

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – September 15, 2015

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, September 15, 2015. The meeting was held at Museum Academy at Wish School, 350 Barbour Street, Hartford, CT 06112.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Chairman Wareing called the meeting to order at 5:47 PM. There was a quorum present.

<u>Present:</u> Richard Wareing, Chair Beth Taylor, Second Vice-Chair Jose Colon-Rivas, Vice-Chair Craig Stallings, Secretary Shelley D. Best Michael Brescia	<u>Absent:</u> Robert Cotto, Jr. Matthew Poland Honorable Mayor Pedro Segarra
Superintendent Beth Schiavino-Narvaez	
Student Representative T.J. Noel-Sullivan	

III. Public Participation

1. Levey Kardulis, parent and staff member, raised concerns regarding air quality in the school buildings and recommended to perform a test.
2. Shontá Browdy, parent, spoke to the Board regarding an incident occurred at Renzulli Academy where a student was unaccounted for 15 minutes. She raised concerns over safety in the school.
3. Hyacinth Yennie, thanked the Superintendent for her work with parents and the community. Ms. Yennie spoke in support of the Expeditionary Learning contract and recommended more Professional Development for all teachers. She also spoke on the renovated school building for MD Fox School, and stated that the school does not have the money to keep the grounds.
4. Leonard Epps, Journalism Media and Magnet Academy (JMMA) principal, spoke to the Board regarding the JMMA nomination to the Lawrence O’Toole Award. He encouraged the public to vote for JMMA. JMMA is the only school in CT nominated with this distinction, competing in New England.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair - none

2. Report of the Superintendent

The Superintendent thanked the Fred D. Wish Museum School for hosting us tonight; and, Principal Kesha Ryan for her leadership of the school.

Good Work Shout-Outs

The Superintendent gave good work shout outs to her staff, including Dr. Carol Birks, who was being honored at the 100 Women of Color Gala on September 18, 2015. Our very own Board Member, the Rev. Dr. Shelley Best, was also being honored.

Congratulations to Journalism and Media Magnet Academy and Principal Leonard Epps on their being nominated for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation's 4th Annual Larry O'Toole Award. This honor is bestowed upon a leader or organization who has exhibited great leadership through innovation in moving student-centered approaches to learning forward in New England.

This next item the Superintendent was extremely passionate about and one that ties to our Equity Indicators of College and Career Readiness, Graduation and 100% College Acceptance Rate was the Hartford Promise. The Hartford Promise is a scholarship fund and college access program developed as an incentive to boost student achievement and contribute to the city's economic growth. Beginning with the class of 2016, Hartford Promise will award scholarships up to \$20,000 to every eligible Hartford resident student, attending a four-year college, who is enrolled in Hartford Public Schools since at least ninth grade, graduates with a minimum 3.0 grade point average and meets district attendance criteria. Students who plan to go to two-year colleges would receive up to \$5,000.

Hartford Promise is modeled after similar programs that have developed since 2005 in many districts across the United States, including San Francisco, Denver, Pittsburgh, New Haven and Kalamazoo, MI. They are all based on the principle that investing in education is the most effective way to foster community wellbeing and economic development. I am pleased to introduce, Mr. Richard Sugarman, Executive Director of the Hartford Promise, who, since his appointment in March 2015, has been hard at work on fund development, raising awareness and making connections with our schools across the city.

V. Business Agenda

A. Items in Order of Importance

1. Contract Continuation Approval: Expeditionary Learning Contract \$299,695 (Supt et al.)

The Hartford Public Schools seeks to continue the contract with Expeditionary Learning to provide ongoing professional development and support in the Expeditionary Learning model at McDonough Expeditionary Learning School, the Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan, Maria Sanchez School and Parkville Elementary School. This includes but is not limited to on-site and off-site professional development and access to Expeditionary Learning designers.

Dr. Taylor made a motion; and Mr. Wareing seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Expeditionary Learning for the term delineated in the contract ending August 31, 2016, at a cost not to exceed \$299,695.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Best, Colon-Rivas, Stallings, Taylor

Opposed: Brescia

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed by voice vote.

