

**HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting – December 15, 2015**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. The meeting was held at L.W. Batchelder Elementary School, 757 New Britain Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, 06106.

- 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. Honorable Mayor Pedro Segarra	<u>Absent:</u> Matthew Poland
Superintendent Beth Schiavino-Narvaez	
Student Representative T.J. Noel-Sullivan	

**III. Public Participation**

1. Raquel Soto, parent at Batchelder, feels that there are too many students per teacher. Also spoke on the school nurse hours being different than student hours.
2. Sharon Douglas, ABA paraprofessional at Rawson School, spoke on the ongoing issues regarding injuries to para’s and teachers.
3. Juan Drago, parent at SAND School, spoke on the situation at SAND school. He was still upset over it, and wants to ensure the administration is taking steps to make sure this never happens again in Hartford.
4. Shellye Davis, president of the paraprofessional’s union, spoke on para’s and the ABA program. She conceded some progress has been made since she spoke at last month’s meeting, but not enough. They will continue to speak out.
5. Tracy Carter, paraprofessional at Hartford Public High School, spoke on the lack of computers at her school.
6. Michael Downes, president of the Hartford Federation of Substitute teachers, reflected on the Sandy Hook incident. He also spoke on SAND, and wondered where the legal counsel was. He continued and spoke on Clark school, and wanted an update on the progress. Lastly, he spoke in support of properly trained ABA paraprofessionals.

**IV. Reports**

### 1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Wareing reported that Monica Brase, principal of Latino Studies at Burns, has submitted her resignation, and he wished her the best.

### 2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Narvaez thanked Batchelder, the principal, Mr. Paul Casey, and music teacher Jessie Wills for the wonderful Batchelder student choir that opened up the meeting.

Good work shout outs were next, expressing gratitude for Mr. Joshua Rodriguez, being honored with a resolution that evening, and Mr. Mario Florez, congratulating him on being appointed to the Commission on Children by the CT General Assembly.

### 3. Committee Reports

- Parent and Community Engagement Committee

Dr. Best spoke on the Family Friendly Schools event on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>. It was a great event, attended by more than 400 people; however she was disappointed on the low attendance of administrators, parents and other board members.

- Policy Committee

Dr. Taylor spoke on the agenda items that are on the agenda for First Reading, and the work it took to get through them.

- School Choice and Facilities Committee

Dr. Colon-Rivas reported the committee is working on the student transfer policy.

## **V. Business Agenda**

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

#### 1. Resolution: Recognition of Joshua Rodriguez (The Board)

Resolved: That the Hartford Board of Education hereby recognizes and gives thanks for the bravery and good judgment of Mr. Rodriguez; Joshua Rodriguez heroically put students first;

Be it Further Resolved: that this resolution shall be presented to Mr. Rodriguez by the Chairman of the Hartford Board of Education.

#### 2. Contract Approval: Anthem Contract – Approximately \$2.5 Million (Supt et al.)

Anthem is our current administrator of medical insurance for employees and retirees. The Board and the City of Hartford have been in a shared contract with Anthem until recently, when the City of Hartford elected to change to CIGNA. The Hartford Board of Education will continue to contract with Anthem and they are offering the BOE the opportunity to reduce our administrative fees by \$400,000 from last year.

Mayor Segarra made a motion; Dr. Colon-Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Anthem for an effective date of January 1, 2016.

**VOTE**

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**3. 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 5114 – Attendance
- b. Policy 5113 – Ages of Attendance
- c. Policy 5173 – Physical Restraint and Seclusion

No vote was needed at this time.

**4. First Reading: Proposed School Calendar for 2016 – 2017 (Supt et al.)**

That the Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the proposed 2016-2017 School Calendar.

No vote was needed at this time.

**B. Consent Agenda**

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

**5. Acceptance of Funds: Connecticut State Department of Education, Extended School Hours Grant \$407,999 (Supt et al.)**

The Connecticut State Department of Education awards these funds to Priority School Districts every year to provide extended school hours for academic enrichment, support and recreation programs.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$407,999 from the Connecticut State Department of Education for Extended School Hours programs. Furthermore, the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to make necessary reductions should the State of Connecticut reduce its commitment to the Extended School Hours programs.

**6. Contract Approval: ConnectiKids, Inc. \$65,000 (Supt et al.)**

The Connecticut State Department of Education awards these funds to Priority School Districts every year to provide extended school hours for academic enrichment, support and recreation programs.

ConnectiKids, Inc. will receive a total of \$65,000 and work with the following schools:

- MD Fox Elementary School - \$35,000
- West Middle School - \$30,000

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with ConnectiKids, Inc. for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016.

7. Acceptance of Funds: Connecticut State Department of Education Cooperating Eligible Entity (CEE) Grant – Adult Education Programs \$255,042 (Supt et al.)

The Cooperating Eligible Entity Grant provides mandated adult education services through a collaborative relationship between the Adult Education Center in Hartford and three Cooperating Eligible Entities: Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford, YMCA Read to Succeed Adult Reading Clinic, and Urban League of Greater Hartford. This grant supplements existing adult education services through enhanced activities such as services to special populations, specific literacy education and additional support services.

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept a total of \$255,042 from the State of Connecticut Cooperating Eligible Entity Grant for the supplemental Adult Education programs described above.

8. Acceptance of Funds: Connecticut State Department of Education for Hartford Adult Education Programs \$1,723,649 (Supt et al.)

This grant provides funding for state mandated educational services to adult learners in pursuit of English Language proficiency, secondary education completion, adult basic education and the acquisition of skills needed for postsecondary opportunities.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept a total of \$1,723,649 from the State of Connecticut Adult Education Program for the Adult Education Center in Hartford.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**C. Executive Session (Collective Bargaining Agreements: Hartford Federation of School Health Professionals, Hartford Federation of Child Development Associates)**

Dr. Colon-Rivas made a motion to enter into executive session; and Mayor Segarra seconded. The Board entered into executive session at 6:27 p.m.

Mr. Stallings made a motion to come out of executive session; and Mayor Segarra seconded. The meeting resumed at 7:04 p.m.

9. Approval of proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of School Health Professionals, Local 1018 A/B, AFT, AFL-CIO.

Mayor Segarra moved; Mr. Brescia seconded, that the Board of Education approves the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of School Health Professionals, Local 1018 A/B, AFT, AFL-CIO.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

10. Approval of proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of Child Development Associates, Local 1018 F, AFT, AFL-CIO.

Mayor Segarra moved; Dr. Taylor seconded, that the Board of Education approves the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of Child Development Associates, Local 1018 F, AFT, AFL-CIO.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.