

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – January 19, 2016

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. The meeting was held at Annie Fisher School, 280 Plainfield Street, Hartford, Connecticut, 06112.

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**

Mr. Wareing called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. There was a quorum present.

<u>Present:</u> Richard Wareing, Chair Jose Colon-Rivas, Vice-Chair Beth Taylor, Second Vice-Chair Craig Stallings, Secretary Michael Brescia	<u>Absent:</u> Shelley D. Best Robert Cotto, Jr. Matthew Poland Honorable Mayor Pedro Segarra
Superintendent Beth Schiavino-Narvaez	
	Student Representative T.J. Noel-Sullivan Student Representative Abraham Fattouh

III. Public Participation

1. Milly Arciniegas spoke in regards to Milner School, and the No Child Held Back Program that the PTO wanted to bring in. She has heard that the principal does not want the program at Milner because they are inundated with other programs. Ms. Arciniegas does not understand the lack of support at what she feels is a beneficial and no cost program.
2. Michael Downes, president of the Hartford Federation of Substitute Teachers, spoke on an article in the Hartford Courant regarding the hiring of minority certified teachers. He addressed it 20 years ago, and it’s a continuing problem. He feels that the problem persists because we continue to fire those teachers, with no due process or fair hearing.
3. Andrea Johnson, president of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, brought a list, created by Hartford teachers, of difficulties that they face. She stated these issues have been brought up with their monthly meeting with the Superintendent, and they have not yet been resolved.
4. Shellye Davis, president of the Paraprofessional’s Union, spoke on not receiving the same respect as other bargaining units. She spoke on substitute coverage, and that when other bargaining units have staff out, they have substitute coverage. Para’s do not have substitutes, especially when they are out for long periods of time. There are retiree para’s that are willing to substitute, and she urged the Board and district to look into this, as this is hurting the children.
5. Shontá Browdy, parent, spoke from her role as the NAACP education chair, and invited all to an event next Thursday at 6:30 p.m., on education reform. One topic is middle schools grades being on their own, not in the K-8 model.
6. Anthony Cherolis, with the Center for Latino Progress, was here tonight with students from the Rise Up Program. He spoke on several programs that they have, including a college prep

program called *Futuros*, and the Earn a Bike program. He stated that he noticed some schools do not have bike racks, and feels that should be rectified.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair – no report
2. Report of the Superintendent

The superintendent paused to reflect on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the new year. She also shared a brief history of the Annie Fisher school, including the fact that Miss Annie Fisher was Hartford's first female principal and its first female district superintendent. She was also a Hartford Public High School graduate in the year 1900.

Good work shout outs were next, and they included Ms. Tamara Mitchell-Davis, District Business Partnership Coordinator for Hartford Public Schools, on been recognized as a Distinguished Professional in her field through Women of Distinction Magazine. She also gave a shout out to our very own Board member, Mr. Matthew Poland, wishing him the best as he steps down from his leadership of the Hartford Public Library.

The New York Times ran a lengthy feature about the amazing work Hartford Performs is doing in our schools, and the superintendent thanked our partners, Hartford Performs Executive Director Ms. Rie Poirier-Campbell, the many teaching artists who work with our students and Ms. Tracie Kane of Hartford Public Schools.

3. Committee Reports

- Parent and Community Engagement Committee

Mr. Stallings, in Dr. Best's absence, stated the committee spoke on planning the next community session, the date being March 19th and the location to be determined.

- Policy Committee

Dr. Taylor stated the committee met on the agenda items tonight, as well as the policy on reporting abuse and neglect.

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Contract Approval: Blue Hills Civic Association \$81,885 (Supt et al.)

The Blue Hills Civic Association will support the Lighthouse Initiative at Rawson School by developing and implementing an Out of School Time (OOST) program for middle grades students; and planning and providing initial implementation of a community hub to be established within Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School.

