

## HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Minutes

#### Regular Meeting – September 20, 2011

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. The meeting was held at McDonough Expeditionary Learning School, 111 Hillside Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06105.

#### I. Call to Order

Mr. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 5:52 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

#### II. Public Participation

1. Hyacinth Yennie, advocate for children, spoke regarding transportation and extended day programs. She stated that there are several problems around transportation for extended day programs. She also raised concerns for the choice program. She stated that parents should attend neighborhood schools instead of being bused across the City. Ms. Yennie also recommended having principals accountable for parental involvement in their school.
2. Kerry McNamee, parent, spoke to the board regarding transportation for suburban students.

Dr. Kishimoto explained that there are several issues regarding transportation for magnet schools. She stated that the contact at this level is with the State Department of Education.

3. Milly Arciniegas, HPOC President, advocated for children and parents who are having problems with transportation. She recommended reviewing the Choice process that is link to transportation. She stated that choice goes along with transportation and there are many children that walk over a mile to go to their schools. She raised concerns for the special education services. She stated that there are many students who are not attending school yet and who are not receiving the services they need.
4. Jahayra Davila, parent, spoke to the Board regarding transportation for her children.
5. Andrew McCoy, student, raised concerns with community service. He stated that the community services should be voluntary.

Dr. Kishimoto explained that community service is not part of the graduation requirements for 2013. The CAPT stone is required. Students cannot be exempted from any graduation requirements.

6. Sam Saylor, parent, raised concerns for the communication. He stated that he placed several calls and no one answered. He recommended that the phones are always attended. He stated that there are many parents who do not know where their children should go.
7. Mr. Baxter Atkinson, MLK principal, spoke in favor of naming the gymnasium as the Michael B. DeMaio Gymnasium. He explained that Mr. DeMaio was an asset to not only the children but to the entire school community. He introduced MLK students and staff who supported the item. They shared their experience with Mr. DeMaio.
8. Andrea Johnson, Hartford Federation of Teachers President, spoke to the Board regarding overenrolled classrooms. Ms. Johnson stated that there are several classes that are very high in enrollment. The safety of the students is the number one concern. This issue should be addressed immediately.
9. David Ionno, resident, commended the student who came to speak to the Board. He spoke in favor of the Veterans Day and recommended that the schools reinstate the holiday.
10. Rosa Morales, resident, raised concerns for the cleanliness of the streets around McDonough school. She recommended contacting the Mayor's Office to ask for support to maintain the school neighborhood clean.
11. Shontá Browdy, parent, stated that she participated in the Choice committee and the Budget task Force. She recommended that the decisions are better communicated to parents; many parents do not know what the choice process is. Ms. Browdy stated that she volunteered at Central Office and there were many parents who did not want the schools assigned.

### **III. Reports**

#### **1. Report of the Superintendent**

- Board of Education Workshop Topics FY 2011-12

Dr. Kishimoto provided a list of the topics that will be discussed at the workshop meetings. A copy of the schedule of meetings can be found in the official file of this meeting.

- School Quality Meetings

Dr. Kishimoto reported on School Quality review process. The first component is scheduled school visits to meet with principals and parents, getting their feedback and also visiting classrooms; this is an opportunity to talk about instructional quality and being proactive with the schools that need to improve their performance. The second part of the school quality process is a turnaround process to respond to schools that are at the lowest range of the OSI.

A copy of the report "Responding to School in crisis: OSI in 30 Point Range or Below", and a copy of the School Quality Turnaround Support Plan" can be found in the official file of this meeting.

- Veterans Day Curriculum

Dr. Kishimoto stated that after receiving feedback from several people in the community and also from the HFT about the Veterans Holiday, a quality curriculum that honors our veterans is being developed so we have appropriate lessons for the students to learn about Veterans, and having

an understanding about the contribution that men and women have given to this country. This is an item that should be revisited for future years.

- o Safe School Awareness Day

October 5<sup>th</sup> is considered the Safe School Climate Awareness Day, which is now scheduled annually on the first Wednesday in October. The focus is to explore and have a conversation with students and staff about tolerance and respect. This will occur across the State.

## **2. Committee Reports**

- o Parent and Community Engagement Committee

Ms. Patterson-Stallings stated that the committee met to review the after school standards. Parents and community members were participant at the meeting and provided their feedback. She also reported that the committee will be reviewing the Parent and Community Engagement policy and the School Governance Councils policy.

- o Policy Committee

Ms. Noel stated that the committee met to review the policy on security check and fingerprinting that is presented for first reading. The first reading is an opportunity for the Board and community to provide their feedback. The policy on bullying was also reviewed and is being presented for second reading.

## **IV. Business Agenda**

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

1. Administrative Appointments (Supt. et al)

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

- a. Victor De La Paz to the position of Chief Operating Officer, effective October 1, 2011.
- b. Eduardo Genao to the position of School Quality Officer, effective November 1, 2011.

**Ms. Miranda made a motion; Ms. Richmond seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

2. First Reading: Martin Luther King Gymnasium to be Named: Michael B. DeMaio Gymnasium (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board announces the Superintendent's recommendation for the Dr. Martin Luther King Gymnasium to be named the Michael B. DeMaio Gymnasium following the required six month waiting period as indicated in the current policy.

**Ms. Miranda made a motion; Ms. Richmond seconded the motion.**

3. First Reading: Formal Name Change of Pathways to Technology Magnet School (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education announces the Superintendent's recommendation to modify the name of the school to Pathways Academy of Technology and Design; finalize their decision on the proposed name change six months from this date, as required by Hartford Public Schools Policy 3505; and refer the proposed change to the Bureau of School Facilities and Goodwin College.

