



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – June 22, 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. D. Goldson, Dr. T. Jackson- McArthur, Mr. L. Conaway, Mayor J. Elicker

Absent: Mr. N. Rivera, L. Arouna

Dr. Joyner led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Rivera pointed out a misstatement in her report on the Minutes of June 8, 2020. She referred everyone to page 14, 5th line, under the President’s Report, and noted that it states, a special committee or a budget mitigation committee, it should say, “a special committee similar to the budget mitigation committee.”

**322-20
Approval of Minutes
6/08/20 Meeting
w/Corrections**

On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was voted by roll call to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2020, with corrections to the President’s Report as listed above. Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Mr. Conaway abstained; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes. Motion passed with corrections.

Public Participation

Bea Willemsen, beawillemsens@gmail.com

Comments *

You. Yes, all of you, should be ashamed of yourselves. You should be ashamed of the hundreds of lives YOU have ruined. The lives of children who had to attend your schools. You should be ashamed that you have systematically worked to uphold white supremacy through every vote, every action, and every budget cut you have made. Be ashamed, because I have heard the stories, I have seen the consequences of the psyches of your students, I have lived in fear of NHPS because of your racism and deep support of racist police and policing.

YOU MUST TERMINATE NHPS CONTRACTS WITH POLICE. This includes “security guards” this includes “behavior monitors” this includes ALL FORMS OF POLICING CHILDREN IN YOUR SCHOOLS BECAUSE OF THEIR RACE. You must find teachers. You must pay black people, you must put the funds where they will help, not hurt.

I have always been acutely aware that New Haven Public Schools are places to be feared. Feared because the best



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teachers you hire are cops. The teachers you pay the best and value the most are racist police. You have made me afraid of you, afraid for the generation of humans you have taught are wrong because of their very identity. Be ashamed. Then change the fuc*ing system because YOU are white supremacy right now, and you can change that today, or you can dig your heels in to your racism. And to those of you who think the solution to racism and racists is more police brutality, your reckoning will come.

Name * Kate Hausler, hauslerkathryn@gmail.com

Comments *

Please eliminate all police officers from NHPS. Do not wait for your committee to determine a response in August, after the budget has already been determined.

To consider furloughing teachers and shutting down schools before you consider eliminating a costly and unnecessary police detail from schools is a ridiculous and frankly, harmful decision. Do not take away resources from our schools. Do not take away teachers from our schools. Do not close our schools. Get rid of the police that do not benefit any of us and never have. They disproportionately effect our brown and black students, and they are not worth the cost. Eliminate them from your budget. Immediately.

Name * Harry Nelken, harry.nelken@gmail.com

Comments *

I was a white student at Wilbur Cross for four years, graduated in 2016. During that time I was habituated to the presence of metal detectors and dense security populations in school. I also intuitively and explicitly learned that my whiteness was a universal hall pass that guaranteed favorable treatment compared to my fellow students of color in any given interaction with that security force.

It is clear to me now, years later, that they were not there to police my actions. They were there to suppress the



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lives of those who had the misfortune of being brought up in the neighborhoods New Haven affords it's people of color. Security served to continue the surveillance and oppression of those who were long ago taught to expect the police presence that constantly reminds them they are on thin ice, on the brink of being deleted from our society. To hold your position, considering budget cuts for NHPS, and not move to even slightly reduce the resources allotted to this oppressive force in spite of the resounding cries of our nation that additional policing was never the answer, is to not only support but ENFORCE the school to prison pipeline plaguing young people of color. You are not simply "doing the best you can for being dealt a bad hand", you are actively contributing to the funnel of black and brown students out of their promised education and into a permanently lowered class.

You who are uncertain that the police effect is negative, that removing them from their posts is like taking off the guard rails and encouraging anarchy, are white and afraid. You are biased and out of touch with the community you are serving. The ever present police have only served to convince people of color that there is no hope for them to make it past the age of 25 without finding themselves dead or in jail under such scrutiny. This is not the goal of public school.

To reduce or defund this presence in NHPS is to loosen the cuffs that have been around the wrists of students of color since the day they were born, to provide a sigh of relief and some room to breathe in a system that time and time again has doubled down on the pressure it applies to fragile young lives.

I implore you to reconsider your budget cuts planned for the coming fiscal year. It is the pinnacle of American politics to sit on your hands, to form a committee to determine what is so painfully obvious in the most excruciatingly slow way, EXCLUSIVELY for the changes that suggest a white child might be endangered.

Where are the committees that determine the impact of having fewer teachers? Fewer guidance counselors or school psychologists? Making coaches teach? Why are the cuts that negatively impact the quality of education and the support structure for students the easiest for the board of education to make?

I beg of you, those who are moving to burn additional cycles before making a decision on the matter. For once, take initiative in an uncertain direction with the confidence that the community you serve is behind you rather than against you. Please use the opportunity afforded to you to make a change where the rest of us can only beg.

Name * John Branch, jmbranch95@gmail.com



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Comments *

My name is John Miles Branch and I'm an NHPS alum (graduated from Wilbur Cross in 2012).

I am writing in support of the Citywide Youth Coalition's demands for immediate divestment and termination of contracts of School Resource Officers for all New Haven Public Schools, with an investment in school counselors to replace them. As a white student at Cross, I saw firsthand the way that my Black and Brown peers were harassed by SROs while I was able to come and go as I pleased. The data shows that police officers in schools do nothing to improve student achievement—and that Black students in schools with SROs are dramatically more likely to come into contact with law enforcement than those at schools without. NHPS must respond to the demands of its Black students who are bravely making their voices heard. I urge you to listen to the students you serve and remove SROs from all New Haven Public Schools immediately. Sincerely, John Miles Branch

Name * Paola Pérez, paolap@upenn.edu

To whom it may concern,

My name is Paola Pérez and I graduated from Wilbur L. Cross High School and Educational Center of the Arts in 2013.

I'm emailing in support of the Citywide Youth Coalition's demands to remove all SROs from New Haven Public Schools, and invest the funding in school counselors.

The very institution of the American police is rooted in patrolling runaway slaves. As educators and education administrators, I believe the Board of Ed must recognize the painful continued symbolism of housing police in our schools—which aim to empower and instruct our students, 85% of whom are non-white, and almost half of whom are Black.

SROs are not merely symbolic, either. The statistics show that SROs in CT public schools have led to an increase in student arrests, but no increase in student achievement.

In fact, Black students in CT schools with SROs are twice as likely to be referred to law enforcement as Black



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students in CT schools without police. This data is alarming, and has existed as public information since 2019. The hard numbers are there, but more importantly, Black NHPS students are sharing their demands. NHPS must support all of its students, and this begins by listening to Black students. They have asked to remove SROs from schools. I urge you to listen. Sincerely, Paola Pérez Moreno, B.A., M.S.W.c

Name * Mackenzie Vigliotti, mmvigliotti@gmail.com

Comments *

My name is Mackenzie Vigliotti and I graduated from Wilbur Cross High School in 2010.

I'm writing in support of the Citywide Youth Coalition's demands to remove all SROs from New Haven Public Schools, and invest their funding in school counselors.

As a clinical therapist, I have worked with many Black and Brown young people who have been traumatized and triggered at the hands of the police department. If there is one thing I have learned from my work as a mental health provider, it is that people thrive when provided with physical and emotional safety. Anything less risks psychological and physical harm.

As a student that spent my formative years from ages 4–18 in NHPS and a child of two New Haven Public Schools educators, I look back on my experiences with nostalgia and gratitude. However, it must be said that I also experienced the public education system as a white student, receiving privileges I did not earn including a sense that all adults had my general well-being in mind. My Black classmates did not get the same experience that white privilege provided me.

The statistics show that SROs in CT public schools have led to an increase in student arrests, but no increase in student achievement. In fact, Black students in CT schools with SROs are twice as likely to be referred to law enforcement as Black students in CT schools without police. This data is alarming, and has existed as public information since 2019. The hard numbers are there, but more importantly, Black NHPS students are sharing their demands. The Board of Education has an opportunity to work toward racial justice.

NHPS must support all of its students, and this begins by listening to Black students. They have asked to remove SROs from schools. I urge you to listen.



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:Name * Barbara Fair, justicepeace75@hotmail.com

Comments *

If police have made it clear they are not social workers than they need to remove themselves from our schools. Lots of research has proven hundreds of children end up in the juvenile justice system since the decision was made to place police officers within the school environment. Children who might have simply been disciplined within the school environment became a part of the criminal justice system. A term which we now know as the school to prison pipeline. As we watch police culture become more and more militarized it is extremely important that we remove them from our schools and replace them with social workers who understand our children and their developmental stages so they can be nurtured rather than criminalized.

Name * Julia Friend, julia.friend@earthlink.net

June 17th 2020

To the New Haven Board of Education,

I am writing in support of the demands of the 5,000 person protest organized by Citywide Youth Coalition, specifically to remove cops from our public schools. I'm encouraged that the Board of Education is taking steps to consider this action. As you probably know, the call to remove SROs from schools across the nation is not new. Organizations like Advancement Project have formed coalitions to achieve this goal, and community groups have been calling for an end to the School to Prison Pipeline for years.

Findings in this research show racial bias in punishment in schools. https://indrc.indiana.edu/tools-resources/pdf-disciplineseries/african_american_differential_behavior_031214.pdf

Research such as this study shows a correlation between increased funding for SROs and decreased high school graduation rates and college admission (this case study is from Texas).



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<https://www.chalkbeat.org/2019/2/14/21121037/new-studies-point-to-a-big-downside-for-schools-bringing-in-more-police>

The presence of SROs sends a message to our young people that they are under surveillance, are expected to cause trouble, and are not worth the investment that nurturing requires. The June 10, 2020 New Haven Independent article “Schools Consider Booting Cops” quoted Superintendent Tracey as saying, SROs “have helped her family engagement office find the students that teachers have not heard back from during the pandemic.” New Haven needs to fund the family engagement office rather than using SROs from the police department! Sending cops to hunt down students whose families may already have good reason to mistrust the police only reinforces the ties our schools have with oppressive and unjust systems. It puts those families at risk of violence and arrest. We need to employ people in our schools whose professions speak to their ability to deescalate, validate, respect, nurture, and encourage peaceful, supportive interactions. Asking cops to perform roles they are ill suited for has led to unnecessary arrests, demeaning treatment, and traumatized generations of students, especially students of color. This must end.

We have the will and you have the power. Make this change! Sincerely, Julia Friend, New Haven

Name * Solomon Botwick–Ries, shlomo.pesach@gmail.com

Comments *

Dear trusted Board, My name is Solomon Botwick–Ries . New Haven is my home.

In the midst of uprisings against police brutality and with nationwide reckoning with structural racism, I am thinking of my hometown , and my home schools.

I graduated from Wilbur Cross in 2012. And I am writing because I am concerned about the conditions of our city’s schools today. Aren't you? So many of my friends and peers have encountered discrimination and abuse from School Resource Officers, not to mention the psychological and somatic trauma of having a policed school . It has become clear that SROs do not function to create an environment conducive to empowered learning and developmental growth --- no, they function to perpetuate racist inequality and patriarchal discipline over marginalized bodies.



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So am in support of the Citywide Youth Coalition’s demands to remove all SROs from New Haven Public Schools. We can imagine better. School counselors, peer support coaches , community liaisons , trained social workers.

As you know , almost 90% of our city’s school populations are non-white , and half of that population are Black . We must do better to ensure they have an educational experience that they deserve. As the Citywide Youth Coalition has documented, statistics show that SROs in CT public schools have led to an increase in student arrests, but no increase in student achievement.

Policing is not working.

The very institution of the American police is rooted in patrolling runaway slaves. As the Board of Education, elected officials sworn to promote and further education, you must recognize the painful and harmful presence of police in our schools.

NHPS must support all of its students, and this begins by listening to Black students. They have asked to remove SROs from schools. I urge you to listen. Sincerely , Solomon Botwick–Ries

Name * Shana Gaither, sngaither82@gmail.com

Comments *

After sitting in a paraprofessional contract meeting today I was not only disappointed in this board but became physically sick. I was disappointed because despite what is talked or told to the media that pay increases are important to this board I came to realize that this was untrue. I would like to bring up to the board that if it was not for paraprofessionals schools and teachers would not be able to function. Paraprofessionals play an integral role in helping the school function to its full potential. We were told in our meeting that the board would not even consider giving \$16.00 hr for after school programs, which we only make \$14.50. By the way we do not make a livable wage, way below what is expected to pay our bills in New Haven. I am also disgusted that this board proposed to not take into consideration a full year of waiting for a contract, not to mention we haven't received raises. I worked for another school system in Connecticut before coming to New Haven, their para contracts allowed for the employees to move in the steps on their contracts each year, making their



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employees feel appreciated and valued. I almost regret making the decision to come and work in the community I live in. If it wasn't for me loving the community in which I live, I definitely would leave. Why should I have to go to another town in which I don't live to make better wages? This must stop, it is a travesty to say the least. I am fortunate to know that I will be finishing school soon and able to move on eventually. But I speak for my counterparts who don't have that luxury, what are they supposed to do? Continue to be violated by this board by not valuing them as human beings paying them a livable wage and hearing their concerns. I hope you take my concerns into consideration and think about the future of your schools and employees. Best Regards, Shana Gaither.

Name * Ariel Weiser, amweiser18@gmail.com

Comments *

I am a Wilbur Cross alumnus (class of 2010) and I strongly oppose the presence of cops in our schools, aka School Resource Officers. Considering the current deficit, it is clear that significant cuts need to be made, and I believe that one of those cuts should be School Resource Officers. In my time at Cross, I watched security guards harass students of color consistently, and quickly learned to steer clear of them as much as I could. As a freshman there were certainly moments where I felt intimidated and maybe even threatened by bullying from classmates, but I never got the impression that I could ask a security guard for help, they seemed to be even bigger bullies. As a white female student I flew completely under their radar except for the occasional sexualizing comment or the few times I was reprimanded for the clothing I was wearing. I watched my classmates of color, especially black men, be treated as inherently troubled, and consistently harassed by grown adults being paid salaries to protect these kids. What do I mean by harassment and bullying? Well a few examples come to mind: once my Japanese friend brought his mom in for a meeting with one of his teachers, they came in midday, and his mom doesn't speak a lot of English and hadn't had to go through the metal detectors before, so he was explaining to her in Japanese what to do. The security guards thought they were talking shit about them and threatened to throw them out of the building, and basically wouldn't let them in for their meeting. From what I remember of the morning metal detector walk through, there would always be a line, and sometimes it would get too long and out of hand so they'd let groups of us pass around it without



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going through. The level of threat from least to most was as follows: white women, hispanic women, black women, white men, hispanic men, black men. They would generally only let groups of the "lower threat" people skip the metal detector, so they could focus more on harassing young black and latino men. Certain security guards were notorious for being creepy with women. I hated walking past the T security guards to go to the bathroom because they always made some comment.

It is true that New Haven has high rates of violence and crime, and we have to protect our students from that. But if a student brings a gun to school because they feel unsafe walking from the bus stop to their house, how would walking them through a metal detector, discovering their gun, and sending them home, help? If a kid brings a gun to school because they feel threatened while they're in the building, that's a serious issue that can't be solved by suspending or expelling the student, it means the school itself is making kids feel threatened. If you truly feel that the school is not safe without cops, then you need to reevaluate the school itself. Kids are not threats, even big ones with behavioral issues. "Difficult" kids are a reflection of difficult environments, the kids most at risk of violence are the ones that need the most social and emotional support. Penalizing kids by sending them home is problematic on so many levels, the most obvious of which is that it neither solves the problem nor helps the student. In light of the pandemic and the many many hardships this will cause so much of the NHPS community, I am begging you to cut programs like the SROs that consistently fail to reduce violence in schools, at least before considering cutting the salaries of teachers, who provide much more than just education to the kids they support in schools like ours. I would also recommend comparing the results of different programs before cutting them. I can guarantee that no significant results have come of the SRO program, whereas the nursery program, for example, has documented improvement in student attendance and graduation rates. For so many kids and families, public schools are a hub of important resources--food, childcare, sports, community, arts, etc.--we need to be continuing to build these resources and expanding access in order to support the increasing needs. What is not necessary in this resource hub is security guards policing access, adding more obstacles for students and families to overcome. To continue the SRO program while cutting so many other important resources during this time of great difficulty would be cruel and immoral, and quite honestly an act of violence upon this community. Please do not take this decision lightly as many people's lives depend on you.



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Name * Teresa Johnson, t.grant766@gmail.com

Comments *

Name * Maggie Orr

Email * morr@colgate.edu

Comments *

My name is Maggie Orr and I graduated from Wilbur Cross High School in 2013.

I am submitting a comment today to share my support for the Citywide Youth Coalition's demands.

Having attended NHPS, it is my belief that SROs never positively affected my experience. On the contrary, I think the statistics speak for themselves in how they have negatively affect our Black students. Black students in CT schools with SROs are twice as likely to be referred to law enforcement as Black students in CT schools without police.

Let's stop supporting the school to prison pipeline and get rid of SROs in all of our schools. As our city's leaders, it is your job to do the research on how you can best serve New Haven citizens, including the children.

I think removing police officers from our schools is only the first step.

Not to mention the "security check" all students are mandated to go through each morning is nothing but a waste of time. So while we're at it, let's get rid of that, too. This should not be a normal high school experience and it is a waste of money. Invest in your students instead!

Name * Ambrose Orr

Email * Ambrose.orr@gmail.com

Comments * I am an alumni of Wilbur Cross High School co2012. I would like to raise discussion on the removal of police officers from their posts at the high school. I believe their presence creates an environment of anxiety and tension that is detrimental to the learning of many students. Their appointment to the highschool oversteps what they're trained to do and is ultimately a big waste



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of money for the city and taxpayers, when they could be put on more important assignments that deal closely with public safety and security.

Name * John Jairo Lugo

Email * ulaaccion@yahoo.com

Comments * Attached please find a petition to change the name of the Christopher Columbus Academy on the grounds that it supports racism.

https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/change-the-name-of-christopher-columbus-family-academy?share=dfc753d4-ac97-4d53-85db-265adf2c4d4c&source=c.fwd&utm_source=c.fwd

Name * Sarah Miller (on behalf of a group of community leaders)

Email * asarahmiller@gmail.com

Comments *

[español abajo]

June 21, 2020

To the New Haven Board of Education:

Erase the Celebration of Genocide in Latin America from Our Schools and Teach Our History

Since 1968, Christopher Columbus Family Academy has stood at the corner of Blatchley Street and Grand Avenue in the heart of Fair Haven, New Haven's landed immigrant community. Seen by many as a symbol of Italian heritage, historians now know that Columbus directed the torture and genocide of over three million Indigenous Taino, Caribe, and Arawak peoples in what is today South Florida, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and other nations of the West Indies as part of his mission to deliver gold back to the Spanish crown. Columbus and his brother also initiated the slave trade in the Americas, instituting a model of conquest and oppression that was later applied to Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas.

Columbus had a transformative impact on the history of navigation and is viewed by many as the "first



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immigrant” to the Americas. This is important history for our children, and all of us, to understand. At the same time, the celebration of this problematic figure on a public school building entered daily by hundreds of young children betrays our most basic responsibility to set a good example and provide positive role models. It adds insult to injury that the majority of the children currently attending Columbus Academy are of Indigenous heritage, with a significant percentage of Puerto Rican heritage specifically, making them the descendants of those slaughtered for profit by their school’s namesake.

Our school district further elevates this figure by observing Columbus Day as a holiday. And while Columbus is celebrated, on the one hand, the true history of Indigenous peoples and European colonization of the Americas—including approximately 90 percent of the Indigenous population who died as a result of European colonization—plays little if any role in our schools’ curriculum. When this history appears in the curriculum, often around the Columbus Day and Thanksgiving holidays, European colonists and their violent encounter with Indigenous peoples are too often presented inaccurately as friendly and benign, thus perpetuating false and racist understandings into the next generation.

We the undersigned call upon the New Haven Board of Education to act with urgency, through the following essential steps:

1. Change the name of the school currently called Columbus Family Academy, to a new name chosen via an inclusive, open, and educational decision-making process.
2. Remove Columbus Day from the school calendar and establish October as Indigenous Peoples History Month for the New Haven Public Schools.
3. Train educators and administrators in an historically accurate curriculum on Indigenous history, the history of European colonization of the Americas, and ethnic studies more broadly.
4. Revise or replace all teaching materials that erroneously present Columbus solely as a hero or role model, show European colonists as benign explorers, and/or the “encounter” between European colonists and Indigenous peoples as friendly and peaceful.
5. Establish history and/or social studies curriculum in each grade that includes the study of local Indigenous peoples, as well as an ongoing process for decentering European-origin knowledge, historical actors, arts, literature, ways of thinking, etc. and incorporates Indigenous and other non-European peoples’ knowledge,



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histories, arts, literature, ways of thinking, holistic approaches to nature, etc. across the curriculum.

6. Establish a policy and procedure for all New Haven Public Schools public events to include an acknowledgement of the Indigenous peoples who inhabited the land.

Signed:

Alder Paola Acosta, Ward 14

Principal Roy Araujo, Columbus Family Academy

Laura Barberia, Columbus Family Academy Teacher

Anthony Barroso, Organizer, Connecticut Students for a Dream

Dr. Abie Benitez, former Principal, Columbus Family Academy

Representative Juan Candelaria, 95th District

Addys Castillo, Executive Director, Citywide Youth Coalition

Alder Jose Crespo, Ward 16

Alicia Camacho, NHPS Parent and Chair of Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, Yale University

Lee Cruz, Fair Haven Resident and Columbus Family Academy Parent

Liz Demsky, Wilbur Cross High School Counselor

Diane Ecton, Co-Chair, Fair Haven Community Management Team

Kica Matos, Fair Haven Resident

Mildred Melendez, Democratic Town Committee Vice Chair

Sarah Miller, Fair Haven Resident and Columbus Family Academy Parent

Stephen Pitti, NHPS Parent and Professor of Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, Yale University

Bruni Pizarro, Interim Executive Director, Junta for Progressive Action

Melba Ramos, Columbus Family Academy Social Worker

Rafael Ramos, Fair Haven Resident and Founder, Bregamos Community Theater

Ana María Rivera Forastieri, Connecticut Bail Fund

Joseph Rodriguez, former Member, New Haven Board of Education

Michelle Lee Rodriguez, Co-Chair, Fair Haven Community Management Team

Mishele Elizabeth Rodriguez, Fair Haven Resident



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Fatima Rojas, Columbus Family Academy Parent and Organizer, Semilla Collective

Alder Ernie Santiago, Ward 15

Juan Carlos Soto, Community Organizer

Dr. Carlos Torre, former President, New Haven Board of Education and Professor of Education, Southern Connecticut State University

Xiomara Vazquez, Columbus Family Academy Teacher

21 de junio de 2020

A la Junta de Educación de New Haven:

Eliminemos de nuestras escuelas la celebración del genocidio en latinoamérica y enseñemos en las clases la verdadera historia

Desde 1968, La Academia Familiar Cristóbal Colón se encuentra en la esquina de Blatchley Street y Grand Avenue, en el corazón de Fair Haven, la comunidad de inmigrantes de New Haven. Visto por muchos como un símbolo de la herencia italiana, los historiadores ahora saben que Colón dirigió la tortura y el genocidio de más de tres millones de pueblos indígenas taínos, caribeños y arawak en lo que hoy es el sur de Florida, Puerto Rico, República Dominicana, Haití, Cuba, Jamaica, las Bahamas y otras naciones de las Indias Occidentales como parte de su misión de devolver el oro a la corona española. Colón y su hermano también iniciaron el comercio de esclavos en las Américas, instituyendo un modelo de conquista y opresión que luego se aplicó a los pueblos indígenas en todo el continente americano.

Colón tuvo un impacto transformador en la historia de la navegación y es visto por muchos como el "primer inmigrante" en las Américas. Esta es una historia importante para que nuestros hijos y todos nosotros comprendamos. Al mismo tiempo, la celebración de esta figura problemática en un edificio de escuela pública al que ingresan diariamente cientos de niños pequeños revela nuestra responsabilidad más básica de dar un buen ejemplo y proporcionar modelos positivos a seguir. Agrega insulto a la lesión de que la mayoría de los niños que asisten actualmente a la Academia Colón son de herencia indígena, con un porcentaje significativo de herencia puertorriqueña específicamente, lo que los convierte en descendientes de los asesinados con fines de lucro por el homónimo de su escuela.

Nuestro distrito escolar eleva aún más esta cifra al observar el Día de Colón como feriado. Y aunque se celebra



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Colón, por un lado, la verdadera historia de los pueblos indígenas y la colonización europea de las Américas, incluido aproximadamente el 90 por ciento de la población indígena que murió como resultado de la colonización europea, juega poco o ningún papel en nuestras escuelas ' plan de estudios. Cuando esta historia aparece en el plan de estudios, a menudo alrededor del Día de Colón y las vacaciones de Acción de Gracias, los colonos europeos y su encuentro violento con los pueblos indígenas se presentan con demasiada frecuencia de manera inexacta como amistosos y benignos, lo que perpetúa los entendimientos falsos y racistas en la próxima generación.

Los abajo firmantes pedimos a la Junta de Educación de New Haven que actúe con urgencia a en los siguientes pasos esenciales:

1. Cambiar el nombre de la escuela que actualmente se llama "Columbus Family Academy", por un nuevo nombre que sea elegido por la comunidad escolar a través de un proceso abierto, inclusivo e imperativamente educativo
2. Eliminar el "Día de la Raza" del calendario escolar y establecer octubre como el Mes de la Historia de los Pueblos Originarios Indígenas en las escuelas públicas de New Haven.
3. Capacitar a educadores y administradores sobre la importancia de enseñar la historia indígena y la verdadera historia de la colonización europea de las Américas, apegándose a lo que verdaderamente fueron los hechos históricos.
4. Revisar y reemplazar todos los materiales de enseñanza que presenten erróneamente a Colón como un héroe o modelo a seguir, eliminar la enseñanza del encuentro entre colonizadores europeos y pueblos indígenas como amigable y pacífica por que no lo fue.
5. Establecer un currículo de historia y/o estudios sociales en cada grado escolar que incluya el estudio de los pueblos indígenas locales, así como un proceso continuo para descentralizar los conocimientos de origen europeo como personajes históricos, literatura, formas de pensar, etc. e incorporar los conocimientos de historia, arte, literatura, formas de pensar, cultura, cosmogonía, concepción holística de la naturaleza, saberes ancestrales de los pueblos originarios indígenas en todo el programa escolar.
6. Establecer como procedimiento, un currículo para todas las escuelas públicas de New Haven que estipule que en cada asamblea o evento escolar, haya un reconocimiento y/o mención a este territorio, como territorio de los pueblos originarios indígenas.



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Firmada:

Alder Paola Acosta, Ward 14

Principal Roy Araujo, Columbus Family Academy

Laura Barberia, Columbus Family Academy Teacher

Anthony Barroso, Organizer, Connecticut Students for a Dream

Dr. Abie Benitez, former Principal, Columbus Family Academy

Representative Juan Candelaria, 95th District

Addys Castillo, Executive Director, Citywide Youth Coalition

Alder Jose Crespo, Ward 16

Alicia Camacho, NHPS Parent and Chair of Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, Yale University

Lee Cruz, Fair Haven Resident and Columbus Family Academy Parent

Liz Demsky, Wilbur Cross High School Counselor

Diane Ecton, Co-Chair, Fair Haven Community Management Team

Kica Matos, Fair Haven Resident

Mildred Melendez, Democratic Town Committee Vice Chair

Sarah Miller, Fair Haven Resident and Columbus Family Academy Parent

Stephen Pitti, NHPS Parent and Professor of Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, Yale University

Bruni Pizarro, Interim Executive Director, Junta for Progressive Action

Melba Ramos, Columbus Family Academy Social Worker

Rafael Ramos, Fair Haven Resident and Founder, Bregamos Community Theater

Ana María Rivera Forastieri, Connecticut Bail Fund

Joseph Rodriguez, former Member, New Haven Board of Education

Michelle Lee Rodriguez, Co-Chair, Fair Haven Community Management Team

Mishele Elizabeth Rodriguez, Fair Haven Resident

Fatima Rojas, Columbus Family Academy Parent and Organizer, Semilla Collective

Alder Ernie Santiago, Ward 15

Juan Carlos Soto, Community Organizer

Dr. Carlos Torre, former President, New Haven Board of Education and Professor of Education, Southern



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Connecticut State University

Xiomara Vazquez, Columbus Family Academy Teacher

PDF version available here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/127wjY32OyH37_oc406ZWPMx18tAoiATV/view?usp=sharing

Name * Elmer Rivera Bello

Email * nhlatinocouncil@gmail.com

Comments *

To: Members of the Board of Education

In recent days, the cities of New Haven and Hartford followed the cities of New London and Middletown in announcing the removal of statues of Christopher Columbus off city properties. When erected statues of Columbus were meant to symbolize the fact that Italian Americans, who had faced intense discrimination, had a place in American society. While it is important to recognize the immense contributions that Italian Americans have made to our nation's history it cannot be with a figure who has become an emotional symbol of slavery and exploitation to others.

It is for this reason that the New Haven Latino Council, a consortium of individuals, activists, and community leaders hereby request that the Christopher Columbus Family Academy be renamed. The New Haven Latino Council with broad support from the community feel that the school should be renamed in memory of an educator who has made major contributions to education and social justice.

It is my firm belief that it is incumbent upon us, as leaders in the community, that we lead by example.

Systemic racism, at all levels, in all its shapes and forms, must be challenged. It is time for change! We strongly urge the removal of Christopher Columbus Day from school calendars, the updating and/or replacement of historical curriculum to accurately reflect New World history, and the recognition of the indigenous people and their contributions to the New World.

Respectfully submitted, Elmer Rivera Bello, Chairman, New Haven Latino Council



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Student Report

Mr. Rivera and Ms. Arouna were not in attendance.

