



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 22, 2021

<b>I. Call to Order:</b>	The meeting called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Ms. Yesenia Rivera.
<b>Attendees</b>	Present: Ms. Yesenia Rivera, President; Mr. Matt Wilcox, Vice-President; Mayor Justin Elicker, Dr. Iline Tracey, Dr. Tamika Jackson-McArthur, Dr. Edward Joyner, Mr. Darnell Goldson, Mr. Larry Conaway, Ms. Lihame Arouna.
<b>II. Pledge of Allegiance:</b>	Dr. Jackson-McArthur led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
<b>III. 068.21 Approval of the Board Minutes: 3.8.21</b>	<p><b>On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Mayor Elicker to approve the Minutes from the March 8, 2021 meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes;</b>  <b>Mr. Goldson, Yes; Dr. Joyner, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes; Ms. Arouna, Yes.</b></p>
<b>IV Public Participation</b>	<p>Channel Name: New Haven BOE TV          YouTube Link: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEY46ioJn9U">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEY46ioJn9U</a>          Public Participation Begins 5:39pm</p> <p>Public Participation: (4 Participants)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citywide Parent Team President (Ms. Waters)</li> <li>• Tony Criscuolo</li> <li>• Jessica</li> </ul>
<b>V. Students' Report:</b>	Ms. Arouna stated that she did not have a student report.
<b>VI Superintendent's Report: Dr. Iline Tracey</b>	Dr. Tracey reported that Mr. Phillip Penn, (CFO,) as well as Mr. Cordero (past teacher and principal) will both end their tenure with the District. She expressed gratitude for their competent service and wished them success in their future endeavors. She also recognized other teachers who were retiring and expressed same for their efficient and dedicated service towards the District's students.



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<p><b>i</b> <b>069-21</b> <b>Personnel Report:</b></p> <p><b>ii. Grades Update</b></p>	<p><b>On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Joyner to approve the Personnel Report. (Motion Passed)</b></p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Dr. Jackson-McArthur acknowledged and congratulated teacher, Tara Farley at Betsy Ross Magnet School, upon her resignation, for her dedicated service as a special education teacher.</p> <p><b>Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Joyner, Yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, Dr. Paul Whyte, Yes; Dr. Iline Tracey yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes; Ms. Arouna, Yes.</b></p> <p>Dr. Tracey reported that at the last Teach and Learning meeting, Ms. Gemma Joseph-Lumpkin shared data that revealed strong correlation between absenteeism and failing grades in the school district. Further excavation and analysis will be done to identify the root cause followed by collaborative work with school principals and teachers. Observation and feedback from them will be used decide on mitigated strategies then implement resolutions.</p> <p>Dr. Michele Sherban shared the data chart regarding failing grades and absenteeism. This chart compared grades between 6-8 and 9-12 for years 2020 and 2021. The data concluded that there was a significant increase of failing grades and absenteeism in 2021 compared to 2020 for both marking periods. Also, there were dramatic differences with students failing 5 or more classes when comparing the pre-pandemic period. This doubled in 2021 for marking period 1 and similar in marking period 2 for students failing five or more classes.</p> <p>It was recommended that the data be compared to other school districts to observe their trend.</p> <p>The Rise Network Report that gives performance on high schools nationally was referenced for perusal as it includes concrete recommendation that addresses failing students' grades. Other contributing factors discussed were mental health, failing culture and poverty.</p>
<p><b>iii</b> <b>Absenteeism –</b> <b>Gemma Joseph-Lumpkin</b></p>	<p>Ms. Joseph-Lumpkin reported that chronic absenteeism meant a student is absent for 10% of enrolled days. Since 2021 students absenteeism had been in the red zone. In response, intelligence had been collected from school teams and Connecticut Department Framework as wells as guidance from families and community engagement. In addition, we have adopted research-based practices from Attendance Works (National Academy of Absenteeism).</p> <p>Pre-planned outreach to families were installed in April 2020. A seamless transition is</p>





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<p>Cont'd</p> <p>VII 070-21 President's Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 field supervisors and 1 supervisor to oversee work orders.</li></ul> <p>There are a total of 19 positions some will be subjected to civil service testing.</p> <p>3. Partial In-sourcing: – 4 Preventative Maintenance persons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create an Engineer position, which is a critical need. Easily implemented with close collaborative work with Union. Salaries will increase by 2.5 % annually, Benefit cost increase by 6% per year and external Vendor Cost will increase 3%. Contract increase at a rate of 3% per year.</li></ul> <p>Mr. Penn Recommended option 3 (Partial In-sourcing). He added that this structure would allow for accountability and responsibility in the future.</p> <p>Suggestion: Dr. Tracey collaborate with the Board and staff to arrive at solutions for the District.</p> <p>She added that an immediate decision could not be made, however, she will collaborate with her staff to arrive at solutions. She will also report back with data if there are other Districts that outsource their facility management.</p> <p>Ms. Rivera stated that she there was no report at this time.</p> <p><b>On the Motions by Ms. Rivera requesting that the agenda be amended to include the abstract and F&amp;L with Head start Federal Grant in the amount of \$5, 998, 275.00 to start on July 1, 2021 seconded by Mr. Wilcox.</b></p> <p><b>Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Ms. Arouna, yes. (Motion passed)</b></p>
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<p><b>VIII</b> <b>071-21</b> <b>Finance &amp; Operations Report – Mr. Wilcox</b></p>	<p><b>On the Motions by Mr. Wilcox approval of Head Start Federal Grant in the amount \$5, 998, 275.00 for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 as was voted on today seconded by Mr. Conway.</b></p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Mr. Wilcox reported that the Head Start Federal Grant provides funding for all head start programs. Period covered July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 and allows for the continuity of high quality early childhood education for children and families in the city of New Haven. It involves Head Start operations, training and technical assistant in the New Haven Public School sites. This master grant provides 531 program slots in 6 sites.</p> <p><b>Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Conway, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Ms. Arouna yes; Ms. Rivera, yes. (Item passed)</b></p>
<p><b>072-21</b></p>	<p><b>Motion by Mr. Wilcox to approve 1 abstract and 5 agreements listed on the agenda seconded by Ms. Yesenia.</b></p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Mr. Goldson asked if the leadership provided by the Leadership Academy which cost \$20,715.00 a continuation. Dr. Tracey stated that five years ago, The Wallace Foundation provided funds to the District for leadership training for principals and assistant principals. Leadership shifted and the entire funds were not utilized for professional development. As a result the fund was redeemed with extended time for utilization to prevent its loss.</p> <p><b>Dr. Goldson, abstain; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Conway, yes. Ms. Arouna, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Ms. Yesenia, yes. F&amp;O Items (passed)</b></p>
<p><b>IX</b> <b>Head Start Report</b> <b>Mr. Wilcox</b></p>	<p>Mr. Wilcox reported that the enrollment numbers under the COVID plans are satisfactory. A major push is in place for Head Start enrollment for the summer to fall. The process to expand the health services have commenced at the Mayo site. Also, the Head Start Director position have been reposted and it is anticipated that interviews will convene in a week.</p>
<p><b>X</b> <b>Governance</b></p>	<p>Dr. Jackson-McArthur's stated that the SRO report will be presented at the next meeting.</p>



