnic groups was also discussed. Academic quality across all schools was also recommended; there are some variations from school to school, so the goal is to ensure that all students are exposed to high quality curriculum and educational opportunities, regardless of which school they attend.

Dr. Kishimoto thanked the community members who participated in the forums. She announced one more forum focused on special education and where the District is heading regarding special education.

- Committees Report

- Policy Committee

Ms. Noel reported that the policy committee met to review the School Climate Plan and the policy on the Student Representative to the Board of Education. Committee members discussed the first reading of the policy and recommendations were made. The policy presented for second reading includes changes that were not discussed at the committee level. Ms. Noel stated that the Mayor has the power, under the City Charter, to appoint the students but this was not addressed in the policy.

- School Choice and Facilities Committee

Ms. Patterson-Stallings reported that committee members discussed the possibility to open a high school for Achievement First. The committee will be meeting with the CEO of Achievement First to learn more about that program. This is a topic that is very important because the children who have attended Achieve Hartford and Jumoke Academy do not have where to go next. This proposal will take them into the high school level.

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

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

1. Approval of the Discontinuation of the Comm PACT School Design at M.D. Fox Elementary School (Supt. et al)

Ms. Miranda moved, Ms. Patterson-Stallings seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to discontinue the CommPACT model at M.D. Fox Elementary School.

VOTE:

In Favor: Cotto, McDonald, Miranda, Noel, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond  
Opposed: Rodríguez-Dávila  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Flores, Hudson

The motion passed by voice vote.

2. Approval of the School Facilities Plan for 2011-2021 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Public Schools has initiated an aggressive school building and renovations program over the past decade. A School Facilities Plan for the next decade has been developed that focuses on our remaining major priorities, the completion of several strategic expansions, and ultimately, the sequential renovation of our remaining schools on the basis of their last major renovation.

Ms. Richmond moved, Ms. Miranda seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the 10 Year School Facilities Plan for 2011-2021.

VOTE:

In Favor: McDonald, Miranda, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond  
Opposed: Cotto, Noel, Rodríguez-Dávila  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Flores, Hudson

The motion passed by voice vote.

3. Approval of District Safe School Climate Plan (Supt.et al)

This Plan represents a comprehensive approach to addressing bullying and cyber bullying and sets forth the Board's expectations for creating a positive school climate and thus preventing, intervening, and responding to incidents of bullying.

Ms. Richmond moved, Ms. Noel seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approves the District Safe School Climate Plan.

VOTE:

In Favor: Cotto, McDonald, Miranda, Noel, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond, Rodríguez-Dávila  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Flores, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Second Reading and Adoption: Bylaw 9160– Student Representative to the Board of Education (Mr. MacDonald as Chairman of the Board of Education)

The Hartford Board of Education recognizes the importance of maintaining open communication with the student body. Being cognizant of student interest in the affairs of the Board and also of the Board's interest in knowing the opinions of those under its charge, it is vitally necessary that the lines of communication between the two groups be as open and effective as possible.

Ms. Richmond moved, Ms. Miranda seconded that, the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the revised bylaw 9160 on Student Representatives to the Board of Education.

VOTE:

In Favor: McDonald, Miranda, Noel, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond  
Opposed: Cotto, Rodríguez-Davila  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Flores, Hudson

The motion passed by voice vote.

5. Resolution: Approval of a Feasibility Study of Two-Way Language Programs in the Hartford Public Schools (Robert Cotto, Jr.)

Ms. Richmond made a motion, Ms. Noel seconded, that the Superintendent or her designee, shall prepare a feasibility study of two-way language programs in the Hartford Public Schools. Such feasibility study shall include, but is not limited to, an assessment of bilingual education, world language, and multicultural programs in the Hartford Public Schools. The feasibility study of two-way language programs shall begin by September 2012 and the results should be reported by January 2013.

VOTE:

In Favor: Cotto, McDonald, Miranda, Noel, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond, Rodríguez-Dávila  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Flores, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Acceptance of Funds: Connecticut State Department of Education – Extended School Hours Grant \$410,541 (Supt. etal)

The CSDE awards these funds to Priority School Districts to provide extended school hours for academic enrichment, support and recreation programs. According to state regulations, the process of selecting schools to offer extended school day programs must be a competitive one within each Priority School District.