Mr. Goldson asked if the new student member has been chosen. Mrs. Rivera answered, yes, he has. Dr. Whyte remarked he is to be given the oath this week and his term will begin the first meeting in July.

Superintendent's Report

Motion to Appoint Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment

Dr. Tracey remarked that before she presents the Personnel Report she would like to make a motion, if that is in order. Mrs. Rivera said that a Board member would have to make the motion.

**323-20
Appoint Ms. Ivelise
Velázquez, Assistant
Superintendent of
Curriculum
Instruction and
Assessment**

Dr. Joyner made a motion, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board hereby appoint Ms. Ivelise Velázquez to serve as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment; and further move that the Board authorizes the Superintendent and the Board Chair to sign the related contract of employment of Ms. Ivelise Velázquez on behalf of the Board. Mrs. Rivera seconded the motion.

Mr. Goldson initiated a discussion and asked if the Superintendent is asking us to approve a contract that we haven't even seen. Dr. Tracey remarked the contract is similar to the one that she received several months ago when she started this position. Mr. Goldson remarked that he doesn't understand why you would ask us to approve a contract that we have not seen, that would be irresponsible for us to do. Mr. Goldson remarked that he will not support this motion as written, unless you are willing to provide a contract.

Mrs. Rivera asked Dr. Tracey if the contract would be the same exact contract except for the name and salaries of the Assistant Superintendent's contracts that we signed not too long ago. Dr. Tracey answered, yes.

For the record, Mr. Conaway remarked that he has three concerns that he would like clarity on regarding this appointee: Title I issues; her abrupt departure without any close out; and grievances. He feels these things need to be addressed. Dr. Tracey answered Mr. Conaway's questions in detail. Mr. Goldson, Mr. Wilcox, Dr. Joyner, Dr. Jackson-McArthur and Mayor Elicker joined this discussion and expressed their thoughts and concerns. A lengthy discussion took place and can be viewed on the NHPS website.

**324-20
Amend Contract to**

On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was voted, by roll call to amend the contract to postpone the signing of the contract of Ms. Ivelise



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Postpone Signing Velázquez until further review. Mr. Goldson, no; Mr. Conaway, no; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, no; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes. Motion failed.

325-20 Postpone Original Motion to Appoint Ms. Ivelise Velázquez On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was voted by roll call to postpone the original motion to appoint the hiring of Ms. Ivelise Velázquez to the next Board meeting. Mr. Goldson, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Dr. Joyner, no; Mayor Elicker, no; Mr. Wilcox, no; Mrs. Rivera, no. Motion failed.

Mr. Goldson made a motion to amend authorizing the signing of the contract until we have a chance to review it. A discussion ensued as to whether or not this was a friendly amendment or not. Mrs. Rivera asked Atty. Alexiades if this would be a friendly amendment. Atty. Alexiades commented that Mr. Goldson could make a motion to amend the original motion but he is not sure what the amendment is and he explained.

Dr. Tracey remarked it is interesting how we are selective in people that we hire and we agree to move forward and I'm not going to sit here and have anyone castigate any potential staff, this has become a pattern when we propose to hire in the New Haven Public Schools. Mr. Goldson called a point of order. He commented that we have rules in our Bylaws that we will not personally attack speakers, Board members, etc., about their motivations. He further commented that Dr. Tracey started her response by attacking him. He expects us to uphold the rules.

Dr. Tracey continued and commented that she did not call a name; she made statements like anyone else has the right to. As a person who was hired to run this district she has a district to run along with the support of the Board. She is not going to get into why Ms. Velazquez left, she knows why and others know why and we are not going to sit here in a public forum with TV channels and get the lady's business out there. It is her right not to share with people why she left. Board members have the right to vote up or vote down. Since you want to see the contract, Lisa Mack is sending it right now. Dr. Tracey mentioned that she was told the contract was not needed in the Board packets and that is why it is not there.

Mr. Wilcox noted that two weeks ago he voted to have Dr. Tracey move into the Superintendent role. He feels the Superintendent has the right and the ability to have her executive team with the people she wants to have.

Mr. Goldson suggested Mrs. Rivera become more familiar with Roberts Rules of Order because these are very simple points we use every day. Dr. Joyner commented he doesn't think we should give people lectures about being familiar with anything we should stick to the business at hand. This becomes a pattern with potential staff that we propose



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to hire in the New Haven Public Schools. If Dr. Tracey is putting forward a person who she knows is going to have some sort of controversy attached to her, she is putting a lot of credibility on the line. So he is going to go with the Superintendents appointment.

Dr. Joyner commented that he wants to give some words back. What he just witnessed was a character assassination. Mr. Goldson kept calling a point of order while Dr. Joyner was speaking. He commented that he was stating facts that Mr. Conaway stated. Dr. Joyner responded you both were. Mr. Goldson continued to interrupt Dr. Joyner as he was speaking. He explained why. Dr. Joyner continued to speak. Mr. Goldson commented that he is not going to sit here and have his character attacked by any Board member; if he doesn't like what I said, counter it with facts. Dr. Joyner tried to continue but was interrupted again. Mr. Conaway joined the conversation and commented that he did not attack Dr. Tracey's character. Dr. Joyner noted that when you question certain words they are innuendo in nature. Dr. Joyner continued to explain in detail. Mr. Goldson stated that if we are going to continue this kind of conversation we will have to go into Executive Session and he explained.

Dr. Joyner closed his comments by saying none of this is factual and it only causes the potential to not only ruin her opportunities in this district but for further employment. The same thing goes for the Superintendent.

Mr. Goldson continued to count off the facts, as he saw them, and commented that he is just counting off the facts. He continued to talk about how much this position will cost the district and we won't even give part-timers, paraprofessionals, etc., any raises. He continued at length.

Mr. Goldson said the motion is to make sure that there is no contract signed until the Board approves a contract based on the Board's approval of the contract. Dr. Tracey can tell Ms. Velázquez that she is hired based on whether or not the Board approves the contract.

236-20
Superintendent
Appoint Ivelise
Velázquez, Provided
Board Approves Final

Mr. Goldson made a motion on the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board hereby gives her the authority to appoint Ms. Ivelise Velázquez to serve as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment based on the Board's approval of the final contract. Seconded by Dr. Jackson-McArthur.

