

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – June 19, 2018

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Hartford Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Tuesday, June 19, 2018. The meeting was held at the Annie Fisher School, 280 Plainfield Street, Hartford, CT 06114.

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

Mr. Stallings called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m. There was a quorum present.

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

III. Public Participation

1. Toni-Ann Wilson, Compass Junior Peacebuilders, stated she is not happy with her education in HPS, and tired of pretending to be. She is also tired of it being blamed on the budget. She was also tired of coming to trust staff, and then they are moved to a different schools. She spoke on lack of supplies, such as running out of paper towels in the bathroom and then the air dryers did not work. She compared the schools to a prison, with having a scheduled time to go outside and to eat.
2. Ron Linker, science teacher at HPHS Academy of Engineering and Green Technology, started out by thanking the district for his 4 month “vacation”. He said he was placed on a 4 month administrative leave and it took 4 months for anyone from the district to even meet with him. He volunteers to run the rover challenge, and since there is no funding, he ran a go fund me and paid out of pocket for the material, one of them being a substance that needed a safety certificate. That was why he was placed on leave, but he said it took too long and that there was a certificate in place the whole time. What was the cost? The students with lesson plans that were not up to par, and now the Rover Challenge is basically no more. He feels the district reacted with hysteria and asked them to lead responsibly.
3. Hyacinth Yennie, volunteer at HPHS, and commended the students who spoke, as they are the eyes and ears of the buildings. She also questioned if HPS has an attendance policy, because if we do, it is not being enforced. She feels that students who are absent are graduated anyway. She mentioned that HPHS does not have an attendance worker. Also spoke on teachers being out of the building and needing substitute teachers. The students

don't need babysitters, they need their teachers. Also questioned that she heard we were extending classes to 75 minutes, since they don't sit still now for shorter periods of time. Lastly, she stated she felt the uniform policy was not working.

4. Madyson Frame, Compass Peacebuilders and former student, spoke on the board cutting positions that have contact with students, and hiring more that have no contact with students. She feels the majority of schools are under staffed and that the school system does not prepare students for the real world. We need dedicated people and asked to refrain from further budget decisions until we talk to the people it impacts.
5. Michael Downes, spoke on selling or renting vacant buildings, transfer names of schools when necessary, and having more tax producers in the City.
6. Andrew Clarke, SGC chair at Annie Fisher Montessori, spoke at the last meeting and the staff did meet with them, but felt no changes were made. He wanted to talk about process, and felt that he thought he would be a partner but feels like an adversary. Feels that the SGC can't fulfill its statutory role when they do not receive information. Also feels that the schools are pitted together. Felt that SBB was more transparent and now he does not know how the budget is derived. After learning that Magnet schools get approximately \$13K per student, he did the math and feels that there is money missing, and does not know where it goes.
7. Erin Sheehan, PTO at Annie Fisher Montessori, echoed Mr. Clarke's statements, and feels that there is a lack of transparency or a clear process.
8. Alyssa Peterson, stated that Hartford Public Schools needs more public relations. She was stunned during the budget presentation at the cuts Hartford is getting from federal funds, more so than other comparable towns and cities. Also wants a more unified effort with the school system, the City and legislators, to lobby for more funds.
9. S. Hudson spoke on feeling that Special Education is failing the students of HPS. She gave her own daughter as an example, stating she currently has a GPA of 2.94, but there is no way she deserves that. She pays for additional tutorial service as she feels HPS does not do enough.

IV. Reports

1. Report of the Chair

Mr. Stallings spoke on this being a difficult budget process and another new entity HPS has to work with, the MARB (Municipal Accountability Review Board). Also spoke massive deficit the school system are facing, as well as continually being flat funded, and the City has been bailed out.

2. Report of the Superintendent

The Superintendent gave a brief report, congratulating all graduating seniors, and a brief update on the preliminary SBAC results, which were positive.

3. Student Report

I. **Business Agenda**

A. **Items in Order of Importance**

1. Resolution: Adoption of the 2018-2019 Budget - \$415,799,210 (Finance & Audit Committee) - **TABLED**

The Connecticut General Statutes (CGS 10-222) requires that the appropriations for the General Operating Funds of the School District be approved by the Board of Education.

The Hartford Board of Education adopts the FY 2018-2019 Budget in the amount of \$415,799,210 effective July 1, 2018.

Discussion on the budget being presented.

Mr. Flores commented that he was pleased there were no cuts to teachers, and an increase in social workers. However he was concerned with a proposed cut to Paraeducators.

Ms. Evette Avila, Chief of Schools, clarified that the 10 reduced Paraeducators were from turnover or have retired, so the positions will not be filled, not that they are cut. In fact, they found that many IEP's that did not need a para, still received one.

Mr. Hernandez commented that this is the first year that the superintendent has owned the budget for the entire year, and considering how bad the deficit is, is pleased there are not more cuts. We are moving in the right direction.

Mrs. Clarke asked for details on reducing overtime, one of the proposed mitigation strategies. Dr. Vazquez-Matos, Deputy Superintendent and Mr. Fleig, Chief Financial Officer, stated that they did an audit and OT has been paid for doing regular job duties, instead of completing the next day

Ms. Oliver wanted to clarify that the OT strategy would not breach union contracts. Dr. Vazquez Matos clarified we are not, we are putting in controls for OT above the contract.

Concern expressed over cutting OT, when that is needed for the Community Schools model.

Ms. Glanville wanted to express her frustrations at broader themes at work that we need to address.

Ms. Alexa Marotta, student representative, said that the supply reduction keeps happening annually, and students keep coming to the board meetings to raise awareness, for concerns such as not enough paper to print and teachers put the blame on students.

