



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Regular Board of Education Meeting
(Monday, February 26, 2024)**

Members present

Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Orlando Yarborough, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, John Serana Musser

1. Welcome

Procedural: 1.01 Call to Order

Mr. Wilcox called the meeting to order at 5:34p.m.

Procedural: 1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Wilcox led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Participation

Procedural: 2.01 Public Participation

Presentation: 2.02 Student Presentation: "I Have A Dream" excerpt from Ms. Marshall's class at Hill Central

3. Action Items - Discussion and vote anticipated on each topic

Action: 3.01 Approval of the Minutes of February 13, 2024

Motion to amend the agenda a presentation and possible action for the Commissioner's Turnaround Plan for Augusta Troup School under the Superintendent Report.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Matthew Wilcox, second by Justin Elicker.

Yes: Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Orlando Yarborough, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, John Serana Musser

It is recommended that the Board approve the Minutes of February 13, 2024 as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Dr Edward Joyner, second by Dr Abie Benitez.

Yes: Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Orlando Yarborough, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, John Serana Musser

Action: 3.02 Personnel Report - Dr. Madeline Negron

Dr. Negron highlights the retirees and thanks them for their years of service to the district. She also highlights the new principal of Metropolitan Business Academy that will be approved and the group congratulates all on their accolades.

It is recommended that the Board approve the Personnel as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Dr Edward Joyner, second by Andrea Downer.

Yes: Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Orlando Yarborough, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, John Serana Musser

Action, Discussion: 3.03 Governance Committee Policy Review Protocol

Dr. Benitez presents the proposed protocols for policy review.

Motion to approve Governance Committee Policy Review Protocol.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Dr Edward Joyner, second by Dr Orlando Yarborough.

Yes: Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Orlando Yarborough, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, John Serana Musser

Action, Discussion: 3.04 Finance and Operations Committee - Mr. Matthew Wilcox

Mr. Wilcox asks the Board members if any of the Finance & Operations items should be moved separately. Ms. Downer requests #3 Purchase Order for the Facilities Management Express be moved separately.

Purchase Order #3 - FMX Work order system Discussion

Ms. Downer questions the submission and requests it be tabled. For the reasons of transparency and accountability on how the vendor was selected. Dr. Yarborough inquires if there is anything specific that she is requesting to see regarding the submission. This particular one was already sent back to Finance Committee and the staff has responded regarding the vendor selection. Mr. Wilcox adds that the selection was coordinated by the Chief Operating Officer and the Purchasing Agent to utilize the proposed purchasing consortium contract which is recognized by both city and district policy. Dr. Negrón adds that during her early months with the district she did go around to all the schools and meet with the building leaders to identify the concerns and struggles

they have. One issue which was identified was the Work order management system, Dr. Negrón has been working with the COO on finding a better updated platform that can suit the needs of the district. Which he had worked with the City Purchasing Agent on procuring the proposed vendor under the CREC contract under the purchasing consortium the district can utilize and did. The district originally did a bid last year for the services but due to lack of funding at the time, no movement was made until those funds were identified. However once those funds become readily available the original bid had expired and the procurement avenue of the CREC consortium was brought to our attention to begin work immediately which is proposed to allow the district time to transition from Brightly to FMX.

Motion to approve of Purchase Order #3 with Facilities Management Express for the Facilities Work Order Management system as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Matthew Wilcox, second by Dr Orlando Yarborough.

Yes: Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Orlando Yarborough, Dr Abie Benitez, John Serana Musser

No: Andrea Downer

Motion to approve of 2 Abstract, 13 Agreements, 1 Contract, 1 Change Order, and 2 Purchase Orders as recommended by the Finance & Operations Committee.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Matthew Wilcox, second by Dr Orlando Yarborough.

