



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

**Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – October 26, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Mrs. Yesenia Rivera, President. The meeting was held via Zoom.

**Present:** Mrs. Y. Rivera, President; Mr. M. Wilcox, Vice-President; Dr. E. Joyner, Secretary; Mr. L. Conaway, Dr. T. Jackson- McArthur, Mayor J. Elicker, Mr. D. Goldson, Ms. L. Arouna, Dr. Tracey

**Absent:** Mr. A. Fiore

Mrs. Rivera announced that interpretation is available this evening.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**701-20**  
**Approval of Minutes**  
**9/28/20**      **On the motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Mayor Elicker, it was voted to approve the Minutes of September 28, 2020 as presented. Mr. Goldson, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Ms. Arouna, yes. Motion passed.**

**Student’s Report**      Ms. Arouna commented that Mr. Fiore will be giving this report; however, he is running late.

**Public Participation**      The following participated in this portion of the meeting: Ms. Jessica Light, parent/teacher; Ms. Maritza Spell, read a statement from the NHPS Advocates; Ms. Teresa Johnson; Ms. Sarah Miller, parent, NHPS Advocates member, finished the statement Ms. Spell started; Mr. David Cicarella, President, NHFTA, spoke about teachers returning to schools; Ms. Ilana Richmond, Kindergarten parent, Primary Care Physician, spoke in favor of opening schools; Mr. Anthony Pellegrino, parent, Infection Prevention Nurse, East Rock students, also spoke in favor of reopening schools; Ms. Anika Singh Lemar, East Rock parent expressed her gratitude about reopening schools; Ms. Kirsten Hopes-McFadden, parent/teacher ESUMS, read a statement of teacher concerns about reopening schools; Ms. Jill Kelly, member NHPS Advocates, spoke about a delicate topic, COVID vs. Poop and she discussed the testing of waste water; Ms. Minnie Evans, paraprofessional at Dr. Mayo School, talked about needing more help with the PreK students; Ms. Jennifer Graves, 11 year teacher, spoke against opening schools; Mr. Dennis Wilson, Director Education Services at Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS), spoke in favor of hybrid learning; Ms. Emily Bazon, Wilbur Cross parent, thanked the Board for committing to reopening and expressed her gratitude for their hard work; Ms. Liz, parent, Quinnipiac 5<sup>th</sup> grader, commented that she feels history is repeating itself because of insufficient ventilation and she mentioned her daughter has asthma; Rev. Steven Cousins, pastor, Bethel AME Church commented that he is not sending his children back for personal reasons.

**Superintendent’s Report**



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*Personnel Report*

Dr. Tracey commented, as you have heard, we have been doing a lot of work over the last few weeks. Everyone is working very hard getting things ready for November 9<sup>th</sup>, and she is pleased with the level of readiness for our babies to come back to school.

Dr. Tracey requested approval of the Personnel Report. Dr. Tracey also announced that Mr. Michael Pinto will be leaving us and she wished him the best in his new endeavor.

702-20

**Dr. Joyner made a motion to approve the Superintendent’s Personnel Report. Mr. Conaway seconded.**

Mr. Goldson remarked that he is going to have to abstain from this report. Under promotional transfers is a Mrs. Goldson and, even though she is not directly related to me, she is a second cousin.

702-1-20  
Approval of  
Personnel Report

**On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was voted by roll call to approve the Superintendent’s Personnel Report as presented. Mr. Goldson, abstain; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes, Mrs. Rivera; yes; Ms. Arouna, yes.**

*SAT Update*

Dr. Tracey called on Ms. Typhanie Jackson to give an update on the SAT’s and PSAT’s.

*COVID 19 Update*

Dr. Jennifer Vazquez and Director Maritza Bond gave an update on COVID 19 testing including the saliva testing proposal, screening protocols, and asthma protocols. This was an in-depth PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Goldson expressed his disappointment with this report not being in their packets.

*This entire presentation may be viewed at NHPS.net, Public Meetings*

**Finance & Operations Committee Report**

Mr. Wilcox reported that this committee met on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and the minutes are included in your Board materials and they are posted online for the public. In the discussion items we reviewed not to exceed change order reports for on-call contracts and on capital spending. We also talked about the general counsel reimbursement issue and we will present that item at the next meeting. There were no Information Only Items at the meeting.

