



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

which are helpful but do not address the unacceptably low level of state funding or suggest a systemic approach for changing the trajectory.

Why do we allow the New Haven Public Schools to be underfunded by the state year after year? How does the firm propose to engage the Board, staff, union, state delegation, and community to break through the barriers together?

Given the high importance of this effort, we need a visionary and comprehensive plan. This begins with an honest analysis of why our schools continue to be underfunded, as well as an assessment of the legislative options for full funding and a plan for engaging the community in effective state lobbying. Last year busloads of white suburban families packed legislative hearings to protest regionalization of schools. And they won, because there were so many of them.

There are also a lot of us. And yet we are largely absent from these spaces. In February, I went to Hartford to testify at the appropriations hearing for public schools funding and was the only public school parent at the hearing. Those hearings should be overflowing with families until we achieve the full funding that our kids and schools need and deserve, but we need a plan to mobilize them.

We also need to take note of how we may be undermining our own efforts as a result of conflicts of interest. For example, DePino, Nunez, and Biggs LLC also represents the CT Association of Charter Schools. How is it possible to lobby, on the one hand, for full funding for public schools and, on the other, for funds to be removed from public schools and transferred to privately-run organizations? At the February appropriations hearing, by the way, the charter school community was out in force with parent after parent testifying on behalf of charter school funding.

The need for stronger advocacy at the state level has been expressed for some time, and yet our district takes the same approach year after year. Renewal of this contract without substantive change in its framing signals another year of complacency. We should be outraged that last year's state increase was below the level of inflation. That is a failure on our part. This year, let's make sure there is a serious plan in place that goes beyond just going after crumbs and takes concrete steps toward full funding for our schools.

Ms. Leslie Blatteau, MBA teacher - I am writing on behalf of the New Haven Public School Advocates to express my concern about the limits currently being placed on public participation for New Haven Board of Education meetings. I recognize that safety and security is paramount and that recent events have complicated the district's proactive steps to connect with the community. Nevertheless, I have participated in two Board of Alders hearings since the March shutdown where citizens deliver testimony live, in real time, with audio and/or video to share their opinions about budget and policy decisions. I urge the BOE



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

to reach out to the BOA to learn about best practices for live public comment during this era of online meetings. Thank you for your consideration.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Ilene Tracey asked for approval of the Superintendent’s Personnel Report.

**302-20
Approval of
Personnel Report**

On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, it was voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to approve the Personnel Report as presented.

COVID-19 Update: Tiger Team Progress

Dr. Tracey updated the Tiger Team progress. She listed the members on this team and the areas they represent. She remarked that the teams have been meeting and a lot of what they do is guided by our local health director as well as CDC guidelines. We have transportation, facility operations, technology, instruction and assessment. Her target is to have a draft for the Board sometime next week to review and give us some feedback.

Our team members are also thinking about sharing our plans with the State Department so that they can also give feedback. We are an Alliance school district and they are involved in a lot of the planning that we do. We will also share it with the staff of the learning community so they can give us some feedback before we tighten up our plans. We know that even with this Tiger Team progress there is a lot going on around school configuration and it seems that moving in another direction, it is going to be a complex problem.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur said she didn’t understand Dr. Tracey’s last comment about going in another direction. She also noted that at our last meeting she said that Mr. Pinto would give us some updates on the cleaning of the facilities.

Mr. Pinto remarked that he could give some broad outlines. We will be working on making sure all of the buildings are disinfected at the end of the day. We are going to work with the part-time custodial contractors regarding the sort of additional manpower that may be needed, if we need to continue to do cleaning during the day. We have ordered 40 electrostatic foggers which will allow us to fully disinfect buildings at the end of every day. We are still working out details and they will be part of the Tiger Team plan.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur thanked Mr. Pinto. She commented that the reason she is asking is because it is June 8th and we haven’t received any guidance and she knows that we are planning some, but there were recommendations on toilet seat covers and other safeguards. She explained in detail. Dr. Tracey told Dr. Jackson-McArthur that she will be sending out the plans of what they are preparing. She assured her it would be done right because, if not, we can’t open our schools. Dr. Tracey added some other precautions that will be put into place.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

She also added that they will share the plan with the Board and they also plan on sending it out in draft form to the public for their feedback. It's going to be open for everyone to see.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur continued to ask about other aspects of building readiness for reopening the buildings and Dr. Tracey answered fully.

Dr. Joyner commented that a lot of these questions are not easily answered because there are at least three different outside agencies involved in this, i.e., the Center for Disease Control, our local health department and occupational safety and health. He suggested that we have reports as often as possible that let us and the public know what the current status of building readiness is and what remains to be done and what these three major agencies are suggesting. Dr. Joyner commented that our Chief Operating Officer is at a disadvantage because a lot of what he does is dependent on what other people do. This discussion continued at length.