Yes: Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Orlando Yarborough, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, John Serana Musser

4. Abstracts

Abstract: 4.01 State After School Grant to support after school program at King Robinson School, in the amount of \$169,400.00, from January 30, 2024 to June 30, 2024. Funding Source: Connecticut State Department of Education

Abstract: 4.02 State After School Grant to support after school program at Martinez School, in the amount of \$169,400.00, from January 30, 2024 to June 30, 2024. Funding Source: Connecticut State Department of Education

5. Agreements

Agreements: 5.01 Agreement with Justice Education Center to provide educational and enrichment program to 125 students during Spring Break 2024, from February 13, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00. Funding Sources: Title 1 Program Acct. #2531-5257-56694-0444 (\$40,000.00) McKinney Vento Homeless Children & Youth Program Acct. #2503-5027-56697-0000 (\$30,880.00) ARP ESSER II Homeless Children & Youth Program Acct. #2555-6452-56697-0111 (\$19,120.00)

Agreements: 5.02 Agreement with Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic, Inc., to provide Spring Fun Camp for 150 students at East Rock School, from February 13, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. Funding Sources: ARP ESSER III C/O Program Acct. #2553-6399-56694 - 0444 (\$76,721.00) ARP ESSER II Homeless Children & Youth Program Acct.#2555-6452-56697 - 0111 (\$ 3,279.00) Extended School Hours Program Acct. #2579-5326-56694 -0444 (\$20,000.00)

Agreements: 5.03 Amendment #3 to Agreement # 95384021 with Catholic Charities, to reduce 5 unfilled spaces from Catholic Charities and 6 unfilled spaces from Catholic Charities Child Development Center, and to decrease funding of 1,576,356.00 by \$40,901.30 to \$1,535,454.00. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority Program Acct. #2523-6432-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.04 Amendment #2 to Agreement # 95384016 with Central CT Coast YMCA, to increase the number of spaces by 4 preschool and 8 infant toddler spaces, and to increase funding of \$178,480.00 by \$59,873.20 to \$257,553.20. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority Program Acct. #2523-6432-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.05 Amendment #2 to Agreement #95384022 with Creative ME to increase the number of spaces by 4 infant toddler spaces and 7 preschool spaces, and to increase funding of \$285,568.00 by \$48,528.10 to \$334,096.10. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority Program Acct. #2523-6432-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.06 Amendment #2 to Agreement #95384023 with Lulac Head Start, to increase the number of infant toddler spaces by 5, and to increase funding of \$988,400.00 by \$28,125.00 to \$1,016,525.00. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority Program Acct. #2523-6432-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.07 Amendment #3 to Agreement #95384025 with Montessori School on Edgewood, to reduce 3 unfilled spaces and to reduce funding from \$288,556.00 by \$11,154.90 to \$277,401.10. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority Program Acct. #2523-6432-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.08 Amendment #3 to Agreement #95384014 with St. Aedan's Preschool, to increase the number of spaces by 3 and to increase funding of \$480,834.00 by \$11,154.90 to \$491,988.90. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority Program Acct. #2523-6432-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.09 Amendment #3 to Agreement #95384044 with Westville Community Nursery School, to increase the number of spaces by 2 school day spaces and to increase funding of \$66,720.00 by \$6,000.00 to \$72,720.00. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority Program Acct. #2523-6432-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.10 Amendment #3 to Agreement #95384032 with First Step Childcare and Learning Center, to increase the number of preschool spaces by 3 and the number of infant toddler spaces by 17, and to increase funding of \$246,140.00 by \$114,216.50 to \$360,356.50. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority Program Acct. #2523-6432-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.11 Amendment #3 to Agreement #95384024 with Friends Center for Children, to increase the number of infant toddler spaces by 4, and to increase funding of \$597,502.00 by \$22,500.00. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority Program Acct. #2523-6432-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.12 Amendment #1 to Agreement 2023-CON-0236 with Berchem Moses PC for general legal services to increase funding amount from \$50,000.00 by \$30,000.00 for a total amount of \$80,000.00 to cover costs incurred for the remainder of the fiscal year. Funding Source: 2023-2024 Operating Budget Acct. #190-47700-56696

Agreements: 5.13 Amendment #1 to Agreement 2023-CON-0235 with Berchem Moses PC for SPED services to increase funding amount from \$80,000.00 by \$60,000.00 for a total amount of \$140,000.00 to cover costs incurred for the remainder of the fiscal year. Funding Source: 2023-2024 Operating Budget Acct. #190-47700-56696