Mr. Goldson remarked that it has been very irresponsible of this Board to approve a contract it has not reviewed. He continued to explain. Mr. Wilcox asked what this amended motion means. Is it saying that we are not appointing Ms. Velazquez as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment? He thinks that Dr. Tracey can have some clarity tonight and that we should move forward with this appointment. Mr. Goldson explained the motion to Mr. Wilcox. Mayor Elicker remarked



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that we have reviewed this contract previously the only things that are different are the position and the salary. He remarked that it is in our email box for anyone who wants to review it again. Mr. Goldson rebuked this and explained.

237-20
Appoint Ivelise Velázquez, and Postpone Signing Until Further Review

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to to appoint Ms. Ivelise Velázquez as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment and postpone the signing of the contract for Ms. Ivelise Velázquez until further review. Mr. Goldson, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mr. Wilcox, no; Mayor Elicker, no; Dr. Joyner, no; Mrs. Rivera, no. Motion failed.

238-20
Approve Appointment Recommended by Superintendent

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to approve the appointment of Ms. Ivelise Velázquez as recommended by the Superintendent as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment and, furthermore, that the Board authorizes the Superintendent and the Board Chair to sign the contract. Mr. Goldson, no; Mr. Conaway, no; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, no; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Goldson remarked that he thinks this is bad public policy and it is going to come back to haunt them. You are setting a precedent.

Personnel Report Dr. Tracey asked for approval of the Personnel Report in its totality.

Mr. Goldson commented that he will move the bluesheet minus the appointment of Ms. Gildemar Herrera. He would like to do that on a separate vote. Mr. Wilcox seconded.

Dr. Joyner asked Mr. Goldson what the reason is for that. Mr. Goldson answered it is not germane; he just wants a separate vote on that person.

239-20
Approve Personnel Report

On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was voted by roll call to approve the Personnel Report with the exception of the IT Director position. Mr. Goldson, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Joyner, no; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes; Motion passed.

Mr. Wilcox made a motion to move the position of IT Director. Dr. Joyner seconded the motion.

Mr. Goldson remarked that we have a very large extensive IT system which demands someone with that same level of experience and from the résumé, this woman has never served as IT Director of a system as large and complex as ours. Therefore, he is



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wondering why we are willing to hire someone that has not served in a leadership position of a former IT Department.

Dr. Joyner countered that Dr. Birks never served as a Superintendent and Mr. Goldson led the charge to hire her. Dr. Joyner listed Ms. Gildemar Herrera’s qualifications and credentials. Dr. Joyner also mentioned that she has a great reference in finance. He continued in detail.

Mr. Goldson disagreed with Dr. Joyner and said that he doesn’t see any of the information he just offered. He went on to explain further. Mr. Goldson said he is going to vote against this appointment because he doesn’t feel she is the right one for this position.

Mr. Wilcox asked Dr. Tracey to describe the search process for coming up with this candidate. Dr. Tracey commented they used the usual interview process and Mr. Pinto carried out the interview and presented the top two candidates to me and then I made the selection of this young lady. Dr. Tracey explained the process in detail. Dr. Tracey noted that she felt it was best to have someone in-house, who knows our system and structure rather than getting someone from the outside. Dr. Joyner added to Dr. Tracey’s comments.

240-20
Approval of
IT Director

On the motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted, by roll call to approve the appointment of Ms. Gildemar Herrera as IT Director of the NHPS as presented on the Personnel Report. Mr. Goldson, no; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes; Motion passed.

Mr. Goldson wanted to know why the First Student update is not on the agenda tonight, and he requested to move up some of the voting items and then come back to the Superintendent’s report, because he may have to leave for a family emergency early and he would like to be able to vote on the upcoming items.

Dr. Tracey answered that it was probably left off. Mr. Penn commented no, it was not left off. We are waiting for an amendment to be finalized by First Student which we will take back to F&O and once that is finalized we will bring it back to the full board.

Mr. Goldson thanked Mr. Penn. He further told Mr. Penn that he submitted a list of questions to him and he hasn’t received any answers yet. Particularly around First student giving their employees aid because they didn’t pay their employees in March. He asked if that is part of the new amendment or has it been ignored.

We are in negotiations with Frist Student where they did not pay their employees for the first week in March; they paid them for a week in April instead. Mr. Penn said that if Mr.



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Goldson can provide the names of those who raised those issues he would be happy to follow up with Frist Student.

Mr. Goldson continued to discuss this topic. Mr. Penn commented that is not consistent with what we heard from First Student and if you can give me the names of those people, he will be happy to discuss it with First Student. Mr. Goldson continued to ask questions and express his thoughts. Dr. Tracey suggested that these questions, from Mr. Goldson, be discussed at the next F&O meeting. President Rivera remarked this is not on the agenda and will be discussed at the next F&O meeting.

Dr. Joyner noted that he feels that Mr. Goldson has a good point. We should have a clear, defensible protocol for determining if any of our contractors are providing us with accurate information particularly around receiving COVID-19 money or paying our employees. He hopes it will be a standard for any person we do business with.

Superintendent's Report (con'td)

Dr. Tracey continued with the Personnel Report. She commented that the appointees have been waiting online. Mr. Goldson called a point of order. He commented that our last meeting lasted five hours and we just spent a half-hour on Ms. Velazquez and he doesn't understand why we are rehashing her résumé or anything else. We already approved it. Mr. Goldson continued to speak and suggested we go further down the agenda to the voting items because he has to leave on a family emergency.

Dr. Tracey continued with her Personnel Report. Dr. Tracey provided the Board with Ms. Velazquez' credentials and résumé. She congratulated each of the Administrators and gave bios and credentials for each of them. They included: Ms. Mia Edmonds-Duff, Principal of Clemente Leadership Academy, Mr. Marc Potocsky, Principal of Sound School and Mr. Shawn True, Principal of Hill Regional Career High School, and Ms. Rosalyn Diaz-Ortiz, Supervisor of English Learning at Gateway Center.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur commented that she recognizes a lot of these names. We have a lot of talent in our system.