COVID-19 Update: Summer Camps/Summer Meals

Dr. Tracey next gave the Summer Camp/Summer Meals update. She started with summer meals and explained that we are going to continue the Grab & Go meals at 26 school locations and service community programs such as Boys & Girls Club and Parks & Rec sites. We also have St. Francis/St. Rose School, Rock Ministries, etc. to be sure all of our students attending summer school are being fed.

Dr. Tracey referred to the list of 26 schools that will be open for Summer Meal distribution. However, we have not yet decided which of these schools will be used for summer camps until the list of criteria that is being sent to us from the permit department is adhered to. She added that they are being told that if they are not collaborating, the State can give an executive order that will force us to use the schools so we want to avoid that. In answer to a question by Mrs. Rivera, Dr. Tracey remarked that the list will be posted on our website.

Mr. Goldson asked questions of Dr. Tracey regarding the summer camps and summer meals. He stated that he is opposed to having summer camps this year under the current restrictions. He would like to see us focused on summer meals and getting our schools ready to open in September. Mr. Goldson noted that he sent Dr. Tracey a memo regarding his reasons why. This discussion continued at length joined by Dr. Joyner and Dr. Jackson-McArthur adding their opinions, comments and suggestions.

Mayor Elicker commented that he feels it's important to have full information about the thought that has gone into the Governor's guidance on how to run summer camps. It would be helpful for someone on the team to give an overview of what the thinking is around the changes to the summer programs. Dr. Dulal, Gwen Williams and Director Bond are available and in the waiting room ready to join the meeting so that Board members could ask any questions they may have.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

Dr. Jackson-McArthur expressed her reasons why she is against summer camps being open. She stated that she supports Mr. Goldson's resolution to not open buildings this summer as we prepare them to welcome our 22,000 students back, which is really what our main focus should be.

Mr. Goldson commented that he will reserve his comments until after Mayor Elicker's guests have made their presentation.

Ms. Williams explained what Youth Services has been doing in order to meet the requirements that have come down from the State Department of Early Childhood to support their work sites for this summer. We have been working collaboratively with the Health Department and Dr. Dalal. We have a total application for whole sites of 67 and only about five have dropped out. Our highest concern is keeping all of our children safe. We understand that our parents are getting ready to go back to work and we are using our services because they need a safe place for their children to be while they are at work. We will work in conjunction with the worksites and do whatever the Board of Education asks us to do to have access to those spaces. She added that they don't have to open all 26 schools, but maybe just a few schools. Dr. Jackson-McArthur asked some questions for clarification and Ms. Williams answered in detail.

Dr. Joyner directed his question to Dr. Dalal and expressed his concerns. He asked Dr. Dalal to please convince him that 1. You will have a protocol set-up in all of the school sites that is consistent with the highest level of scientific application of what we should do in a pandemic, 2. When people leave the schools, it will be timely enough for us to open school in September, and 3. That the school district will not incur any financial liability.

Dr. M. Dalal, Health Department Director, told Dr. Joyner that his questions are right on target and he appreciates him asking. He then shared some of the things they are doing and some of the parameters they are thinking about putting in place with respect to summer programs and the use of school facilities.

Dr. Dalal remarked that this is not easy and we cannot guarantee 100% safety because it is impossible at this time. We are not going to be able to operate summer camps in the same way as we used to. He assured them that they are tracking very closely the guidance code from the state and the CDC and contending with how that will apply on a case by case basis. He explained in detail some of the protocols from one school vs. another school that they are setting up and noted that the capacity will be significantly lower than usual. They are also considering cohorts of students and he explained how this would apply, which is a significant public health intervention recommendation by the CDC that reduces the spread and any potential risk to zero. With respect to the financial piece, he cannot speak on that.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

Dr. Joyner thanked Dr. Dalal for explaining in a very professional and calm way. He complimented Dr. Dalal, Gwen and Maritza on what they have done so far and how hard they are all working on this.

Mr. Goldson commented that there is a way to guarantee zero risk and that is not opening the schools. In terms of the financial piece, he is more concerned than he was and he explained why. Mr. Goldson went on to explain his thoughts and concerns on the topic of the financial impact this will have on our district. He is all for collaboration and would love for his grandson to go to summer camp. Mr. Goldson mentioned that the main mission of the Board of Education is to educate children. In looking at the Finance and Operations report, he noted that the food service program is \$2million in debt for the first time ever because of what we did during this Pandemic and we have been told to take out a loan to cover this deficit. He continued to speak on this point in detail.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur wanted to know from Dr. Dalal what the magic number is for the cohorts of kids. In response to what Gwen said, we are doing this because parents are going back to work, some are already back to work and she is hearing that parents don't want their children back because they are scared. She went on to express her concerns about cleaning and there are a lot of questions she has that haven't been answered yet. Dr. Jackson-McArthur also mentioned that she would like to see public comment on this issue so that we can see what parents think of this.

