

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – October 18, 2016

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, October 18, 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 5:35 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 Michael Brescia	<u>Absent:</u> Karen T. Taylor
Superintendent Beth Schiavino-Narvaez	

III. Public Participation

1. Javier Mautino, Martin Luther King Jr. School PTO President came to speak on the possible school closings.
2. Shontá Browdy and Lakeisha McFarland, parents and members of the Equity 2020 committee, spoke on their disappointment in the process. They felt that their questions were never answered, it was not clear, and were blindsided by the consultant’s proposals. She felt that the administration knew which schools they wanted to close from the beginning and these proposals would devastate north end neighborhoods. She wanted to make it clear to other parents that they were not able to be the parent voice on this committee.
3. Hyacinth Yennie, spoke on having been in this situation before, and why are we not discussing the closing of magnet schools. She has always been against building too many magnet schools, and what we do next has to be well thought out, and transparent. She again stated that Central Office should move into one of the schools.
4. Christina Diaz, parent at Martin Luther King School, came to express her disgust at even the thought of closing MLK School. The Board and administration have no idea what the north end goes through, and feels the north end community is not thought of.
5. Patricia Douglas, teacher at Simpson Waverly School, spoke against the closing of that school. The teachers are there because they want to be there, and provide much more than just education. It would have a great negative impact on the families and community if they close.
6. Tracy Carter, came to speak on the lack of a printer/copier for students in the HPHS library. They have been promised a machine for years, and is feeling frustrated.

7. Linda Costen spoke on the importance of our children having opportunities. She feels that other districts are more advanced.
8. Milly Arciniegas, spoke in support of Education Elements and Naviance, contract items on the agenda. She was also glad that Hartford Parent University was invited to join the process on October 19, the Equity 2020 meeting with the School Governance Councils and PTO's, as parents are vital to this.
9. Jacquelyn Santiago, Chief Operating Officer of Compass Youth Collaborative. She spoke personally of being lucky enough to get a scholarship to a private school 15 minutes away, and realized that her prior education did not equip her to be ready for the new school. If it wasn't for all of the support she received she would have failed. It was the resources and the people that made the difference. She correlated that story to what Compass does at Burns Latino Studies Academy. They have accomplished a lot in the years they have been there. We need to speak to the community in relation to the Equity 2020 proposals, and Compass wants to help and be a part of that.
10. Patricia Gaskin, School Bus Monitor, spoke on Specialty Transportation violating the Hartford living wage ordinance.
11. Michael Downes, spoke against our contract with the Shipman and Goodwin Law Firm. He also spoke against the consultants that were hired for the Equity 2020 proposals, saying they do not understand the residents.
12. Representative Minnie Gonzales, spoke against closing Burns Latino Studies Academy. She agrees the building has structural problems, but the school offers much more than that. Most students do not know English when they arrive, and this school provides supports that other schools don't. Representative Gonzales also stated she did not feel it was fair to target a south end school for closure, to appear fair, since so many north end schools were also targeted for closure.
13. Natalie Langlaise, parent and Equity 2020 Committee member, spoke on her disappointment in the process. They were presented with data, and then not engaged for a period of time, until they saw the proposals. She feels the parents did not have any input. If we are to close schools, it should result in higher quality education for the rest, yet there have been no discussion of this. She feels this is a hasty decision made while the current superintendent is on her way out, therefore leaving no one accountable once she leaves. She also wanted to point out the absence of Mayor Luke Bronin, as he is in office based on his platform of neighborhood schools, and he should be in on this process. She suggested the following considerations: extended timeline, more transparency and engagement in the process, data on academics, including progress with the acceleration agenda, impact on families, community and businesses, what savings vs. cost of bussing, after school programs, cost incurred, and asked for the necessary leadership to complete this process.
14. Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermudez, spoke on Equity 2020 and after hearing from so many parents, it sounded unethical for their time, concerns and suggestions not to be taken seriously. She also spoke on the living wage ordinance and the employees from DATCO should have been hired when Specialty Transportation took over. She stated she received an email from the City Chief of Staff, she stated the contract was between Specialty and the Board, not the City.
15. Alyssa Peterson, remembers 15-20 years ago when Sheff passed, they knew then that eventually neighborhood schools would be closing. The problem is that never happened, and new building were built, and spaces were rented. There are an extraordinary amount of charter and magnet schools, and cannot afford it. She believes we need to go to the State, and say that some experiments worked and some did not. We should not vilify the families