2. Contract Approval: Teachers College Inclusive Classrooms Project, LLC. \$98,050 (Supt et al.)

The Teachers College Inclusive Classrooms Project (TCICP) supports research, teaching, and service to create educational practices that support all students to grow and thrive in their classrooms. TCICP's philosophy is grounded in the understanding that all students can participate in the general education curriculum when provided with appropriate supports and services. They believe that the single-format lesson does not support the full and diverse range of learners in any given classroom, and that teachers need to develop the skills and dispositions that address each and every learner. TCICP will be implemented at all of the academies at HPHS, Culinary Academy at Weaver, and Bulkeley High School.

Dr. Taylor made a motion; and Dr. Colon-Rivas seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with Inclusive Classrooms Project, LLC. for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016, at a cost not to exceed \$98,050.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Best, Brescia, Colon-Rivas, Stallings, Taylor

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Consent Agenda

Mr. Wareing accepted a motion to accept all items listed under consent agenda as presented; Mr. Brescia seconded:

3. Contract Continuation Approval: Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) \$214,400 (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, 2016 at an amount not to exceed \$214,400.

4. Contract Continuation Approval: SunGard Public Sector \$118,125 (Supt et al.)

SunGard Public Sector “SunGard K-12 Education” provides PerformancePLUS software used by administrators and teachers in using data to inform instructional improvement. A contract with SunGard was first initiated in 2009, and services of the contract include: a longitudinal preK-12 student academic performance database, analysis and reporting system (PerformanceTRACKER); an assessment building tool for district, school, and classroom-based assessment (AssessmentBUILDER); a SIF (Student Interoperability Framework) License Fee, so that data can easily be exchanged between different software products within the district; an On-Line Assessment module (including server, implementation, configuration, and student use for assessments); 50 Bubble Reader Software licenses that enable teachers to scan assessments at the building level; and technical support of various aspects of the system.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the contract with SunGard Public Sector for the term delineated in the contract ending September 30, 2016 at an amount not to exceed \$118,125.

5. Contract Approval: Schlagheck Solutions, LLC. \$62,000 (Supt et al.)

The consultant will work to identify, secure and prepare students at Pathways Academy of Technology & Design for paid internship opportunities where our students will gain work experience and hands-on experience by working in local businesses. The experience gained will help our students with making career choices, college/career decisions and transitioning into the workplace setting.

Pathways has secured a grant from Travelers to fund this contract, in alignment with the district’s strategic plan.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to approve the contract with Schlagheck Solutions, LLC for the term delineated in the contract ending June 30, 2016 at an amount not to exceed \$62,000.

6. Acceptance of Funds/Contract Continuation Approval: CT State Department of Education Family Resource Center Grant \$657,000 (Supt et al.)

Hartford Public Schools expects to receive a grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education to continue operating Family Resource Centers in six schools. Family Resource Centers provide access within a community to a broad continuum of

early childhood and family support services which foster the optimal development of children and families.

That, contingent upon the Connecticut State Department of Education awarding the grant, the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$657,000 (\$109,500/site) (or another amount as awarded) from the Connecticut State Department of Education; furthermore, contingent upon the grant being awarded, the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute the following contracts for the term delineated ending June 30, 2017 as follows:

- a. Hispanic Health Council will operate the Family Resource Centers at María C. Sánchez Elementary School and Asian Studies Academy at Dwight/Bellizzi Campus.
- b. The Village for Families & Children, Inc. will operate the Family Resource Centers at Latino Studies Academy at Burns School, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, America's Choice at SAND School, and John C. Clark, Jr. Elementary and Middle School.

The Hartford Board of Education also authorizes the Superintendent to make necessary reductions should the State of Connecticut reduce its commitment to the Family Resource Centers.

7. Approval of School Construction Plans and ED042 Submittal: West Middle School (Supt et al.)

The State Department of Construction Services, Office of School Facilities (OSF) requires that School Building Committees and Boards of Education certify that they have approved the final construction documents for school construction projects prior to OSF review of the plans. Once the plans are reviewed and approved by OSF, the projects are allowed to go out to bid.

At this time the Hartford School Building Committee, working through ARCADIS/O&G Program Management, has reviewed and approved construction packages for the below listed activities which will advance the construction project being performed at the following school:

West Middle School– State Project #064-0303 EA/RR
Phase 3 – Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E)
Phase 4 – Playground Equipment

That the Hartford Board of Education approves the final plans and authorizes the architect to submit the documents for the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) and Playground Equipment phases of work for the above referenced school project, to the Office of School Facilities for their review and approval.

VOTE

In favor: Wareing, Best, Brescia, Colon-Rivas, Stallings, Taylor

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Cotto, Poland, Mayor Segarra

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM