



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – May 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Mr. D. Goldson, President. The meeting was held in the Celentano Magnet School Cafetorium, 400 Canner Street, New Haven, Connecticut.

Present: Mr. D. Goldson, President; Dr. T. Jackson-McArthur, Secretary; Dr. E. Joyner, Mr. J. Rodriguez, Ms. Y. Rivera, Mayor T. Harp, Mr. M. Wilcox, Dr. C. Birks, Mr. N. Rivera

Absent: Ms. M. Dawkins

Dr. Joyner led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

319-19
Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting, 4/22/19

On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, it was unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of April 22, 2019.

320-19
Approval of Minutes Regular Board Meeting

A motion was made by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 22, 2019, a discussion ensued.

Mr. Goldson pointed out that at the last meeting a resident made a comment against a Board member. Normally that would not be allowed to happen, but I was the Board Chair and the comments were directed against me and I thought it was not appropriate at the time, as a result those inaccurate comments were added to the Board minutes. He asked that on Page 4, lines 15 to 24, be deleted.

Dr. Joyner commented that his understanding is that public comment is about agenda items so anything else commented on would be inappropriate, and he hopes we are still holding to that standard. Mr. Goldson remarked, we are, but sometimes in order to allow the meeting to move smoothly, he allows it to happen because trying to stop it just adds more time to the agenda. Dr. Joyner continued his thoughts. He respectfully asked that in future, comments be limited to agenda items only.

Mr. Wilcox remarked that he has been observing meetings for a few months now and it is news to him that public comments should be limited to only items on the published agenda. He has concerns about that, and it seems like a change to him and he would like us to check the bylaws to see that is exactly what our language around public comment is. It is a way for the people to transmit information to the Board. Even if it is uncomfortable and we're in dispute, it serves a use and it seems that it is a change from the practice over the last few months.

Dr. Joyner further expressed his thoughts on this subject. He told Mr. Wilcox he understands his point and he appreciates it.



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Mr. Wilcox, for clarification, remarked we have a motion before us to strike some comments from the minutes and not make decisions whether or not we are going to enforce different rules on the public comment period, so he is confused as to what we are going to do right now.

Mr. Goldson commented that we have never enforced an agenda item only rule. If people want to come here and talk about educational issues that are not on the agenda, he has no problem with that. As he has said at other meetings, this is not going to be a place where people come to settle old political scores and political battles that have nothing to do with education or this Board. These comments were directed at one particular individual and, quite frankly, it wasn't truthful information. He is asking this Board to remove non-educational comments from a person from the public on page 4 after "CPT President", up to the words," asked to leave."

Mr. Wilcox commented if we look at the statement in two parts, one is referring to the appearance of attentiveness of the Board during public comment and he sees that as being different than sitting in a movie theater outside of the venue of this body. He has sat in this audience and has seen what she is talking about.

Mr. Goldson concurred and remarked with that in mind, he is willing to change that from line 20 "she then told" to line 24 "asked to leave".

321-19
Approval of Minutes,
April 22, 2019

On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Dr. Joyner and one abstention by Mr. Rodriguez, it was unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 22, 2019 with the corrections as presented.

Vice-President Election

Mr. Goldson commented, as we all know since Jamel Cotto left the Board, we have a vacancy in our Vice-President position. He asked for nominations for this position.

Dr. Joyner nominated Mr. Joseph Rodriguez as Vice-President.

322-19
Approval of
Vice-President
Nomination

On the nomination by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Ms. Ramirez, it was unanimously voted to approve the nomination of Mr. Joseph Rodriguez as Vice- President of the New Haven Board of Education.

Mr. Rodriguez commented that he has been on the Board for about a year and a half and he looks forward to working with them for the benefit of our district and our children and he also looks forward to continuing the work with members of the public as we continue to get through this difficult financial time. Mr. Rodriguez thanked them for this opportunity to lead this board with our chairman and executive team. He is humbled for the opportunity.

Mr. Goldson remarked he has known Mr. Rodriguez for a long time. They served on the Board of Alders together and he has seen him mature and grow and be a leader in his own right. He is happy to see him taking a leadership role on this Board. He wished him good luck.



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Achievement Acknowledgements

*Strong 21st Century Communications Magnet
4th Grade Students*

Dr. Birks acknowledged everyone. She commented that she is excited to announce our students who will be performing this evening. They are 4th grade students from Strong 21st Century Communications Magnet they will perform the popular song “Baby Shark” in Chinese. Dr. Birks remarked that in March these students impressed the crowds at the CT Council of Language Teachers Rhyme Celebration. They have been learning Chinese with their teacher, Mr. Zhanyun, since Kindergarten.

Dr. Birks asked Ms. Haxhi to join her. Ms. Haxhi introduced their teacher Mr. Zhanyun and the students: Isaiah Beauregard, Luaryeishika Cirino, Noemi Ferreira, Dakarai Langley, Christian Quiles, Dylan Sanchez, and Jahzeel Torres.

After a magnificent performance the students were acknowledged by a rousing round of applause. Dr. Birks told the students that they did a fantastic job. Dr. Birks acknowledged their principal, Susan DeNicola and their teacher Mr. Zhanyun. She asked any other members of Strong, teachers, staff members or parents to stand and they were also acknowledged with a round of applause. She commented that our children are very talented and gifted and we have amazing teachers who believe in them, she thanked them very much.

