

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – July 28, 2015

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, July 28, 2015. The meeting was held at Bulkeley High School 300 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06114.

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

Mr. Wareing called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. There was a quorum present.

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

III. Public Participation

1. Levy Kardulis, HPS Employee, commented on a career fair he attended and there was no HPS representation. He also gave kudos to Dr. Narvaez for not allowing magnet schools to continue the practice of kicking students out.
2. Shontá Browdy, parent at Renzulli, came to advocate for a second security guard at Renzulli.
3. Sandra Inga and Victor Cristofaro, President and Vice president of the HPSA, spoke on job postings and the practice of playing with the job certifications required for positions, so that those that are wanted for a position have an easier way in.
4. Martin Edgar, member of the substitute teachers union, spoke on health insurance and losing subsidy.
5. Kent Ashworth, spoke on Achieve Hartford hosting a Mayoral Education Debate on September 3rd.
6. Michael Downes, Substitute Teachers Union, spoke on the movement of health insurance to health savings accounts and this being a poor way of ensuring workers.
7. Craig Wall, parent Renzulli, is still waiting to hear on a second security guard for Renzulli at 110 Washington Street. He has also been waiting on information from a FOIA request he submitted, and that he was told cell text messages are not able to be FOI'd.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Wareing wanted to publicly apologize to families at Sport & Medical Sciences Academy and all families in the Hartford Public Schools, for any letters received encouraging their child to enroll elsewhere. He went on to state that this letter does not represent who we are and it stops now. He has asked Dr. Narvaez and all committee chairs to look into this and review policies, regulations, to better address this in the future.

2. Report of the Superintendent

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Resolution: Recognition of Mary Cristofaro (The Board)

Resolved: That the Hartford Board of Education hereby recognizes and gives thanks for the heroic act of providing medical assistance when called upon of Mary Cristofaro and declares her actions and courage inspirational; her bravery and good judgment will be long remembered;

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

2. Contract Continuation Approval: Middlebury Interactive Languages \$424,237 (Supt et al.)

Improving curriculum and instruction for English Language Learners is a priority for the district and at the heart of ensuring that they meet the common core high standards in all academic areas. Middlebury Interactive Languages will provide an integrated ELL program including the creation of online curricula, professional development and teacher support materials to improve outcomes for our newcomer ELLs in Grades 9-10.

Mr. Brescia made a motion; and Dr. Taylor seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Middlebury Interactive Languages for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016; at the amount not exceed \$424,237.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia

Opposed: 0

Abstained: Cotto

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Poland

The motion passed by voice vote.

3. Acceptance of Funds: Nellie Mae Education Foundation \$1,796,049 (Supt et al.)

These funds are the initial disbursement for a three year grant award from Nellie Mae Education Foundation. This award is for Phase II of the New Approaches in Urban Districts grant program supported by Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

Mr. Stallings made a motion; and Mr. Wareing seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$1,796,049 from the Nellie Mae Educational Foundation

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia,

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Poland

The motion passed by voice vote.

4. Contract Approval: Various Contracts (Supt et al.)

Mr. Wareing made a motion; and Dr. Taylor seconded That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute the Center of Innovation technical assistance contracts according to the agreed upon grant guidelines. They are to be voted on individually.

Mr. Cotto asked what the difference was between Anywhere, Anytime Centers of Innovation and Personalized Learning Centers of Innovation, as the contracts below reference each.

Ms. Puhlick stated the terms came from the research done by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, and they came up with 4 tenets of Student Centered Learning, which operate together, not in silos:

- Personalized Learning – customizing learning not only to the student's needs, but their interests as well;
- Student Owned Learning – students own, are engaged in and have a voice in their own learning;
- Competency Based Learning – Students have their strengths and weaknesses in different areas, and the instructor should know well where they stand;
- Anywhere, Anytime Learning – Designing learning so students have access anywhere, anytime, not limiting learning to the school day or school walls. Using Blended Learning, which is using technology to advance learning, as well as community based partnerships.

Mr. Cotto expressed his concern over these ideas not being new, that it sounded like jargon, and this should be stuff we are already doing. We need to have good teaching, period.

Mr. Noel Sullivan agreed, but did like the professional development of teachers on technology, since not all teachers are well versed on technology.

- a. Sprint: three-year contract at the amount not to exceed \$446,250. This contract will provide management of 1:1 devices and secured overlay connectivity to the 'Anywhere, Anytime Centers of Innovation' (Bulkeley High School and Journalism & Media Academy).

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia,

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Poland

The motion passed by voice vote.

- b. Education Elements: one-year contract at the amount not to exceed \$175,000. This contract will provide blended learning professional development and technical assistance to the Anywhere, Anytime Centers of Innovation (Bulkeley High School and Journalism & Media Academy).

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Poland

The motion passed by voice vote.

- c. Discovery Education: 18-month contract at the amount not to exceed \$164,675. This contract will provide embedded professional development and online digital media resources to the Personalized Learning Centers of Innovation (Pathways Academy, HPHS Engineering & Green Tech Academy, and High School, Inc.)

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Poland

The motion passed by voice vote.

- d. CPEP (Catalysts Powering Educational Performance): 18-month contract at the amount not to exceed \$164,675. This contract will support the development of a pre-internship program focused on internship and workplace learning readiness, as well as provide an entrepreneurial adventure internship experiential opportunity for students at the Personalized Learning Centers of Innovation (Pathways Academy, HPHS Engineering & Green Tech Academy, and High School, Inc.).