Dr. Dalal shared some details on the cohort piece following CDC and state guidance. He stated there will be 10 kids per cohort with two counselors and a much curtailed camp period of just four weeks which would be mid-July to mid-August, which should give sufficient time to ready schools for reopening and they did that in conjunction with Dr. Tracey and Mr. Pinto. He continued to give more detailed information.

Mr. William Dixon, Parks & Rec, commented that he has been listening to all the concerns that have been presented. He has been involved with summer camps for over 20 years for New Haven Parks and Recreation. This situation is beyond anything we've ever imagined. We have been working hard to put together this program. Mr. Dixon explained that they have put together a summer camp daily procedure on how to run a camp every day so that parents will know exactly what is happening in the camps and in the school buildings. He remarked he is just as fearful as they are, but his thinking is that children have been out of school since March. If we don't do something we're wrong and something happens, God forbid, we will be wrong but we're doing the right thing. Mr. Dixon continued to explain in detail the safety precautions they have set up to ensure safety in the buildings and some of the activities they have curtailed in order to ensure safety. Mr. Dixon remarked that he will get their safety procedure manual to them as soon as possible.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

Dr. Tracey responded with regard to the 10 that is proposed, it is inclusive of a counselor that is also in that room, 8 students and 2 adults, this is her understanding. In terms of the timing for starting and closing, we would probably have some problems because the teachers are coming back the last week in August and our children and principals are coming back earlier than the last week in August, so we have to take that into consideration. Maybe start the first week of July or even the last week in June. Dr. Tracey continued to explain her concerns.

Mr. Wilcox noted that this is not on the agenda to make a decision tonight to allow this and we have heard it might be at our next meeting not to allow this. We have heard a lot of great concerns and questions this evening. He is not against the idea, per se, based on what we've been learning through this conversation but he shares a lot of the concerns and skepticism. He continued to express his concerns and thoughts. Mr. Wilcox noted that unlike school, this is not compulsory and parents can send their kids or not, it is their decision.

Dr. Joyner expressed his thoughts about the presentations that have been made.

Mr. Goldson expressed his concern about the food service deficit bill. He also noted that this is a distraction because we have spent more time talking about summer camp than we did about school opening in September. He continued to say that he would like to see the Mayor and his staff go to the Board of Aldermen and their constituents and ask them to help the school system with their deficits. He went on in detail.

Mayor Elicker commented that he doesn't think that we can wait two weeks to make this decision. We have been making these plans since January and it wouldn't be fair to our staff and young people.

Mr. Goldson continued to express his concerns about the deficits that the school system has incurred through this Pandemic. This conversation continued at length.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur voiced her concerns and noted that there are just too many questions for us to make a decision. She will vote against this today and she will also speak in public against it.

In terms of the food deficit, Dr. Tracey explained to Mr. Goldson the reason is that we were not able to feed all 21,000 students because not everyone took advantage of the breakfasts and lunches being served. This is a reimbursement program from the federal government, and that is why we have a deficit. In relation to the opening of schools, she understands the purpose of summer camp but we cannot go beyond the first week of August to clean our schools. This conversation continued with Dr. Joyner giving his opinions and reasons for supporting this vote.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

Director Bond thanked them for the opportunity to be here this evening to be able to hear some of their concerns and reservations. She commented that she also has reservations in regard to private camps and their criteria. She participated in a local meeting to hear from many of these providers and to learn about their plans for preparing.

Director Bond stated that she, Dr. Dalal, Mr. Dixon, Gwen and her nurse director, Felicia, wanted to ensure that they are having standardized criteria. It is important to emphasize that we are all in consensus on one thing, and that is the overall well-being of our children in the City of New Haven; that is what we should be caring about in general. Director Bond commented that she concurs with Dr. Dalal and all of the recommendations put forth. She explained that the protocols for cleaning the facilities meet all of the criteria which were reviewed by Mr. Pinto and his team. Director Bond wanted to emphasize that we are looking at the basic processes and we are looking at protocols. Most of these camps will have medical advisors making sure that they have those protocols reviewed by medical advisors.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur asked about the cleaning protocol and Director Bond said that is for the schools to decide. Dr. Tracey said they do have a protocol and they can send it to her but not discuss details tonight. Dr. Jackson-McArthur commented to the Chair that she thinks we need to be able to discuss that in public, if we are going to approve having camps. The public and the community should know what the cleaning protocols will entail.

Mr. Goldson agreed and said Board members should also be made aware of them. He continued to explain his reasons for not wanting to vote on this this evening because he thought we should all participate in the discussion. Mr. Conaway is not here because of the services for his mother and he feels it is absolutely unfair to consider having this vote. Mr. Goldson remarked that if we can't wait two weeks, let us have a special meeting. What is most important to him is how much this is going to cost and no one is taking responsibility for covering this cost. He continued to express his thoughts about the financial aspect.