I Rise Student of the Month

Ms. Pamela Samuel, Career High School

Dr. Birks acknowledged Ms. Pamela Samuel, I Rise Student of the Month, for demonstrating the qualities of an exemplary student and outstanding scholar from Hill Regional Career High School. Pamela’s focus and favorite subject is math and she is enrolled in AP Calculus. In the fall of 2019, Pamela plans to attend Boston College to pursue a degree in Biology and then she plans to attend medical school and aspires to become a successful neonatologist. She loves working with children and caring for newborns to make sure they have a healthy transition into the real world. Dr. Birks asked everyone to join her in welcoming Pamela Samuel, I Rise Student of the Month. Pamela was acknowledged with a round of applause and presented with a Certificate of Achievement. Dr. Birks invited Pamela’s family and teachers as well as her principal, Dr. Parrish, to join her at the podium. Pamela acknowledged her Math teacher, Ms. Kathy Rooney, and Dr. Birks thanked her for her service and commitment to our students. Board members congratulated Ms. Samuel and she posed for a group photo with Board members.

Public Participation

Ms. Nadya Dimitrova, parent, remarked she is grateful for this opportunity to speak to the Board of Ed today and she thanked them for their attention. What a heartwarming example it is to hear Pamela’s story. She hopes that her kids will follow in her footsteps as well. She talked about her concerns regarding the lottery and waitlist process; she also said that a neighborhood school is very important to them because they do not own a car. Happily her son was accepted at their school of choice but some of their friends are very frustrated about



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not being accepted in their school of choice; she continued to explain; **Ms. Liliana Milkova**, parent, explained the same frustration that Ms. Dimitrova put forward and the confusion about the lottery placement process and waitlist process; she continued to explain her situation; **Ms. Nijja Ife-Waters**, parent, CPT President, commented she is not sure about what was stricken from the minutes and suggested that they check on the laws under public speaking before they take action; tonight she is speaking as the CPT President; she thanked Dr. Birks, Ms. Velazquez, Dr. Whyte, Dr. Tracey, Ms. Lumpkin, and Mr. Wilcox who attended CPT's meeting; parents were able to speak to the administrators who were present and we had over 200 participants which included community members, parents, she continued to explain; this project began with Wexler Grant because they were interested in building their parent team and as a result this event brought in ten new parents, so they are on their way to having a very strong parent team; **Ms. Lorrie Quirk**, educator at Lincoln/Bassett and member of the leadership team, she is also a member of the New Haven LGBTQ+ Youth Task Force and we will be providing information that is needed for our schools; she commented that she appreciates the training provided to gym teachers, PE teachers and social workers at our schools through, GLSEN, regarding the LBGTQ+ rights for our students and also helping the teachers understand, however, the turnaround was not as effective as it could have been, in fact there was no turnaround in their school; she continued to explain; **Mr. Alan Veloz**, New Haven Academy junior, representing LGBTQ+ Task Force, their committee has been tasked to review BOE policies and to offer their findings for consideration; he outlined a request from the group and explained in detail; **Ms. Kathleen Rooney**, Career math teacher, remarked she is here tonight as a parent; both her children are part of the LGBTQ+ community; she told about her son that had a name change and it was not reflected in his records which caused great distress for him; she explained in detail; **Mr. Almando Harris**, Hillhouse senior, he is seeking tools and resources for highly intelligent autistic students, transitional plans, autism secondary/post graduates; he explained in detail; **Ms. Maria Harris**, parent, CPT member, remarked this is her third graduate and she is stuck with the same concerns and he has less than 30 days to graduate; every student needs a transitional plan and all students should have a student success plan and college and career goals and this district does not have that; she went on to explain; Ms. Harris noted that she has requested, for the last few years, an independent education evaluation and, by law, she can request that and what she received was an incomplete evaluation; she recently received a request for a due process hearing; she went on to explain; *Mr. Goldson announced, for the record, that Dr. Jackson-McArthur has joined the meeting.* **Mr. David Weinreb**, Bilingual teacher, aspiring school leader, founding member of LBGTQ+ Task Force, an advocate for this group; Mr. Weinwreb remarked that he distributed folders from GLSEN, (the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) about the State of Connecticut schools, as well as a guidance letter from the previous CT Governor; he went on to explain in detail (see attached); we are not asking for funding, we are asking the Board of Ed to formally adopt the State's guidelines on LGBTQ+ students' rights and clearly publicize that information; please include LGBTQ+ focused questions in the district climate survey, he continued in detail; we appreciate that Ms. Velazquez, Ms. Tiffany Jackson have met with us on several occasions and Dr. Birks and Dr. Jackson-McArthur have attended our monthly meetings, the next meeting is June 13th at New Haven Pride on 84 Orange Street in New Haven, everyone is invited to attend their meetings, which are on the second Thursday of every month; **Ms. Samm Leska**, teacher, resident,



