

## AGENDA

### ITEM # 18

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**Hartford Board of Education  
Regular Meeting – Tuesday, February 15, 2011  
Sport and Medical Sciences Academy – 280 Huyshope Avenue**

### MINUTES

#### I. Roll Call and Call to Order

5:35 p.m. Ms. Miranda called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

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

Ms. Miranda opened the meeting with an opening statement.

#### I. Dialogue Session

##### 1. Parent and Student Comment

**Hyacinth Yennie**, raised concerns for the carpet in the media center at HPHS which it is torn. She has attended meetings and submitted her concerns to the administration, but nothing has been done. She also raised concerns for the need of books in the Media Center. That is one of the reasons why the school loss its accreditation. Ms. Yennie stated that bonuses were distributed to some people while others were laid off. She recommended that the new superintendent visit the schools to learn what is working and what is missing. Ms. Yennie concluded expressing her support for the Trinity College partnership agenda item. A partnership with a successful college will bring great opportunities for the students.

Dr. Adamowski stated that the problem with the floors in the media center was addressed at the school building committee level. They have determined that there is not legal action against the constructors to fix it. The repairs will be budgeted for the 2011-12 school year. He also clarified that the school is fully accredited.

**Levey Kardulis**, parent, raised concerns for the bonuses distributed to people who do not work in the classrooms. He also raised concerns for the lack of resources in the schools. Many schools have one custodian only. They need snow removal equipment, custodians cannot be sent outside to shovel snow. The money expended in bonuses should have been allocated for priority expending. He stated that there were several cuts in buildings and grounds; yet, many of the custodians are called to central office to perform work at a building that the City does not own. Mr. Kardulis concluded with a recommendation to change the location of meetings to a more centralized location.

**Giselle Feliciano**, parent, raised concerns for the superintendent search process. The search committee did not give parents an opportunity to voice their opinions. The members of the committee had already chosen one person. She stated that she has nothing against the chosen candidate, but her choice would have been the other candidate, a home grown person who understands the magnet and regional process, the community and what parents' needs are. When making the decision, the Board should consider those needs. Parents need leadership that understands our children and their needs, not business as usual. Parents are asking for a change.

**Ms. Miranda accepted a motion from Ms. Noel to enter into executive session. Mr. Flores seconded the motion.**

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

**II. Executive Session (Pending Litigation)**

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

The executive session adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

**III. Board of Education Annual Organizational Meeting**

Ms. Noel stated that the Board is comprised of five members who are appointed by the Mayor and whose term ends in December 2011; and four members who were elected for a four-year term which ends in November 2013. She asked the Board to consider equal representation on its leadership team to ensure continuity.

1. Election of Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, and Secretary

Ms. Miranda entertained a motion to open the nomination for the office of Chair. Mr. Flores nominated Mr. MacDonald as Chair, hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

Ms. Miranda entertained a motion to open the nomination for the office of First Vice Chair. Mr. MacDonald nominated Ms. Richmond as First Vice Chair, Ms. Noel nominated Mr. Cotto as First Vice Chair; hearing no other nominations, nominations were closed.

Ms. Miranda entertained a motion to open the nomination for the office of Second Vice Chair. Mr. MacDonald nominated Ms. Hudson as Second Vice Chair; hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

Ms. Miranda entertained a motion to open the nomination for the office of Secretary. Ms. Richmond nominated Ms. Patterson-Stallings as Secretary, Mr. Cotto nominated Ms. Noel as Secretary; hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

All written ballots were collected by Ms. Dorfman, Support Administrator for the Board of Education.

Ms. Dorfman announced the results of the written ballots. Mr. MacDonald was elected to the office of Chair, Ms. Richmond was elected to the office of First Vice Chair, Ms. Hudson was elected to the office of Second Vice Chair, and Ms. Patterson-Stallings was elected to the office of Secretary.

#### **IV. Oath of Office**

The Oath of Office was administered by Ms. Sandra Kee-Borges, City of Hartford Corporation Counsel.

Mr. MacDonald thanked Board members for the opportunity to lead the Board.

Ms. Richmond and Mr. MacDonald thanked Ms. Miranda for her hard work, diligence and great leadership in leading the Board for the past two years.