The OOST program supports a Lighthouse Initiative goal to expand after-school programs that develop students and provide them with high-quality internships and OOST opportunities. The community hub supports the Lighthouse Initiative goal to increase community engagement around the Blue Hills neighborhood, provide services to Rawson School families and support the development of a neighborhood plan to improve conditions surrounding the Rawson School catchment area.

Dr. Colon-Rivas made a motion; and Mr. Brescia seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the Blue Hills Civic Association for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016.

Dr. Taylor asked about the long term sustainability plan, and next steps.

Kate England, Chief Academic Officer, and Deidre Tavera, Chief Engagement and Partnerships Officer, responded they are looking into developing school staff capacity for the after school programs, and looking at outside funds to support community providers as necessary.

Mr. Brescia expressed his concern over the term 'coaches' in this plan, and if we were using them to the best of their capacity.

Mr. Stallings asked what a community hub actually looks like.

Ms. Tavera stated it is located at the school, a one stop place for referrals to other organizations if need be, a place to drop in and talk about the larger interests of the community, for example home ownership, and much more.

Dr. Colon-Rivas suggested, in looking at the outcomes in the evaluation process, to not lump them in together. He suggested unpacking them, and looking at how well we are doing, and who is actually benefiting from this.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Best, Cotto, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Second Reading and Adoption: Various Hartford Public Schools Policies (Policy Committee)

Dr. Jose Colon-Rivas made a motion; and Mr. Brescia seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the following policies:

- a. Policy 5114 – Attendance
- b. Policy 5113 – Ages of Attendance
- c. Policy 5173 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Best, Cotto, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Second Reading and Adoption: Proposed School Calendar for 2016 – 2017 (Supt et al.)

Dr. Taylor made a motion; and Dr. Colon-Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the proposed 2016-2017 School Calendar.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Best, Cotto, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Consent Agenda

Mr. Wareing made a motion to accept all items listed under consent agenda; Dr. Taylor seconded.

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

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

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to issue payment in the amount of \$95,000 to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, as partnership fiscal agent and employer of record, in support of the Hartford Partnership for Student Success.

5. Acceptance of Funds: Connecticut State Department of Education, Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant for Exploring Computer Science \$257,340.50/2 years (Supt et al.)

This proposal for “**Exploring Computer Science**”, (ECS) is supported by the CSDE Mathematics & Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Program. The grant is funded under Title II, Part B, of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act and is intended to increase the academic achievement of K-12 students (particularly under-represented student populations), in mathematics and science by enhancing the content knowledge and teaching skills of classroom teachers. The ECS curriculum is aligned with both the CT Core Math standards and the Next Generation Science Standards and was created with support from a National Science Foundation grant. The specific focus of the ECS proposal is to develop a learning program that will increase the expertise of middle and high school teachers, in teaching computer science.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$257,340.50 over 2 years from the Connecticut State Department of Education MSP Grant.

6. Approval of Modification to Educational Specifications for West Middle School

Subsequent to the approval of the project’s Educational Specifications (Ed Spec) by the Hartford Board of Education (HBOE), it was deemed desirable to incorporate a dental suite as a resource in the renovated West Middle School. To memorialize that decision and make the dental suite a approved and thus reimbursable component of the project, the HBOE must adopt a modified Ed Spec which the Superintendent will then submit to the State for record.

The Hartford Board of Education approves the incorporation of a dental suite into the design of the renovated West Middle School and modifies the Educational Specifications for the project accordingly.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Best, Cotto, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Executive Session (Collective Bargaining Agreement: Hartford Federation of School Secretaries, Local 1018 C, AFT, AFL-CIO)

7. Approval of proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of School Secretaries, Local 1100, AFT, AFL-CIO.

Dr. Taylor made a motion; and Mr. Brescia seconded that the Board of Education approves the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of School Secretaries, Local 1100, AFT, AFL-CIO.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Colon-Rivas, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Best, Cotto, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.