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presented the importance of intentionally including LGBTQ issues into the curriculum in New Haven Public Schools; she explained in detail; she encouraged the Board and the district to include training for teachers and administrators to ensure LGBTQ students feel seen and heard in our schools; **Mr. Phillip Modeen**, children’s librarian at the New Haven Free Library, member of the LGBTQ Youth Task Force, continued to read the letter that Alan read to the Board; **Ms. Angelis Murga**, HSC senior, remarked that she is here tonight to talk about struggle, which is different for everyone; she has all the skills necessary to be a successful student yet she struggles to meet deadlines, to stay on task, and to finish her work, she continued in detail; she pointed out that she is a product of social promotion, and in spite of her struggles, she has succeeded and achieved the goals she has set for herself with the help of her mom and will to succeed; she stated that she is here tonight to bring awareness to social promotion and she explained in detail; Ms. Murga stated that she is excited to be graduating in 35 days, but she wanted to share her experiences before she left and to tell of the effect it has on some students; **Ms. Kristen Wagner**, HIV Clinician at Fair Haven Community Health Center and a member of the LGBTQ+ Youth Task Force, remarked that she provides HIV care to individuals living in Fair Haven and the Greater New Haven community and we have had success, however, the greatest impact now is among gay and bisexual young men of color and she explained what has to be done to address this issue and went on to explain in detail; **Ms. Kirsten Hopes-McFadden**, ESUMS, parent/teacher, wanted to know what is being done about teacher retention, she told about her sons having three different teaches for two different subjects; she also told about 8th grade and high school students having to pay for the stage for promotion and graduation respectfully and she explained this in detail; she also had eight questions, which she read to Board members. Mr. Goldson asked Ms. Hopes-McFadden to send him the questions. **Ms. Hazel Pappas**, retired matron, Title I Advocate, reminded everyone of the Florence Caldwell Awards Program, 6:00p on May 22nd at Fair Haven Middle School for grades 1-5, and in June, 6th through 12th grades will be honored, at 6:00pm in Fair Haven Middle School.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if the appropriate committee reviewed said recommendations for the LGBTQ state guidance and, if not, he recommended that the appropriate committee review said guidelines. Mr. Goldson responded that he has been told by the chairman that staff is reviewing it, but it hasn’t been on their agenda yet. Dr. Jackson-McArthur commented that they haven’t had it formally on their agenda but they will put it on their agenda. Ms. Typhanie Jackson added that they passed a non-discrimination policy and they had a meeting with Kelly Wuzzardo to go over some of the guidance, but it has not been brought to the Governance Committee and that would be the appropriate next step inclusive of some of the training and it will be on the May 28th agenda.

Dr. Joyner wanted to know, in terms of professional development, if there are any plans for anti-biased training relative to that as well as any other group. Dr. Birks answered and said that they intend to train their central office leaders as well as administrators throughout the summer. We have a module in the Safe Schools platform that we can provide to all educators next year. Dr. Joyner went on to explain some of the progress that has been made on this subject.



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Mayor Harp said one of the things brought to their attention by those who spoke today was that the climate survey didn't have any questions as it relates to this community. She asked that we make sure those questions are on the climate survey and she explained in detail. Dr. Birks called on Ms. Ross-Lee to address the Mayor's concerns.

Ms. Ross-Lee explained that she met with the LGBTQ+ Task Force to talk about their questions and concerns and we also have a safe school climate committee that has been addressing some of the issues. As far as the school climate survey is concerned, we couldn't get it on the parent survey, but we did get it on the student survey. She went on to explain in detail.

Mayor Harp suggested that they give the questions to the Governance committee and Ms. Ross-Lee agreed that they would. Dr. Birks asked Ms. Ross-Lee to give her the questions so that Board members could see them.

Student's Report

Mr. Niko Rivera commented that he has to go to work so he will give his report at this time. He started with the Wilbur Cross baseball team, which has put themselves in the State Tournament. We are preparing for the next four games and training to put ourselves in a position to bring New Haven another trophy. Mr. Rivera gave a shout out to Career's baseball coach who is putting his team through rigorous training as well. He also gave special thanks to Eric Patchkofsky, our Athletic Director, who is creating and maintaining New Haven as a strong athletic city with the great coaching staff that we have. He also congratulated Ms. Lihame Arouna who will be student rep on the Board for next year. Mr. Rivera remarked that he knows he has not been in attendance as much as he should have but his grandmother has not been doing well, but she is on the mend. He made a promise to the students and he will keep his promise. He promised that he will be a student representative that helps Board members create a better future for our students and he will continue on with his promise. To the students that are present, he appreciates that they voted. He thanked that students for coming out to vote; they had a better turnout than last year. Mr. Rivera said that anyone who has any concerns to please contact him.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Birks stated that tonight they have a Head Start presentation as part of informing the Board regarding the work that is underway for Head Start. She thanked her team for working very diligently on ensuring that we are providing quality early learning for our children. Dr. Birks said she wanted to publically say she is really proud of them and she also thanked them for their hard work. Dr. Birks commented that Early Learning is one of our major priorities. We are working with the community and others on our team to ensure that our early learning work is aligned, coherent and that we have consistent systems and structures in place. Dr. Birks also thanked Board members for their support.



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Head Start Presentation

presented by Ms. Mary Derwin and

Ms. Elizabeth Gaffney, Head Start Director

Ms. Derwin introduced herself and Liz Gaffney, the newly appointed Head Start Director. Tonight they would like to review the work that they have done this year and they seek Board approval as we submit for the next competitive grant.

