



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mrs. Y. Rivera, President. The meeting was held via ZOOM.

Present: Mrs. Y. Rivera, President; Mr. M. Wilcox, Vice-President; Dr. E. Joyner, Secretary; Mr. D. Goldson, Dr. T. Jackson- McArthur, Mayor J. Elicker, Mr. Larry Conaway, Mr. N. Rivera

Absent: Ms. L. Arouna

Mr. Rivera led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

233-20
Approve to Amend
By-Law 9325.43 until
Executive Order is
Lifted
On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was unanimously voted, by roll call, to amend By-Law 9325.43 to allow members to participate electronically in an Executive Session of the Board until Executive order is lifted.

234-20
Approval of BOE
Minutes 3/23/20 as
Amended
On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was voted to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2020 as amended with the following corrections by Mr. Goldson:

Section 221-20 should read: On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mayor Elicker, it was unanimously voted, by roll call, to approve the Board meeting minutes of March 9, 2020, as amended.

Section 222-20 re Mr. Goldson’s Resolution should read: Mayor Elicker raised a point of order, that this was part of the Superintendent’s report and not on the agenda as an item for voting. President Rivera sought clarification from the parliamentarian, Atty. Alexiades, who opined that the motion was out of order. President Rivera ruled the motion out of order. Mr. Goldson appealed the ruling. Mr. Wilcox seconded the appeal. Debate proceeded on the appeal.

Upon request from President Rivera, Atty. Alexiades further opined as to the procedure on appeal, that the Board may vote to overrule the President’s decision, or alternatively, the President may allow the underlying motion to proceed. President Rivera allowed discussion on Mr. Goldson’s motion to proceed. Debate continued.

The following paragraphs should be deleted: Atty. Alexiades, Board appointed parliamentarian, remarked that the motion is out of order. Mr. Goldson continued his narrative. Mrs. Rivera remarked the motion was out of order and Mr. Goldson commented that he would like to appeal that decision and bring it to the Board for a vote. Mr. Wilcox seconded the appeal.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

Mr. Goldson stated that you cannot deny votes on items that are under discussion. He, as a Board member, has the right to make motions on any item that is on the agenda. His discussion and motion is germane to the item and he has a right to make a motion. He is asking Board members to support having a vote on his motion to appeal and overrule the President's decision.

Mr. Alexiades commented the Board may vote to appeal the decision of the Chair. Ultimately, the Chair is not obligated to take this advice.

Page 16, 2nd paragraph, last sentence - For the record, we are reducing one of Berchem's contracts, should read Shipman & Goodwin not Berchem's.

Mr. Goldson said his last point is that they were told the comments from the public would be included in the minutes as part of the official record and they are not included. He is wondering if that was just a mistake. Mrs. Rivera pointed out that it wasn't done for this meeting but they have taken action on them and they are going to summarize them for the next meeting and they will be posted to our website. They have been read and specific comments were directed to the appropriate principals for responses. Mr. Goldson reminded the President that the public was told specifically at that meeting that their comments would not be read but they would be put into the record. Mrs. Rivera remarked that will be done they just didn't have a chance to do it for this meeting.

Public Participation

(one minute each person for a total time limit of 30 minutes or by email)

Mrs. Rivera announced that Public Participation will be limited to one-minute per person until the limit of 30 minutes is reached. This portion of the meeting couldn't take place because of technical difficulty.

Mr. Alexiades mentioned that the chat may not be enabled on the platform and that is why we can't hear the public. Mr. Alexiades remarked that he has had a number of conversations with others involved in City government on these conferences and maybe we can't disable one platform and not the others. Dr. Whyte commented that if someone wants to join public comment, turn your screen on and raise your hand. This discussion continued.

Students Report

Mr. Rivera commented that there is really no report. He and Ms. Arouna haven't talked much since the quarantine began. Ms. Ross-Lee did call and talked about student's Instagram accounts and she cc'd Mr. Pinto and Dr. Tracey. They wanted to make sure a Citywide Instagram was available to make sure students can keep in touch.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

Superintendent’s Report

Personnel Report Dr. Tracey asked for approval of the Personnel Report.