6. Purchase Orders

Purchase Order: 6.01 Purchase Order under Sole Source 30010 with RocketLit, Inc. to provide Science assessment platform InnerOrbit Student licenses for grades 3-11, from March 15, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$82,000.00. Funding Source: ARP ESSER III Carryover Acct. #2553-6399-55100-0414 (\$70,000) ARP ESSER III Carryover Acct. #2553-6399-56694-0414 (\$12,000)

Purchase Order: 6.02 Purchase Order under TIPS Contract 230105 with IXL Learning to provide site-based software licenses for Mathematics for 10,700 students grades 6-12, from September 29, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$101,650.00. Funding Source: ARP ESSER III Carryover Acct. #2553-6399-55100-0411

Purchase Order: 6.03 Purchase Order under CREC AEPA-024D-1 with Facilities Management Express, LLC to provide a Work Order management system for Facilities related work orders from March 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$44,288.99. Funding Source: 2023-2024 Operating Budget Acct. #190-47000-56694

7. Contracts

Contracts: 7.01 Award of Contract 70205049X with Elite Construction Resources to supply and install a motorized gym divider for King Robinson school gymnasium, from January 2, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$28,325.00. Funding Source: ARP ESSER III Carryover Acct. #2553-6399-56694-0030

8. Change Orders

Change Order: 8.01 Change Order 1 to Contract 21870 with A Prete Construction Co Inc. for renovation at 21 Wooster Pl, to increase funding amount from \$1,123,000.00 by \$107,964.00 for a total amount of \$1,230,964.00 to cover costs incurred during construction. Funding Source: ARP ESSER III Carryover Acct. #2553-6399-56694-0474

9. Other Materials - Information Only Finance & Operations Items

Information Only: 9.01 Information Only - Finance & Operations Items

Agreements, Information Only: 9.02 Amendment #1 to Agreement 96291766 with Global Interpreting Network, Inc. to increase funding amount from \$8,000 by \$4,000 for a total amount of \$12,000.00 to cover increase phone-in translations from schools. Funding Source: Title IVA Carryover Acct. #2511-6291-56694-0000

10. Other Materials - Reports

Information Only, Reports: 10.01 Information Only - Personnel Report

Discussion, Reports: 10.02 Monthly Financial Report - January

11. Student's Report

Reports: 11.01 Student Members

Mr. Musser states that the Student Members are supposed to be having a student wide council meeting that was originally February 23rd was cancelled and was rescheduled for March 15th, next months second board meeting there should be an update available.

12. Teaching and Learning Report

Reports: 12.01 Dr. Edward Joyner

Dr. Joyner implores the board to think about how the Boards directive is policies creation but its up to the Superintendent the New Haven Public Schools staff to ensure that the policies voted on are enacted in the environments to which the policies are intended either operationally or curriculum. He advises the Superintendent to implement some type of policy coordinator to work with the committees to make sure these coordination efforts are implemented.

13. Facilities Naming Committee Report

Discussion, Update: 13.01 Update to name the Library at Roberto Clemente after Ms. Hazel Pappas.

Dr. Joyner states that these requests should be forwarded by district staff to the respective schools for review and approval of naming with the School Plan Management Team (SPMT) prior to having the board vote on these matters.

Discussion, Update: 13.02 Update to name the Front foyer at James Hillhouse after Dr. Lonnie Garris Jr.

14. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Madeline Negrón

Action, Presentation: 14.01 Increasing Educator Diversity Plan- Presentation with Possible Action

Dr. Negrón advises the Board that there is a State mandate which requires every district to put forth an increasing educator diversity plan to be submitted to the State by March 15th 2024. There has been a team working on this plan since last year. Ms. Sarah Diggs convened the team and put together this presentation before together to meet this deadline. The following slides show the comparison data of student diversity and trends and how New Haven compares to other districts within the State. Ms. Diggs presents the slides that outline the goals of the proposed plan, which is anticipated to increase of teacher diversity of ~15% in the coming years. Which also includes the retention rates of those anticipated hires for teachers and administrators. Which will be done by implementation of data tracking, and create and implementation of a recruitment plan to recruit teachers from Puerto Rico and the Caribbean while enhancing partnerships with local universities.