Ms. Derwin remarked that Head Start is a program of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. This program provides educational services that are comprehensive to families as well as students, primarily low-income families.

Ms. Derwin presented their current enrollment, the goal that they set this year, their recent monitoring event and a funding update, with a PowerPoint slide program (complete presentation at NHPS.net). Upon completion of the presentation, a question and answer period ensued.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked Ms. Derwin and Ms. Gaffney for their presentation. He also commended the team who has been working on this for the last several months. He is hoping we can continue to implement different aspects of the corrective action plan so that we never find ourselves in this a situation again where money may be stripped from this program. He thanked everyone involved in getting us to this point. Ms. Gaffney thanked the staff who made her transition into this position seamless.

Mr. Goldson also thanked Mr. Rodriguez and Dr. Joyner for their participation in this process. Ms. Derwin commented that they went above and beyond; their support was well recognized by the regional office.

Ms. Gaffney commented that they need approval of their budget for the 2020 school year that they must present to the regional office. Dr. Goldson asked her to explain the bottom-line. Ms. Gaffney complied and explained in detail. The grant is \$5,676,564 for Operations; Training and Technical Assistance \$66,934. A discussion took place.

**323-19
Approval of
Head Start Budget**

On the motion by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted to approve the Head Start budget of \$5,676,564 plus Technical Assistance and Training of \$66,934, as presented.

Monthly Financial Report – March 2019

Presented by Ms. Juanita Mazyck, Business Director General Funds

and Ms. Linda Hannans, Business Director Special Funds

Ms. Mazyck reported that tonight they will present the March Financial budget because they did not have detailed information at the last meeting. Next meeting they will present the April Financial Statement.



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Ms. Mazyck reported that our total expenses for the month of March was \$120.9 million, which is 64.55% of the adopted budget. At the end of March, our deficit was at \$5.723 which increased from the prior month’s projection due to losing some funding as well as additional legal expenses. Ms. Mazyck continued with the PowerPoint and explained each slide.

Ms. Hannans reported the grant funding. She remarked that the report they have before them covers the period 7/1/18 through 3/31/19. This shows \$50.8 million spent, which is 61.2% of the grant’s estimated budget. Ms. Hannans explained that the grants are different than general funds and they come and end at different points of the fiscal year. She explained this in detail. The next report will show more accurate expenses because they closed on March 30th and she explained in detail. This report only covers education grants, so food service grants are not in this report.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur commented that she has some questions from constituents around substitutes and asked Ms. Hannans if she could have the amount paid out compared to last year as well as the amount paid out for paid leave.

Mr. Rodriguez remarked, moving forward, the F&O committee would like to have one meeting to focus on contractual events, and the last meeting of the month to be on the budget to get a better understanding of the line-items. He explained in detail.

Dr. Joyner asked if they could have a report on how much we have spent in the last 9 months on purchase orders and invoices to see if we are in-line with the priorities of the district. Ms. Mazyck answered, yes they can.

Mr. Goldson asked if the finance committee could receive the questions that were presented and the answer was yes. Mr. Goldson remarked that he thought part of our deficit was driven because we were losing grants, but this report shows that we have more than last year. Ms. Hannans explained in detail.

324-19
Approval of
Personnel Report

On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Ms. Rivera, it was unanimously voted to approve the Superintendent’s Personnel Report.

Finance & Operations Committee Report

Mr. Rodriguez reported this committee met last week and present to the Board for approval two abstracts, four agreements and one change order.

On the motion by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Rivera, it was unanimously voted to approve the following FINANCE AND OPERATIONS-RELATED ITEMS:

ABSTRACTS

325-19

New Haven Adult Education & Continuing Education, in the amount of \$4,800,000 for July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.



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326-19 *Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven*, in the amount of \$46,425 for July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020.

AGREEMENTS

327-19 Amendment #1, CT Child Day Care Grant
Amendment #1, CT Child Day Care Grant
Amendment #1, CT Child Day Care Grant
Amendment #1 to State of CT Child Day Care Grant Contract to increase the annual New Haven Child Day Care Contract for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 from \$1,238,060.72 by \$10,152.10 to \$1,248,212.82 to cover salary and fringe benefit expenditures for the following New Haven sub-contractors: Friends Center for Children, \$2,031.97; LULAC Head Start, \$5,097.02; Montessori School on Edgewood, \$1,679.50; Morning Glory Early Learning Center, \$1,343.60

328-19 Amendment #1, Grant with CT Dept of Public Health, SBHC
Amendment #1, Grant with CT Dept of Public Health, SBHC
Amendment #1 to a Grant Agreement with CT Department of Public Health to reduce the grant award for School-Based Health Centers from \$1,348,504 by (\$7,822) to \$1,340,682 for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, and successive years of the grant.

329-19 Amendment #1, Agreement #96107659, SCSU
Amendment #1, Agreement #96107659, SCSU
Amendment #1 to Agreement #96107659 with Southern Connecticut State University for the Gear-up Grant, to provide a no cost extension from June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2019, to allow SCSU final reporting time for the close out of the grant.