Mr. Wilcox said that he was also going to suggest a special meeting on this item, which would allow us some of these answers. He understands the concerns of getting it going but he also thinks that there are some good concerns that have been raised and the cost issues are not insignificant and some of these other questions are not out-of-line.

Mayor Elicker commented that he would like Mr. Pinto to address the question about cost. To the question of the City not paying anything, he understands the feeling of us vs. them because he proposed a budget and the Board of Alders reduced the funding. At the end of the day, we all want the best for our children. Mayor Elicker went on to tell what the city is paying for and noted that this should be a joint effort and it would be helpful to hear from Mr. Pinto what the overall impacts would be.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

Mr. Pinto remarked that the cleaning at the end of the day is simply baked into what we have to do. The addition of foggers, that we're going to be getting on June 15th, will make disinfecting the buildings expedient and reasonably efficient. The order has already been placed for the foggers; camp staff will be assisting during the day and, at the end of day. This will not add significantly to the cost. We are talking about a small number of schools and trying to keep as few schools open as possible so that we can continue with the cleaning of buildings, which we do every year.

Mayor Elicker remarked that he understands that it's always nice to get more information and there are some valid questions. He also thinks that it's really important for us to express confidence in Dr. Tracey and her staff as well as Mr. Dixon, Dr. Dalal, and Director Bond, who have really thought through these issues. We have a lot of time before this begins so it is very important for us to post this and begin to make sure that families have more predictability over the summer.

Mayor Elicker made a motion to support the use of schools for summer camps as determined jointly by Dr. Tracey, Superintendent, the Parks Department and the Youth Department. Dr. Joyner seconded.

Mr. Goldson called a point of order. You have to amend the agenda and add this item. He said that we all have confidence in Dr. Tracey. Mayor Elicker intervened and pointed out that the item is on the agenda. A discussion ensued on this issue.

President Rivera called on Atty. Alexiades. Atty. Alexiades responded the purpose of the agenda is to provide public notice of what is going to be discussed and the agenda item is sufficient for that and for any related motion thereof.

Mr. Goldson continued his objections of voting on this item without one of our board members present, who is dealing with the death of his mother. He continued to talk about the cost and related it to the food service issue. He feels it is bad public policy to do it like this and disrespectful to our board member who is not able to be here tonight. He continued at length and Dr. Joyner joined the discussion.

303-20
Approve Using
Schools for
Summer Camps

On the motion by Mayor Elicker, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted, by roll call, to approve the use of schools for summer camps as determined jointly by Dr. Tracey, Superintendent; the Parks Department and Youth Department with four ayes and two nays by Mr. Goldson and Dr. Jackson-McArthur. Student member Ms. Lihame Arouna, also voted nay.

A contentious debate took place. Dr. Joyner pointed out that in the Code of Conduct for board members once we pass an action it is the responsibility of the board to support it. He reminded board members that we are governed by ethics and our own bylaws and he



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

continued to explain. Mr. Goldson called a point of order because Dr. Joyner is talking about something that is not on the agenda.

Student's Report

Ms. Arouna reported that she has been working on trying to gather enough students to take part in the survey that was posted on the NHPS website to try and expose it to as many students as possible to get their feedback. Also, a protest took place on Friday led by NHPS students in which they made many demands regarding policing and police brutality in our city and in our state. Ms. Arouna remarked that she created a proposal for termination of school resource officers in our schools demanding the immediate divestment of them and with this an investment in school counselors. This is about creating a better school climate for students and looking towards a better school environment and other avenues of discipline and social emotional stability. She has sent the proposal to all board members and she hopes we can remove these officers from schools because of their counterproductive nature in the buildings. She understands that we can't vote on this tonight, but we can continue the conversation in the President's Report.

Mr. Goldson asked why we can't vote on it and President Rivera said that she sent an email to members earlier that they will discuss this in the President's Report.

Superintendent's Report (cont'd)

FY 2020-21 Budget: Alders Vote and Next Steps

Mr. Penn remarked that he thinks everyone is aware that the Board of Alders voted for a budget increase of \$1.0 million which is below the \$10.8 million that we requested for next year's budget. That leaves us in the uncomfortable position of having to find some significant cuts to next year's budget so that we have a balanced budget for that school year. He pointed out that although it was painful at the beginning of this year with all the changes in transportation, there is a significant amount of financial savings that will carry into next year of a total savings of about \$1.8 million but we still have to solidify reductions of \$8 million. He commented that he provided the board with a bulleted memo describing where some of these savings can come from. He listed each item that was on the memo in detail.

Mr. Penn commented so there is a wide range of possibilities that we're looking at to do this and you will see there is one that's not on the list and that's closing a school. This will be decided after the facility study that will be done next year. This is an iterative process working with the finance and operations committee and the full board going forward.

