

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – June 21, 2016

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, June 21, 2016. The meeting was held at Journalism and Media Academy, 150 Tower Avenue, 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.

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

III. Public Participation

1. Shontá Browdy spoke on the Weaver agenda item, and her concern over the lack of communication and having the community involved. She felt disrespected because Kinsella parents at a previous meeting were disgusted at the thought of a new building in the north end. She is wondering if they are now board with this plan, since Weaver is in the north end.
2. Michael Downes, spoke on the need for eliminating more central office positions, including the labor and legal department, as he feels corporation counsel can do the job.
3. Timothy Goodwin, spoke on Weaver and what he called the quality gap. He spoke on the school needing 5 things to change that: 1) Transcripts need to be audited, and made sure to meet State requirements, 2) Context, not just content. We're good at test scores, but not good at the social and emotional needs of students; 3) Minority Hiring, of the 12 minority teachers he hired, 9 had been removed by the end of the first year, some was contract related, some were district decisions; 4) Community Voice, parents are discouraged from speaking up; 5) Teacher Evaluation system, Danielson framework is good, but is it being used to innovate, or to terminate? There is an aura of fear in the district.
4. Jacqueline Ryan, teacher at Culinary Arts Academy, stated that it was tough to hear they were being phased out. We owe it to the remaining students to have strong, caring leadership, and she respectfully requested that the district reconsider the closing of the Culinary Academy.
5. Laura Jones, stated that she feels that after Mr. Henry, a previous superintendent left, the board of education started going downhill. She does not feel the board is working with the community,

feels that it's all about money, and that there are too many superintendents in central office. She would like the community to be listened to, they are smart too.

6. Nicole Porter, Blue Hills Civic Association (BHCA), spoke on supporting the appointment of Tayarisha Stone to Rawson. She also spoke on Weaver High School, and that the BHCA has been working with the Weaver project since 2012. She stated that it is impossible in times and decisions like these for everyone to agree and be on board. She urged the Board to move forward with the decision, this school has been delayed enough. It should have opened in 2016, but now that has been postponed to at least 2019.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair
2. Report of the Superintendent
3. Committee Reports
 - Parent and Community Engagement Committee
 - School Choice and Facilities Committee

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Administrative Appointments (Supt et al.)

Mr. Brescia made a motion; and Ms. Glanville seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint the following individuals to the positions indicated:

- a. Victor Cristofaro to the position of Principal at Latino Studies at Burns School, effective July 1, 2016;
- b. Kenneasha Sloley to the position of Principal at M.D. Fox Elementary School, effective July 1, 2016.
- c. Tayarisha Stone to the position of Principal at Rawson Elementary School, effective July 1, 2016;

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

Mr. Wareing made a motion; and Mr. Brescia seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education accepts the second reading and adopts the following policies:

- a. Policy 4118.7 (5152.1) – Psychotropic Drugs
- b. Policy 4118.21 – Reporting Abuse and Neglect
- c. Policy 5123 – Parent-Teacher Communication
- d. Policy 5131 – Student Conduct and Discipline
- e. Policy 5132 – Off-School Misconduct
- f. Policy 5137 – Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
- g. Policy 5138 – Student Gang Activity or Association
- h. Policy 5141 – Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- i. Policy 5152 (h) – Management Plan and Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies and/or Glycogen Storage Disease
- j. Policy 5166 – Search and Seizure
- k. Policy 5168 – On Campus Recruitment
- l. Policy 5181 – Transportation
- m. Social Media

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote

3. Contract Approval: Specialty Transportation \$20,412,264 (Supt et al.)

Hartford Public Schools transports over 12,000 students each day to and from school. The district needs to ensure the transportation vendor maintains a superior record of safety, demonstrated reliable service and can provide these service at an affordable cost.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) went out and in addition to an outstanding safety record and long history of reliability, of all the proposals submitted, Specialty Transportation has been able to propose the most cost effective solutions to meet Hartford Public Schools transportation needs. The new student transportation contract will result in almost a \$2.3 million savings.

Dr. Taylor made a motion; and Mr. Brescia seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Specialty Transportation for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2019.

Dr. Taylor raised her concern with the history of transportation being difficult in the first few weeks of school.

Mr. Fred Till, Director of Transportation, stated they are very experienced.

Ms. Taylor asked about why the district hasn't always gone with a less expensive contract, since we are saving so much, and what impact would it have.

Mr. Till said the number of busses are the same, but cost has gone down, and over the years, Hartford has become better at vehicle utilization. We will have the same quality of service.

Mr. Cotto questioned Specialty's history in regards to safety, in particular a bus accident that resulted in the death of a student years back.

Mr. Till stated that although the driver was employed by Specialty, it was another company's bus, so their busses continually meet safety standards.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia, Glanville, Taylor

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas

The motion passed by voice vote

4. Contract Renewal: CBS Therapy \$651,000 (Supt et al.)

CBS Therapy will be contracted to provide speech and language services to mandated HPS 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 state and federal special education guidelines.

Mr. Brescia made a motion; and Dr. Taylor 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, 2017, at a cost not to exceed \$651,000.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote

5. Approval of: Academic Programming at Weaver High School (Supt et al.) - **TABLED**

Due to the recent budgetary constraints for the district and the Weaver High School construction project, it is being recommended that the Culinary Arts Academy be phased out. This academy will be replaced by Journalism & Media Magnet Academy. Additionally, it is being recommended the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Academy be replaced with Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts.

All partners who currently work with High School Inc., Kinsella and Journalism & Media have pledged that they will continue to be partners at the new location. Hartford Public Schools is currently developing college-ready curriculum for the new academies.

Mr. Brescia made a motion; and Dr. Taylor seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approve a change in academic programming at Weaver High School and the modified Educational Specifications for the project accordingly.

Mr. Cotto asked about this and other decisions not going through the school choice & facilities, or any other committee.

Dr. Narvaez stated that this was an unusual process, with a tight timeline and the question of this moving forward at all.

Discussion over a school closing policy, and that being looked into further.

The Chair moved to table the item.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Taylor, Stallings, Brescia, Glanville, Taylor

Opposed: Cotto

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas

The motion to table the item passed by voice vote

B. Consent Agenda

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

6. Contract Renewal: CT Behavioral Health, LLC \$65,200 (Supt et al.)

CT Behavioral Health provides psychological testing and consultations to special education students who are mandated to receive these services per PPT (Planning and Placement Team) recommendation. 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 CT Behavioral Health for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2017, at a cost not to exceed \$65,200.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote

C. Executive Session (Collective Bargaining Agreements - Local 566 of Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO; Hartford Federation of School Special Police Officers, Local 1018D, AFT, AFL-CIO)

7. Approval of proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Local 566 of Council 4, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; and Mr. Stallings seconded, that the Board of Education approve the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Local 566 of Council 4, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote

8. Approval of proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of School Special Police Officers, Local 1018D, AFT, AFL-CIO.

Mr. Wareing made a motion; and Mr. Stallings seconded, that the Board of Education approve the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hartford Federation of School Special Police Officers, Local 1018D, AFT, AFL-CIO.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Colon-Rivas

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.