##### 1. Parent and Student Comment (continued)

**Deborah Bigelow**, PTO at Naylor, thanked the Board for the creation of the Choice Advisory committee and giving parents the opportunity to be involved and to provide their feedback regarding Choice. One of the recommendations of the advisory committee was the "No Paper Application" during the lottery process. She stated that the advisory committee has requested to meet with Mr. Cotto in regards to his proposed paper application, but the meeting has not taken place yet. A paper application does not make it easier for parents, it only cause more confusion. The online applications have been very effective for parents. The marketing campaign guarantees one of the four choices. Parents did not receive any of the choices in the past. Parents worked very closely with the District to create a campaign that guarantees one of four choices. Another recommendation was to send the acceptance letters to the schools rather than home address. That was recommended because many schools do not have a current or updated address for the students.

Mr. MacDonald requested that the recommendations are submitted to the Board.

Dr. Adamowski thanked Ms. Bigelow and Advisory team for their work and support to the school system, and for their participation in the committee and making the process better.

**Milly Arciniegas**, HPAC president, thanked Ms. Miranda for her leadership and hard work during the past years. She raised concerns for the lack of customer service in some schools. Parents have been working hard to be involved in their schools. Principals need to make a priority to ensure that the schools are more welcoming. When parents chose a school, they tend to visit the schools more often. Principals should be prepared to welcome parents; there are principals that believe that the schools belong to them. The schools belong to the community, the students and their families.

Dr. Adamowski stated that some principals have received training on how to create a friendlier environment. This issue has been addressed and discussion has taken place with principals and they have expressed a commitment. There are some schools that are extremely responsible and welcome strong parental involvement. Principals understand that they need to market their schools to be able to have parents choosing the school.

**Jeanette Lopez**, Co President of Naylor PTO, stated that her kindergarten child was physically attacked by a teacher at Naylor. She went to the school to report the incident and learn more about it, but the teacher became defensive and verbally abused the parent and the student. An investigation was conducted while the teacher remained working in the school. The investigation resolution was that the teacher spit in the student's face but she refused to apologize to the student or the parent. This is not the first time that this teacher has been reported; yet, nothing has been done to correct the teacher's actions.

Dr. Adamowski recommended Ms. Lopez contacting the Ombudsman for the District. He explained that there are situations involving staff that may occur, and the principals take corrective actions and adjustments at the appropriate time.

## 2. Public Comment

**Vanessa Nunes, Chris DeLauretis and Ms. Pamela Lowe**, teachers at Naylor School, came in support of the redesign of Naylor. Mr. DeLauretis expressed his support for the design. The partnership will allow teachers to further their education. The teachers participated in the steering committee and the design team for the past year.

Ms. Nunes stated that starting as teacher interns, they worked with cooperating teachers on hands-on experience to gain the skills. Now as teachers, the roles have reversed, and they now transfer the practice to new learners. The design is sustainability.

Ms. Lowe stated that she has been a teacher at Naylor for the past 29 years. Ms. Lowe has been an active member of the CCSU partnership for 14 years. The teachers that she has mentor through this partnership have resulted in some of the finest teachers in the District. The partnership expands the professional growth as educators and also contributes to student learning, achievement and performance.

**R.J. Luke Williams** stated that he taught history at Hartford High for thirty five years and he is presently a volunteer archivist in the school's museum. The museum is well supported by the community and possesses several art pieces and historical documents. He named some of the paintings that are shown at the Museum. The museum is maintained by volunteers and it is sustained by alumni and foundation donors. He expressed his support for the partnership with Trinity and the District's emphasis on Science. He recommended incorporating the use of the museum and observatory in the science curriculum.

Dr. Adamowski thanked Mr. Williams for his dedication and work for the museum.

**Douglas McCrory**, Representative, asked for the plans for Martin Luther King and Weaver schools. He stated that there are concerns in the community regarding the closing of those two schools. He asked for the next steps. He also commented on the location of Board meetings and recommended changing them to a centralized location.

Mr. MacDonald stated that the Board will be considering moving the meetings to a different location or rotating locations.