Approval of Personnel Report 235-20 On the motion by Mayor Elicker, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was unanimously voted, by roll-call, to approve the Superintendent’s Personnel Report.

Educational Continuity

Dr. Tracey remarked that she is sure that this has been on people’s minds. They have been trying to send frequent updates on what they are doing. She is proud of the staff and the work they have done in a short time in getting together and planning for these online learning activities. They have planned for all grade levels from PreK through 12th grade but even with that there are challenges. Shutting down the schools has demonstrated the need for more equity in urban school districts as it relates to technology and other things. They have been working hard to distribute more learning devices to families and, even so, we have found that some of them may have laptops but not Wi-Fi. Dr. Tracey remarked that she reported recently that Comcast has decided to allow for the Xfinity hotspots for our families but she hasn’t heard anything back from families as yet.

Dr. Tracey commented that we are looking forward to when school reopens in the fall and we have to make sure our school system has one-to-one devices for all of our students. The Mayor has been working with other philanthropic groups, in addition to what we are getting from the Dalio Foundation just for the high schools.

Dr. Tracey said that she and Dr. Whyte and Greg Baldwin, principal of New Haven Academy were out today from 9:00am to 12:00pm distributing devices to families. They distributed almost 80 today and they have other locations to deliver to. Dr. Tracey thanked Dr. Whyte for collaborating with Mr. Pinto and the staff to make sure that this happened. It was seamless and well organized and she commended them for that.

Mr. Goldson remarked that his son received a phone call at 11:43 about the giveaway, so he couldn’t make it and that is probably why only 80 people showed up today. He asked that we make sure the follow-up calls are made in a timelier manner. Dr. Tracey noted that call was not for today and she asked Dr. Whyte to clarify. Dr. Whyte added the calls originally went out on Sunday and another call went out today, which was for the pickups at the other two locations. However, if you get a phone call you can go to any of the locations on the day. Schools have sent out specific links as well, so the one that came out today was the reminder for the other two days.

Mr. Wilcox wanted to know if we have a sense of approximately how many more devices we need to get out to students. Dr. Tracey replied that so far they have distributed about 7,500 and they have more to get to parents. We have 20,000 students and we need



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

iPads, Chromebooks and we are going to get about 3,500 from the Dalio Foundation just for high schools. Dr. Tracey explained that her aim is to have 20,000 devices to be ready to start school to make sure that our schools are well stocked. She continued to explain. A lot of people are coming together to plan not just for now, but for when school reopens in the fall.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur wanted to know if the expense of the Chromebooks is going to be an embedded permanent expense moving forward and what is the plan. Dr. Tracey answered we have to plan for making sure the schools are replenished with what has been given out. We are pretty much depleted now, so when 2021 comes around, we have to make sure we have enough for testing. We hope to have enough devices for every child to take home so with what has been given out and what we are getting in, we hope to have enough; we are planning for the future. Dr. Jackson-McArthur referred to the donations that they are getting and she wanted to know if we are receiving anything from the Mayor for this. Mayor Elicker answered that there is no money coming from the City side other than what the City provides to the schools in the budget, but we are working with private donors to raise money.

Mr. Conaway informed Dr. Tracey that he has some private people and corporations who want to make donations and he asked her how to go about it without interfering with what they are doing. Dr. Tracey remarked the more the merrier and she told him to direct those offers to Dr. Whyte.

Mr. Pinto added, going forward we are looking to add this as part of the capital planning for the district's budget. He continued to explain the process that would be used.

Dr. Tracey commented that they have found a lot of inequity in our schools and that is because some schools receive grants or may be part of the Federal Magnet Grant or they are Interdistrict Magnet schools.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur referred to the Wi-Fi that Comcast is making available and she wanted to know how we can instruct people on how to take advantage of the hotspots Comcast is providing. Dr. Tracey explained in detail. Dr. Jackson-McArthur suggested that someone put together a PDF with the hotspot locations so that students can just go to it. Dr. Tracey thanked Dr. Jackson-McArthur for the suggestion.

