

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – October 20, 2015

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, October 20, 2015. The meeting was held at Museum Academy at Wish School, 350 Barbour Street, Hartford, Connecticut, 06112.

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

Mr. Wareing called the meeting to order at 5:40p.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 Shelley D. Best Michael Brescia Robert Cotto, Jr.	<u>Absent:</u> Matthew Poland Honorable Mayor Pedro Segarra
Superintendent Beth Schiavino-Narvaez	
Student Representative T.J. Noel-Sullivan	

III. Public Participation

1. Michael Downes, president of the Hartford Federation of Substitute Teachers, spoke in regards to Clark School and asked what the timeline is on re-opening it.
2. Andrea Johnson, president of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, spoke on an article that spoke on teachers working many extra hours for free, and hearing that teachers in Hartford are overloaded with work.
3. Christine Ladd, School Counselor at SMSA, spoke on attending a College Board workshop and learning that in April 2016, teachers would be required to use SAT results in their evaluation. She was concerned and has raised the issue with the College Board, and NWEA.
4. Hyacinth Yennie, community leader, spoke on being pleased with the parent engagement model. She also spoke on Kennelly School needing to be renovated in the near future.
5. Myrna Alicea, parent at Asian Studies Academy, spoke on her concerns with the school building, including the heating and cooling system, rodent problem, and lack of a functioning library.
6. Milly Arciniegas, Hartford Parent Academy, spoke on the family friendly schools initiative, and the need for the staff at the school to be welcoming when greeting parents. She feels that is not happening right now and is concerned on how this will be monitored.

IV. Reports

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

The Superintendent gave good work shout outs to 7th Grader Kayke Lopes (Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy) & Officer Hiram Otero (Hartford Police Department) who were recently honored by the White House for their work in the Good Vibrations program. Good Vibrations is one of several programs across Connecticut that have been working to strengthen community ties since the shooting death of Michael Brown by an Officer in Ferguson Missouri last year.

Dr. Narvaez also honored the Connecticut's ParaEducator of the Year award recipient, Ms. Denise R. Seel, a paraeducator at the L.W. Batchelder Elementary School in Harford.

Ms. Lonnie Burt, Food Services Department, was appointed the President of the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT) for 2015-16.

Dr. Narvaez also reported that she is putting together a diverse Student-Based Budgeting Committee that is inclusive of BOE members, parents, teachers, partners, and school and central office leaders.

Finally she spoke on the Family & Community Engagement Action Plan, and invited all to a Community Launch on December 5, 2015 to build family-friendly schools together. Ms. Michele Brooks, a leading national expert in Family and Community Engagement, as well as Former Assistant Superintendent in Boston Public Schools, has been invited to be the keynote speaker.

3. Committee Reports

- Parent and Community Engagement Committee

Dr. Best reported that there was a wonderful Board Workshop on Family and Community engagement, and also invited all stakeholders to attend the Community Launch on December 5, 2015.

- Policy Committee

Dr. Taylor reported that the committee met on continuing policy updates, and the agenda items on the business agenda for a first read tonight.

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Contract Approval: MRW \$121,200 annually for 2 years (Supt et al.)

In 2012, Hartford Public Schools began its initiative to develop a district website and internal intranet website in an effort to streamline communication with parents, students, community partners, and staff. These web-based services were designed to provide all major audiences with the information and resources they need to assist them in their role within the school district.

In order to continue our critical communication efforts, Hartford Public Schools seeks to augment our current web-based resources and implement additional features that will increase the usage of our online services and provide streamlined communication abilities at the district level. Both the City of Hartford and the Hartford Public Schools procurement staff have reviewed the proposals for this work, and have identified MRW Connected as the best vendor to manage these projects.

Dr. Taylor made a motion; and Mr. Stallings seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with MRW for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2017, at a cost not to exceed \$121,200 annually.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. First Reading: Various Hartford Public Schools Policies (Policy Committee)

That the Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the following policies:

- a. Policy 5136 - Smoking
- b. Policy 5151 - Student Health Services
- c. Policy 5153 - Health Assessments & Immunizations

No vote was needed at this time.

B. Consent Agenda

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

3. Approval to apply: Alliance Districts' School Buildings Grant \$2.8 Million (Supt et al.)

With the signing of Public Act 15-1 of the June 2015 Special Session, Governor Malloy has committed \$50 million to help maintain or repair school building in the Alliance Districts. The Governor revived and amended a grant program that had not been funded since 2002 to help districts improve the condition of their schools in greatest need of improvements.

Hartford Public Schools will be eligible for up to \$2.8 million in State grant funding. The application for the Alliance Districts' School Buildings Grant requires the local Board of Education approve the application request.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to apply for the Alliance Districts' School Buildings Grant.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.