



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Connecticut

Board of Education Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2021 via Zoom

I. Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Ms. Rivera.

Attendees: Present: : Ms. Yesenia, President; Mr. Matt Wilcox, Vice-President; Mayor Justin Elicker, Dr. Tamiko Jackson-McArthur, Dr. Joyner, Mr. Darnell Goldson, Mr. Larry Conaway, Ms. Lihame Arouna.

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

III. 052-21 **On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Mr. Joyner to approve the Minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting.**

Approval of the Board Minutes: 2.22.2021

Mr. Goldson stated a few items he would like changed or have language added for clarification throughout the minutes as presented. He also adds a comment on the Citywide School Building & Stewardship Committee regarding Martinez Schools dehumidification system repairs. He asks how old is Martinez School? Hopes to have an answer soon regarding this. Mr. Conaway adds the request of page numbers to use as a reference when reviewing the minutes. Ms. Rivera states the Board will vote on the minutes as amended.

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

IV. Public Participation:

Channel Name: New Haven BOE TV

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEY46ioJn9U>

Public Participation Begins 7:53 – 18:05

Public Participation: (4 Participants)

- Leslie Blatteau
- Citywide Parent Team (Ms. Waters)
- Jill Kelly
- Kirsten Hopes-McFadden



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Submitted Public Participation

Name * Jean Silk

Email * je28silk@gmail.com

Comments * I support Climate Change education in the schools!

Name * Rachel Pontious

Email * rachel.pontious@yale.edu

Comments *

I am writing regarding the push for climate justice education in New Haven Public Schools. I'm a student at Yale and I have significant involvement with the New Haven Public Schools system because I coordinate the Homework Hotline program for Title I students. The students I work with, primarily young, economically disadvantaged students of color, will see the some of the worst effects of climate change in their lifetimes. They are facing major natural disasters, disease, displacement, food insecurity, polluted air and water, and more. As the climate crisis worsens each year, it becomes increasingly crucial for New Haven Public Schools students to learn about the reality they face, and how to practice civil engagement with governments and institutions in order to mitigate the effects of the crisis. After older generations have failed to protect them, students deserve the means to protect themselves - starting with education.

Name * Adelheid Koepfer

Email * koepfer@gmx.net

Comments *

Dear Mayor Elicker, dear President Rivera, dear Vice-President Wilcox, esteemed members of the Board, Please implement Climate Education in New Haven Public Schools. Climate Education, including observations and projections, mitigation and adaptation, climate justice as well as individual, local, regional, national and global strategies should be an indispensable part of the students' life. Because Climate Change already is an undeniable part of their life. Studies show that the majority of Americans think more should be done to curb and deal with the effects of the climate emergency; even among Republicans, more than 50% of the younger generation think more action is needed (Pew Research Nov/2020). Because storms, floods, droughts and fire affect everyone, and food security & health implications are a global human condition - but poor people are even more vulnerable - the climate topic should be treated as the generally human, non-partisan urgent condition it is and therefore taught in all New Haven public schools. If we want to prepare our students for



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life in the 21st century, we need to make climate an essential part of education.

Please implement the Climate Justice Schools Proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name * Johanyx Rodriguez

Email * johanyx2003@gmail.com

Comments *

As a New Haven resident, I believe climate education should be taught in schools. Climate change is one of the most pressing topics of our time. The reason there is not that much support for fighting the climate crisis is because people do not know much about the topic. It is best to teach climate change in a learning environment where students can learn firsthand on how their future will be impacted. Learning about climate change can teach students about climate science, how to lead an environmental friendly life and create future leaders. Therefore, climate education should be at the top of your agenda.

Name * Chris Schweitzer

Email * cschweitzer3@gmail.com

Comments *

I'm writing to support the Climate Justice Schools proposal coming before the Board this evening. The proposal - if implemented - will engage students and teachers in the critical work of teaching students about the climate crisis and solutions. We need a significant response now to the growing climate threat as it has the potential to undermine the future well being of the students. This unprecedented crisis demands creative use of schools and teachers to help engage the energy and leadership of students. Also, climate solutions - clean energy, sustainable transportation, energy efficiency - all improve public health and save families money.

This CJS proposal comes out of three years of Climate Health Education Project work in area high schools with high school interns in each school leading climate education efforts.

Thank you.