Students' Grades

Dr. Tracey then talked about student grades and what happens when they're home. Are they really logging on, are their parents doing the work? She said that one of her workers told her a teacher said that "Johnny's vocabulary has really grown in two weeks". Knowing that the students are getting help, we are making sure that we have enough information to grade the students and if there is an incomplete, the students will have until May 1st and



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

the teachers have until May 8th, to enter it into the system. Dr. Tracey then read an article from the CSDE instructing them how to implement distance learning. She read this in its entirety. It is available on NHPS.net, Watch Meetings.

Dr. Joyner remarked the problem you explained with Johnny is the same problem in higher education. There is a solution to that because it combines all the skills the students have and it manifests in any project they do. Dr. Joyner commended Dr. Tracy and told her she seems to be ahead of the curve from what he hears from our students and others.

Mr. Wilcox wanted to know if we need Board action in order for this policy to go forward. Dr. Tracey remarked the State makes recommendations but it is really up to the local educational agencies. Dr. Tracey suggested to Dr. Joyner that in our upcoming T&L meeting that subject could be discussed and we can make it a policy in the Governance committee, if we need to adopt it.

High School Graduation

Dr. Tracey reported that high school graduations are determined by the State Department of Education requirements. They are all working around guidelines that we should be getting soon. Many of our schools have in place extra credits and many of our students would have to work towards getting a certain number of credits to graduate. She is certain that, under this emergency plan, all those will have to be waived at some point because there is no way students can make up what they're losing on the high school level. They just got their laptops last week so they were not able to do the work they had to do. Dr. Tracey went on to explain some of the things they are thinking of doing. She also pointed out what the schools are planning and said they have ordered caps and gowns and they are making sure they have certificates and everything to move forward, if this quarantine is lifted.

Mr. Rivera commented that he will be in Ft. Benning, GA. He just got an opportunity to play for the West Point National Team so he will be playing baseball with the U.S. Army. In answer to a question by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, Niko remarked that he has not heard back from West Point because the whole base is evacuated.

Dr. Tracey went on to say that they will engage our seniors in a discussion of what a modified graduation should look like and they will make sure that Niko's picture is posted.

Food Distribution

Dr. Tracey thanked her workers for ensuring that food gets delivered to our families on a daily basis. Our families are dependent on this food distribution and we have to continue to do that. Dr. Tracey asked Mr. Pinto how many meals have been delivered to date. Mr. Pinto remarked 28,993 for breakfast and lunch in the month of April and we 55,000 for the month of March, so we are at approximately 80,000. We are averaging approximately 2,500 to 2,700 a day. Starting today, we are doing Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We are providing for two meals a day. We are still at 37 sites and we are trying to make it as



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

easy as possible for people to get meals. We were able to get the waivers for Grab & Go and Take-Home and we also got waivers for parents to pick-up on behalf of their kids. When we resume the regular school schedule next week, we will stay with the three day a week schedule in an effort to limit the potential for contact and for the prevention of COVID-19. Mr. Pinto also remarked that they are providing gloves every day and they are working to secure masks, which we have on order for our food service, custodial and security officers. Dr. Tracey thanked the Mayor for having his team share with us until our order arrives.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur asked Mr. Pinto what the challenge would be of giving meals two weeks at a time. Mr. Pinto commented the capacity to move that much food at a time and to refrigerate it on-site would not be feasible. He continued to explain in detail.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur said she is very concerned because as we know, the black and brown communities are getting hammered. She continued to explain. Our Mayor every day says stay home, so she is concerned because a lot of these people have to go out every day and that is exposure that we can help mitigate. She continued to explain. She is imploring the Board to find a way that families don't have to come out more than once a week. She asked Mr. Pinto what can be done to alleviate the exposure for these families.

Dr. Tracey said she would respond because she has had this conversation with Dr. Jackson-McArthur already. It is easier said than done. They understand that they need the food to feed the children. It is a logistical nightmare and she explained and it is the same for all of our schools. The schools are not equipped to stock enough food and for the families to come out and carry all of this food, is not feasible. If any of you can tell us how this can happen, she is all ears.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur continued to say that three times a week is too many times for people to come out.

Mr. Goldson commented that he appreciated Dr. Jackson-McArthur bringing the issue up from the side of the families. He said that he has been sending out his concerns around our staff not being properly protected. They have one mask for a week, no gloves and no hand sanitizer. They are also asked to come into work and they don't even get any hazard pay. He continued to explain in detail. Mr. Goldson mentioned that these people are first responders and they should be treated like first responders.