Dr. Adamowski explained that ample discussion took place last year around the MLK decommission. There was a proposal to close King and redistribute remaining students to other schools. After several meetings with parents and school community, the recommendation was made to maintain King as a school indefinitely, and for the next four years maintain its current location. This was coordinated with other school development items in the school facilities master plan. In the 2014-15 school year, Global Academy will move to its permanent location and King will move to the Lewis Fox building as its new home. This is the plan that we are pursuing and a principal was appointed when the decision was made last year. This plan was well articulated to MLK parents and the school community.

Mr. McCrory stated that the current MLK building is not in good shape; he asked for the plans to improve the conditions of the building while students stay there until 2014.

Dr. Adamowski stated that those were the concerns last year because the building requires an ongoing investment; even on a minimal basis to maintain a building that old. There is no renovation plan for that building. The Board will utilize the funds for capital improvements to keep the building safe and clean, but

there will not be structural improvements. The decision was made by parents to maintain the school in the current location and make a move intact.

Dr. Adamowski stated that several meetings with the Weaver community have taken place in the past two years. The decision was made to maintain Weaver but not in the current building which is in terrible condition. Discussions with the University of Hartford have taken place around replicating the early college model at Weaver. Based on the input received and the conception that we are not at a point of consensus with the community, the process has been extended to continue this discussion before proceeding with a definite plan for Weaver. The Blue Hills Association has been invited to convene several more of these discussions. This project will be a large investment and we cannot proceed without a strong community support and feedback, and without asking the State and local officials for their support.

Mr. McCrory concluded recommending investing in the MLK building for the safety of the students.

**James Starr**, Executive Director of Achieve Hartford! stated that the District has made some gains in the first stage of the reform, but it has a long way to go. Achieve Hartford believes that sustaining the reform is essential. He stated that as much of the focus is in the new superintendent, it is equally important that the Board show great leadership. The next stage of reform represents greater challenge. As the transition to the next phase takes place, the Board and administration need to further build strong community partnership, earn community trust and cultivate support in all parts of the community. To get everyone on Board effectively, purposeful communication will be essential. It must be directed at the community and parents. Parents and students must know that reform is necessary. They need to understand what is working and what is not, and believe that positive change can take place.

Mr. Starr expressed his support for the redesigns. He stated that given the financial challenges, it is very important that the Board and administration understand both the intended academic impact of the new programs and the allocations use to fund them.

**Sheldon W. Neal**, principal, expressed his support for the superintendent search. HPS is on the rise and the Board's responsibility is critical for the success and sustainability of the school reform. The decision should be made based on the work that each individual has contributed to the success of the reform. Hartford is closing the achievement gap. The new superintendent must continue the reform. Many superintendents have come and go; they have shaken the system, taken their money and left the students behind. Time is essence and we do not have the time for someone to learn the job, to learn the programs and the players. We need a highly qualified superintendent with a passion and commitment to our children. We need a superintendent who will carry on the remarkable success of the current superintendent. We need a superintendent who knows the policies, the best practices, the politics and most important the people who are engaged in the delivery. He recommended Dr. Kishimoto as the best candidate for new superintendent.

**Michael Downes**, Hartford Federation of Substitute Teachers, congratulated the new Board Officers and thanked Ms. Miranda for her leadership. He raised concerns for the elimination of paraprofessionals. He recommended more discussion on the Board legislative priorities and the proposed alternative route to certification for school administrators. He also recommended changing the location of the meetings and rotating schools. Moving the meeting to different locations will increase public participation at Board meetings.

Dr. Adamowski thanked Mr. Downes for his participation at the meeting with City Council to go over the legislative priorities.

**Larry Deustch**, Council member, stated that three minutes is not enough for a dialogue. He requested that the answers to constituent concerns are answered in written form. He also recommended holding the executive sessions at the end of the meeting so the public does not have to wait to participate. He also

recommended including the subject of the executive session on the agenda. He raised concerns for the contract with a Massachusetts based company to conduct a media campaign. He concurred with early comments regarding the location of meetings. He also recommended the renovation of MLK and Weaver buildings and raised concerns for the increase on the bonding amount for the renovation of the Asian Studies Academy at Bellizzi school.

