

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – April 17, 2018

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, April 17, 2018. The meeting was held at Naylor Elementary School, 639 Franklin Avenue, Hartford, CT 06114.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Mr. Stallings called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m. There was a quorum present.

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <u>Present:</u> Craig Stallings, Chair Tiffany Glanville, Vice-Chair Karen T. Taylor, Second Vice-Chair Julio Flores, Secretary Shontá Browdy Juan M. Hernandez Kimberly D. Oliver | <u>Absent:</u> Ayesha R. Clarke |
| Superintendent Leslie Torres-Rodriguez | |
| | Student Representative, Alexa Marotta |

III. Public Participation

1. Michael Downes, spoke on the budget and selling buildings that are no longer of use, or rent them out. We also need to tax producing entities, and need libraries to move into these vacant schools.
2. Jason Farquharson, Hartford Paint the City, gave an update on the Mural project. Out of 14 locations, they have completed 3. 2 are in progress, and the next one is scheduled to be at Achievement First.
He asked that there be a community voice on the Hartford School Building Committee, and/or a student voice. He also asked what the communication and reporting structure look like.
3. Aracelis Silva, paraprofessional, wanted to know who disciplines the paraprofessionals, is it the board, administration or someone else.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Stallings spoke on the senate bill, and how it is an overreach, and thanked the ministers for their support.

2. Report of the Superintendent

District Model for Excellence – School Design Teams

The excellent work the School Design Teams are currently undertaking. We are on target in our transitions schedule. Family information sessions were held for Martin Luther King Jr., Simpson Waverly, and Batchelder families with an overall attendance of 132 parents. We also completed 13 Open Houses at Montessori, Wish, Sanchez, McDonough, Rawson, ELAMS, Rawson/MLK – specifically for middle school families, Journalism & Media Academy, Kennelly, and SAND.

All Family Information Nights and Open Houses have occurred for the 2018 school changes. We are polling families in transitioning schools to confirm all student placements in receiving schools for next year, including managing sibling preferences that are being accommodated.

Our School Choice Office will soon release a report on the status of student placement, so we can begin work on ensuring all schools are resourced and staffed well, and we, as best we can, reunite students with the teachers they know and love. We will soon announce fun and informational events for families and students to welcome them in their new schools. The work is hard, but the science is clear; by building larger school communities we make stronger schools and communities.

Design Teams meetings with central office staff, ERS consultants, and schools are currently happening. School teams, led by principals and teacher teams, are meeting to create theory of action for theme or instructional model, deepen understanding of effective collaborative planning time, create plan for teacher teaming, creating schedules to increase teacher collaboration defining Team Groupings & Roles.

School teams are assessing ways to maximize instructional time and teacher collaboration time- mock schedules are being drafted between school leadership teams and ERS.

On behalf of everyone in the Hartford Public Schools community, I thank you for your work, your heart, and your strength.

OCA Action Plan and Independent Monitor

Tomorrow and Wednesday, Four Points (IM) will be at HPS to review findings and recommendations from their second report. To recap, in their first report:

| Key Findings | Recommendations |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Widespread commitment to student safety• Action plan addresses OCA report• Implementation is a long game• Plan is compliance focused – how get to shifts in culture/climate?• Plan is scattered, lacks timelines, people responsible, etc.• Need mechanisms for using data to track progress, collaborate across departments, make roles/responsibilities clear | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Revise district organizational structure2. Clarify roles3. Assign a new project manager4. Create a specific implementation plan5. Identify key indicators of success6. Establish performance management routines in ILAT7. Identify leverage points among district's priorities and key actions8. Develop a communications plan9. Continue to engage stakeholders |

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other challenges – staffing shifts/bandwidth, how student safety fits with other district priorities | |
|--|--|

In the second/current report:

| Key Findings | Recommendations |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HPS has largely addressed core issues of OCA report; school staff report confusion and negative consequences 2. Principals need to be engaged proactively 3. Project management, cross-departmental coordination, and performance management still warrant attention and improvement 4. Compliance has been addressed, but not issues core to school culture 5. Special education services are a continued concern | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarify roles and responsibilities for implementing the action plan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating an implementation plan • Assigning a senior-level district administrator to direct the work • Clarifying the ombudsman role 2. Apply improvement science to maximize action plan impact by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing high-level indicators of success and implementation measures • Tracking and reporting progress, making adjustments as needed • Convening a senior-level team to regularly review data, provide quarterly summaries, and make improvement recommendations • Continuously seeking feedback from key stakeholders 3. Regularly engage principals in discussions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify decision-making process/criteria for placing staff on leave • Gather feedback on action plan implementation • Examine data on suspected child abuse and neglect, bullying, and harassment • ID schools that are creating positive cultures and contributing factors • Communicate policies/best practices related to reporting and learning cultures • Distinguish between abusive/neglectful and unprofessional behavior • ID resources and supports needed to overcome challenges • Build capacity for staff training in high-need areas 4. Establish a high-quality continuum of services that ensures that all students with disabilities receive the support they need to meet state academic standards. |

Recognitions

Classical Magnet and Renzulli Academy Students Advance to State National History Day Competition. We are so proud of our regional winners of the National History Day Competition, held on April 7. Students completed research-based projects built around this year's National History Day theme, Conflict & Compromise in History. Several students (10) from Classical Magnet School and Renzulli Gifted and Talented Academy, were placed within the top three in their category will now move on to the Connecticut History Day State Contest at Central Connecticut State University on Saturday, April 28. Congratulations to our young scholars on all their hard work and good luck in the next round.