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<p><b>Report – SRO</b></p> <p><b>Cont'd</b></p>	<p>Dr. Torre recommended that the Board explore strategies to increase support personnels that are needed in schools. He reported that two senators had proposed a bill in the House to defund police in schools and reassign funds to employ support personnel. He recommended approaching Senator Murphy to see how it can benefit the District when passed. Parents and students should be made aware of the role of SROs. The current Memorandum of Understanding is obsolete and SRO regulations should be reviewed as parents and student felt intimidated by SROs in schools. He further suggested that a review be done regarding the Department of Justice Guidelines.</p> <p>Mr. Michael Pavano reported that upon a review of the New Haven Public School police arrests, it revealed a 5% decrease during the last 7 years. He suggested that we observe other States activities and recognize it in our findings so we can wean ourselves from the SROs. In addition we should pursue other funds to employ the support personnels that are needed in schools.</p>
<p>XI</p> <p><b>Facility Naming Report – Dr. Tamiko Jackson-Arthur</b></p>	<p>Dr. Jackson-McArthur reported that the date of to the next met is in April.</p>
<p>XII</p> <p><b>Teaching and Learning – Dr. Joyner</b></p> <p><b>i. Climate Change</b></p>	<p>Dr. Joyner introduced the students of the committee.</p> <p>The New Climate Change Committee (Tristan, Adrian, Amalia, Kiana and Caitlin) presented a project proposal to the Board seeking assistance in the amount of \$15,000.00 for its implementation. The Committee’s purpose is to educate communities, school, parents and teachers on climate change and its effects. They desire to create climate consciousness in all New Haven Public and High Schools. Also, to implement climate change as a subject within the school’s curriculum for students to embark upon. They plan to have schools host a climate week. A website for climate change information was developed as well as a newsletter for teachers.</p> <p>The pilot program is projected to commence this fall in five New Haven public schools that have not yet been identified. With the Board’s approval they would host webinars with teachers and principals as well as work with schools that indicate that they want to be a climate justice school.</p> <p>The students were commended for their effort, interest, work and for approaching the Board with their proposal. Dr. Tracey stated she is desirous to see climate change on the school curriculum. She said Ms. Velasquez would collaborate with the team further and expect to see this back with the Board as an action item.</p>
<p>XIV</p>	<p>The minutes of meeting are on the website for perusal.</p>



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<p><b>Food Service Report</b></p>	<p>Food Service Policy is being updated. Ongoing agenda items of life threatening issues continue with the sub-committee. Ms. Velazquez stated that action will be taken to ensure that life threatening allergy policy be effective before September. In addition the policy is being revised and emblems are being developed to identify life threatening child allergies.</p>
<p><b>XV Compensation Equity Committee Report – Mr. Conaway</b></p>	<p>Mr. Conaway reported that the Compensation Committee had reviewed job descriptions and salaries rates. A sub-committee is in place and recommendations will be brought to the Board. He stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2021. The committee is preparing for to the next set of negotiations.</p>
<p><b>XVI City-Wide School Building Committee Report – Mr. Matthew Wilcox</b></p> <p><b>Adjournment 074-21</b></p>	<p>Mr. Wilcox stated that meeting materials are posted on the website. A meeting was held on Thursday, March 11 and elections were convened. City Engineer, Mr. Giovanni was elected Chair while Mr. Wilcox was elected Vice-chairperson. Topics reviewed are building stewardship and commissioning schedule and grants that can be factored into capital improvement of our structures. Date of next meeting is April 8 at 4:30pm.</p> <p>Mr. Alexaides extended an apology to Mr. Goldson for stating that he misquoted the statutes.</p> <p>Dr. Tracey recognized the new recording secretary for the Board, Ms. Myrtis Mason.</p> <p><b>On the Motion by Ms. Rivera seconded by Mayor Elicker, it was voted by roll call to adjourn at 9:48 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes. Ms. Arouna, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Ms. Rivera, yes.</b></p>

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

*Respectfully Submitted*  
*Myrtis Mason*  
*Recording Secretary*



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