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V. Students' Report:

Ms. Arouna states there is nothing to update at this time, wants the Board to know that the High School Students she's been in contact with are ready and excited to go back to school

VI. Superintendent Report:
Dr. Iline Tracey

Dr. Tracey states this month is Board Appreciation Month, and she sent out something to all the Board members thanking them for their service.

i. 053-21 Personnel Report:

On the Motion by Dr. Joyner seconded by Mr. Wilcox to approve the Personnel Report. (Motion Passed)

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

ii. Update on Gov. Proposed Budget and potential impact on NHPS

Dr. Tracey states that the Legislative Session around ESSERF II and other items. Mr. Penn will be testifying on NHPS behalf regarding the proposed budget and the impact it will have on our schools.

Mr. Penn states that the Alliance Grant is the biggest supporting us in the General Fund ~80%. The proposal of the Governor is to freeze those grants for the next two years. The impact on New Haven schools would be about \$9,000,000.00, they have added ESSERF II to try to make up the difference, but it is not equivalent. He states that he should find out tomorrow March 9, 2021 in the morning where he is on the Agenda for testifying at the appropriations committee meeting. Ms. Hannans will be providing Abstracts to F&O and then the full board, to have a robust summer with academics at the forefront. Dr. Tracey states 31+ have signed off on a Statement regarding this issue and the affect it would have on all the districts.

iii. Update from Go To Services regarding Air Filters

Mr. Barbarotta presents a presentation called "NHPS Filter Program Updates" where he discussed the evolution of the role of Building Manager. An Independent 3rd Party Engineer evaluated the District and determined it would require \$41m per year to maintain BOE Facilities. He adds the Filter budget was cut in half; the staff had gotten creative with the Filter program. He discusses the difference of the types of filters old and new, and discusses the Merv 8 usage and when Merv 13 were not available, and states that the budget to maintain the filters is \$225,000.00.

Mr. Conaway states he understands there was cuts to custodial budget and knows the task along with all changes due to the pandemic and does not want blame to be placed. He sees that positions need to be reinstated and warehouses brought back, and sees we have a lot of work to do and a long way to go.



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Dr. Joyner agrees with Mr. Conaway’s comments and comments on resources. We need more custodial staff to keep people safe. He adds he knows the custodians and staff are dedicated to the issue. He would like to have the Board to adopt a “Healthy Building Certification” for all of our Buildings to set a standard; he will be sending out more information regarding this to board members. The District should implement real time monitoring for custodial operations, which is critically important concerning documentation for accountability. Set standards for air and water quality, which will enhance performance.

Mr. Goldson is upset that he was not able to review the report in advance of the meeting. States that due to the constant discussion of school buildings this past year and even prior to Covid, and adds that the CDC stated Merv 8 was not sufficient. This is not a new issue, and he does not understand why we having the same discussion over again, when we requested Merv 13 for the building. This is not the custodians fault since there numbers were decimated by almost half, which he voted against, cut the Union. Why lay off the workers to hire more outside supervisors to overwork those that are left. Someone should be held accountable for what is going on. He uses the example of a teacher who required a ramp, elevator for her, which could have been a \$50,000.00 fix but no one, was held accountable, and the District had to pay out \$500,000.00 in fees. We need to hold people accountable.

Mr. Wilcox adds that this item will also be discussed at the next F&O Meeting 3/15. Mr. Barbarotta notes some issues at Riverside school that a report will be worked on as well, and monitor the static pressure and provide a certified recommendation regarding it.

VII. Presidents Report:

Ms. Rivera states the upcoming evaluation for the Superintendent is approaching, we need to discuss dates and what’s the be discussed .

VII. 054-21 Executive Session:
pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. 1-200(6)(E) and 1-210(b)(10) concerning confidential information contained in attorney-client privileged communications regarding Go To Services, LLC.

On the Motion by Ms. Rivera seconded by Dr. Joyner, to go into Executive Session. (Motion Passed)

Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Joyner, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Rivera, Yes; Ms. Arouna, Yes.

Executive Session Begin: 6:58pm

Executive Session End: 7:51pm

No Motions were made during Executive Session.



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IX. Finance & Operations Report:

Mr. Wilcox presented the F&O Report for committee approval. Mr. Goldson comments there are several items less than \$20,000.00 how do you make a decision, which items do not come before Board but approved by the superintendent. Mr. Wilcox typically put under 'Information Only', but if she doesn't review it she places it on the Board for review and approval. Dr. Tracey they were added late on Friday and she did not have time to review. Mr. Goldson states for the record that although the Superintendent has the authority to approve items under \$20,000.00 that she can place items not yet reviewed for the Board to approve, to not hold up the agreements.