Dr. Joyner commented that what we are talking about is the availability of protective devices. In the case of custodians, we could tell them not to open the buildings only if we have safety equipment. Dr. Joyner said that the chief variable here is contact, which is what spreads this disease. We need to think about shutting some buildings down but on



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

the other hand, the food part, if we are having people distributing food we should make sure that the OSHA guidelines, as related to COVID-19, are being followed to the letter.

Dr. Tracey asked if any Board member has visited any of the food sites. Our folks have had gloves all along; the only things that are scarce are the masks. On the advice of the Health Director, Maritza Bond, we have also ordered thermometers so that they can take their temperature. Dr. Tracy said we have tried our best to put things in place and have ordered and supplied everything we need to keep people safe. She takes to task when people make it appear that we don't care about our workers and she continued to explain in detail.

Mr. Wilcox commented that he appreciates everyone's comments. Seeing that there are staff concerns and Board member concerns, it would be good to send a memo outlining the protection we provide to our workers. He continued to talk about the executive orders that Governor Lamont put out where the State of Connecticut now has a variety of work place rules. He would appreciate it if we could work from the same set of facts, these are the places that will be open, these are the people that can walk-in, and this is the time the building is open for people to come in.

Mrs. Rivera reminded everyone to please speak only after you have been acknowledged by the Board President. She can see the entire screen so she sees everyone and she asked them to use the "raise hand" function and she will call on them when she sees it.

Mr. Goldson agreed with Mr. Wilcox that we should all operate with the same facts, but he didn't hear anyone at this meeting say "no one cares". He said that he is concerned about the lack of protective gear and he went on to explain that people call him every day to complain. What he wants to see from the Superintendent is how they are ensuring the safety procedures for our staff. He said he is only bringing this issue up because people are calling him because they are afraid. He continued in detail.

Dr. Joyner said that the process would be helped if we follow our guidelines as Board members when we hear something, report it to the Superintendent for resolution. Not having masks is a worldwide problem not only ours. He implored his fellow Board members when they hear something like that to let Dr. Tracey and/or the Board President know what is going on.

Mr. Wilcox reiterated it would be good if we had a current state of things are; the workplace rules just went into effect the last few day. Staff at various times during these public meetings has said they are in the process of trying to get these things. He knows when hospitals cannot get protective gear that nobody can get protective gear that is why we should know where things are going to be in the coming weeks.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

Dr. Jackson-McArthur gave the statistics of COVID19 and its effect on the black people in New Haven. When we contract COVID19 we have a higher chance of passing away from it. We need to sound the alarm and be part of the information distribution and part of the solution of keeping people home. She said she knows that the New Haven Public Schools and the Mayor's office are all doing what they can. She continued to stress the point of practicing prevention and sound the alarm to the people in our community. That is why she is pushing for the food distribution not to be as often as it is.

Mr. Pinto agreed with Dr. Jackson-McArthur and he said he will look into whatever he can to reduce the number of days. Mrs. Rivera asked Mr. Pinto if we can do it maybe two days a week. Mr. Pinto said that he will review it with Gail Sharry our Food Service Director. Part of it is producing the meals and then packing and maintaining them.

Mayor Elicker commented that he appreciates all of the concerns and he feels they are very valid but he worries of having food distributed once a week because in addition to the logistical problems, it potentially creates problems for families to handle that much food and if they miss a day they are out of luck for the entire of the week. When they moved from five days to three days they got a lot of feedback. We also have to be sure that a lot of people don't all show up on one day to honor social distancing.

Dr. Tracey commented that she appreciates the concerns that they are giving and she also wants to say they are trying their best to protect their workers. They do not have stockpiles of PBE's on hands and they never have so we have to wait until we get a stockpile. Worst case scenario is to close down all the sites and this is definitely something we don't want to do. We will work what we have in hand and she will also entertain not just questions but suggestions because this has been on their minds every single day how to protect our families, those coming to get the food and the frontline workers. She continued to say that this has to be a collaborative effort working in these unprecedented times to support our families, our workers and our children.

First Student Contract

Dr. Tracey remarked this item will be discussed in Executive Session.

