

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – September 20, 2016

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, September 20, 2016. The meeting was held at Hartford Public High School, 55 Forest Street, Hartford, CT 06105.

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

Mr. Wareing called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m. There was a quorum present.

<u>Present:</u> Richard Wareing, Chair Tiffany Glanville, Vice-Chair Craig Stallings, Secretary Robert Cotto, Jr. Julio Flores Karen T. Taylor Michael Brescia	<u>Absent:</u>
Superintendent Beth Schiavino-Narvaez	

III. Public Participation

1. Karlene Ball, parent of a student at Capital Preparatory Magnet School, spoke on that schools administration not providing an environment in which learning, teaching, and parent participation can truly flourish. There does not seem to be enough evaluation for that school. She keeps hearing that “Capital Prep does their own thing”, or that they have their own social justice system. She finds it telling that one cannot find the principals contact information on their website. Ms. Ball gave an example where she learned of the schools new start time a week before school started. She feels there is a lack of communication and action at the school. Ms. Ball requested a meeting with the administration.
2. Michael Downes, president of the Hartford Federation of Substitute Teachers, spoke on the Culinary Academy being eliminated, and asked where the written report on Clark School was. He asked when the other schools were going to be inspected for PCB’s. He also stated we are spending too much money on salaries.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Wareing stated he anticipated forming a superintendent search committee in the near future.

2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Narvaez thanked everyone who came out for Convocation on August 29, 2016. The morning was packed with impressive performances by talented students; the E.B. Kennelly

School student drum line, and student winners of the Invention Convention and STEM Expo from Burr School and Renzulli Gifted & Talented Academy who led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance; student Timothy Burton, from Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy who sang the National Anthem; and the Kinsella Beats, a middle school modern band from Kinsella Magnet School for Performing Arts.

They also had an opportunity to hear inspiring remarks by our Teacher of Year, Gary Lotreck, our Neag Outstanding School Administrator, Principal Gayle Allen Greene, our Mayor Luke Bronin and Chairman Richard Wareing. She also thanked the Hartford Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union for their generous donation of breakfast for our teachers, and the Church and Main Deli that donated breakfast for the performing students.

The Superintendent also thanked everyone who came out for the First Day of School Bus Tour, where they stopped at University High School of Science & Engineering, West Middle School, and Alfred E. Burr School. It was exciting seeing firsthand the excitement of our students on their first day back to school.

New Country MINI hosted a school supply drive for the third year in a row, and filled up their Mini Coopers with much-needed pens, papers, and backpacks for over 400 students. They also donated a telescope that will be housed at Simpson-Waverly School and a desktop photocopier for the Family Resource Center at Martin Luther King., Jr. School. She was also happy to report that we received 200 backpacks filled with school supplies from United Healthcare. Every year we receive from them 50 backpacks for high school students, and this year they increased the number to 200!

She congratulated Jason Borger and Kelly Lange from Burns Latino Studies Academy; Susan Pedrick, Elizabeth Benfield and Sharol Wilcoxon from the University High School of Science and Engineering; Kimberly Ruoff from Great Path Academy; Kaitlin Sullivan from Bulkeley High School; who were all grant recipients of the 2016 Fund for Teachers Grant Program. This program awards fellowship grants to pre-K - 12 teachers to pursue self-designed professional learning.

The Connecticut State Department of Education released results of the Connecticut's Smarter Balanced test results for the 2015-16 school year and they show that overall Hartford Public Schools' students have improved scores.

We also received results to the 2016 Science Mastery Test for 5th, 8th and 10th grade. The results show that our district has increased performance on these assessments over the last five years, narrowing the achievement gap with the state at all three grade levels, while the state is down in 5th and 8th grade levels and remains stagnant at the 10th grade level. We are also up in the "at or above goal" scores for 5th grade and 10th grade over last year's results for HPS.

