

# AGENDA

## ITEM # 14

Page 743  
May 17, 2011  
Page 1

### Hartford Board of Education

#### Minutes

#### Regular Meeting – May 17, 2011

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter "Board" met on Tuesday, May 17, 2011. The meeting was held at Capital Preparatory Magnet School, 1304 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103.

#### I. Call to Order

6:00 p.m. Mr. MacDonald called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

<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 Mr. Robert Cotto, Jr.	<u>Absent:</u> Ms. Ada Miranda Mr. Israel Flores Mr. Luis Rodríguez-Dávila
Superintendent Steven Adamowski	

#### I. Recognition of the Championship Teams of the 2011 District-wide Academic Competition

Superintendent Adamowski recognized Championship teams who participated in the third annual Academic Competition on Thursday, May 12 at the Hartford Public Library.

Eighty eight elementary grade students, representing 24 school teams, competed in the areas of Vocabulary, Writing & Recitation, and Mathematics.

The event was designed by the Office of Academics and uses state standards to develop the questions. The competitions began at the school-level in March and then students compete in the city-wide Semi-Final rounds held at Rensselaer in mid-April.

The winning teams then compete in the district event to vie for the Championship titles in Grade 3 and 6 Vocabulary, Grade 5 and 8 Writing & Recitation, and Grade 4 and 7 Mathematics.

Dr. Adamowski announced and congratulated the 2011 District Winners.

##### **Grade 3 Vocabulary Champions: Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School**

Students: Kayla Gray (Team Captain), Isadora Rivera-Janer, Aneza Sierra, Jayden Aponte and Chelsea Rookwood.

Coaches: Ms. Emily Hollenbeck and Ms. Robin Otis

##### **Grade 4 Math Champions: Kennelly School**

Students: Jose Nieves (Team Captain), Alexis Rodriguez, Natalie Gonzalez and Isamar Amado Serrano.

Coaches: Ms. Pheobe White and Ms. Lauren Gaudino

**Grade 5 Writing & Recitation Champion: West Middle School**

Student: Jenellie Riketts

Coach – Linda Cutler

**Grade 6 Vocabulary Champions: Capital Preparatory Magnet School**

Students: Scott Santos, Nataya Tindle, Kaelie Salcedo and Jordan Perry.

Coaches: Ms. Latasha Quinones and Ms. Kitsia Ferguson

**Grade 7 Math Champions: Hooker Magnet School of Environmental Sciences**

Students: Dat Nguyen (Team Captain), Julian Calderon, Raul Goycochea, Linelly Figueuroa and Emily Rios.

Coach: Mr. Peter Perreira

**Grade 8 Writing & Recitation Champion: Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School**

Student: Amberleigh Delgado

Coach: Mr. Rich Skowronski

**II. Recognition of Hartford Educator**

- i. 2011 Teacher of the Year for the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship:  
Ms. Anne Nguyen, Sport and Medical Sciences Academy

Dr. Adamowski recognized Ms. Anne Nguyen, marketing teacher at Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, who was named the 2011 Teacher of the Year for the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, New England Chapter.

The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, or NFTE, is a national organization that implements programs intended to encourage children to stay in school, recognize business opportunities, and plan for successful futures.

Over the past year, Ms. Nguyen has instructed several students with award winning business plans using the NFTE system. Students Belma Ahemetovic and Zermine Velic became the co-founders of Beta Bytes, a computer repair company marketed towards the Bosnian community in Hartford. The students, under the leadership of Ms. Nguyen, placed second in the nation in the 2010 Oppenheimer Funds/NFTE National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge.

Ms. Nguyen was honored for her achievements and success as a NFTE instructor by the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship at a gala in Times Square on April 13.

**III. Public Participation**

1. **Hyacinth Yennie**, parent and advocate for children, referred to the graduation ceremonies at Hartford High and recommended having one graduation for the all the academies. She also raised concerns for the floor and carpeting in the Media Center at Hartford High. She recommended starting the work to fix it as soon as possible. She raised concerns for the grading system and recommended revising the policy. She also raised her concerns for the elimination of custodians and paraprofessionals and the effect of that elimination on instruction and school maintenance.

2. **Crystal DeBerry**, parent of a child enrolled in the Global Communications Academy, stated her child's problem in the school due to other students showing bad behavior. She raised concerns for the safety of the students. She stated that when incidents occur in the classroom, teachers do not intervene.

She stated that her son was attacked by other children from MLK school when he was transitioning to an after school program. Students were unsupervised. Ms. DeBerry recommended the Board addressing the behavior issues in the schools.

Dr. Adamowski stated that this issue cannot be tolerated and it will be addressed.

3. **Maria Rosa**, parent of a student attending the Freshman Academy at Hartford High. She raised concerns for the choice process. Her daughter was assigned to Weaver Journalism Academy, but her first choice was the Nursing Academy. She stated that the choice advertising is deceiving.

Dr. Adamowski explained that this is an issue that may be resolved. There might some changes between now and when school starts. Usually, 90% of the applicants get their first choice.

4. **Salado Farah**, parent, raised concerns for the choice program and the application forms. She stated that her child was sent to school that he was forced to choose in the application. Her first choice was the academy at Hartford High. Students attending the freshman academy have limited English; yet, they have made great progress. Many students from Hartford High are being sent to Weaver, but students are not interested in the academies there.