Mr. Goldson thanked Mr. Penn and commented that he hit the nail on the head. Mr. Goldson referred to the transportation saving of \$1 million and he wanted Mr. Penn to explain, which he did in detail. Mr. Goldson also commented that he has been hearing from the administration that we will have social distancing on buses which will mean fewer kids in order to adequately social distance. He wanted to know if this would add to our transportation costs.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

Mr. Penn answered he thinks it depends on how it's structured. One of the things bantered around is either doing an AB day or an AB week or a similar structure where you'd be able to keep the same fleet of buses that you have which would reduce the population riding the buses dramatically. A lot of it will be determined by what the maximum capacity is that you can put on a bus. He explained in detail. In answer to a question by Mr. Goldson about this plan, Mr. Penn deferred to Dr. Tracey.

Dr. Tracey commented remember these are tentative plans. This plan the government is talking about is just germane for the first marking period so we have to keep the bus fleet in action in case we have to go back to full buses. It would be irresponsible to not have a full fleet of buses if we have to go back to "normal". She explained that this is Plan A and we sent out a Plan B survey to staff, parents and the community at large. Dr. Tracey said the survey results showed 50% of parents said stay home, 50% of teachers said stay home and do on-line learning. There is no way that we can teach our foundational grades with computers because at their level it is play-based learning. This also pertains to English language learners. To put them on distance learning is ridiculous. She continued to explain in detail.

Mr. Goldson thanked her for that because she is reiterating the point that he is making. This budget document is just rehashing pre-Pandemic suggestions that are not going to fit into the new world at least for the beginning of the school year. He continued to present his thoughts and concerns about how to reduce this budget. He commented that we don't really have a plan to reduce this budget. Mr. Penn objected to that characterization. Mr. Goldson continued to speak his thoughts about not having a plan and not trying to fix our deficit. He doesn't think that we should be sacrificing our teachers and our students to fix a deficit that should not exist in the first place because we were underfunded. Mr. Goldson continued at length.

Dr. Tracey requested that this board be respectful to her staff. The state is reexamining their plan which will guide a lot of what we do in our school system because they're now looking at what the large school systems will be faced with and their implications because we are not a small town or small district, we are 41 schools strong with ten high schools. So we are sharing the problems and challenges that large school systems will have should we have to abide by any of those guidelines that are coming down. All of the large school systems have the same problems. Dr. Tracey remarked that the team came up with some considerations and in good faith we're presenting to the board these key considerations. Dr. Tracey continued to explain in detail.

Mr. Wilcox thanked Dr. Tracey and remarked that he is very pleased to hear that closing a school is off the table for this coming school year. He strongly disagrees that it has gone well in the past to shove alternative school programs together and then force them to move to a different location. He is glad that we are not going to be entertaining that option without the



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

analysis needed to insure its success. At F&O we have been looking at these various options through the months and, yes, they are pre-COVID but our budget is also pre-COVID. We can still go forward with some of these. What he appreciates most about most of this is that it's trying to cut away from the classroom but it doesn't impact teaching programs within that school. Cutting away from the classroom is his primary reason to support this based on the realities of the situation before we are facing. He personally doesn't want any of these cuts to be made, but he is supportive of looking at all of these on the list. He continued to express his thoughts.

Dr. Joyner noted that it is a good thing that we started some of this in the pre-COVID era and he would argue that the principles Mr. Penn applied are consistent with the most prestigious organization, the Government Finance Officers Association, and essentially we're cutting away from central services. We're trying to protect core services that we provide. Dr. Joyner remarked he doesn't think it's fair to berate him or anybody. He's a highly competent professional and someone who works very hard to give us the very best that he can give us. Dr. Joyner continued.

Mr. Goldson said let me be clear I did not berate Mr. Penn because of his budget memo. What I did berate him on was interrupting me when I was speaking. I thought it was rude and out of place and it is not the first time it has been done. He is hoping it will be the last. Mr. Goldson continued to say that we count on our professionals to give us good information so that we can make very good decisions for this district. He continued to talk about the \$2 million deficit because of the food program, and other concerns that he had.

Dr. Joyner made a correction about the food service program. Dr. Tracey gave a correction on that, it did not cost us \$2 million. She also indicated that we hadn't served the amount of students that we did in the past. It is a more complicated issue than what was said. In the interest of moving forward, if we could just have a written explanation so that people don't think we lost money because we fed kids during this unprecedented time. He continued at length.

Mr. Goldson continued to talk about the deficit in the food program at length. Mr. Wilcox added to this discussion.