Mr. Deustch raised concerns for the way the selection committee was chosen and the public perception. He also expressed his disapproval for the distribution of bonuses. He asked if the public knew that when the contracts with teachers and administrators were negotiated, the bonuses were included. Top management receiving high salaries should not receive bonuses for doing their job. That money should go into renovations, after school programs, music and arts or teachers, libraries, etc.

## V. Reports

1. Report of the Chair
  - o Superintendent Search Update

Mr. MacDonald stated that the search committee has been actively engaged in the search of the new superintendent. Input from the community, stakeholders and parents was received. Internal candidates were interviewed. There are several steps that need to take place and the process includes community meetings with several union leaders and stakeholders. A special meeting will be held within the next ten days where the chosen candidate will be appointed. The meeting will be followed by a reception.

2. Report of the Superintendent
  - o Recognition of Hartford Educator
    - Magnet Schools of America Region I Teacher of the Year: Dr. Tracy Saperstein, Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts

Dr. Tracy Saperstein, the Magnet Development Specialist at Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, has been named the Region 1 Teacher of the Year by Magnet Schools of America. Magnet Schools of America is a non-profit, professional educational association located in Washington, D.C. Magnet Schools of America sponsors programs and events and hosts professional development opportunities through the National Institute for Magnet School Leadership.

The Magnet Schools of America Teacher of the Year award was established in 2010 to recognize an outstanding, dedicated instructional leader who exemplifies excellence in academic achievement through innovative programs that promote equity and diversity for students in a magnet school.

Dr. Saperstein was selected as the Region 1 winner which represents the states in the New England region. She is now in the running to win the National Teacher of the Year for Magnet Schools of America.

Dr. Saperstein teaches at Kinsella, provides professional development to teachers and administration, assists with recruitment and integrates the arts theme into all aspects of the school curriculum. She also serves as the liaison between families and the school, provides continuous communication to parents and sits on several boards that provide activities for student involvement.

Dr. Saperstein started her career with Hartford Public Schools in 1999 as a kindergarten teacher. She holds a B.S in Early Childhood Education from Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts; a Master's in Early

Childhood Education from Central Connecticut State University; and a doctorate in education with a focus in Teacher Leadership from Walden University in Baltimore, Maryland.

- o Curriculum Adoption Update

Ms. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Deputy Chief Academic Officer, explained that the District has a strategy of a manage performance empowerment. The majority of principals have full autonomy to choose their curriculum. The majority have chosen to use the curriculum that the academic department directors have designed. They are using the assessments that have been designed by the office of academics and also the resources that we recommend. Some schools use the district's assessments, but they use their own resources.

Dr. Adamowski stated that there is a number of schools that elected full adoption. Schools in intervention and redesign must use it. This indicates the quality of the curriculum that has been written and the connection to the grade level of expectations and the standards.

Ms. Miranda asked for the professional development. Ms. Roberge-Wentzell explained that the schools that have chosen full adoption also receive professional development that directly from the office of academics.

- o University of Hartford Affiliation Agreement – Mr. Roldan

Mr. Roldan, director of strategic partnerships, stated that the University of Hartford has been a critical partner for the school system. He introduced Dr. Ralph Muller, Dean of College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions at the University of Hartford.

Dr. Ralph Muller stated that the purpose is to formalize and recognize at an institutional level a rich tradition of existing, longstanding collaborations between Hartford Public Schools and University faculties, thereby affording mutually beneficial opportunities to faculty and students for evidence-based best practice and research. This is a unique opportunity and this is the right time to do it to connect the schools with the university.

Mr. Roldan explained that the affiliation agreement is the product of several months of work between the Hartford Public Schools and the University of Hartford. It establishes a means for cooperative efforts, particularly in the areas of faculty and student related matters, hiring practices, academic and research information between the two educational institutions, educational programming, economic development, and other activities.

Faculty: The Parties may pursue the joint hiring and retention of teaching and administrative positions. Also, Board personnel and faculty may be afforded continuing education opportunities at the University.

Students: HPS students may be afforded the opportunity to enroll in college level courses at the University. In addition, University education majors may be afforded priority placement in Hartford schools for internships and teaching positions, clinical placements, and other training opportunities.

