

SUBSTITUTE AGENDA ITEM

ITEM # 1

NEW BUSINESS

NOVEMBER 25, 2013

APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT ANTICIPATED SHEFF AGREEMENT - LIGHTHOUSE

DR. KISHIMOTO
HONORABLE PEDRO SEGARRA
MR. POLAND
DR. MCINTYE

BACKGROUND

The process to select the neighborhood school to be designated a Lighthouse School will include public community forums and will be determined by the Hartford Board of Education after an interactive process with School Governance Councils, PTO's, and other stakeholders, as well as the community at large.

The anticipated funding mechanism for a Lighthouse School, which will have to be approved by the Commissioner of Education and the Sheff Plaintiffs, shall be at least \$750,000 a year for at least three years.

Lighthouse Schools refer to schools designated for investment and initiatives designed to increase educational outcomes in priority school district schools serving neighborhood or city-wide student populations. The Lighthouse Schools initiative seeks to strengthen racial integration through natural changes to or stabilization of area residential patterns based upon the attractiveness of quality school investments and initiatives. Neighborhood enrollment patterns will not be altered with the designation of a Lighthouse School. Selection as a Lighthouse school is subject to a community-based process. All teaching personnel will remain Hartford Public School teachers.

RECOMMENDATION

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes and directs the Superintendent to convene a Lighthouse School selection committee, which the Superintendent shall chair and which shall be composed of four members appointed by the Hartford Board of Education, including at least one parent of a Hartford Public School student and at least one member appointed at the recommendation of the Hartford Federation of Teachers.

The Lighthouse School selection committee shall conduct at least one community forum to discuss the Lighthouse School concept, solicit input concerning potential Lighthouse Schools and potential models for Lighthouse Schools. Appropriate models and designs for Lighthouse Schools shall utilize strategies, methods and best practices that have been proven to be effective in improving student academic performance. The quality of such

model and design shall be assessed across domains, including, but not limited to, talent, curricular and instructional program, culture and climate, and operations.

Based on the results of said community forum or forums, the selection committee shall identify at least three schools as Lighthouse School candidates. The committee shall then conduct at least one public forum with stakeholders of each of the Lighthouse School candidates. Stakeholders shall include school governance councils, parents, faculty and administration of the potential Lighthouse-designated school and other interested community stakeholders. At each community meetings, the selection committee shall discuss the model or models being considered for such school.

Based on the results of such forums, the selection committee shall recommend to the Superintendent one school for designation as a Lighthouse School, as well as the proposed model. The Superintendent shall present this school and model to the Commissioner of Education and the Sheff plaintiffs for preliminary approval and, contingent upon such approval, to the Hartford Board of Education for authorization. Sheff plaintiffs shall not unreasonably withhold approval of the school and model recommended by the selection committee and approved by the Commissioner.

The Lighthouse School selection committee shall make its recommendation by April 1, 2014, the Commissioner and Plaintiffs shall make their determinations by April 15, 2014, and the Board of Education shall vote to authorize no later than May 1, 2014. In subsequent academic years, the Commissioner may request and require that review of the model occur and, in accordance with such review, revision to the model be undertaken prior to continuing authorization and funding. Plaintiffs shall be consulted with respect to any revisions to the model. The Plaintiffs shall be consulted with respect to any revisions to the model.