703-20

**Mr. Wilcox made a motion to approve the Finance & Operations Report of nine Abstracts and seven Agreements. Dr. Joyner seconded.**



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Dr. Jackson-McArthur initiated a discussion regarding the MOU because you can't serve two people. We would like to know what the particulars are. She doesn't feel that the Board of Ed should have an attorney that also works for the City. For the record, she remarked that she would like to know what the boundaries are. Mr. Goldson commented that he also has real concerns about this and he has never heard of that. He continued to explain at length.

Mr. Wilcox mentioned that he also has concerns and they have discussed those concerns that committee members have. He explained in detail. He hopes that we can have a vote and settle this at the next Board meeting. Dr. Joyner and Mayor Elicker as well as Mr. Goldson added to the conversation, which continued at length. Mr. Wilcox added that he will look into how this arrangement can be terminated.

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703-1-20      **On the motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted by roll call to approve the following FINANCE & OPERATIONS-RELATED ITEMS:**

**ABSTRACTS**

- 704-20      **Federal Magnet Assistance Grant**, in the amount of \$2,998,084 for October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 705-20      **Head Start Federal Grant**, in the amount of \$466,647 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 706-20      **ESSA School Improvement Grant 1003 – Brennan Rogers**, in the amount of \$197,147 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 707-20      **ESSA School Improvement Grant 1003 – Celentano**, in the amount of \$197,147 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 708-20      **ESSA School Improvement Grant 1003 – Barack Obama Magnet University School**, in the amount of \$197,147 for October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 709-20      **ESSA School Improvement Grant 1003 – West Rock Authors Academy**, in the amount of \$197,147 for October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 710-20      **School Improvement Grant 1003g – Truman School**, in the amount of \$50,000 for August 26, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 711-20      **Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program Grant**, in the amount of \$98,835 for September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 712-20      **NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant**, in the amount of \$19,750 for October 1, 2020 to



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**AGREEMENTS**

- 713-20 Literacy Volunteers of GNH** An agreement with Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven, to provide basic literacy and ESL tutoring services, through the State Adult Education Cooperating Eligible Entity Grant, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$37,391.
- 714-20 Amendment, ACES** An amendment to Agreement #95319543 with Area Cooperative Education Services, (ACES), to change funding source from Alliance Program to Priority Program with no change in account number or total funding.
- 715-20 Elizabeth Celotto Child Care Center** An agreement with Elizabeth Celotto Child Care Center, to provide integrated and comprehensive services to 32 secondary school parents and their children from November 9, 2020 to June 25, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$55,000.
- 716-20 SP Ella, LLC** An agreement with SP Ella, LLC, to lease and house Adult and Continuing Education Center as they purchased the building from New Haven Plaza, LLC from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$390,000.
- 717-20 Kone Inc.** An agreement with Kone, Inc., for Elevator Repair Services from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$215,000.
- 718-20 Cintas** An agreement with Cintas, for Cleaning and services for mops and mats from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.
- 719-20 Hillyard, Inc.** An agreement with Hillyard Inc., for repairs and replacement of custodial equipment from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

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**Governance Committee Report**

Dr. Jackson-McArthur reported that the Governance meeting was cancelled last Monday because of technical difficulties. They were supposed to get an update with the SRO committee, so she will have an update the next time they meet.

Tonight she is asking approval of the second readings of Policy #7551, Naming and Renaming Facilities and Policy #4XXX, Virtual Opportunities Acceptable Use of Recordings.

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- 720-20 Approval of Policy #7551 and Policy #4XXX** **On the motion by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, seconded by Mr. Goldson, it was voted by roll call to approve the second readings of Policy #7551, Naming and Renaming Facilities and Policy #4XXX, Virtual Opportunities Acceptable Use of Recordings. Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes;**



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**Mr. Conaway, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes; Ms. Arouna, yes. Motion passed.**

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Dr. Jackson-McArthur thanked Ms. Typhanie Jackson, the committee and our public participants because we have people who come to every meeting and she really appreciates that. Dr. Jackson-McArthur also noted that she feels the Naming and Renaming Facilities policy is a work of art because of all the people who gave input.

Mrs. Rivera thanked Dr. Jackson and Dr. Joyner. She also thanked Mr. Wilcox who put forward the original copy to be amended and sent it on to Governance.