Finance & Operations Committee Report

Mr. Wilcox reported that this committee met last week by ZOOM. The committee reviewed two Information Only Items, and seeks approval of one Agreement and four Change Orders.

Mr. Goldson asked about the Change Order #1 increasing funding for security cameras and equipment repairs. He attended the meeting but was not able to ask questions. He commented that someone at the meeting asked why we were doing that and the answer was that we were adding cameras because of the shelter that is being housed there.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

Mr. Wilcox remarked that he asked Mr. Barbarotta if this was just for the use at Career for the use of the homeless shelter area and he said it is for the parking lot areas that need more coverage. It was also mentioned that we are to keep track of all things related to this and there may be a chance for a refund from FEMA or the State.

Mr. Goldson said that it concerns him that we can afford cameras in an area that already has cameras but we can't find additional funds to pay our first responders hazard pay or to give an increase to our part-timers, so he is voting against that.

Mr. Goldson's next concern was about Change Order #3 adding dollars to the plumbing contract and he wanted to know why we are spending this money when we don't have people in the building using the facilities. He has a problem with this as well, so he will not be voting on this item.

Mr. Goldson's next concern was about the Change Order #4 with All American Waste to increase dollars for trash removal when we are not creating any more waste. He explained his dissatisfaction with this item as well. He remarked unless these are separated out from the package he will not vote for this as well.

Mr. Wilcox pointed out that all of these items were discussed in detail at the meeting and he explained that all of these contracts are not to exceed contracts and he will continue to support these change orders. Dr. Joyner and Mr. Conaway gave their comments and agreed to support these contracts as well.

Mr. Goldson continued his dialogue.

Mr. Wilcox called a point of order during this dialogue that the By-Laws state that Board members are not to malign or assign intentions to staff members. He will pull the information from our by-laws if Mr. Goldson would like. Mr. Goldson said he hasn't maligned anyone, he just said he doesn't understand it because we haven't been given enough information.

A disagreement took place as to who had the floor Mr. Goldson or Mr. Wilcox. President Rivera stated that she gave the floor to Mr. Wilcox because Mr. Goldson had ended his comments. Mrs. Rivera told Mr. Goldson that she was muting him if he continued.

Mr. Wilcox proceeded to read By-Law 9325 as follows: a member of the Board or public should show the utmost courtesy and respect to other colleagues and staff, to all witnesses and members of the public in attendance, neither insulting witnesses nor mistreating them in any way, and also not to cast personal insults, etc., impugning the character, personality or motives of a colleague. Mr. Wilcox stated that he would think that a colleague of his



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

who has been Chair of the F&O committee as well as a Board President would understand something as simple as a contract that is “not to exceed”.

Mrs. Rivera agreed with Mr. Wilcox and said we are talking about specific contracts we talked about them at a previous meeting so there is no reason to rehash them again. To Mr. Goldson, Mrs. Rivera said that if he is going to continue she will mute him again.

Mr. Goldson continued to defend his position in great detail. He wants Mr. Wilcox to put in writing who he maligned and impugned the character of. He would like him to apologize because he can’t prove that he did.

Dr. Joyner added his thoughts on this subject and explained in detail. Mr. Wilcox attempted to explain to Mr. Goldson what he said and Mr. Goldson insisted we have no more discussion on this; he just wants it put in writing.

Mr. Wilcox remarked that while he appreciates Mr. Goldson’s opinion as to what he wants to or not hear, is that his contention is that to suggest that staff members are steering business away from African/American contractors when in a question tonight one of the African/American contractors had a snow removal contract and we didn’t get a lot of snow and to suggest that people are doing that as some sort of conspiracy impugns there character and he didn’t appreciate it and he called it out because it is in our By-Laws.

Mr. Goldson continued to comment and said he didn’t cast aspersions on any staff member he stated facts.

On the motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Mayor Elicker, it was unanimously voted, by roll call vote, with one nay from Mr. Goldson, to approve the FINANCE & OPERATIONS-RELATED ITEMS:

AGREEMENT

**235-20
Amendment #2,
Catholic Charities**

Amendment #2 to Agreement #95384309 with Catholic Charities, to increase the number of spaces from 159 by 2 to 161 full day spaces and to increase funding of \$1,444,944.67 by \$7,463.66 to \$1,452,381.33.