5. **Jane Russell**, parent of two students attending HPS, Kennelly School PTO, raised concerns for the transfer of the principal to a different school. She stated that the school council only received one recommended candidate. Parents need to be more involved in the searching process. The next candidate should have a Latin background since the population at the school is mostly Latinos. The more qualified principal should be elected. Parents are part of the educational system and they should be more involved in the schools.

Dr. Adamowski thanked Ms. Russell for being active in the school. He clarified that the candidates are recommended by the governance councils. In Kennelly's case, there were four candidates and the final candidate was recommended this week and. The candidate will be interviewed by Dr. Kishimoto and following the interview, the candidate will meet with parents.

6. **Milagros Vega**, parent, advocated for students who cannot read at grade level. She recommended having funds available to provide support for those students. She also raised concerns for the elimination of special education paraprofessionals.

#### 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:

- a. Stacy Chambers to the position of Principal, Thomas J. McDonough School effective July 1, 2011.

- b. Martin Folan to the position of Principal, University High of Science & Engineering, effective July 1, 2011.
- c. Sylvia Hall to the position of Principal, America's Choice at SAND School, effective July 1, 2011.
- d. Darren Schwartz to the position of Principal, Cornelius A. Moylan School, effective July 1, 2011.
- e. Alexander Nardone to the position of Chief of Staff, effective July 1, 2011.

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

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

2. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the Hartford Public Schools and Trinity College (Supt. et al)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a means for co-management of Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, formerly Hartford Magnet Middle School. The MOU speaks to the following areas of management and collaboration: School Governance Council, School Design, Student Participation (Academy and Trinity), Pre-9th Grade Writing & Study Skills Program, Pre-10th Grade Science & Study Skills Program and Early College Academy.

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

**The motion passed by a voice vote. Mr. Cotto abstained.**

3. Contract Approval: Hartford Performs \$400,000 yearly/3 years (Supt. et al)

This is a continuation of the contract with the Greater Hartford Arts Council (GHAC) as the fiscal agent for Hartford Performs. The organizing principle of Hartford Performs is the idea that collaborative networks of schools, arts providers, community organizations, funders and others can and should work toward a common vision of service to students, families and communities. Key drivers of Hartford Performs include the alignment of arts learning activities with required curriculum standards in Hartford Public Schools, the effective deployment of existing cultural resources in the community, and the measurement of the program's impact and outcomes.

**Ms. Patterson-Stallings made a motion; Ms. Noel seconded the motion.**

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

4. Contract Approval: Teach for America \$630,000 /3 years (Supt. et al)

Teach for America recruits teachers from the top colleges and universities across the country. Each teacher, corps member, commits to teach for two years in one of 39 urban and rural regions across the United States. Teach for America's mission is to recruit, select, train and support outstanding recent college graduates to serve as highly qualified and effective teachers in urban schools.

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

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

**Mr. MacDonald postponed item # 5 and # 7 due to the late hour. The items will be back in next the business agenda.**

6. Second Reading and Adoption: Policy 5173 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion (Policy Committee)

All students requiring special education, or a student being evaluated for special education and awaiting determination, enrolled in Hartford Public Schools who exhibit behaviors that result, or may result, in immediate or imminent injury to the student or to others may be subject to physical restraint and/or seclusion in accordance with Public Act No. 07-147 and Connecticut General Statutes Section 46a – 150 through 46a – 154.

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

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

#### **B. Consent Agenda**

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

The State Department of Education, Bureau of School Facilities (BSF) requires that School Building Committees and Boards of Education certify that they have approved the final construction documents for school construction projects prior to BSF 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. MD Fox School Phase II – State Project #064-0299
2. Conversion of Quirk Middle School Into the Global Studies Academy (an International Baccalaureate Candidate School) Phase I - State Project #064-0294
3. Journalism and Media High School Phase I - State Project #064-0296

9. Approval of School Construction Plans and ED042 Submittal – Quirk Middle School Phase II (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the final plans and authorizes the architects to submit the documents for the construction phase (Phase II) of the former Quirk Middle School (State Project #064-0294) to the Bureau of School Facilities for their review and approval.

10. Approval of Educational Specifications for Roof Replacement at Batchelder School (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education accepts and approves the Educational Specifications for the roof replacement project at Batchelder School, dated April 25, 2011, and authorizes submission of the documents to the Bureau of School Facilities for purposes of securing a construction grant.

11. Authorization by the Board of Education: E-Rate Funding - \$419,325.53 (Supt. et al)

That the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to endorse the applications filed by MHIS on behalf of the district for E-Rate funding. Payment

of the applicant's share, at a cost of approximately \$419,325.53 is included in the current MHIS allocation budget for 2011-2012.

12. Reauthorization of the Healthy Food Certification Statement (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education adopts the Healthy Foods and Beverages in Hartford Public Schools Policy and submits the Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2011-2012 stating "will meet said standards during the period of July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012".

13. Approval of the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for the 2011-12 School Year (The Board)

**Mr. Richmond made a motion; Ms. Hudson seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed by a voice vote. Ms. Noel abstained.**

**V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.