**Ms. Miranda made a motion; Ms. Hudson seconded the motion.**

Mr. Dellinger-Pate stated that the school is usually confused with a technical school due to its name. The name change will more accurately identify the school focus in technology and design.

4. Approval of the 2011-2016 Strategic Operating Plan - Framework for Year 1 (Supt.)

The 2011-2016 Strategic Operating Plan is based in three goals: Third Grade Promise, Middle Years Re-Design, and College Readiness. The Strategic Operating Plan framework as presented, defines objectives and measurements for five years but action steps for only year one, 2011-2012. Action Steps for the following four years will be developed by Goal Study Teams.

**Ms. Richmond made a motion; Ms. Miranda seconded the motion.**

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the Strategic Operating Plan Framework was presented to the Board at the September 6<sup>th</sup> workshop. The three goals discussed, the five strategies, and the measures for each of the goals are being presented. The action plan for year one is also being presented. Following the adoption, the superintendent will conduct three forums to have an opportunity to dialogue and receive feedback before the next four years action steps are developed.

Ms. Noel referred to the document submitted and stated that she has many questions and suggestions, including adding a pre-school action step. She recommended that the item is tabled to allow time for reviewing and discussion.

Ms. Miranda stated that the Board is not voting on the action steps. The Board is voting on the framework, the main goals and objectives. The action steps could change and will be modified once the forums are conducted.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the Board is taking action on the framework, the objectives, measures and the goals. The action steps are presented because we need to start moving some of the work. The action steps may be modified once the feedback from the community is received. These are the action steps that will be used to start planning the work.

Ms. Richmond concurred with Ms. Miranda.

Ms. Noel offered adding a statement that the action steps are not being adopted, only the framework. She raised concerns for not addressing pre-schools in the action steps.

Mr. MacDonald stated that the Board has the public assurance from the superintendent that the Board will be presented with a full plan again, and that will be an opportunity to include additional action steps that the Board feels that are missing.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the Board was presented with the Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Measurements. The Action steps were developed afterward in a process that included the work of the administration and principals. This has to be presented in a framework format because we have to start framing our work.

Mr. Cotto stated that this plan demonstrates that the schools need much more support and guidance than previously thought. The plan falls short in a number of areas. He stated that the schools need a three year plan, not a five year plan, because we may have an entire assessment system and a new set of common core standards that was enacted into law on 2010.

Mr. Cotto concurred with Ms. Noel regarding Pre-Kindergarten. He stated the difference between suburban districts and Hartford students having the pre-kinder experience.

**The motion passed by a voice vote. Mr. Cotto and Ms. Noel opposed.**

5. Approval and Adoption of the After School Standards (Supt. et al)

The Report of the Task Force on After School Program Standards is the result of a year-long process in which the task force researched and put forth a set of recommendations and after school standards. The Board of Education accepts the recommendations and adopts the after school standards submitted by the Task Force. Furthermore, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to exercise due diligence and implement the recommendations of the Task Force.

Mr. MacDonald stated that several questions have been raised regarding this item. He recommended tabling the item to further discussion.

**Ms. Patterson-Stallings made a motion to table the item; Ms. Richmond seconded the motion.**

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

6. First Reading: Policy 4112.5 Security Check / Fingerprinting (Policy Committee)

Each person hired by Hartford Public Schools shall be required to submit to state and national criminal record checks. A check of sex offender registries must be conducted on all final candidates for employment, including independent contractors.

**Ms. Richmond made a motion; Ms. Noel seconded the motion.**

7. Second Reading and Adoption: Policy 5141 Bullying Prevention and Intervention (Policy Committee)

The Connecticut Legislature passed a new school bullying prevention law, An Act Concerning the Strengthening of School Bullying Laws, Public Act # 11-232, which went into effect on July 1, 2011. The focus of the new law is on cyberbullying; requires all staff to be trained in bullying prevention; and the appointment of a Safe School Climate Specialist district-wide and in each school by July 1, 2012.

**Ms. Noel made a motion; Ms. Hudson seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

8. Appointment of Impartial Hearing Officer (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to appoint Helen Apostolidis, Esq. as an impartial hearing officer for the purposes of school accommodations, transportation and expulsion hearings pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Sections 10-186 and 10-233d.

**Ms. Miranda made a motion; Ms. Richmond seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a voice vote. Mr. Rodriguez-Davila abstained.**

**B. Consent Agenda**

9. Contract Continuation Approval: Dr. Eric Cohen \$140,000 yearly / 2 years (Supt.et al)

Dr. Cohen provides psychiatric evaluations and consultation for Hartford Public School students who are referred through the PPT process. The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve a two year contract with Dr. Eric Cohen, for the period of August 30, 2011 through June 30, 2013, at a cost not to exceed \$140,000 per year.

10. Contract Continuation Approval: Boys and Girls Club \$100,000 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the Contract Agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of Hartford, Inc. for the period of August 30, 2011 through June 30, 2012, at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.

11. Approval of the minutes of the special meeting held on July 28, 2011 (The Board)

12. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 21, 2011 (The Board)

13. Approval of the minutes of the special meeting held on June 7, 2011 (The Board)

**Ms. Richmond made a motion; Ms. Miranda seconded the motion.**

Ms. Noel requested a report on item # 10 that includes the number of students that are served through this program.

**The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.**

**V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.