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: (Motion Passed)

Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes; Ms. Arouna, Yes.

055-21 Head Start	Head Start Carryover Funds, in the amount of \$820,403.57 for February 8, 2021 to June 30, 2021.
056-21 ACES	Amendment #1 to Agreement #'s 91331335 and 96018553 with Area Cooperative Educational Services, (ACES), to change the funding source from 2020-2021 Operating Budget, Acct. #190-410-00-56694 (\$579,075.00) to Alliance Program, Acct. #2547- 6108-56694-0000
057-21 Panorama Ed.	Amendment #1 to Agreement #96269592 with Panorama Education, Inc. to change the funding account # from Title IVA, acct. #2511-6269-56694-0000 to Title IVA, acct. #2511-6291-56694-0000 with no change in funding amount.
058-21 Voiance	Amendment #2 to Agreement #96291537 with Voiance Language Services, LLC, to increase funding of \$12,000.00 by \$5,000.00 to \$17,000.00 for increased translation services.
059-21 Prime Web Solutions	Amendment #1 to Agreement #96108589 with 3Prime Web Solutions to change the funding source and account number from Alliance Program, Acct. #2547-6108-56694- 0000 to Alliance Program Acct. #2547-6107-56694-0000 with no change in funding amount
060-21 Center for the Collab. Classroom	Amendment #1 to Agreement #96108590 with Center for the Collaborative Classroom, to change the funding source and account number from Alliance Program, Acct. #2547- Page 2 2 6108-56694-0000 to Alliance Program, Acct. #2547-6106-56694-0000 with no change in funding amount.
061-21 ARTE	Amendment #1 to Agreement #96273615 with Arte, Inc., to increase funding of \$34,400 by \$5,00.00 to \$39,400.00 for ARTE Saturday Academy.



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062-21 MakeHaven	Agreement with MakeHaven, Inc., to provide sewing lessons and activities for students and parents at Fair Haven School, from March 8, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$4,608.00.
063-21 Sergio Rodriguez	Amendment #1 to Agreement #95027585 with Sergio Rodriguez to increase funding of \$19,500.00 by \$19,560.00 to \$39,120.00 and, to increase the number of days from 80 by 80 to 160 days for direct services to McKinney Vento families.
064-21 Solar Youth, Inc.	Agreement with Solar Youth, Inc., to provide an afterschool environmental and personal development program for students at Brennan-Rogers School, March 9, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$3,500.00
065-21 Music Haven	Agreement with Music Haven to provide music instruction to students at East Rock, Wexler Grant and John Daniels schools, from March 10, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.
066-21 New Haven Read Comm. Book Bank	Agreement with New Haven Read Community Book Bank to provide after school tutoring for students reading below grade level, from March 9, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00.
067-21 Curriculum Asso.	Agreement with Curriculum Associates, LLC to provide Ready Classroom Mathematics, from March 10, 2021 to June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$2,097,576.00.

IX. Head Start Report: Mr. Wilcox states next meeting is on Thursday March 18, 2021.

X. Governance Report: Dr. Jackson asks if there were any questions regarding the SRO, one more week to peruse the document, or join the next meeting for a formal presentation of the document. Mr. Goldson asks if the document in question can be forwarded for his review if available. Also working on a Policy on Clean Air. The Presentation will display the vision of the robust document.

XI. Teaching & Learning Report: Dr. Joyner praises the Asst. Superintendents and Jessica Haxhi, on the work being done in this committee. Robust meeting last had, Students are concerned about climate change. Need more attention on Science classes, and Social Science. How can we use these to improve our classrooms and the education we provide our students.



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XII. Food Service Task Force Report: Mr. Conaway states the committee still discusses the Life Threatening Allergies. Urban Agriculture Masterplan will be discussed at the upcoming meeting. Working on some policies as well. Looking forward to bringing more students back April 5th.

XIII. Compensation Equity Committee Report: Mr. Conaway started discussed Job Description, negotiations of rate. Any proposed recommendations please forward.

XIV. Facilities Naming Report: Dr. Jackson, states the next meeting is March 24 at 7:00pm. Provide possible names to the Board President and then can be forwarded to the committee.

XV. Citywide School Building Stewardship Report: Ms. Rivera no updates at this time. Next Meeting is on March 11, 2021.

Adjournment: On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.
Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes. Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Salina Manning
Salina Manning
Executive Administrative Assistant

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