Mr. Penn apologized to Mr. Goldson for interrupting him and commented it was inappropriate. Mr. Penn remarked like any other piece of advice you are free to accept it or not. You hired me as a CFO to try and put together a way of solving the deficit for this year and he thinks we have done a really good job of that. He explained that the food service program also started the year with a \$1.9 million surplus. He explained the reasoning behind suggesting taking a loan in great detail.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

Mr. Goldson told Mr. Penn that he thinks he misunderstood his comments. He appreciates his advice but he doesn't think it's enough. He continued to explain.

304-20
Convene
Executive Session
8:07 p.m.

On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was unanimously voted, by roll call, to go into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-200(6)(A) re: appointment, employment and/or of Superintendent. Also invited to attend, Atty. Alexiades and Atty. Natalia Sieira Millan.

Reconvene Public
Session 8:55 p.m.

President Rivera remarked we are out of executive session and no votes were taken. We are now moving into regular session at 8:55 p.m.

President's Report
Update on Process to Select a Permanent Superintendent

305-20
Elect Dr. Tracey
Superintendent of
New Haven Public

On the motion by President Rivera, seconded by Mayor Elicker, it was unanimously voted by roll call, that in accordance with general statue section 10157 the Board of Education hereby elect Dr. Ilene Tracey to serve as Superintendent of Schools for the New Haven Public Schools for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 and further move that the Board authorizes its President to sign the related contract with Dr. Tracey on behalf of the Board.

Mayor Elicker commented that he is very enthusiastic to support the motion. He has seen Dr. Tracey's leadership for these five tumultuous months. He is grateful for her partnership and her leadership at a time when leadership is desperately needed. He is excited to work with Dr. Tracey for the coming years. He congratulated her on her many years of service and years to come.

President Rivera announced that the New Haven Board of Education is pleased to vote unanimously this evening to elect Dr. Ilene Tracy to serve as the Superintendent of Schools for the New Haven Public Schools commencing July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. A long term veteran of the school district, Dr. Tracey has served as interim superintendent since November and the New Haven Public Schools have benefited greatly from Dr. Tracey's calm and courageous leadership during the current CVOID health crisis. The new contract between the Board of Education and Dr. Tracey reflects our joint commitment to cooperation and transparency. The contract provides for us to meet regularly to assure proper communications between the Board members and the Superintendent and the new contract provides for greater clarity in setting up a salary plainly leaving contribution to a new to Dr.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

Tracey. The Board looks forward to continuing our good work together on behalf of the school children in New Haven. President Rivera congratulated Dr. Tracey.

Dr. Tracey thanked the entire Board for the level of confidence they have placed in her. Leading in these times is not and will not be easy and there will be a plethora of challenges and some may not be mitigated but we can all put our heads together, not fighting, but working together on behalf of our learning community and in particular our children.

Dr. Tracey commented that she has always said to her staff, “man’s greatest sin is the inhumanity of man against man” and she is committed to work with this Board. She looks forward to the level of collaboration we can have because together, I think we can move mountains. I need all of us, including myself, to have our energy focused on making New Haven Public Schools a premier school system, one where students thrive and are challenged, where they have a desire to learn and a willingness to do the work. Where workers innovate and provide rigorous and meaningful school experiences for students, where administrators support the development of staff, where administrators are supported by all of us and where central office provides coordination and guidance. Where parents feel that they are heard and the community surrounds the schools with partnership and support.

We must never forget why we are working and who we are working for. We exist because of our students. We get our salaries because of our students and our parents; they are our clients. As a result, it behooves us to give the best to our students. Their well-being is in our hands and we make indelible impressions on their young minds that will last for a lifetime. We must care for the whole child. There is a saying, “plan your plan and work your plan.” We have plans and we are going to execute those plans. Dr. Tracey thanked the Board for naming her Superintendent of the New Haven Public Schools.

President’s Report (cont’d)

President Rivera commented next is the issue of the SRO’s. It is an important issue and this has been on her mind. While it is an extremely important issue, I don’t believe that it would be appropriate to discuss and vote on this tonight, since it’s not on the agenda and it has not gone through an appropriate committee. Mrs. Rivera said that her question to the Board is would we like to see one of the following, a special committee or a budget mitigation committee look into this and have a chance to weigh in and we can confidently take it to a vote. Knowing we’ve looked at all angles of this situation.

Mr. Goldson commented that he is amazed at the double standards we hold here. We just voted on this camp thing where we didn’t have all the information and we didn’t know how



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

much it will cost us and we voted on it anyhow. Now we have an item in front of us that won't cost us anything and might save us some money and we want to put it through hoops. He is amazed by the double standards we hold just in a single meeting. The student wanted one of us to address this and we should strike while the iron is hot. We should be having the least amount of police-like presence in our buildings. That is an easy one for him and he doesn't see why we have to make it more difficult. He doesn't feel that it has to go through that whole process. He would like it done this meeting and if not, the next meeting.