Ms. Miranda made a motion, Ms. Richmond seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$ 410,541 from the Connecticut State Department of Education for Extended School Hours programs and to make the necessary contractual agreements with community organizations for the delivery of services.

The Hartford Board of Education further authorized the Superintendent to make necessary reductions should the State of Connecticut reduce its commitment to the Extended School Hours programs.

VOTE:

In Favor: Cotto, McDonald, Miranda, Noel, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond, Rodríguez-Dávila  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Flores, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Contract Approval: Capital Workforce Partners \$480,000 (Supt. et al)

The High School Graduation Initiative Grant and the Memorandum of Understanding with five organizations were approved by the Board of Education on December 2010. Three of the five partnerships were approved by the Board in October 2011. Capital Workforce Partners will manage job shadowing opportunities through community provider(s) that target youth with programming designed to strengthen career competency and academic skills training through direct, on-site programming with approved curriculum and close supervision.

Ms. Richmond made a motion, Ms. Miranda seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to enter into one (1), four-year (4) agreement, based on the grant period, with Capital Workforce Partners, at an amount not to exceed \$120,000 per year. The agreement shall commence upon Board of Education approval and end on September 30, 2015.

VOTE:

In Favor: McDonald, Miranda, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond  
Opposed: Cotto, Rodríguez-Dávila  
Abstained: Noel  
Absent: Flores, Hudson

The motion passed by voice vote.

8. Contract Continuation Approval: State Education Resource Center (SERC) \$224,500 (Supt. et al)

The State Education Resource Center is assisting the Hartford Schools to build internal capacity and skills to increase achievement, improve social behavior, and increase post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities through the provision of professional development as a result of conducting needs assessments in the areas of transition, system of general supervision and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.

Ms. Richmond made a motion, Ms. Miranda seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the contract with the State Education Resource Center (SERC) for the period of December 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012; at a cost not exceed the amount of \$224,000.

VOTE:

In Favor: Cotto, McDonald, Miranda, Noel, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond, Rodríguez-Dávila  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Flores, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. Contract Approval: Expeditionary Learning \$168,000 (Supt. et al)

The contract is to provide ongoing professional development and support in the Expeditionary Learning Model 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 Expeditionary Learning school designers. Participating schools are: The Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan and McDonough Expeditionary Learning School.

Ms. Richmond made a motion, Ms. Miranda seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the contract with Expeditionary Learning, for the period of September 30, 2011 through August 30, 2012, at a cost not to exceed \$168,000.

In Favor: Cotto, McDonald, Miranda, Noel, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond, Rodríguez-Dávila  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Flores, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **B. Consent Agenda**

Ms. Patterson-Stallings moved, Ms. Miranda seconded, that the Board approve the following agenda items:

10. Contract Approval: Pearson's America's Choice \$94,000 (Supt. et al)

The America's Choice School at SAND is a K-8 model, providing a quality, standards-based education that meets the needs of all learners. This contract will support the continuation of the design of America's Choice at SAND with a nationally successful whole school reform model. Pearson America's Choice, Inc. will provide professional development training, materials and extensive on-site technical assistance to the leadership team and staff at America's Choice School at SAND.

11. Contract Approval: Hartford Stage \$60,000 (Supt. et al)

The Office of Academics will be partnering with Hartford Stage again this year to enrich one unit of the English Language Arts curriculum in grades six and seven. This partnership will focus on engaging and addressing the literary needs of early adolescent learners while equipping teachers with arts-integrated, theatre-based teaching techniques.

12. Continuation of Acting Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint the following individuals to the position indicated:

- a. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell to the position of Acting Assistant Superintendent of K-1 2 Education
- b. Leslyee Frederick as Acting Chief Academic Officer

13. Continuation of Acting School Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to continue the acting administrative appointments of the following individuals through June 2012:

- a. Jack Balderman, Acting Principal, Academy of Engineering and Green Technology
- b. William Chambers, Acting Principal, John C. Clark Elementary School
- c. Teresita Galarza, Acting Principal, Parkville Community School
- d. Monica Quiñones, Acting Principal, Batchelder Elementary School

14. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 15, 2011 (The Board)
15. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 18, 2011 (The Board)
16. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 20, 2011 (The Board)
17. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 30, 2011 (The Board)

VOTE:

In Favor: Cotto, McDonald, Miranda, Noel, Patterson-Stallings, Richmond, Rodríguez-Dávila

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Flores, Hudson

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.