330-19 Renew Agreement, CAPA
Renew Agreement, CAPA
Renew Agreement by and between the New Haven Board of Education and CT Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA), c/o Shubert Theater, 247 College St., New Haven, CT to provide planning, management, and services for COOP theaters and designated arts-related facilities (\$59,328), including Facility Manager Salary (\$60,255), from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$119,583.

CHANGE ORDER

331-19 Change Order #1, PO #96591457, Hillyard, Inc.
Change Order #1 to PO #96591457 to Hillyard, Inc., 127 Park Avenue, Hartford, CT for On-Call Custodial Equipment Repairs for the NHPS for FY 2018-19 increasing the amount of the contract due to custodial equipment repairs districtwide needed for summer cleaning program.

Original Amount of Contract:	\$ 75,000
Change Order #1:	<u>50,000</u>
Total Amount of Contract Incl. Change Orders:	\$125,000

Mr. Rodriguez explained the reason he skipped change order #1 was because they had questions on the committee level. We had asked for information to be received before tonight's meeting. He is asking that we skip over this item until our questions are addressed.



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Mr. Wilcox wanted to know what information is missing and what the implications are. Mr. Rodriguez told Mr. Wilcox we are still waiting on certain invoices and Corp Counsel was going to review and he has not seen that here tonight.

Mr. Goldson explained the situation in detail and answered the questions that Dr. Joyner had.

For the record, Mr. Barbarotta, Executive Director for Go-To Facilities, stated we manage the Board of Ed facilities. Mr. Barbarotta commented that he gave the breakdown of why the cost for this project is \$65,000 to the Board. There are 396 tests done throughout the district. The state mandates that we have to test a minimum of 10% of rooms that come in contact with the ground floor in every building throughout the district. We did 250 classrooms with multiple tests in every room. Mr. Barbarotta explained each step of the process in detail and he explained the way the contract is set-up.

Mr. Rodriguez commented that he appreciates the detailed explanation. The committee passed it on the contingency of having invoices, etc., at this meeting. This discussion continued. Dr. Joyner and Mr. Goldson initiated a discussion on the issues surrounding this contract.

Dr. Birks asked for clarity as to the information the Board requires. She has contacted Corp Counsel so she would like to let him know because she has already submitted some of the information they asked for. Mr. Goldson and Mr. Rodriguez explained to Dr. Birks what information they would like to see.

Governance Committee Report

Dr. Jackson-McArthur reported their next meeting is May 28th at 4:30. We had a special meeting today with a group of parents from Worthington Hooker to discuss issues with policies around classroom coverage when a teacher is put on leave or is out. Governance will be tackling what the policies are around sort-term leave, extended-leave, etc. Dr. Jackson-McArthur noted she also has on her agenda for her next meeting, the School Choice issue and she wanted to make sure we are working on the lottery percentages the state suggested. She explained in detail. Also, a parent emailed her about being on the waitlist for Wilbur Cross and she wanted to know why there is a waitlist for Wilbur Cross. Mr. Goldson suggested they look into the issues two of our speakers had tonight regarding Worthington Hooker. Dr. Birks said the Choice model has ended at this point, but she will have Mr. Middleton present the information the Board requested at the next meeting and she will have the information for Dr. Jackson-McArthur before that meeting.

For the record, Dr. Jackson-McArthur mentioned she sent an email to Mr. Middleton last week and she has not heard from him at this point. Mr. Goldson presented his thoughts. He asked Dr. Birks if she would get the information to Dr. Jackson-McArthur before the end of the week. A discussion took place about why students are on a waitlist for Wilbur Cross.



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Teaching & Learning Committee Report

Mayor Harp reported that this committee met on May 1st on Meadow Street. The following domestic overnight field trips were presented to the committee:

- 5/30-5/31 Wilbur Cross to Pro-Start National Restaurant Competition in Washington, DC; 10 students, 2 chaperones; Trip leader – Nathaniel Bradshaw
- 6/1-6/2 New Haven Academy to White Memorial Family Campground, Litchfield, CT; 27 students, 3 chaperones; Trip leaders – Peter Kazienko and Emily MacMelburn
- 9/23-9/27 Sound School to Schooner Brilliant, Mystic, CT; 7 students, 2 chaperones – Trip leader, Phil Brencher

Mayor Harp noted these trips were approved at the T&L meeting to be forwarded to the full Board for their approval. Mayor Harp asked approval of these field trips.

**332-19
Approval of
Domestic Overnight
Field Trips**

On the motion by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, it was unanimously voted to approve the domestic overnight field trips as presented by the Teaching & Learning Committee.

Mayor Harp then presented information on the Early Childhood Pilot Institute, which also requires action. This is a proposed play-based four-week plan based on institute focused pre-school through grade three. Teachers will receive intensive training on play-based programs and then students will attend a 4-week summer sessions in which teachers implement that plan. The proposal was approved by the Teaching & Learning Committee and forwarded to the full board for their approval. Mr. Goldson asked how it is going to be funded. Mayor Harp commented she wasn't quite sure and Ms. Velazquez explained in detail. After some discussion it was decided to forward this proposal to the next Finance & Operations Committee meeting.

Mayor Harp mentioned that the next meeting of this committee will be May 22nd at 4:30. She is glad the young lady spoke about the difficult time she had transitioning to high school and their committee takes it very seriously. She thanked her for sharing her experience with the Board.