Economic Development: The Parties may pursue economic development opportunities which may benefit the Hartford Public Schools, the University, and their students and faculty, as well as their respective communities and the region as a whole.

Research: The University's Institute for Translational Research – primarily through the CLPE – may develop research programs in certain HPS sites that are designed to: advance each Party's research agenda; promote and assist in the hiring and retention of University students by the Board; and assist the University develop teachers with an urban education emphasis.

School Based Collaborations: Several HPS sites will be identified as having a more particular relationship with the University whereby mutually beneficial programming will be sought and promoted to each such school. These sites may also have members of the University's faculty or administration serving on school governance councils.

The Parties will explore translational research center locations at currently identified HPS sites including, but not limited to, the following: Bentances Early Reading Lab School; Global Communications Academy; Montessori Magnet at Anne Fisher; STEM Magnet School at Annie Fisher; University High School of Science and Engineering; and Weaver High School.

The agreement shall be implemented under the oversight of a jointly appointed Advisory Council. The Advisory Council shall be composed of no more than nine voting members. These members shall be appointed by the Superintendent of Schools, the President of the University of Hartford and jointly appointed by both.

Ms. Noel stated that there is a partnership established with University of Hartford since Weaver was created. It was a different partnership, but there is a long term partnership with the university. Ms. Noel stated that the Weaver community fears that the university will take over the campus and expand. That is not the intention of the University, but those are the fears that people have. More meetings with the community are needed so the concept of this partnership can be easily understood. The other part of the concern is the cost. As we move forward, the finances will have to be looked at.

Dr. Muller stated that there is no intention to take anything over. A partnership takes two partners, we hope to communicate with the Weaver community and have discussions regarding how to improve the school.

- First Uniform Vendor Fair

Dr. Nardone, Chief Operating Officer, reported that the first uniform vendor fair was held on January 25 during the principals' conference and it was a success. There were four vendors from Hartford that setup a very impressive products display. The feedback received from vendors was very positive. A survey was conducted with principals and they liked having all the vendors from Hartford in one place, being able to talk to them, and to meet them in person.

- *Sheff* – October 1, 2010 Data

Mr. Genao stated that the State released the data on the status of compliance for the magnet schools. The document is labeled preliminary because the State and the plaintiffs have not agreed on how to classify students under the new federal guidelines for reporting race.

Hartford Magnet schools, in order to be considered in compliance must have 25% of their students of non minority race. 11 out of 12 schools made progress and 8 out of 12 were able to be in compliance. This is the first year that SMSA needed to be at 25%. It missed compliance by 7/10%, but it did increase in 3.5% based on last year. Pathways missed compliance by 6/10% but it increased by 2.6% in its current facility. STEM is compliant, even though they lost 20 non minority families due to transportation issues. He listed other schools included in the report. A presentation on the application data and the lottery will be presented in the spring.

Ms. Noel asked for the extension of the application deadline. She asked if the lottery results will be affected by the extension.

Mr. Genao stated that the State extended its application deadline due to the inclement weather. The date of the lottery has not been affected and it is still set by mid March.

- Financial Report – Ms. Altieri, Chief Financial Officer

### **General Budget Financial Report as of December 31, 2010:**

For the six-month period ending December 31, 2010, we have expended a total of \$103.18 million or 36.1% of the 2010-11 Adopted General Fund Budget of \$285.80 million. Total encumbrances amount to \$52.15 million and represent 18.2% of the Adopted General Fund Budget. As shown on the financials, we are forecasting two variances through December 31, 2010. They are as follows:

- We are forecasting a negative variance in the Tuition accounts of \$1,365,915 through December 31, 2010. The variance is attributable to the anticipated decrease in Special Education Excess Cost reimbursement revenues.
- We are forecasting a positive variance in the Fringe Benefits budget of \$ 3,876,406 through December 31, 2010. The vast majority of the positive variance is attributable to our favorable health care claims trending through December 31, 2010.

### **Special Funds Financial Report as of December 31, 2010:**

For the six-month period ending December 31, 2010 we have expended a total of \$38.48 million or 33.7% of the 2010-11 Revised Special Funds Budget of \$114.24 million. Total encumbrances amount to \$10.26 million and represent 9% of the Revised Special Funds Budget. There are no forecasted variances to report at this time.

