



**NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Connecticut

**Board of Education Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**December 14, 2020 via Zoom**

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**Call to Order:** The meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Ms. Rivera.

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**Attendees:** Present: : Ms. Yesenia, President; Mr. Matt Wilcox, Vice-President; Dr. Edward Joyner, Secretary; Mayor Justin Elicker, Dr. Iline Tracey, Dr. Paul Whyte, Dr. Tamiko Jackson-McArthur, Mr. Darnell Goldson, Mr. Larry Conaway, Mr. Fiore,  
  
Absent: Ms. Arouna

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**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Conaway led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance

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**758-20 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: 11/23/2020**      **On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox seconded by Mr. Conaway to approve the November 23, 2020 Minutes as presented.**  
**Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mr. Fiore, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes.**  
**Motion Passed.**

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**Public Participation:**

Name \*      Jeremy Cajigas

Email \*      [Jeremy@cwyc.org](mailto:Jeremy@cwyc.org)

**Comments \***

Hello I am a proud recent graduate of Riverside educational academy and High school in the community academy for law and social justice. I am a proud new Haven resident. We as a community marched in the thousands this summer demanding police free school's and asking for the defunding of police because we know and understand that not only have our students been treated unfairly but the data across the country proves that we need to remove SRO in our school. we need to invest in counselors, therapist , we need trauma informed specialist. I believe strongly that we need to remove School resource officers in fact CT Voices for Childrens examined the impacts SRO's have on student performance and safety. It was clear that there were no positive benefits for students who have SRO's in



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their schools when they concluded that there were no measurable outcomes indicating “better or worse academic outcomes for students.” This matches many larger research efforts conducted over the last 20 years. It should also be noted that student or school safety does not increase in any meaningful way when SRO’s are present.

Police being seen as providers of safety is a CULTURAL MYTH and the history of policing, especially in schools must be viewed from a critical lens so we can reflect on how and why police have been used to protect property, white cultural norms and white people.

Finally, if the New Haven BOE is going to create a policy for SRO’s it must seriously entertain commissioning and conducting its own research to measure the impacts SRO’s have on students and our schools. Which could be funded by allocating Title I funds. Anecdotal evidence is not enough and police-based narratives should not play any role in determining their effectiveness

**Name \*** Jamila Washington

**Email \*** [jamilaw92@gmail.com](mailto:jamilaw92@gmail.com)

**Comments \***

Having SRO’s in schools do not make students, no one I should thinking about students here. It is dangerous to make students feel unsafe in a place of learning having SRO’s in school only make the school to prison pipe line stronger. Multiple students have expressed their discomfort with police officers and SRO’s. There is no rule that students must up hold the police propaganda that our country holds everyday. They are not beneficial to the students mental heath and growth. Students do not want to see police first thing in the morning after dealing with officers at night in the home settings.

**Name \*** Sierra-Marie Gerfao

**Email \*** [gerfao@msn.com](mailto:gerfao@msn.com)

**Comments \***

Dear Task Force on School Resource Officers:

I have been listening to the public testimony on School Resource Officers (SROs) tonight and would like to respond to several comments made. I am a parent of two children who went to K-8 in NHPS, and one high schooler who remains in NHPS. My other high schooler attends a CTECS school now because of his interest in trade work. We would have absolutely kept him in NHPS had a trade school with his interest areas been available to him within district. I have volunteered in and been a supporter of NHPS through the years. Professionally, I am a minister, social worker, and educator. I support the removal of SROs from New Haven Public Schools.



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I have been studying the research on SROs, and it seems increasingly clear to me that SROs do not provide safer schools, certainly to any degree that justifies the significant financial investment we have made in them. I am disappointed that this has been treated by those who spoke as administrators in this meeting as a matter of opinion. The supporters of removing SROs have spoken about evidence throughout this meeting, but those who spoke in favor of the presence of SROs brought ideas into this meeting that are unsupported by the research. I expect administrators to invest in evidence-based practice, and I consider the statements made by administrators during this meeting to represent poor professional practice. Additionally, I am concerned that some of the teachers and all of the administrators who had a voice in this meeting communicated to students that they, the teachers and administrators, are afraid of the students and believe that punishment will "fill gaps" related to life-diminishing factors such as poverty. Furthermore, those teachers and administrators who spoke in favor of SROs spoke without engagement of racial analysis. These statements combined did not demonstrate the capacity for racial and class analysis that I believe must be a baseline expectation of all professionals in our schools.

Three other comments I would like to make in response to other speakers at the meeting:

First, there were several references to school shootings. Again, I would encourage the task force to study the evidence. You will find that there is not evidence that the presence of SROs is substantially protective of students in regard to shootings.

Second, there was a teacher who indicated that students who are bullied benefit from the presence of officers. In addition to pointing out that this comment did not engage racial analysis, I would like to say as both a parent and someone whose work supports the social-emotional health of children and teens, that this assertion sounds far-fetched at best. I would consider this a valid point only if the teacher found a compilation of evidence pointing to its validity.

Third, a couple speakers who were opposed to SROs in schools mentioned disproportionate punitive discipline of students with disabilities. I would like to highlight this, as a parent and professional, as well someone who is a disabled person (here I am deliberately choosing identity-first language instead of so-called "person-first" language). Abled people have difficulty translating behavioral communication, understanding, and empathizing with children who have disabilities. This form of ableism when combined with the presence of SROs in schools puts those with disabilities at significant risk and damages their identity development and educational opportunities.

I would like the regular presence of SROs to be withdrawn from schools. Law enforcement personnel do not belong on school staff teams.

Sincerely,  
Sierra-Marie Gerfao

**Name \*** Nichole Gleisner

**Email \*** [nichole.gleisner@gmail.com](mailto:nichole.gleisner@gmail.com)

**Comments \***



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I spoke at the hearing but would also like to record here my opposition to SROs in New Haven Public Schools. I urge for the precious funds associated with the cost of training and maintaining SROs be redirected to other professionals fulfilling the same roles in the schools: social workers, psychologists, social emotional experts, community leaders, etc.

SROs will not necessarily prevent a school shooting from taking place and there is much greater likelihood that BIPOC and children with disabilities will experience disproportionate rates of punishment at the hands of these SROs, contributing to the school-to-prison pipeline phenomenon.

I am a white parent with four children in NHPS and while I acknowledge that my children will be less likely to experience negative treatment or carry the traumatic burden of seeing an officer in their place of learning, I would like my children to learn that problems and conflicts can be solved in a holistic, nonviolent, restorative way, to better equip them to become peaceful citizens of the world.

**Name \*** Amanda Bloom

**Email \*** [amandabloomoon@gmail.com](mailto:amandabloomoon@gmail.com)

### Comments \*

Dear New Haven Board of Education,

I'm a Westville resident writing to support the removal of school resource officers from the New Haven public education system. I also support speaking about these officers in plain language — they are not "resource officers." They are police officers.

School resources include books, teachers, extracurricular activities, counselors, coaches, athletic facilities, and mentorships. Students cannot and will not be enriched by an armed municipal official that has the power to send them to jail.

As the board continues to examine the issue of in-school police officers, I urge you to engage with, listen to, and be lead by the New Haven student body. The youth in our city are at the forefront of the international movement against police brutality and institutional racism. They have smart ideas as to how we can reallocate funding and create schools that are safe and equitable for all students.

Your students are asking for real resources, not a pathway to prison. Please consider collaborating with Citywide Youth Coalition and other innovative thinkers as you imagine building schools that thrive and grow without police presence.

Sincerely,

Amanda Bloom  
369 Alden Ave, 10A  
New Haven, CT  
06515



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**Students' Report:** Mr. Fiore provided an update stating they had their second Citywide Student Meeting, 26 students attended and discussed ways to aid other students, decreasing the districts carbon footprint in regards to transportation. The impact of Covid and the student body mental health during this time. There are plans for next month to start taking steps to make the change.

**Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Tracey provided the Personnel Report for review and approval to the Board. Mr. Goldson asked for the differences between of leaves of absences be explained, where Ms. Lisa Mack, Human Resources answered his questions.  
*Dr. Iline Tracey*

**759-20**  
**i. Personnel Report:** **On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Joyner to approve the Personnel Report.**

**Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Fiore, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mr. Rivera, Yes. Motion Passed.**

**760-20**  
**ii. Authorization for the Superintendent to hire positions below the administrator level prior to the January 11, 2021 Board of Education meeting**

Dr. Tracey explained the need for new hires to continue during the Boards Winter Recess with the next scheduled meeting being January 11, 2021. Mr. Wilcox requested a Separate Blue Sheet for the hires during the winter recess at the next scheduled meeting.

**On the Motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Wilcox to approve the Authorization for the Superintendent to hire positions below the administrator level prior to the January 11, 2021 Board of Education meeting.**

**Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Fiore, Yes; Mr. Rivera, Yes. Motion Passed.**

**iii. Food Distribution**

Ms. Velazquez provided an update in regards to the Food Distribution for the District. To stabilize the food program ~10,000 meals need to be picked up. Social Media is being used to bring awareness to families who can utilize the program and to increase the numbers for the program. The program also offers call ahead meal pick up.

**iv. Attendance**

Michele Sherban presented a chart and discussed with the Board regarding chronic absenteeism in comparison to last school year and the current.



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**v. Resolutions**

A discussion ensued in regards to the repairs needed at Sound School for the roof and the aquatics center, with Marc Potocsky and Lauren Strillacci.

**761-20  
Resolution #1  
authorizing the  
Superintendent  
to apply for the  
grant and  
commitment of  
local funding  
source.**

**On the Motion by Ms. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Wilcox to approve the Resolution authorizing the Superintendent to apply for the grant and commitment of local funding source.**

**Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Fiore, Yes; Mr. Rivera, Yes.  
Motion Passed.**

**762-20  
Resolution #2  
to establish a  
Building  
Committee to  
oversee the  
project.**

**On the Motion by Ms. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner to approve the Resolution to establish a Building Committee to oversee the project.**

**Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Fiore, Yes; Mr. Rivera, Yes.  
Motion Passed.**

**763-20  
Resolution #3  
to prepare  
schematic  
drawings and  
outline  
specifications.**

**On the Motion by Ms. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner to approve the Resolution to prepare schematic drawings and outline specifications.**

**Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Fiore, Yes; Mr. Rivera, Yes.  
Motion Passed.**

**Presidents  
Report:**

Discussion ensued regarding the supposed leak of the investigation report. It was discussed on both sides whether to release or not release the actual report by the Board; as well as the legal advice as we move forward.

**764-20  
i. To publicly  
release confidential  
attorney-client  
privileged  
communication  
from Attorney of  
Tinley, Renahan &  
Dost, LLP re:  
investigation**

**On the Motion by Ms. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner to publicly release confidential attorney-client privileged communication from Atty. Rossetti of Tinley, Renahan & Dost, LLP re: investigation posted to website.**

**Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, No; Mr. Conaway, No; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, No; Mr. Rivera, Yes.  
Motion Passed.**



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**765-20**  
**Amend Agenda**  
**Add Task to**  
**Shipman &**  
**Goodwin**

**On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Mr. Conaway to amend the Agenda to task Shipman & Goodwin to write report on matter.**

**Dr. Joyner, No; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, No; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Rivera, Yes.**  
**Motion Passed.**

**766-20**  
**Atty. Mooney**  
**Opinion on**  
**whether the Board**  
**is adhering to the**  
**bylaws re:**  
**investigation.**

**On the Motion by Mr. Conaway, seconded by Mr. Wilcox Atty. Mooney Opinion on whether the Board is adhering to the bylaws re: investigation..**

**Dr. Joyner, No; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, No; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Rivera, No.**  
**Motion Passed.**

**767-20**  
**Approve 13 Month**  
**Calendars**  
**(2020/2021)**

**On the Motion by Ms. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Wilcox to Approve 13 Month Calendars (2020/2021).**

**Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Rivera, Yes.**  
**Motion Passed.**

**Finance &**  
**Operations**  
**Report:**

**On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was approved by roll call to approve the following FINANCE AND OPERATION-RELATED ITEMS:**

**Dr. Joyner, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, No; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes. Motion Passed**

**768-20**

School Improvement Grant (SIG) – Lincoln Bassett in the amount of \$197,150.00 for September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

**769-20**

School Improvement Grant (SIG) - Fair Haven in the amount of \$197,147.00 for October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020.