Dr. Joyner stated that that is a false equivalency it's not a double standard and he explained why this item is not a sudden item brought to the Board. Dr. Joyner expressed his thoughts about school resource officers. He noted that a lot of them are graduates of our schools and many of them coach teams in the community and they have relationships with the students and for us to take some stuff that is happening in other parts of the country and try to export it here to New Haven, is a knee jerk reaction. He continued in detail.

Mr. Wilcox commented that he agrees. We did have information from various experts including some cost estimates from our COO and what it would take. He doesn't doubt that there are issues with security in our schools and he doesn't doubt that we also have great need for security in our schools. We have also not heard from teachers, parents and people who have been affected where things have gone wrong. He has personal opinions on this subject but he also wants to make sure that before we move forward with something this important we have more information.

Mr. Goldson commented that the debate of not hearing from so and so is the debate we just had. He told of going on a cruise with three family members who are police officers. Mr. Goldson remarked that you just made a false equivalency because this is not about SRO's that was a whole different conversation. Having people with guns in our schools, people feel like they are being policed. Mr. Goldson continued to explain his concerns.

Mayor Elicker asked Ms. Arouna to share her thoughts. Ms. Arouna commented we will be open to having a conversation with community members and stakeholders. She thinks students aren't the only ones noticing the detrimental effects that SROs have in our schools. She thinks we've become used to policing our black and brown children, and that's becoming a norm that is very dangerous. She feels that SROs have had negative experience or are indifferent. She feels that we need to put more attention into our restorative justice practices and hiring staff that know deescalation methods and things like that in order to prevent



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

violence in schools. She knows there are schools in Connecticut that don't have police in their hallways and she thinks that's very important to notice.

Dr. Tracey remarked that she thinks anything that we approach should be done with sufficient evidence and something like this with sufficient discussion. She doesn't think that Ms. Arouna wanted a vote this evening she was looking for dialogue about possibilities. It is important that we have dialogue and that we look at implications of anything that we do before we rush to judgment. Right now she knows that we have school resource officers that the Office of Youth, Family and Community Engagement relied on them to help find disengaged students and they have a relationship with families in the community. They are there as a helping agent, not arresting our kids but supporting them in the mayhem that ensues.

Dr. Tracey continued to explain the role of the school resource officers in the schools and noted that, right now, we can't use our passion or emotion about what is going on. We have to think realistically and rationally before we make any decisions and she is sure that the young people would like to have more dialogue.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur told Ms. Arouna that she blows her away. Your reasoning and thoughts and how you view the world blows me away. Dr. Jackson-McArthur remarked that she is against resource officers in the schools because in our community police, while they may have good relationships, they bring about trauma to our community. She feels that police officers have a place in our society but not in our schools. She suggested a group of stakeholders and a more inclusive community gathering to discuss this.

Dr. Joyner, Dr. Tracey, Mr. Wilcox and Ms. Arouna expressed their thoughts and concerns on this issue in great detail and at length. Mrs. Rivera thanked Ms. Arouna for bringing this forward and for forcing the conversation.

Mrs. Rivera asked if we see this as a work group under the Governance Committee or a committee on its own. It was decided that it should be under the Governance Committee because it would have more structure and accountability. Dr. Jackson-McArthur said Dr. Joyner is going to introduce the steps to getting a policy done and this will be the first thing they do. They invited Ms. Arouna to attend their next meeting that will be held on Monday.

Finance & Operations Committee Report

Mr. Wilcox reported this committee met last week and the minutes are included in your packets and are posted on the website. He mentioned that moving forward we're going to



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

start to see a different cover memo for some of our operations related to contracts. He explained this in detail. Regarding the minutes, he commented you will notice a lot of tabled items from this meeting and explained why. If there are any problems or questions all the materials are posted on the F&O site.

Mr. Wilcox reported this committee presents for approval 4 abstracts, 6 agreements and 5 change orders.

Mr. Goldson remarked that he noticed that you did not include the items approved by the Superintendent. He knows that the Board doesn't approve those. He also presented some questions that he had after looking at some of the items. He asked about Peggy Moore and Dr. Tracey explained. He also asked about the agreement with Tiffany Beech and questioned her hours and pay rate. He also questioned Agreement #3 which was for sign language. Dr. Tracey said that we have a number of hearing impaired students in our schools. He also wanted to know if any of these contracts are to minority contractors. Mr. Wilcox attempted to answer the question. This discussion continued.