At this time of the fiscal year, many unknown and somewhat volatile factors may impact year-end projections. These factors include but are not limited to: Special Education mandated services, utility rates and costs, health care claims exposure and experience, severity of the winter, and other unknown or unforeseeable circumstances. We continue to monitor expenditures closely to ensure full utilization and optimization of funding.

Ms. Miranda asked if this is the last year of the ARRA funds. Ms. Altieri answered that the ARRA fund will lapse at the end of June 30. The changes will be reflected in the budget FY 2011-12.

- School Closings: Snow Days, Roof Clearing, CMT/CAPT, School Year Issues, and Costs

### **Snow Removal Cost Summary**

- Total cost snow removal from roofs of 21 schools: \$900,000.
- Cost per hour / per worker: \$65 - \$75
- Average cost per school: \$43,000.
- Workers involved: Hartford Schools Maintenance & Custodians; three Hartford contractors; “walk-up” temporary workers
- Amount of snow removed from roofs: Approximately 1 million square feet

Dr. Adamowski explained that 21 of the 46 Schools had snow removed from their buildings. Approximately 25 of the schools were fine. There was overtime involved and almost 100 custodians and maintenance workers worked extremely hard over the weekend to do some of the most difficult work. We also hired three different constructors to do some of the work. The schools could not be open during this process because the snow had to be shoveled off the roof and walkways.

Dr. Adamowski recognized the work of everyone involved during the most difficult times. He thanked Mr. Bazzano for his work and dedication in supervising the constructors and working around the clock during the

weekend. This expense was not budgeted and funds were transferred under the direction of the Finance Committee.

**2010-11 Make Up Snow Days (as of Feb. 15, 2011)**

<b>6 Days (Last Day June 15th)</b>	<b>7 Days (June 16th)</b>	<b>8 Days (June 17th)</b>	<b>9 Days (June 20th)</b>
All schools except as noted	A.F. (Lower) Breakthrough I Breakthrough II M.D. Fox McDonough Rawson Wish OPPortunity High School	Betances Burr M.L.K. Moylan Naylor Parkville West Middle H.M.M.S.	A.F. (Upper) Global (Upper) Capital Prep S.M.S.A

- Jan 7<sup>th</sup> - Early Release
- Jan 12<sup>th</sup> - Schools/Offices Closed (1)
- Jan 13<sup>th</sup> - 2 Hour Delay
- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> - Early Release
- Jan 18<sup>th</sup> - Schools Closed (2)
- Jan 21<sup>st</sup> - Schools Closed (3)
- Jan 25<sup>th</sup> - 2 Hour Delay
- Jan 27<sup>th</sup> - Schools Closed (4)
- Feb 1<sup>st</sup> - Schools Closed (5)
- Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> - Schools/Offices Closed (6)
- Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> - 2 Hour Delay

Dr. Adamowski explained that the last full week that the school operated was December 13. There were six days that the schools closed. There were also a couple of days that they closed for snow removal. Several options were discussed. The State will require a 180 days and there will be no flexibility. We are looking at all the options and the information will be available for schools and parents. We are trying to avoid a June 16-17 scenario. There is great concern due to the constant interruptions and the students are now behind almost a month.

Mr. MacDonald asked if the roofs were inspected.

Dr. Adamowski explained that all of the roofs have been inspected and they were cleared by the building inspectors and by the fire marshal. We may not know if the roofs have been damaged until the spring. The workers were advised to leave about six inches of snow on the roof so the shovels would not damage the roofs. This was a very hard and difficult work under very difficult conditions.

Mr. MacDonald asked if the option of opening schools on Saturdays for makeup of school days has been considered.

Dr. Nardone explained that there is a State provision that prevents the makeup of snow days on Saturdays or Sundays.

**VI. Business Agenda**

**A. Items in Order of Importance**

1. Approval of New School Design Specifications for Dr. James H. Naylor/CCSU Leadership Academy (Supt. et al)

Dr. James H. Naylor/CCSU Leadership Academy is a professional development/leadership school that prepares students, teachers, and professionals-in-training, utilizing current research and best practices to be leaders in classrooms, school and the community. Naylor and Central Connecticut State University work collaboratively to enrich students' lives at the school and in the community. In August 2011 the school will serve 693 students in grades PreK through 8 at Naylor.

