

**HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting – February 23, 2016**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, February 23, 2016. The meeting was held at Annie Fisher School, 280 Plainfield Street, Hartford, Connecticut, 06112.

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

Mr. Wareing called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. There was a quorum present.

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| <u>Present:</u><br>Richard Wareing, Chair<br>Jose Colon-Rivas, Vice-Chair<br>Beth Taylor, Second Vice-Chair<br>Craig Stallings, Secretary<br>Robert Cotto, Jr.<br>Michael Brescia<br>Tiffany Glanville<br>Karen Taylor | <u>Absent:</u><br>Matthew Poland       |
| Superintendent Beth Schiavino-Narvaez  |  |
| Student Representative T.J. Noel-Sullivan  | Student Representative Abraham Fattouh |

**III. Public Participation**

1. Richard Barrington, M. L. King parent, expressed his gratitude on the school finally being renovated, but also spoke on his concern over the temporary move of the students to West Middle, which is across town, and not in a school closer to them.
2. Hyacinth Yennie, parent advocate, also spoke on the temporary move of the MLK students, and wanted to make sure MLK community was involved in the planning, and that they are all respected. She also spoke on HPHS Engineering & Green Technology Academy being in the Hartford Courant. Lastly, she wanted to talk about instituting a policy on sexual harassment of teachers by students.
3. Sarah Westergad, parent at Montessori Moylan, expressed concerns over the renovations at the 425 Franklin Avenue not being completed on time. One large concern is that Hartford Physical Medicine is currently in the space, and they want their lease to be terminated before the students move in, as they do not feel it appropriate that students share the same space as a medical facility.
4. Nancy Mendez, Moylan Magnet School Parent Chair of the School Governance Council, spoke on her concern over the budget cuts coming next year, and urged the Board to consider the special circumstances of the school since they are split in to two locations.
5. Oshun Vicente, Annie Fisher and HPHS parent, spoke on M. L. King students and making sure those that are moved out during construction, are moved back in. She also asked if there was a report on all school facilities and that it be made available to the public.

6. Tynima Toney, Milner School parent, stated her son was diagnosed with a behavioral problem, but that doesn't mean you get suspended daily. She stated they do not have in school suspension which would be helpful.
7. Millie Arciniegas, Hartford Parent University, spoke on struggling with the fact that we have mandates in place, for example in-school suspension, but not every school follows these mandates. Where are parents supposed to turn, when they go to their school, and the staff is not friendly?
8. Lakeisha McFarland, parent at Clark Elementary School, wants to be informed on what will happen with Clark School.
9. Leah Tarnowicz, teacher at M. L. King, is excited that they are being renovated, but feels that they are in limbo, and asks for honesty with whatever plans are in place for MLK.
10. Jahmesia Barrington, student at M. L. King, loves her school and does not want to leave.
11. Michael Downes, spoke on Clark School and the parents' concerns.
12. Tenaya Taylor, with Summer of Solutions, a youth empowerment and leadership program in Hartford where they do school gardens in Hartford Schools, are starting their 2016 internship program where they hire 10-12 youth for gardening and they teach them food education. She wanted to stress how important that type of education was, and that this year, they have not heard back from any schools.
13. Joann Brooks, teacher at M. L. King School, spoke in support of her school and community. She has not seen equality, and hopes her school becomes the head, and not the tail.
14. Phyllis Airey, parent, grandparent and Hartford resident, feels M. L. King is doing great things, bringing up academic achievement and self-esteem, and wants to make sure that continues. She'd like the kids to stay in the neighborhood, which is helpful to the parents and families. Why not Rawson, a closer school, instead of West Middle that is farther away. This makes it difficult for parents to travel should there be an emergency, or school meetings.
15. Ayesha Clark, parent, wants transparency on health hazards in all schools in Hartford, and that it be made available online so all can access. Also, when decisions are made, for example school transfers/closings, they want transparency and honesty. For example if there is a reason the MLK students are moved to West Middle and not Rawson, just be clear and honest on the reasons.

#### **IV. Board of Education Annual Organizational Meeting**

The newly appointed and re-appointed Board members: Mr. Richard Wareing, Dr. Jose Colón-Rivas, Ms. Tiffany Glanville and Ms. Karen Taylor; were sworn in by Ms. Melinda Kaufmann, Assistant Corporation Counsel.