Congratulations to Dave Mangus and his hard-working students at the Academy of Green Technology at HPHS! For his work with students creating portable wind and solar power units for Nepal, and now for Puerto Rico, our **Mr. Mangus earned an Award of Excellence as one of the Top 25 Newsmakers at the 2018 Engineering News-Record Awards** which celebrate excellence in the construction and building industry.

Dr. Avi Ornstein, Classical Magnet science teacher of chemistry, is receiving the Connecticut Science Educator Fellow Award this spring. This is the most prestigious award for science teachers in the state. The recognition ceremony is Wednesday May 2, 2018 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the New Haven Lawn Club, 193 Whitney Avenue, New Haven.

At the Hartford Youth STEM Awards Camp Ceremony on Friday, April 6th, at Trinity College, four HPS students each won one week of STEM camp at CT Science Center for this summer. The four students submitted a drawing or an essay answering the question, "What does Biology and science mean to you?" The STEM Camp weeks and ceremony at Trinity College was sponsored by the Trinity Tri Beta Biology Society. The college students fund raised enough money for 4 of the HPS to attend STEM Camp at the CSC for free this summer. Trinity Tri-Beta Society plans to make this an annual event!

National Assistant Principals Week, April 9-13, 2018

Last week, we celebrated National Assistant Principals Week. The National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have declared the week of April 9-13, 2018, as National Assistant Principals Week to honor and recognize the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students in schools across the United States.

3. Committee Reports

- Family & Community Engagement
- Policy Committee
- School Choice & Facilities Committee
- Teaching & Learning Committee
- Finance & Audit Committee

4. Student Report

I. **Business Agenda**

A. **Items in Order of Importance**

1. Acceptance of Funds: Hartford Juvenile Detention Center \$50,541 (Supt et al.)

In June of 2017 Hartford Public Schools became the fiscal agent for the Hartford Juvenile Detention Center School, receiving funds in pass thru dollars from the State Department of Education Funds, Title I, Part D. These funds are meant to enhance and support services for programs for children and youth who are neglected, delinquent or at risk. Hartford Board of Education applies for the funds as the Lead Education Agency for Hartford and has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DOMUS, Kids Inc. who provides the educational services at the Hartford Juvenile Detention Center.

Ms. Browdy made a motion; and Ms. Oliver seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to accept funds in pass thru dollars as the fiscal agent for the program at the Hartford Juvenile Detention Center, in the amount of \$50,541 from the Connecticut State Department of Education.

VOTE

In favor: Stallings, Glanville, Taylor, Flores, Browdy, Hernandez, Oliver

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Clarke

2. Approval of School Construction Plans and ED042 Submittal – Weaver High School Phase III (Supt et al.)

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

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

Weaver High School – State Project #064-0307 RNV
Phase III – Abatement & Demolition at the Doc Hurley Field House

A cost estimate has been prepared and the scope is within budget. The project schedule calls for such work to be bid and implemented in the summer of this year to permit the renovations to proceed in 2018. The Renovations are scheduled to be completed by December of 2019.

Ms. Glanville made a motion; and Mr. Hernandez seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education approve the final plans and authorize the architect to submit the documents for the Construction phase of work for the above referenced school project, to the Office of School Construction Grants, for their review and approval.

Discussion on striking certain language, as it had not in fact gone through the HSBC yet.
Discussion on tabling the item and the financial repercussions.
Decision made to amend the language of the motion, to add that HSBC “will review”. See changes in green above.

Vote for amended language:

VOTE

In favor: Stallings, Glanville, Taylor, Flores, Browdy, Hernandez, Oliver

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Clarke

Vote to approve the amended language:

VOTE

In favor: Stallings, Glanville, Taylor, Flores, Browdy, Hernandez, Oliver

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Clarke

B. Consent Agenda

3. Authorization by the Board of Education: E-Rate Funding Application \$433,594 (Supt et al.)

The Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund makes discounts available to eligible schools and libraries for telecommunication services, Internet access, and internal connections. The E-Rate program is intended to ensure that schools and libraries have access to affordable telecommunications and information services.

Each year the Universal Service Administrative Company requires that each local school board endorse the applications filed by the district administration and commit to funding its share (the non-discounted portion) of the applications. The Hartford Board of Education has passed similar resolutions since this program requirement was initiated after a recommendation of program auditors.

Ms. Oliver made a motion; and Ms. Glanville seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education, a legally authorized board under Connecticut State Law, authorizes the filing of FCC Form 471, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Program Services Ordered and Certification Form for the services and/or products, for the fiscal year 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2019.

Furthermore, that the board authorizes payment of the applicant's share subject to the following conditions:

- A. Approval of funding of the discounted portion by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and;
- B. Receipt of services during the fiscal year 07/01/2018-06/30/2019.

VOTE

In favor: Stallings, Glanville, Taylor, Flores, Browdy, Hernandez, Oliver

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Clarke

Ms. Oliver made a motion; and Ms. Taylor seconded, to enter into executive session.

VOTE

In favor: Stallings, Glanville, Taylor, Flores, Browdy, Hernandez, Oliver

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Clarke

C. Executive Session (Pending Claims and Litigation)

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.