Mayor Harp remarked that Dr. Steven Krashen, an authority on second language acquisition, will be making a presentation at Yale at 6:30pm on the 22nd, and on the 23rd he will be at Central Office, 8pm, for teachers. He is someone notable and anyone who would like to attend please do so. She reminded everyone that this is a committee-of-the-whole and she is usually alone, but Mr. Wilcox joined her and she invited others to do the same.

Mr. Rodriguez commended the Mayor and the committee for working on the transitioning issue. He thanked the young lady for her strength and for sharing her experiences; he encouraged her to continue to speak up.



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Mr. Goldson commented he meant to ask the Superintendent, during her report, about the remark the speaker made about an 8th grade class having to pay \$1,800 for the stage for their graduation. Dr. Birks said this is the first time she is hearing this and she was very shocked. Mr. Goldson asked her to get back to them as soon as possible on that.

Citywide School Construction & Stewardship Committee

Mayor Harp reported that this committee met on May 9th and there were no action items on the agenda. She notified everyone that the Strong School/Barack Obama School remains on schedule for substantial completion in mid-November 2019. The school will be outfitted though the end of December during the holiday recess and at the start of January 2020 our students will move into that school. Operations staff is preparing information to go to the State Board of Education for the formal name change. We were told it is required because all of the documents are under “Strong School” and in order to make sure that resources are delivered in the appropriate manner, the name has to be changed by the State.

Mayor Harp mentioned that President Goldson recommended that there be a joint invitation to the dedication of the new school from the Mayor and the Board of Education President to the former president, Barack Obama, hoping that either he or his first lady could attend the dedication of the school.

Mayor Harp remarked the other thing discussed was the name of the committee is citywide school construction and stewardship committee, so they asked their operations director if he would work with facilities to get a list of changes that would have to be made by building, for schools to be in good repair.

Mr. Goldson added the administration is developing a communication plan for parents and others on the move to let them know when it's happening, so parents are not surprised. They are also going to talk about all the different facets of the move including transportation to make sure the new routes for busing are communicated to parents.

Student Elections Report

Mr. Rodriguez acknowledged the committee of student elections that worked tirelessly the last few months on the student elections, particularly Ms. Ross-Lee, Dr. Garcia-Blocker and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Whyte as well as the committee members. Over 2,000 students voted this past week and he congratulated everyone who participated in the process. Mr. Rodriguez gave kudos to the two young ladies, Ms. Morales and Ms. Arouna, who stepped forward to run for BOE student rep.

333-19
Convene
Executive Session

On the motion by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted to go into Executive Session at 8:10pm to discuss attorney-client privilege communication and to possibly vote in public session on a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 387. Superintendent Birks, Atty. Lucan and Ms. Mack were asked to attend this session.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – May 13, 2019

- 334-19 On the motion by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted
Adjournment to adjourn Executive Session at 8:55pm.
Executive Session
-
- 335-19 On the motion by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted
Reconvene to Reconvene in Public Session at 9:05pm.
Public Session
-
- 336-19 On the motion by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted
Approval of to approve Local 287 Collective Bargaining Agreement from July 1, 2018 to June 30,
Local 287 Bargaining 2023.
Agreement
-
- 337-19 On the motion by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted
Adjournment to adjourn at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger McHugh

Recording Secretary

“A video of the meeting is available on the NHPS website, NHPS.net, Public Meetings”



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – May 13, 2019

PERSONNEL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

RESIGNATION - Executive Management:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Timothy Jones	High School Arts Director O-OP Arts High School Inter District Funds 27041064-50111	August 20, 2019

RETIREMENT- Administrator:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Michael Golia	Assistant Principal Columbus Family Academy General Funds 19044041-50113	June 30, 2019

RESIGNATIONS – Teachers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Sabrina Couceiro	Teacher-Science Grades 5/8 Clemente Leadership Academy General Funds 19041442-50115	June 30, 2019
Annie Dunleavy	Teacher-Special Education K-8 Wexler/Grant School ECS Alliance-Culture & Climate 25476108-50115	June 30, 2019
Marco Godinez	Teacher-Science Fair Haven School General Funds 19041416-50115	June 30, 2019
Chandani Trambadia	Teacher-Grade 6 Clemente Leadership Academy General Funds 19041042-50115	June 30, 2019



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – May 13, 2019

RESIGNATIONS – Teachers: (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Jessica Trochsler	Teacher-Special Education K-8 Brennan/Rogers Magnet School General Funds 19049021-50115	May 18, 2019
Paul Orrell	Teacher-Integrated Language Arts Edgewood Magnet School General Funds 19041012-50115	March 28, 2019
Jessica Walker	Teacher-Integrated Language Arts Mauro/Sheridan Magnet School General Funds 19041619-50115	June 30, 2019

APPOINTMENTS –Teachers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Glen Nared Western Governors University-MA	Teacher-Mathematics Wilbur Cross High School General Funds 19041161-50115	May 14, 2019	\$47,551 (Step B, 1yrs.exp.)
Huan Ngo University of Illinois-P.HD	Teacher-Biology Career High School Inter District Funding 27041463-50115	April 24, 2019	\$66,795 (Step G, 6yrs.exp.)
Alicia Venable Oral Roberts University-MA	Teacher-Read 180 Ross/Woodward Magnet General Funds 19041010-50115	May 14, 2019	\$74,405 (Step M, 12yrs.exp.)



**NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – May 13, 2019

APPOINTMENTS –Teachers: (Pending Certification)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Karen Brown Bennett College-BS	Teacher-Business Wilbur Cross High School General Funds 19041161-50115	March 25, 2019	\$45,357 (Step B, 0 yrs. exp.)

CHANGE IN FUNDING – Teacher:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Cristina Smith	Teacher-Grade 4 Wexler/Grant School Commissioner’s Network 25476293-50115	Teacher-Grade 4 Wexler/Grant School General Funds 19041032-50115	March 26, 2019

RESIGNATIONS - Paraprofessional:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Regina Wicks	Parent Liaison Worker King/Robinson Magnet School Inter District Funds 27041030-50128	May 11, 2019

CORRECTION/CHANGE ITEMS:

The following items are previous Board Actions approved. The action items below represent all the necessary changes and/or corrections.

NON-RENEWAL TO RESIGNATION – Teacher:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Elisia Acosta	Teacher-Grade 3 Fair Haven School General Funds 19041016-50115	June 30, 2019

LGBTQ+ View: New Policy Isn't Enough

by CHRISTOPHER PEAK | May 14, 2019 1:35 pm

[Post a Comment](#) | [E-mail the Author](#)

Posted to: [LGBTQ](#), [Schools](#)

Kathleen Rooney to Board of Ed: I should be learning about LGBTQ+ rights from administrators, not just from my kids. math teacher at Hill Regional Career High School

In eighth grade, a transgender boy's standardized test scores tanked after his former name appeared on every window on the computer-based test — a former name he'd wanted to keep secret from his classmates. "He had gone through a great deal of change to get to that point," said his mom, Kathleen Rooney, a math teacher at Hill Regional Career High School. "This is not trivial; this is a huge issue for that child." Rooney said that her two kids taught her about the rights that students with different sexual orientations or gender identities are guaranteed under state law, including about name recognition for transgender students. But Rooney said that she hadn't heard much at all about those regulations from the district.

"As a group, we really need to be more clear about what those laws are," she said. "The diversity of our community is wonderful. We need to celebrate that, but we need to tools to deal with the different kinds of speech that our students use in terms of race and gender. We need real clear guidelines in our community about what's not tolerated in any way."

Rooney, along with a half-dozen other activists, delivered that message at Monday night's regular Board of Education meeting at Celentano School. They said that a half-century after the rebellion at [Stonewall](#), the school district needs to do more to train educators about the LGBTQ+ students in their classrooms.

LGBTQ+ kids — the initials stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer — [report higher rates of bullying, harassment and discrimination](#). They often don't feel safe in the classroom, and they often don't see themselves in the textbooks.

New Haven Academy's Alan Veloz, Fair Haven Community Health Care's Krysten Wagner, Stetson Library's Phillip Modeen, and Lincoln-Bassett's Lorrie Quirk.

For more than a year, the [New Haven LGBTQ+ Youth Task Force](#) — a coalition of students, educators, city staffers, pediatricians, social workers and youth advocates — has been [fighting to change that locally](#).

Their advocacy led the Board of Education to update [its nondiscrimination policy](#); to train social workers, physical education teachers and wellness facilitators; and to send high schoolers to the annual True Colors conference.

Another set of trainings is in the works for Central Office administrators, principals, health center nurses and school counselors. Superintendent Carol Birks said that the online training module, known as SafeSchools, could eventually be shared with all teachers.

David Weinreb: Why so silent?

Task force members returned to the Board of Education on Monday night, though, to tell them that they now need to make sure the policies will actually be implemented.

The task force members said that a complaint form to report discrimination is hard to find on the website, that specific questions about the LGBTQ+ experience weren't included in the full climate survey, and that principals and teachers haven't yet been trained on their legal responsibilities.

"We live in a royal-blue city, yet our district seems to be publicly silent on LGBTQ identities and issues," said David Weinreb, a Fair Haven School teacher who co-founded the task force. "I'm not sure schools have ever received a clear mandate or any kind of guidance from city-based supervisors to build safer schools for LGBTQ students. We are here to encourage you to do so."

Research has found that schools with resources for gay and transgender students, like supportive teachers and inclusive lessons, have seen decreased absenteeism. Gay-straight alliances and anti-bullying policies were especially helpful for transgender students, a [study from 2013](#) found.

The task force members asked the Board of Education to do a better job of clarifying its rules in the unified code of conduct and student handbook, listing LGBTQ-specific resources in the family guide, organizing professional development for staff and including awareness of sexual orientation and gender identify in the curriculum.

"As we continue our work with students and adults, we continue to hear heartbreaking stories of discrimination in our district that must stop," Phillip Modeen, a librarian at the Stetson Branch, read from a letter signed by 23 task force members. "We care about the success and happiness of all students in our district and are committed to seeing that LGBTQ+ students are represented in the district's new vision of #OneNewHaven."

After public comment ended, the board members asked Superintendent Birks what questions were asked on the climate survey and when trainings would take place. Tamiko Jackson-McArthur, the board's secretary who chairs the Governance Committee, said that additional policy guidance would be on her agenda at this month's committee meeting.