Motion to approve the districts Increasing Educator Diversity Plan as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Dr Orlando Yarborough, second by Dr Abie Benitez.

Yes: Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Orlando Yarborough, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, John Serana Musser

Action, Presentation: 14.02 Commissioner's Network Turnaround plan - Presentation with Possible Action

For the Commissioner's Network 25 schools are chosen across the entire state to become part of the network and supported for 3-5 years. Troup School was invited to apply in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and in the spring of 2023 the School Turnaround Committee assembled. Over the course of 2023 the plan was being assembled the curriculum focus for the school was 'Writing Across the Curriculum'. The school is currently at the stage of the process where the submission is seeking approval for our board of education, if approved the approval of CSDE board will follow. The anticipated launch would be July 2024.

Motion to approve Commissioner's Network Turnaround plan application for Augusta Troup School.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Dr Edward Joyner, second by Dr Orlando Yarborough.

Yes: Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Orlando Yarborough, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, John Serana Musser

15. President's Report

Reports: 15.01 Ms. Yesenia Rivera

Ms. Rivera is absent at this time, Mr. Wilcox reminds Board members of the Board Retreat that will take place on Monday March 4th 2024 at 4:30pm, 54 Meadow St 2nd Fl Conference Rm.

16. Head Start Report

Reports: 16.01 Mr. Matthew Wilcox

Mr. Wilcox states the committee recently met and discussed enrollment numbers and activities staff recently attended Health and safety institute.

17. Citywide School Building Committee Report

Reports: 17.01 Mr. Matthew Wilcox

Mr. Wilcox states there is no update at this time, the next meeting is scheduled for March 15th and he will be able to provide an update once they meet.

18. Finance & Operations Report

Reports: 18.01 Mr. Matthew Wilcox

Mr. Wilcox states the minutes for the meeting are included in the packets for this evening. Currently the committee is in the works of revising the Finance & Operations memo for departments to complete for submissions as well as the Amendment Form. The next meeting will be held Tuesday March 5th due to the Board retreat taking place at the regularly scheduled time. The process for rescinding previously approved contracts has been tabled for the moment while we await the attorneys to review and provide input. The January Financial report and the Budget Report was also presented and the deficit was discussed.

19. Governance Report

Reports: 19.01 Dr. Abie Benitez

Dr. Benitez states that the committee held a special meeting which the policy that was previously discussed earlier in this meeting was approved for recommendation this evening. The next meeting is March 5th at 4:30pm, policies under series 3000 and 5000 will be discussed and reviewed.

20. Food Service Task Group Report

Reports: 20.01 Dr. Orlando Yarborough III

Dr. Orlando Yarborough recently met on February 14th where nutrition was discussed with our community partners. The School Break Grocery sub group partner with families to provide food for students during the times where schools are not in session. The committee members are looking for resources and funding to get more access to foods.

21. Executive Session

Action: 21.01 Motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-200(6)(B) and (E) and §1-210(B)(4) and (10) concerning strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation in the matter of Light v. NHBOE and discussion which would result in the disclosure of attorney-client privileged records.

Motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-200(6)(B) and (E) and §1-210(B)(4) and (10) concerning strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation in the matter of Light v. NHBOE and discussion which would result in the disclosure of attorney-client privileged records.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Matthew Wilcox, second by Dr Edward Joyner.

Yes: Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Orlando Yarborough, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, John Serana Musser

22. Return to Public Session

Action, Discussion: 22.01 Discussion and possible action on matters heard in Executive Session

Mr. Wilcox and fellow board members return from executive session where no motions or action was taken.

23. Adjournment

Action: 23.01 Move to Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 8:22p.m.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Andrea Downer, second by Dr Edward Joyner.

Yes: Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Orlando Yarborough, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, John Serana Musser

Respectfully Submitted,
Salina Manning
Executive Administrative Assistant

"A video of this meeting is available on the YouTube Channel – New Haven BOE TV and NHPS.net, About Us - Public Meetings"