**770-20**

Coronavirus Relief Fund – Governor’s Discretionary – CARES Act in the amount of \$2,365,763.00 for March 13, 2020 to December 30, 2020.

**771-20**

No Kid Hungry School Nutrition Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 for October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.



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- 772-20** Alliance District School Building Grant Program, in the amount of \$2,000,675.66 for December 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021
- 773-20** Supporting Districts Addressing Two Pandemics Grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 for November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021.
- 774-20** Title I Part A Grant in the amount of \$10,684,045.00 (Public: \$10,551,907.57/Non-Public: \$132,137.43) for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
- 775-20** Title IIA Grant in the amount of \$983,697.00 (Public: \$922,689.19/Non-Public \$61,007.81) for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
- 776-20** Agreement with the Foundation for the Arts and Trauma, Inc. to provide the ALIVE Program for students at Barack H. Obama School, from December 14, 2020 to April 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$20,498.00.
- 777-20** Agreement with The Foundation of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce to provide management of the City-wide Science Fair program, including Family Science Nights, mentors and support for individual school fairs, from December 15, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$28,000.00.
- 778-20** Agreement with Achievement First to provide Special Education services for New Haven students attending Amistad Academy Charter School and Elm City Charter School to comply with their IEP's, from August 24, 2020 to June 30, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$455,204.00.
- 779-20** Amendment #1 to Agreement #91331336 with Institute of Professional Learning, to change the name of the organization to Aspire Living & Learning with no change in funding amount.
- 780-20** Agreement with Area Cooperative Education Services, (ACES), to provide "Building Bridges" therapeutic classrooms, behavior management and support from January 4, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$130,680.00.
- 781-20** Agreement with Arte, Inc. to provide remote, hybrid or on-site after school programming for students from John C. Daniels, Davis and Hill Central schools, from December 15, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$34,400.00.
- 782-20** Amendment #1 to Agreement #96738556 with Little Scientists to correct funding account number from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program Acct. #2579-6738-56694-0009 to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program Acct. #2579-6273-56694-0009 and to increase the number of sessions at Davis from 65 by 197 to 262 and to increase funding of \$11,375.00 by \$34,475.00 to \$45,850.00.





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- 783-20**                      Amendment #1 to Agreement #96273552 with Bodyworkers LLC to increase the number of sessions at Troup School from 36 sessions by 30 to 66 sessions and to increase funding of \$16,350.00 by \$4,500.00 to \$20,850.00.
  
- 784-20**                      Amendment #1 to Agreement #96325557 with Our World Care For You, LLC to increase the number of sessions at Troup School from 70 sessions by 40 to 110 sessions and to increase funding of \$14,000.00 by \$8,000.00 to \$22,000.00.
  
- 785-20**                      Agreement with Public Good Design to develop, design, provide production assistance and delivery of creative content for the 2021 Choice and Enrollment recruitment campaign, from December 14, 2020 to April 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00.

**Head Start Report:**                      No Report.  
Next Meeting December 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 will have more information after the meeting.

**Governance Report:**                      No Report.  
SRO Committee good public forum, those who participated had honest opinions and will be recommended to governance soon.

**Teaching & Learning Report:**                      Next Meeting December 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 will have more information after the meeting.  
Focus on Principals, Language development, remote learning, responses from staff etc.

**Food Service Task Force Report:**                      No Report.  
Next Meeting January 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 will have more information after the meeting.

**Facilities Naming Report:**                      No Report.

**Citywide School Building Stewardship Report:**                      No Report.



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**Adjournment:** On the Motion by Ms. Rivera to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.

Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes. Motion Passed.

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Respectfully Submitted,

*Salina Manning*

Salina Manning  
Executive Administrative Assistant

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