CHANGE ORDERS

**236-20
Change Order #1,
Utility
Communications**

Change Order #1 to Contract #251562-2-2 with Utility Communications, increasing funding of \$75,000.00 by \$25,000.00 to \$100,000.00 for on-call security camera systems and equipment repairs.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

- 237-20** Change Order #1 to Contract #50488B-2-2 with Tim’s Enterprises, LLC, to decrease
Change Order #1, funding of \$180,599.00 by \$8,700.00 to \$171,899.
Tim’s Enterprises, LLC
- 238-20** Change Order #1 to Contract #50477-2-2 with Tri State LLC, to increase funding of
Tri State, LLC \$100,000 by \$15,000 to \$115,000 for plumbing repairs beyond the scope of in-house staff.
- 239-20** Change Order #1 to Contract #21565-1-2 with All American Waste, to increase funding of
Change Order #1, \$26,500.00 by \$8,700.00 to \$35,200.00 for trash removal for New Haven Academy, Dr. Mayo
All-American Waste Early Childhood School and ESUMS.

Governance Committee

Dr. Jackson-McArthur reported that they are still working on the Pandemic Policy and they will not move forward until they get input from our health professionals and the public health people. They have a food allergy checklist that they would like to review with the Food Service Committee and once that is done they will bring it to the Board for review.

Teaching & Learning Committee Report

Dr. Joyner reported that he and Mr. Conaway had about a two hour meeting this morning and they sent everyone a copy of the report with bullet points regarding the direction of the T&L Committee. One of the things they discussed was that we need more input from the teachers and principals on the T&L Committee. They need to create task forces for K-3, 4-6, 7 thru 9 and 10 thru 12. They also wanted to have the meeting be run according to Socratic inquiry and convert our topics into questions. We are going to use Roberts Rules throughout our meetings. They feel that the first order of business is unfinished business and he got a very good email from Mr. Wilcox, when we started this, talking about all the loose ends that needed to be addressed. He talked with Mr. Conaway about this and moving some of it over to Governance when we get to a certain point. Policy reviews and recommendations going forward based on Dr. Tracey’s and the staff’s recommendations and this is critically important because we want to make sure that the policy enables the people who are doing the work and provides a certain support around them.

He and Mr. Conaway have been talking about distance learning for a long time and the behaviors associated with kids that do well in school vs. the behaviors that don’t and we are working on developing a template that supports the development of pathways and also talks about those behaviors associated with success in the classroom. This is all research-based work that we want to get done.

Dr. Joyner remarked that Mr. Conaway has some great ideas about distance learning and he asked Mr. Conaway to explain. Mr. Conaway said that they looked at the agenda that Mr. Therrien put together from our discussions. Their next meeting is April 22nd and we have department heads presenting 5 minutes each, we have something on distance



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

learning he and Dr. Joyner will open with their discussion and it will be a marathon. Dr. Tracey said that the staff is looking forward to engaging with them. He doesn't think that the Board of Education should ever have a snow day again. We will even schedule distance learning days even when things go back to normal.

Dr. Joyner added we are on a new policy frontier and Mr. Conaway and I came up with a new concept on distance learning and he explained in detail.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur remarked on what Dr. Joyner and Mr. Conaway talked about and she referenced the school systems down South where they don't have snow days but they have storm days and the kids log into the systems they have so they don't lose any days. She thinks we are doing a great job in our distance learning and she told of her son not logging in one day and his teacher calling to see if everything was all right. She thanked Dr. Joyner and Mr. Conaway and said she likes what they are doing.

Dr. Tracey thanked Dr. Joyner and Mr. Conaway for making that presentation. That is why she is pushing for one-on-one devices for every student in the New Haven Public Schools so that we are never caught off guard again. She also likes Mr. Conaway's thoughts about snow days. We have to make sure that our students are well resourced.

Mr. Rivera remarked not even to compare with school districts in the South we have to understand that we have private school districts that have been doing this for years in this state. His mother is a Spanish teacher at St. Joe's, and they have their own private website, we have our website but we don't do education learning on it, it is just informative.