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

Ms. Noel recommended having financial information. She expressed her support for the partnership with Central Connecticut State University that has been going on for many years. She also expressed her support for the parent training program at Naylor.

Mr. Cotto asked if the redesign has an extra budget impact outside the student based budgeting.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that there is not additional budget implication; this is a school with full enrollment and the SBB will cover the cost.

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

2. Approval of New School Design Specifications for McDonough Expeditionary Learning School, grades 6-8 (Supt. et al)

McDonough Expeditionary Learning School, grades 6-8, will be an Expeditionary Learning School. Students will engage in in-depth learning through learning expeditions which are interdisciplinary, project-based units of study that require students to engage in research, use the community in authentic ways and communicate what they have learned through a culminating presentation of their final product to an outside audience. In August 2011 the school will serve 400 students in grades 6-8 at McDonough School.

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

Ms. Noel raised financial concerns for the redesign of the school.

Dr. Kishimoto stated that the professional development dollars will be used for this particular design. Title II dollars will be used for training for teachers in the expeditionary learning design.

Dr. Nardone stated that there will be a \$20,000 cost for moving the school from one building to the other. There is a potential cost to develop a plain field for the middle school behind McDonough that is about \$200,000. School improvement funds will be used for this.

Ms. Noel asked if there will be staff changes. Dr. Kishimoto confirmed.

Mr. Cotto asked for the factor or reasoning for the redesign of McDonough

Dr. Adamowski explained that Moylan has been in the redesign category for the last two years without improvement. McDonough is an improving school; we are creating a middle school to respond to the need in the community for a K-8 continuum. There is also an overcrowded situation at

several other schools that will be feeders for McDonough. Teachers at McDonough will be given preference.

Mr. Cotto stated that Moylan is being redesign because of performance and McDonough is being redesign for repurposing. They are two different factors. Dr. Kishimoto explained that both provisions are in the same policy.

Mr. Cotto asked for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher positions future. Dr. Kishimoto explained that 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers will be given preference at the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade offering at Moylan.

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

3. Approval of the School Design Specifications for Dr. Joseph S. Renzulli Academy for Gifted and Talented (Supt. et al)

Dr. Joseph S. Renzulli Academy for Gifted and Talented, piloted at Simpson Waverly School in 2009 and now serving 64 students in grades 4 - 7, offers an opportunity for students who have been identified as gifted and talented: above average ability, high levels of task commitment, and high levels of creativity. This Academy will off the wide variety of educational opportunities and services that are not ordinarily provided through regular instructional programs. It will be located at the Mt. Laurel School Annex on Chatham Street. The Academy will serve identified students in grades 4 – 8 in August 2011 and will grow to a K – 8 Gifted Center with enrollment of 330 students.

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

Ms. Noel asked if Mt. Laurel will be considered a permanent location for the school.

Ms. Taylor stated that it will be its permanent location and it will become eventually a K-12 school.

Mr. Cotto asked for the transportation, he asked if the students will be transported to the school.

Dr. Nardone stated that the projection is to bus the students to Mt. Laurel with two buses next year. As the grades grow, it may grow to one bus per year.

Dr. Adamowski explained that the same transportation guidelines apply for every school.

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

4. Approval of New School Design Specifications for the Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy (Supt. et al)

Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, a high school expansion for the Hartford Magnet Middle School, will be a college preparatory model for 400 students, grades 9 – 12, who wish to pursue a course of study in science and the arts. It is proposed to open in August 2011 for Grade 9 students and expand by one grade each year. In partnership with Trinity College the Academy will offer an opportunity for students to spend their senior year on the Trinity campus and compress the time it takes to complete a high school diploma and the first year of college. In addition to planned space on the Learning Corridor campus for this expansion, a new building is being planned which will serve as a Science and Arts Experiential Learning Center for both Trinity and HMTCA.

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

Mr. Cotto explained that he is a graduate student from Trinity College and serves in several committees and that is the reason for his abstention.