3. Committee Reports

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

Mr. Wareing made a motion to move the executive session on discussion of documents related to collective bargaining to the beginning of the business agenda, and Mr. Stallings seconded.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Glanville, Stallings, Brescia, Cotto, Flores, K. Taylor

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: 0

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Executive Session (Discussion of Documents Related to Collective Bargaining)

1. Approval of proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of Teachers, Local 1018, AFT, AFL-CIO.

That the Board of Education approves the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of Teachers, Local 1018, AFT, AFL-CIO.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Glanville, Stallings, Brescia, Cotto, Flores, K. Taylor

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: 0

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. First Reading: School Closing, Consolidation, and Relocation Policy

That the Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the School Closing, Consolidation, and Relocation Policy.

Ms. Taylor stated this would be the girth of the Equity 2020 Work. She thanked the committee for all of their hard work.

Mr. Cotto requested a redline version of the policy so we can compare. He saw some red flags, such as *may* require a public hearing, whereas before it required a public hearing, as well as defining what an emergency was.

No vote was required at this time

C. Consent Agenda

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

Mr. Brescia moved to take out and discuss the agenda item for NWEA.

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

That the Hartford Board of Education approves the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Marc Shulman to the position of Acting Principal at Annie Fisher Montessori Magnet School, effective September 1, 2016.

4. Acceptance of Funds: UCONN/Wallace Foundation University Preparation Program Initiative \$466,666 (Supt et al.)

The Neag School of Education/UCONN has applied for a four year Wallace Foundation grant to partner with three districts (Hartford, New Haven, Meriden) focused on improving leadership development and pre-service principal preparation programs. Hartford will be supported with funds from UCONN to assist us in building a leadership tracking system as well as to strengthen our in-district leadership development programs.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$466,666 from the University of Connecticut Neag School of Education.

5. Contract Continuation Approval: Dr. Eric B. Cohen \$420,000 / 3-year contract (Supt et al.)

Dr. Cohen provides psychiatric oversight to students who are in need of clinical services, who are identified as having emotional disturbances. Dr. Cohen provides psychiatric evaluations and consultation for Hartford Public Schools students, who are referred through the PPT process. Dr. Cohen also provides professional development to staff.

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Eric B. Cohen, MD, LLC, for the term delineated in the contract ending October 1, 2019, at a cost not to exceed \$140,000 per year, not exceed \$420,000 over the 3-year contract term.

6. 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 6 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 1, 2017, at an amount not to exceed \$80,000.

7. Contract Approval: Pediatric Services of America, Inc. (PSA Healthcare) \$52,992 (Supt et al.)

PSA Healthcare is providing an LPN for a medically fragile special education student mandated per Planning and Placement Team (PPT) recommendation. Services include accompanying student throughout the school day as well as to and from school.

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with PSA Healthcare for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2017, at a cost not to exceed \$52,992.

8. Acceptance of Funds: Connecticut State Department of Education for Hartford Adult Education Programs \$1,747,160 (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 \$1,747,160 from the State of Connecticut Adult Education Program for the Adult Education Center in Hartford.

9. Acceptance of Funds: Connecticut State Department of Education Cooperating Eligible Entity (CEE) Grant – Adult Education Programs \$169,901 (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 two Cooperating Eligible Entities: Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford 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 \$169,901 from the State of Connecticut Cooperating Eligible Entity Grant for the supplemental Adult Education programs described above.

VOTE (on the consent agenda)

In favor: Wareing, Glanville, Stallings, Brescia, Cotto, Flores, K. Taylor

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: 0

The motions passed unanimously by voice vote.

10. Contract Continuation Approval: Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) \$193,200 (Supt et al.)

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) provides the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) computer adaptive assessments. Assessments are available for grades K-12 in the content areas of reading, mathematics, language usage, and science and items are aligned to CT Common Core Standards.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the contract with Northwest Evaluation Association for the term delineated in the contract ending September 30, 2017 at an amount not to exceed \$193,200.

Mr. Brescia wondered why we are paying a vendor for assessments when the State assesses us at no charge.

Dr. Narvaez stated the State still requires a separate assessment for this.

Mr. Cotto expressed his concern over the testing being used to evaluate teachers, not just being used for testing students, and that is a violation. He also disagrees with hearing that there is less testing in the district.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Glanville, Flores, K. Taylor

Opposed: Stallings, Brescia, Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: 0

The motion passed by voice vote.

D. Executive Session (Personnel Matter: Dr. Beth Schiavino-Narvaez)

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.