Dr. Tracey thanked Nico for that information. She commented that urban districts are struggling a lot because we do not have the resources in place to ensure that our students have the equipment that they need to function. Dr. Tracey remarked that when she read an article that on the first day those schools were closed and their students went home with one to one devices. She explained further. Dr. Tracey said that urban school districts are usually behind on a lot of things. One of the good things that came out of this is that there are inequities in the State of Connecticut. The Governor has seen it the Commissioner of Education has seen it and they are working together to address this, so we are not in it by ourselves.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur wanted to know if we are working on hybrid curriculum for the fall and is it just for high schools or all schools. Dr. Tracey said that the best way would be to start it in the high schools and it will trickle down. Dr. Jackson-McArthur continued this discussion.

Dr. Tracey addressed Dr. Jackson-McArthur's concerns.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

Head Start Report

Mr. Wilcox reported that their next meeting is scheduled for April 16th at 5:00 p.m.

Food Service Task Group Report

Mr. Conaway referred to the report that Mr. Pinto made and he thanked him for that. Mr. Conaway then commented that he feels the food service people are doing a fantastic job.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur noted that they will be getting the Allergy Report soon.

**240-20
Executive Session**

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was unanimously voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-200(6) (A) re: Public Officers or Employees, at 7:40 p.m.

- 1. Discussion of Contract Renewals for:**
 - a. Assistant Superintendents**
 - b. Human Resources Director**
 - c. Chief of Youth, Family & Community Engagement**

Executive Session pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §1-200(6) (E) and 1-210(10) re: discussion of attorney-client privileged communications concerning potential amendments for First Student agreements.

Also invited to attend Executive Session were COO, Michael Pinto, CFO Phillip Penn, Corp Counsel Patricia King, Corp Counsel (if attending meeting), Asst. Corp Counsel Elia Alexiades, Outside Counsel, and Atty. Natalia Sieira Millan. Also, individually only as needed, to present testimony or opinion pertinent to matters before the Executive Session, Dr. Paul Whyte, Ms. Keisha Redd-Hannans, Ms. Lisa Mack, and Ms. Gemma Joseph Lumpkin.

**241-20
Adjourn
Executive Session**

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Goldson, it was unanimously voted to adjourn Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

**242-20
Reconvene
Public Session**

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Goldson, it was unanimously voted to Reconvene in Public Session at 8:45 p.m. Mrs. Rivera commented that no votes were taken in executive session.

Mrs. Rivera remarked that the first discussion was on the contracts of the four staff persons.

**243-20
Approve Contracts
of Four Staff Persons**

On the motion by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, seconded by Mr. Conaway, to accept the four contracts as presented in Executive Session.



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – April 13, 2020

Mr. Goldson remarked that these contracts were not on the official record as action items and he doesn't see them on the agenda for approval so should we amend the agenda to add them for approval and should we talk about the terms of the contracts since they are not part of the public record at this point. Mr. Goldson said that every contract we approve is part of public record. Dr. Joyner agreed with Mr. Goldson.

244-20
Amend Agenda to
Include 4 Contracts

On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted by roll call to amend the agenda to add the four contract renewals for approval.

245-20
Approval of
Superintendent to
Finalize Contract
Negotiations

On the motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted to direct the Superintendent to finalize contract negotiations with the Assistant Superintendents, Human Resources Director and the Chief of Youth, Family & Community Engagement, and that it is done based on the contracts we have seen and for the two year terms we discussed.

Mrs. Rivera stated that the next item discussed in Executive Session was the attorney-client privileged communications concerning potential amendments for First Student agreements.

246-20
Approve Attorney-
Client Privileged
Communications re Amendments
for First Student Agreements

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted by roll call to approve the attorney-client privileged communications concerning potential amendments for First Student agreements.

Mrs. Rivera thanked her fellow Board members and everyone who was on the call. She said this was a long meeting but it was a good, productive meeting. We had our small moments but we were able to have civil conversation. Dr. Joyner thanked her for her leadership.

Nico said he is going to miss everybody. They all wished Nico good luck.

247-20
Adjournment

On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was unanimously voted by roll call to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger McHugh

Recording Secretary

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