Discussion on needing more time to go over mitigation options.

Ms. Oliver made a motion; and Mrs. Clarke seconded, to table the item.

In favor: Stallings, Glanville, Flores, Browdy, Clarke, Oliver

Opposed: Hernandez

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor

Motion passed by voice vote.

2. Administrative Appointment (Supt et. al)

Ms. Oliver made a motion; and Mrs. Clarke seconded, that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint the following individuals to the position indicated:

- a) Dr. June Sellers to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services effective July 1, 2018;

VOTE

In favor: Stallings, Glanville, Flores, Browdy, Clarke, Hernandez, Oliver
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Taylor

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- b) Michael Maziarz to the position of Principal at Pathways Academy of Technology and Design, effective August 1, 2018.

VOTE

In favor: Stallings, Glanville, Flores, Browdy, Clarke, Hernandez, Oliver
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Taylor

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Approval of Contract Amendment: CBS Therapy \$250,000 (Supt et al.)

Hartford Public Schools has had 16 unexpected departures by speech-language pathologists within the district over the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years. The district has had difficulty in replacing these 16 professionals independently and has had to utilize the services of outside agencies to meet these staffing needs in order to meet the mandated supports of Hartford Public School students and to ensure compliance with state and federal educational guidelines. As a result, the CBS Therapy original contract for 8 speech-language professionals requires an increase to 14 speech-language pathologists.

Ms. Oliver made a motion; and Mrs. Clarke seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to amend the contract with CBS Therapy for an additional \$250,000 for the term delineated in the contract, ending June 30, 2018.

VOTE

In favor: Stallings, Glanville, Flores, Browdy, Clarke, Hernandez, Oliver
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Taylor

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Approval of Contract Continuation: The Causeway Agency \$130,000 (Supt et al.)

Over the past three years, the Office of School Choice has partnered with the Causeway Agency to lead a successful marketing and branding campaign to inform and engage Hartford families and those of the Greater Hartford region, to understand the school selection process and the various Hartford school options available through the District Choice and Regional School Choice lotteries.

The Office of School Choice seeks to continue its partnership with The Causeway Agency in order to continue to deepen its message and the reach of information to reach all families, particularly those families who may be underrepresented in the school selection process.

Mr. Flores made a motion; and Ms. Browdy seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with The Causeway Agency for the term delineated in the contract, ending June 30, 2019, at a cost not to exceed \$130,000.

VOTE

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

Opposed: Glanville, Clarke

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Acceptance of Funds: UCONN/Wallace Foundation \$316,250 (Supt et al.)

The Board approved The Neag School of Education/UCONN has 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.

UCONN's Neag School of Education is a vital partner that currently supports HPS through the UCONN UCAPP PLUS and Residency administrator training program which is in its fifth year. Through this grant, Hartford will be able to further develop programs that support aspiring and emerging school leaders with enhanced professional learning opportunities. In addition, we will collaboratively work with UCONN to develop a curriculum that meaningfully integrates essential knowledge about urban school leadership that develops skills aligned to the field-based reality of the principal's job.

The leadership tracking system is an integrated data management tool that will assist HPS in hiring, retention, professional learning, and leadership preparation. The system will capture multiple points of data that will help us best-support principals and administrators with appropriate supports, coaching, and differentiated professional development to ensure that every school is being led by a highly effective principal.

Ms. Oliver made a motion; and Mr. Hernandez seconded, that the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept funds in the amount of \$316,250 from the University of Connecticut Neag School of Education.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. First Reading: Various Hartford Public Schools Policies (Policy Committee)

That the Hartford Board of Education accepts the first reading of the following policies:

- a. Policy 4118.21 – Reporting of Abuse and Neglect
- b. Policy 4118.3 – Harassment (Personnel)
- c. Policy 5163 – Harassment (Students)

No vote was required at this time.

B. Consent Agenda

Mr. Hernandez made a motion; and Ms. Oliver seconded, to take up the consent agenda as one item.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor

7. Approval of Program Enhancement Project (PEP) Grant 40,000 (Supt et al.)

The Hartford Public Schools Adult Education Center has submitted a proposal to the Connecticut State Dept. of Education captioned "Vocations Exploration Institute" to receive a federal Program Enhancement Project grant in the amount of \$40,000. The grant proposal requires the approval of the Board of Education.

That the Hartford Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept the Program Enhancement Project Grant in the amount of \$40,000.

8. Approval of Educational Specifications S.A.N.D. School (Supt et al.)

The roof of SAND School exceeds twenty years of age and is failing. A construction grant to cover this work will be applied for. The project carries a budget of \$1,000,000 and is projected to receive a state grant of 80% of eligible project costs. At this time the Educational Specifications for the design and construction effort require the approval of the Hartford Board of Education in order for the application process to move forward.

That the Hartford Board of Education, The Hartford Board of Education accepts and approves the Educational Specifications for the roof replacement project at SAND School, dated May

22, 2018 and authorizes submission of the documents to the Bureau of School Facilities for purposes of securing a construction grant.

9. Reauthorization of Healthy Food Certification Statement

The Hartford Board of Education reauthorizes the Healthy Foods and Beverages in Hartford Public Schools Policy and submits the Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2017-2018 stating “will meet said standards during the period of July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 and will exclude from certification food items that do not meet the CNS, with the provisions stated, in the exemption criteria, for said period of time”.

10. Approval of the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2018-19 School Year (The Board)

The Hartford Board of Education approves the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for the 2018-19 School Year.

VOTE

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Taylor

Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.