that chose magnets, but unfortunately the plan for suburban white students to come in did not work out as planned. She also stated she does not want a cookie cutter decision for Hartford, it may be different for the north and south ends.

16. Councilman Larry Deutsch said the city is large and is still segregated. He said there is a lack of sensitivity for community needs. They are the ones that own the schools, the ones that live here and pay taxes.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair - none
2. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Narvaez started with October being declared College and Career Awareness Month in Hartford Public Schools and throughout the city. In partnership with area colleges and universities as well as community-based organizations, we are organizing a powerful series of events to raise awareness and excitement about college and career readiness. Students of all ages and families are invited to participate in college financial planning, a tour of Central Connecticut State University, an AP Awareness Event, and a number of other events that are designed to stir college aspirations, increase awareness, and make college dreams a reality.

She continued by announcing the development and release of an HPS Annual Report to the Community. The intent of the report is to share with the community progress on the Strategic Operating Plan. She urged the audience to take one home.

October was also Farm to School Month and CT Grown for CT Kids, and our Senior Director of Food and Child Nutrition Services Lonnie Burt was featured on Fox 61, to talk about our efforts to source food locally and educating students about nutrition values.

Dr. Narvaez also reported on the October 1st enrollment data. The total school district population continues to decline. Our enrollment as of October 1, 2016 was 20,567 students. This number is down 283 students from last October, and while we have maintained our number of suburban students at 4,977 students, the number of Hartford resident students continues to decline. This decrease combined with last year's decrease in enrollment of approximately 350 students brings our two year total decrease to 639 students. This data is particularly important as we are working with Equity 2020 planning.

3. Committee Reports
 - Parent & Community Engagement Committee
Ms. Glanville reported that they are reviewing 3 policies, the SGC, Parent Organizations, and Parent and Community Engagement Policies.
 - Policy Committee
Ms. Taylor left a statement to be read, giving an update on the School Closing, Consolidation and Relocation Policy.

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

B. Consent Agenda

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

1. Contract Continuation Approval: Education Elements \$120,000 (Supt et al.)

Education Elements will provide blended learning professional development and technical assistance to the Anywhere, Anytime Centers of Innovation (Bulkeley High School and Journalism & Media Academy) and is fully funded through the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the Education Elements for the term delineated in the contract, at a cost not to exceed \$120,000 ending June 30, 2017, with a 1 year renewable option.

2. Contract Continuation Approval: Hobson (Naviance) \$112,000 (Supt et al.)

This contract supports continuation of district-wide Naviance licensing at the high school level. Naviance is an electronic student success plan tool which is accessible by staff, students, and families. Student success plans are mandated by statute and support putting students at the center of their learning by allowing for the co-creation of individualized learning plans that include goals in three areas: academic, college and career, and social, emotional, and health.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the Naviance for the term delineated in the contract, at a cost not to exceed \$112,000 ending October 30, 2017 with 1 year renewable option.

3. Resolution: Authorized Signatures – Child Nutrition Programs

The Hartford Board of Education authorizes Superintendent Beth Schiavino-Narvaez or in her absence, Dr. José Colon-Rivas, Chief Operating Officer, to sign claims for reimbursement and required reports for Child Nutrition Programs; effective October 19, 2016.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Glanville, Stallings, Flores

Opposed: Brescia, Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

4. Approval of proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement: Hartford Federation of Paraprofessionals, Local 2221, AFT, AFL-CIO.

That the Board of Education approves the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of Paraprofessionals, Local 2221, AFT, AFL-CIO.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Glanville, Stallings, Brescia, Cotto, Flores

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.