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**Teaching & Learning Committee Report**

Dr. Joyner reported that they had a robust meeting. He gave shout outs to co-chair Mr. Conaway and our new assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction who is easy to work with and she pays great attention to detail. Also, all of our content area curriculum supervisors; they are a really coherent team. Dr. Joyner remarked that they used Socratic inquiry to move their meeting forward and the first question is how we conduct this meeting effectively and correctly. The second agenda item was what we are doing to revise and improve the curriculum to ensure all students are empowered. Ms. Sandra Clark gave a presentation and Dr. Joyner commented that she is on the state committee to improve the teaching of Black and Latino Studies and Social Justice and he gave a synopsis of her report and the rest of the topics discussed at the meeting by other participants including students from different schools and our own Ms. Arouna.

Mr. Conaway spoke to the equity piece that Ms. Ross-Lee presented. Mr. Conaway said he feels it is something that is needed. He also spoke to the panel of students who are part of our Student Council. Mr. Conaway gave thanks to Dr. Velazquez and the curriculum supervisors. Dr. Joyner thanked everyone who helps out with T&L and to Mr. Conaway for being a really great partner.

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**Head Start Committee Report**

Mr. Wilcox reported that the Head Start subcommittee met on October 13<sup>th</sup>. We are still on-track for enrollment and the Head Start office is being very flexible in terms of the number of students we are going to have, so we are in compliance with that issue. They also had a debriefing of the Head Start review of our active supervision issue. The consensus of the people that were there was that the meetings with the Head Start people are going well and that is encouraging. He went on to explain this in detail. They also had a quick review on the status of our non-compliance for health screenings for kids and he explained this in detail. Mr. Wilcox mentioned that one of the things they approved was a new Fiscal Officer for Head Start, Ms. Goldson, and the Head Start folks were happy she is on board.

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**Facility Naming Committee Report**



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Mrs. Rivera reported that the committee met on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and they discussed the proposed naming of the Media Center at Hillhouse High School for former teacher, Jack Paulishen, as well as the naming the Main Foyer after Principal, Lonnie Garris. As she is sitting here, she realized that there's no documentation on any of this and she is wondering if we should discuss this at our next meeting.

Mr. Goldson commented that we just approved a policy on how to name and rename facilities, part of which was written by one of the Chairs of the Teaching & Learning Committee who is supporting this. He hopes that we will be following the policies that we just approved in this meeting on naming and renaming our facilities to get to that place.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur agreed with Mr. Goldson and commented she was going to say the same thing. Mrs. Rivera assured them that they will be following those policies.

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**Food Service Task Group Meeting Report**

Mr. Conaway reported that this committee also held their meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>. We talked about food service during remote learning and he noted that about 41 schools are being served from 11am to 1pm. We also talked about what food service is going to be like during hybrid learning with the opening on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Conaway also mentioned that they talked about the stall of the Compost Grant and we hope that once school starts again we will get that going. Our big discussion was an update on life threatening allergies and issues related to food service. We will keep that on the agenda because when school starts we must be on top of that. We will list the minutes on the BOE site and our next meeting is scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup>. He gave a shout out to Gail Sharry and her staff and the rest of the committee.

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**Executive Session**

Mrs. Rivera made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:45pm.

Mr. Goldson commented that he is opposing Executive Session on this issue because he is invoking his right as a subject of this investigation to have a meeting about his performance in public.

Mrs. Rivera asked Atty. Alexiades his opinion on this. Mr. Goldson called a point of order.

Atty. Alexiades remarked he would be happy to address the substance of the objection and he noted that the point of order would apply to a motion, and it hasn't been stated completely.

After a lengthy discussion Mr. Wilcox suggested, for the record, to postpone this item until we get a legal opinion from a neutral party. Mayor Elicker agreed with Mr. Wilcox and





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suggested that we withdraw the motion to go into Executive Session and go on to the adjournment. Mr. Conaway agreed with both Mr. Wilcox and Mayor Elicker.

**721-20  
Postpone  
Discussion re  
Investigation**

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**On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was voted by roll call to approve postponing this discussion until November 9<sup>th</sup>, our next Board meeting. Mr. Goldson, no; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mrs. River yes; Ms. Arouna, yes. Motion passed.**

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**722-20  
Adjournment**

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**On the motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes; Ms. Arouna, yes. Motion passed.**

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Respectfully submitted,

*Ginger McHugh*

Ginger McHugh, BOE Recording Secretary

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