On the motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, it was unanimously voted, by roll call, to approve the following FINANCE AND OPERATIONS-RELATED ITEMS:

ABSTRACTS

- 306-20 **Extended School Hours Grant**, in the amount of \$329,185 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 307-20 **21st Century Community Learning Center** – Davis/Bishop Woods Grant, in the amount of \$146,250 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
21st Century – Troup/Wexler Grant in the amount of \$190,000 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 308-20 **21st Century Community Learning Center** – Barnard/Brennan/Celentano Grant, in the amount of \$200,000 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

AGREEMENTS

- 309-20 Amendment #1 to Agreement #9623345 with Buck Institute for Education to decrease funding of \$16,500 by \$12,000 to \$4,500 and to change the rate of \$4,125.00 per day for 4 days, to \$225.00 per hour for 20 hours with no change in Funding Source or Account #.
Amendment #1, Buck Institute for Education
- 310-20 Agreement with Tiffany Beech to provide speech-language pathology services for students, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$108,290.
Tiffany Beech



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

- 311-20**
Bonnie Ray Agreement with Bonnie Ray, to provide Sign-Language Interpreting services to deaf or hearing impaired students, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$85,500.
- 312-20**
Agreement #2,
ACES Amendment #2 to Agreement #96108452 with Area Cooperative Educational Services, (ACES), to decrease total funding of \$290,290 by \$24,310 to \$265,980 due to a decrease in the number of days worked by 1 BA from 182 days to 36 days at 1 day per week; and to correct the number of BT workers from 2BT to 3BT workers.
- 313-20**
CAPA Agreement with CT Association for the Performing Arts, (CAPA), to provide planning, management and services for COOP High School theaters and designated arts related facilities, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$119,583.
- 314-20**
DePino, Nuñez and
Biggs Agreement with DePino, Nuñez and Biggs, LLC to provide Lobbying and related services from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

CONTRACTS

- 315-20**
Renew Contract
Lindenmeyr Munroe Renew of Contract #70195103 with Lindenmeyr Munroe to provide Color and Specialty Paper supplies for FY2020-21, in an amount not to exceed \$269,412.15.
- 316-20**
Renew Contract
Aircare
Environmental Services Renew of Contract with Aircare Environmental Services, Inc., to provide On-Call Hood Cleaning Services for the Food Service Program for FY 2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.
- 317-20**
Renew Contract
Encore Holding, LLC Renew of Contract with Encore Holding, LLC, to provide On-Call Kitchen Suppression Repairs for Food Service for FY2020-2021, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.
- 318-20**
Bread and Bakery
Products 3 Vendors Contract for the purchase of bread and bakery products for the Food Service Program from Lupi's Inc., Thurston Foods, Inc., Chabasso Bakery, in the amount of \$250,000 for FY2020-21.
- 319-20**
Renew Contract
Lindley Food Service Renew Contract to Lindley Food Service, to provide unitized breakfast and lunch kits for the Food Service Program for FY 2020-21 in an amount not to exceed \$1,900,000.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

Governance Committee Report

Dr. Jackson-McArthur reported that there is a tiny issue that she learned of today. The wrong version of our Procurement Policy was sent and she explained how this happened. Therefore, we cannot vote on it tonight.

**320-20
Approval of
Internet Safety Policy
#6141.321**

On the motion by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted, by roll call, to approve the Internet Safety Policy, #6141.321, second reading.

Teaching & Learning Committee Report

Dr. Joyner mentioned that their next meeting will be on the 17th and they would like more participation from students, staff and building level people. We also want to have a system-wide understanding of what we mean by things like the “whole child” and that sort of thing. He can’t say enough about the support they have from Dr. Tracy’s staff and he loves working with Mr. Conaway.

Head Start Report

Mr. Wilcox reported that their next meeting is going to be on Thursday, June 18th at 5:00 p.m. This week is an Area 1 Focus Review where our outside evaluator is taking a look at our program design management government structure. This is done through a series of web interviews with different groups. Talking to people like the policy council and teachers, etc., just to make sure that we’re following all the rules. In about a month we will get a report which we will share with the board.

Facility Naming Report

Mrs. Rivera reported that this committee will meet on July 16th at 4:30 p.m., so any requests for name changes should be emailed to her as soon as possible, definitely before then.

Dr. Joyner asked if she has their request for Hillhouse. He asked Mr. Goldson if they submitted their request for Mr. Garris and Mr. Peloshen or did we just mention it. Dr. Joyner said he will draft something and send it to Mr. Goldson and then the two of them will send something to you. Dr. Jackson-McArthur wanted to know if there is any way she can be on that committee because Lonnie Garris is her uncle. Dr. Joyner said he would add her to the email.

Mr. Goldson mentioned that Nico Rivera is trying to join the meeting. President Rivera said that Dr. Whyte has to bring him in.

Mr. Goldson wanted to know when Nico’s last meeting is and Dr. Tracey said June 22nd. Mr. Goldson asked Nico if he was going to be at that meeting and Nico said yes, and he apologized for being late, but he just got out of work.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 8, 2020

Dr. Jackson-McArthur asked Nico what college he is going to and Nico said that he is doing basic training this summer and will be attending West Point in the fall. He was congratulated by everyone.

321-10
Adjournment

On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mayor Elicker, it was unanimously voted, by roll call, to adjourn at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger McHugh

BOE Recording Secretary

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