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Poland

The motion passed by voice vote.

- e. Great Schools Partnership: 18-month contract at the amount not to exceed \$134,750. This contract will provide embedded professional development which entails comprehensive training and support to design instruction and assessment based on individual student academic needs based on standards-driven expectations for knowledge and skills to the Mastery Based Learning Centers of Innovation (University High School and HPHS Law & Government Academy).

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Poland

The motion passed by voice vote.

5. Approval of Contracts: City Connects and Achievement Network – Acceleration Agenda (Supt. et al) **TABLED**

The Acceleration Agenda is a focused Action Plan to optimize support, in order to address matters of equity and achievement. A cohort of schools will be part of a network that will engage in continuous improvement (with multilayer supports) to boost/accelerate performance and outcomes by focusing efforts and resources around improving instructional practices, leadership practices, and student support practices. Schools in the Acceleration Agenda will be provided additional supports that include planned collaboration, access to a range of partners, and appropriate supplemental resources to allow for quality implementation, rigorous instructional practice and continuous improvement.

The first cohort will be composed of seven schools focused on our K-8 Elementary Schools. Seven schools will participate in the next school year include: Alfred E. Burr Elementary School, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, Thirman Milner School, John C. Clark, Jr. Elementary & Middle School, Fred D. Wish Museum School and Burns Latino Studies Academy and Dr. Frank T. Simpson-Waverly.

- a. City Connects, for the term delineated in the contract to ending June 30, 2016, at an amount not to exceed \$231,235; with optional 2 year extension at an amount not to exceed \$238,172 in Year 2 and \$245,317 in Year 3. City Connects will provide a systemic strategy for each school to wrap services around each student. City Connects involves every classroom teacher, leverages resources in the community and ensures that all students receive the support they need. City Connects will provide induction, training, coaching and monitoring of fidelity of implementation.
- b. Achievement Network, for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016, at an amount not to exceed \$306,000. Achievement Network (ANet) is an education nonprofit that helps schools boost student learning with great teaching that's grounded in standards, informed by data, and built on the successful practices of educators around the country. ANet will support the first cohort of schools towards the goals of the district's Acceleration Agenda and to ensure strong alignment between district and partner support of schools.

Mr. Stallings made a motion; and Mr. Wareing seconded, to postpone item 5, and bring it back for the next regular Board meeting.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia, Cotto

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

Mr. Wareing made a motion; and Mr. Brescia seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the following policies:

- a. Revised Policy No. 4111.1 - Affirmative Action: Equal Employment Opportunity
- b. Revised Policy No. 4112.8 – Nepotism: Employment of Relatives
- c. Revised Policy No. 4118.1 – Nondiscrimination

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia, Cotto

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. First Reading: Various Policies (Policy Committee)

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

- a. Chemical Health for Student Athletes
- b. IDEA Alternative Assessments
- c. Curricular Exemptions Policy

No vote was needed at this time.

A. Consent Agenda

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

8. Acting Administrative Appointment(s) (Supt et al.)

That the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint the following individuals to the positions indicated:

- a. Jose A. Colon to the position of Acting Principal, Law & Government Academy @ HPHS, effective July 1, 2015;
- b. Katherine Leonard to the position of Acting Principal, Breakthrough North, effective August 5, 2015;
- c. Christine McCarthy to the position of Acting Principal, Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan, effective July 1, 2015.

9. Contract Continuation Approval: Area Cooperative Educational Services \$95,000 (Supt et al.)

Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) has developed an Alternative Route to Certification to Teach English Language Learners (ARCTELL) program in consultation with a committee of bilingual and TESOL practitioners which has been approved by the

Connecticut State Board of Education and allows certified teachers to attain a cross-certification endorsement in bilingual education and TESOL.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with ACES at an amount not to exceed \$95,000 for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016.

10. USDA Community Eligibility Provision Expansion (Supt et al.)

USDA Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provides districts and schools in low-income areas an alternative approach for operating school meal programs. In lieu of collecting individual applications for free and reduced-price meals, the Community Eligibility Provision allows districts and schools meeting the eligibility requirements to use information from other means-tested programs including SNAP (formally food stamp) to determine the level of Federal funding for school meal programs.

Currently 35 Hartford Public Schools are eligible and participate in the USDA Community Eligibility Provision program. The Department of Social Services made significant improvements and access to the electronic reporting system resulting in higher percentages of students being identified eligible for the school free breakfast and lunch program. The increase of identified students has allowed for an expansion of the program to all schools in the district.

State and Federal agencies require the Board of Education approve a status change for the Community Eligibility Provision program in Hartford Public Schools.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the expansion of the USDA Community Eligibility Provision program currently being used for meal accountability and reimbursements at 35 schools to all schools in the district.

11. Grant Submission and Acceptance of Funds: Education for Homeless Children and Youth \$40,000 (Supt et al.)

Through this grant, the district will continue to coordinate services to facilitate the provision of educational services to students identified as high risk and homeless children and youth.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to submit the grant application and to accept funds in the amount of \$40,000 annually from the Connecticut State Department of Education / Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grant for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia, Cotto

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Mayor Segarra, Best, Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.