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

5. Acceptance of Funds: State Department of Education Extended School Hours Grant - \$411,300 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$ 411,300 from the Connecticut State Department of Education for Extended School Hours programs.

**Ms. Miranda made a motion; Mr. Flores seconded the motion.**

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

6. Contract Approval: Bauzá Associates, LLC - \$122,675 (Supt. et al)

Hartford Public Schools will contract with Bauzá & Associates to design and execute an informational campaign that promotes Hartford families' choice of an intra-district school. Bauzá & Associates will provide media, marketing, advertising and public relations services and materials for the school system's intra-district Choice schools and the School Choice application and selection process through the period ending June 30, 2011.

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

Ms. Noel stated that the Board is taking action on a contract that has already started.

Dr. Adamowski explained that this item was included in the January meeting agenda which was cancelled due to the inclement weather. That is the reason why the services have already started. This investment represents half the amount of money that the magnet schools will spend to promote their schools to Hartford parents. This was also a recommendation of the parental advisory committee in terms of the approach of the campaign.

Mr. Medina stated that the RSCO office is spending \$275,000 to promote magnet schools and open choice processes. The company is a Hartford based firm and they had two offices, one in Springfield and one in New Haven. Both Offices were closed and brought to downtown Hartford with the help of the City and they have performed work for the City.

Ms. Richmond stated that there is a high cost involved in a marketing campaign. He thanked Mr. Medina for his work in finding a firm that is affordable. She stated that we need to campaign our schools in order to keep the enrollment.

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

**Mr. MacDonald accepted a motion from Ms. Noel to enter into executive session. Mr. Flores seconded the motion.**

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

**VII. Executive Session (Collective Bargaining)**

<u>Present:</u> Mr. David MacDonald, Chairman 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. Israel Flores Mr. Robert Cotto, Jr.	<u>Absent:</u> Mr. Luis Rodríguez-Dávila
Superintendent Steven Adamowski	

The executive session adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

10:35 p.m. Mr. MacDonald called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

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

7. Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement – The Hartford Federation of School Secretaries, Local 1018 C, AFL-CIO; effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011 (Supt. et al)

The Board of Education approves the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of School Secretaries, Local 1018 C, AFT, AFL-CIO. The Parties reached a tentative agreement on December 9, 2010, and the membership of the bargaining unit ratified the tentative agreement on December 19, 2010.

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

Mr. Cotto shared his concerns regarding the OSI bonuses. He raised concerns for the formula used. The contract does not represent a large financial impact but he recommended having in consideration OSI formula issue for future negotiations.

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

8. Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement – The Hartford Federation of Child Development Associates, Local 1018 F, AFT, AFL-CIO; effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011 (Supt. et al)

The Board of Education approves the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of Child Development Associates, Local 1018 F, AFT, AFL-CIO. The parties reached a tentative agreement on December 17, 2010, and the membership of the bargaining unit ratified the tentative agreement on December 22, 2010.

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

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

**B. Consent Agenda**

9. Acceptance of Funds: State of Connecticut Department of Education – Family Resource Center Program – \$97,000 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$ 97,000 from the State Department of Education for the Family Resource Center Program and implement the program at the Early Reading Lab at Ramon E. Betances.

10. Contract Approval: Connectikids, Inc. \$60,000 (Supt. et al)

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the contract with ConnectiKids, Inc., for the period of January 3, 2011 through June 30, 2011, at a cost not to exceed \$60,000 from the Extended School Hours Grant.

11. Continuation of Acting 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 March 2011:

1. William Chambers, Acting Principal, John C. Clark Elementary School.
2. Immacula Didier, Acting Principal, Early Reading Lab School at Ramon E. Betances School.
3. Tina Jeter, Acting Director, Adult Education Center.

12. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 21, 2010 (The Board)
13. Approval of the minutes of the special meeting held on December 7, 2010 (The Board)
14. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 16, 2010 (The Board)
15. Approval of the minutes of the executive session held on November 9, 2010 (The Board)
16. Approval of the minutes of the regular meetings held on October 19, 2010 (The Board)

**Mr. Flores made a motion; Ms. Miranda seconded the motion.**

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

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.