- Election of Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair and Secretary

Mr. Wareing entertained a motion to open the nominations for the office of Chair. Dr. Colon-Rivas nominated Mr. Wareing, and hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

Mr. Wareing entertained a motion to open the nominations for the office of First Vice Chair. Mr. Stallings nominated Dr. Colon-Rivas, and hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

Mr. Wareing entertained a motion to open the nominations for the office of Second Vice-Chair. Dr. Colon-Rivas nominated Dr. Taylor, and hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

Mr. Wareing entertained a motion to open the nomination for the office of Secretary. Mr. Brescia nominated Mr. Stallings, and hearing no other nomination, nominations were closed.

All written ballots were collected. Ms. Cristina Santiago, BOE Liaison, and Ms. Melinda Kaufmann, Assistant Corporation Counsel, announced the results of the written ballots: Mr. Wareing was elected to the office of Chair, Dr. Colon-Rivas was elected to the office of First Vice-Chair, Dr. Taylor was elected to the office of Second Vice-Chair, and Mr. Stallings was elected to the office of Secretary.

## **V. Reports**

### **1. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Wareing assigned committee chairs and members as follows:

Finance and Audit Committee:

Chair: Craig Stallings

Members: Beth Taylor, Richard Wareing

Parent and Community Engagement Committee:

Chair: Tiffany Glanville

Members: Robert Cotto, Jr., Craig Stallings

Policy Committee:

Chair: Beth Taylor

Members: Michael Brescia, Jose Colon-Rivas, Tiffany Glanville, Karen Taylor

School Choice & Facilities Committee:

Chair: Jose Colon-Rivas

Members: Michael Brescia, Robert Cotto, Jr., Karen Taylor, Richard Wareing

Human Resources Committee:

Chair: Jose Colon-Rivas

Members: Michael Brescia, Tiffany Glanville

Hartford School Building Committee:

Members: Michael Brescia and Richard Wareing

Representative Assignments

- Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE): Richard Wareing
- Capital Region Education Council (CREC): Michael Brescia
- Hartford Public Library: Gislaine Ngounou
- Metropolitan Learning Center: Michael Brescia

## **V. Business Agenda**

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

1. Acceptance of Funds and Contract Approval: Connecticut State Department of Education \$297,000 - Middlebury Interactive Languages \$249,558 (Supt et al.)

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has been charged with facilitating the design, implementation and evaluation of a two-year English Language Learner Program and Hartford Public Schools is one of four school districts that has been targeted to participate.

These funds from the CSDE would go to the implementation of a Newcomer Center for grades 6-8 at McDonough Expeditionary Learning School (MELS). The Newcomer Support is aimed at providing individualized Student Success Plans and academic support to students who need to develop English language proficiency.

Hartford Public Schools will contract with Middlebury Interactive Languages using the funds the State has set aside for the English Language Learner's Pilot program, and will work in the Newcomer Center to build a strong foundation of academic language in order to accelerate learning for newly arrived English Language Learners in this pilot program, through online curriculum, professional development and teacher support materials.

- a) That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$297,000 from the Connecticut State Department of Education for the English Language Learners Pilot Program.
- b) 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.

Mr. Cotto asked if the State chose the program, or did the Hartford Schools.

The Superintendent replied that the State didn't require a particular program, it just had to be a new type of program to better support our English Language learners. Middlebury was chosen because it was already doing the work in the district and had a good track record.

Mr. Cotto added that he wanted to see the evaluation. He stated that it seemed that Middlebury is a replacement for a full bilingual program and wants to hear more about the staff development in this newcomer center. He wanted to be sure we are not just putting students in front of computers.

Dr. Taylor made a motion; and Mr. Wareing seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$297,000 from the Connecticut State Department of Education for the English Language Learners Pilot Program; furthermore, 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.

#### VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **B. Consent Agenda**

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

2. Approval of: Budget Allocation Changes through December 31, 2015 (Finance & Audit Committee)

In accordance with Board of Education Policy No. 3140, Transfer of Funds between Categories – Amendments; the attached transfers require Board of Education approval.

That the Hartford Board of Education approves the Transfer of Funds between categories as listed.

3. Acceptance of Funds: Alliance Districts' School Buildings Grant \$2,145,500 (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. In October of 2015 the Board authorized the Superintendent to apply for these funds, and now the Hartford Public Schools have been awarded funds in the amount of \$2,145,500 from the Alliance District's School Building Grant.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$2,145,500 from the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Poland

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**C. Executive Session (Superintendent's Mid-Year Review)**

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.