The LGBTQ+ Youth Task Force meets every second Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the New Haven Pride Center at 84 Orange St. The next meeting is scheduled for June 13.

UNIFIED CODE OF CONDUCT

-Dated 2016-2017

-The language needs to be consistent. The terms used should be “on the basis of sex or gender identity or expression” as taken from the CT Human Rights and Opportunities Act which is quoted in the front of the manual. Examples of different language used:

-p. 3 under Level 3: Major Offenses: “Harassment based on gender, race, religion, disability and other protected categories”

-p. 9 under Bullying: this passage DOES include “gender, gender identity and expression”

-p. 11 under Harassment: “...based upon gender, racial, sexual orientation...”

p. 13 under Sexual Harassment: “The gender of the complainant and/or the alleged harasser is irrelevant, even if they are of the same gender. Sexual harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identify (sic) is also prohibited under State law.”

-p. 16 Emergency Resources for Psychiatric Services—is there opportunity to include specific LGBTQ services within this list or as an additional list?

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

-Dated 2016-2017

-p. 1 under Bullying: “...gender, gender identity and expression....sexual orientation...”

-p. 11 under Dress and Grooming: “Students attire or hairstyles considered distracting or inappropriate will not be permitted.” This is very vague and could be discriminatory against Queer youth (who decides what is distracting and inappropriate?). This section should include CT law that protects transgender and gender non-conforming students’ rights to dress in accordance with their gender identity. Also, what is the policy for students who do not identify as male or female? Which dress code rules do they follow? Which color graduation gown do they wear in schools that have gender-specific colors (and should they do away with that policy)?

-p. 19 under Student Searches:

1. “...not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student...”

p. 20 under 7. “Searches may include...a frisk or pat down of student clothing. ...shall be conducted by a member of the same sex as the student and in the presence of another staff member.” How are trans and gender non-conforming students treated under this guideline?

BOE STUDENT POLICIES

-6121 under Nondiscrimination: Instructional Program:” based on sex, sexual orientation”

-The document states NHPS commitment to “continual study and development of curricula toward improving human relations and understanding and appreciating cultural differences” and “training opportunities for improving staff ability and responsiveness to education and social needs.” We would like to see development of curricula that includes LGBTQ students, and provide professional development for staff to increase awareness of LGBTQ students and protection laws and policies.

-6161.1 (b) under Specific Criteria for Evaluation of Instructional Materials: Covers “Male and Female Roles,” but nothing deals with LGBTQ genders including gender fluid, gender non-specific and transgender.

New Haven Family Resource Guide (on NHPS.net): outdated (15/16), no section for LGBTQ related issues

-Same list of resources listed in multiple materials

Safe School Climate Plan: outdate (9/12)

-Should include Gov. Malloy’s letter from Feb, 23, 2017 confirming the accompanying guiding documents from May 13, 2016 that clarify Title IX requirements for inclusivity, including information on the civil rights of transgender students. This one simple handout would answer most of the questions that come up in our committee meetings.

-Is any of the action timeline still happening??

2017 FEB 23 P 3:12

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

DANNEL P. MALLOY

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 56

WHEREAS, the protection of citizens from discrimination is an essential role of government;

WHEREAS, Connecticut has become a national leader in protecting civil rights by enacting numerous laws that protect against discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;

WHEREAS, the Connecticut State Department of Education has previously issued guidance to school districts to ensure that our schools provide safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environments for all students;

WHEREAS, such previous state guidance was issued partially on the basis of federal guidance, interpreting federal law, that has since been withdrawn;

WHEREAS, Connecticut law mandates that public schools be open to all children, and that such children have an equal opportunity to participate in school activities without regard to their gender identity or expression;

WHEREAS, a school's failure to accommodate a student's asserted gender identity or expression is subject to enforcement action by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities;

WHEREAS, Connecticut law provides greater protections for transgender people than federal law, making clear that no person shall be discriminated against because of their gender identity or expression;

WHEREAS, state law prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression in all areas, including employment, public accommodations, housing, credit, and education;

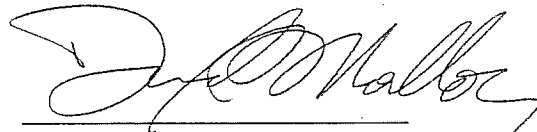
WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Connecticut and my administration to promote fairness and equality and to combat discrimination at all levels and to respect diversity within our State;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DANNEL P. MALLOY, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of the State of Connecticut do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:


1. Bathrooms and locker rooms in public schools and institutions of higher education shall be considered places of public accommodation; therefore, discrimination based on sex, including gender identity or expression, in such places is prohibited by Connecticut law; and
2. The State Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, shall develop and present to the State Board of Education guidance to school districts consistent with Connecticut law on policies that allow student's access to school facilities in a manner consistent with a student's gender identity or expression; and
3. The Board of Regents and the University of Connecticut, in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, shall develop and present to the respective Boards of Trustees policies consistent with Connecticut law that allow student's access to school facilities in a manner consistent with a student's gender identity or expression.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 23rd day of February, 2017.


Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

By His Excellency's Order


Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State

