

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – August 18, 2015

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, August 18, 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 5:50 p.m. There was a quorum present.

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

III. Public Participation

1. Paula Erickson, Interim principal at Renzulli Academy, spoke on the wonderful new location of the school, and being pleased with the renovations.
2. Shontá Browdy spoke on visiting the new space at Rawson, and stated it is a beautiful space. She also voiced her concerns on the location of where the children would be eating lunch and security.
3. Calichi Melendez, parent at Renzulli, is pleased with the location and it being a nice space, but is still concerned with security. She is still requesting a second security guard to be placed at the building.
4. Deidre Harwood, parent, spoke on the principal at Culinary withholding her daughters diploma, and feels that it may be in retaliation because she was the parent that exposed report cards being shown on social media.
5. Kent Ashworth spoke on the Mayoral Forum that Achieve Hartford will be hosting, on September 3rd.
6. Michael Downes, president of the Hartford Federation of Substitute Teachers, spoke on agenda Item 8, the substitute teacher’s contract. He spoke in support of passing this item.
7. Neil Berry, parent and resident of Hartford, spoke on his belief that the Hartford Public School system is failing Hartford students and the community. He also spoke on feeling that the Clark and Renzulli situations were not handled correctly.
8. Raquel Calderon wanted to advocate on reopening a technical adult education school and spoke in support of the contract for substitute teachers.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Wareing appointed Dr. Gislaine Ngounou as the Board representative to the Hartford Public Library.

2. Report of the Superintendent

The superintendent reported on the official return of school leaders to work, welcoming new teachers with a breakfast ceremony, followed by days of professional development for new and returning teachers. This included having inspirational speakers, including Dr. Deborah Jewell-Sherman, a professor of practice in Education Leadership at the HGSE and former Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools in Virginia, and Dr. Sheryl Petty, a national leader and expert whose focused work on equity informed our strategic plan to lead our school leaders in discussions and learning about cultural responsiveness.

The superintendent continued by announcing that Convocation would be held Monday, August 24th, where we would welcome all our teachers back to the school year, being held at the Sport & Medical Sciences Academy. There will also be a First Day of School Bus Tour, visiting Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School (home to the 2015 Teacher of the Year, Leah Tarnowicz); The HPHS Academy of Engineering and Green Technology (Green Ribbon School); and Breakthrough Magnet School (Best Magnet School in America).

Dr. Narvaez introduced Joanna Laiscell, Executive Director of Financial Management, to present the End of Year Financial Report. The full report can be found on the HPS Website: http://www.hartfordschools.org/files/FinancialStatements_Final_063015.pdf

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

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

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 six schools with a focus on our K-8 Elementary Schools: 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.

Mayor Segarra moved; and Dr. Taylor seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute the following contracts:

- a. City Connects, for the term delineated in the contract to ending June 30, 2016, at an amount not to exceed \$192,500; with an optional 2 year extension at an amount not to exceed \$198,275 in Year 2 and \$204,223 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 \$248,000. 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 asked for more explanation of the cohort and how that works.

Dr. Narvaez said this came from the principals, who wanted to be able to learn from other principals, and hear and express their own frustrations.

Mr. Stallings also asked what outcomes are expected, and the timeline.

Dr. Narvaez stated she would love to see outcomes immediately, and that it not only looks at students but also at teacher practice.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Mayor Segarra, Best, Brescia

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Contract Continuation Approval: CBS Therapy - \$651,014 (Supt et al.)

CBS Therapy is the leading provider of school based therapy services in New England. They provide temporary and permanent staffing for speech-language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, and assistants.

CBS Therapy will be contracted to provide speech and language services to mandated Hartford Public Schools' students who require these services. Due to the shortage of speech and language professionals, it is necessary to utilize this service to ensure compliance with federal and state special education guidelines. Hartford Public Schools has worked with CBS Therapy for the past couple of school years and has had a very successful relationship.

Dr. Taylor moved; and Mayor Segarra seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the superintendent to execute a contract with CBS Therapy, for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016, at an amount not to exceed \$651,014.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Mayor Segarra, Best, Brescia

Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

Mayor Segarra moved; and Mr. Brescia seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the following policies:

- a. Chemical Health for Student Athletes – Mr. Stallings moved; Mr. Wareing seconded
- b. IDEA Alternative Assessments – Mayor moved, Mr. Wareing seconded,
- c. Curricular Exemptions Policy – Mr. Stallings moved; Mr. Wareing seconded

VOTE

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

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Consent Agenda

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

4. Contract Continuation Approval: Connecticut Pediatric Neuropsychology Associates \$80,000 (Supt et al.)

Connecticut Pediatric Neuropsychology provides neuropsychological testing, evaluations and consultations to special education students who are mandated to receive these services per PPT recommendation. We have been utilizing the services of Connecticut Pediatric Neuropsychology for the past 5 years.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Connecticut Pediatric Neuropsychology Associates for the term delineated in the contract ending October 31, 2016, at an amount not to exceed \$80,000.

5. Contract Continuation Approval: Connecticut Behavioral Health, LLC - \$65,200 (Supt et al.)

Connecticut Behavioral Health provides psychological testing and consultations to special education students who are mandated to receive these services per PPT (Planning and Placement Team) recommendations. They also provide behavioral evaluations and consulting services to provide support and consultation to staff and to students identified as emotionally disturbed.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Connecticut Behavioral Health for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016, at an amount not to exceed \$65,200.

6. Grant Submission Approval: Family Resource Centers – Connecticut State Department of Education (Supt et al.)

Hartford Public Schools is submitting a grant to the Connecticut State Department of Education to continue operating Family Resource Centers in the following six schools. Maria C. Sánchez Elementary School, Latino Studies Academy at Burns School, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, America's Choice at SAND School, John C. Clark Elementary School, and Asian Studies Academy at Dwight/Bellizzi Campus.

Family Resource Centers provide access within a community to a broad continuum of early childhood and family support services which foster the optimal development of children and families, with services including parent education and training, family support, preschool and school-age child care services; positive youth development services; and family day-care provider training. These programs have been traditionally administered by a third-party provider, which are our co-applicants in the process. The Connecticut State Department of Education requires all local Boards of Education to submit a letter that verifies Board of Education approval for the submission of an application for the Family Resource Center Program grant.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to submit an application to the Connecticut State Department of Education for the Family Resource Centers Grant.

7. Approval of School Construction Plans and ED042 Submittal (Supt et al.)

The State Department of Construction Services, Office of School Facilities (OSF) requires that School Building Committees and Boards of Education certify that they have approved the final construction documents for school construction projects prior to OSF review of the plans. Once the plans are reviewed and approved by OSF, the projects are allowed to go out to bid.

At this time the Hartford School Building Committee, working through ARCADIS/O&G Program Management, has reviewed and approved construction packages for the below listed activities which will advance the construction project being performed at the following school: Weaver High School – State Project #064-0307 RNV ; Phase 1 – Demolition and Abatement.

That the Hartford Board of Education approves the final plans and authorizes the architect to submit the documents for the Demolition and Abatement phase of work for the above referenced school project, to the Office of School Facilities for their review and approval.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Mayor Segarra, Best, Brescia

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Executive Session (Collective Bargaining: Hartford Federation of Substitute Teachers)

Dr. Taylor made a motion; and Mr. Brescia seconded, to enter into executive session. The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m.

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

The executive session adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

8. Approval of Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement: Hartford Federation of Substitute Teachers (Supt et al.)

That the Board of Education approves the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of Substitute Teachers, Local No. 1018-E, CFEPE, AFT, AFL-CIO.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Mayor Segarra, Best, Brescia

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas, Cotto, Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.