Dr. Tracey commented that the appointees are waiting online. They have been here since 5:30 as well. Mr. True, Ms. Duff, Mr. Potocsky, Ms. Valazquez and Ms. Ortiz each thanked the Board for the opportunity that has been presented to them. Board members congratulated all of the appointees. (Each of the acceptance speeches may be seen and heard on the meeting video at NHPS.net.)

President Rivera asked Dr. Tracey to wait a few minutes so we can move to the voting items because Mr. Goldson has to leave.



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Mr. Goldson called a point of order to ask if the President’s report will have any voting items on it. Mrs. Rivera answered, yes, it will. The order is as follows: Finance & Operations, Governance and President’s report.

Finance & Operations Committee Report

Mr. Wilcox reported this committee met on Monday, June 15th. At that meeting he mentioned that he now has a conflict of interest. His spouse will begin employment in late July at Clifford Beers working as a community health organizer on a federally funded integrated Care for Kids Project. That project, to his knowledge, doesn’t receive any NHPS funding but Clifford Beers does have some NHPS contracts. Moving forward, he will be recusing himself and not voting, deliberating or testifying on any matter related to Clifford Beers and, in addition to this disclosure, he has asked that a disclosure statement be added to his Board member bio on the NHPS website and he has submitted the necessary forms as described in our Bylaws. Mr. Wilcox remarked that he has submitted them to the district and because of that he has asked President Rivera to move the first item on the F&O agenda.

241-20
Clifford Beers
Guidance Clinic

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to approve an agreement with Clifford Beers Guidance Clinic to provide licensed mental health providers to serve students enrolled in School Health Centers at Clinton Avenue and Fair Haven Schools, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$83,958.00. Mr. Wilcox, recused; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes. Motion passed.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur asked what the difference is between recusal and abstaining. Atty. Alexiades answered a recusal is declining to participate entirely and abstaining is an absence of a vote.

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

ABSTRACTS

- 242-20 **School Health Center Grant**, in the amount of \$1,344,594.00 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 243-20 **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, (IDEA), Section 619**, in the amount of \$114,297 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
- 244-20 **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, (IDEA), Section 611** in the amount of 6,223,373 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021



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245-20 **Priority School District School Accountability/Summer School Grant**, in the amount of \$380,911 for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

AGREEMENTS

246-20 **Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven** Amendment #1 to Agreement with #95018382 with Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven, to increase funding of \$43,522.00 by \$33,100.00 to \$76,622.00, including a prior year adjustment of \$483, reflecting a final award for the State Adult Education Cooperating Eligible Entity Grant.

247-20 **American Red Cross** An agreement with American Red Cross to provide training courses for Hillhouse students interested in Nurse Assistant certification programs, from August 31, 2019 to June 12, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$29,270.

248-20 **Learning Innovation Catalyst, LLC** An agreement with Learning Innovation Catalyst, LLC, to provide professional development and training to support student-centered remote, blended and personalized learning, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$269,000.

249-20 **Athletic Training Services** An agreement with Michele Cormier to develop coordinate and supervise New Haven Public Schools Sport Medicine Program and Athletic Training Services, from August 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

250-20 **Marina Dubrovsky** An agreement with Marina Dubrovsky to provide athletic training services for all sport team and events, from August 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.

251-20 **Hugh Shapiro** An agreement with Hugh Shapiro to provide athletic training services for all sport teams and events, including the prevention care and rehabilitation of student athletes at Wilbur Cross High School, from August 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$52,500.

252-20 **CT Department of Public Health** An agreement with CT Department of Public Health, to increase funding of \$1,340,602 by \$3,912 to \$1,344,594 to reflect legislative approved cost savings allocation for the remainder of the grant.

253-20 **Cornell Scott Hill Health Center** An agreement with Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, to provide licensed staff and medical and mental health services to students enrolled in School Health Center at Roberto Clemente, King Robinson, Truman, Troup, Brennan-Rogers, Hill Central and Davis Street schools, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$402,400.

254-20 **Fair Haven** An agreement with Fair Haven Community Health Center presented by Ms. Peters to provide licensed staff and medical, mental health and dental services to students enrolled



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Community Health Center in School Health Centers at Fair Haven, Clinton Avenue, Wilbur Cross, John Martinez, and Columbus schools, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$195,843.

255-20 Yale-New Haven Hospital An agreement with Yale-New Haven Hospital to provide licensed staff, medical and mental health services to students enrolled in School Health Centers at Mauro-Sheridan, Barnard, Hillhouse, Troup and Career, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$372,289.

256-20 Medical Billing of CT An agreement with Medical Billing of CT to provide billing services for medical, behavioral and dental services School Health Center at Riverside and six school dental clinics, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed 8% of gross insurance reimbursements for services, \$2.00 per encounter claim/or \$150 per month if minimum of 50 claims is not submitted, and a onetime fee of up to \$5,000 to convert records.

CHANGE ORDERS

257-20 Change Order #1 Clearwater Industries Change Order #1 to Contract #21575-2-2 with Clearwater Industries, to increase funding of \$60,000 by \$15,400 to \$75,000 for replacement of water treatment equipment for cooling towers and boilers.

258-20 Change Order #2, Tri State Plumbing Change Order #2 to Contract #50477-2-2 with Tri State Plumbing to increase funding of \$115,000 by \$3,710.23 to \$118,710.23 for backflow preventer replacement, Bowen Field pump, Hillhouse fountain and sink replacements.

259-20 Change Order #1, Kone Elevator Change Order #1 to Contract #40107936 with Kone Elevator to increase funding of \$150,000 by \$54,414.70 to \$204,414.70 to provide emergency repairs at Barnard School.

Mr. Goldson commented that he always has questions about contracts that have additional funding and he explained. He hopes in the future we get an actual breakdown of what the additional work was and he requested that in the future, we get additional information to justify the increases.

Mr. Goldson also wanted to know how many of these agreements are with minority contractors. Mr. Wilcox answered both of Mr. Goldson’s questions in detail. This discussion continued at length. He also noted that there is always an open invitation for members to attend the meetings. Mr. Goldson continued that he still hasn’t gotten answers to some of the questions he has already asked. He pointed out Waste Management contract and explained. Mr. Wilcox again explained in detail. This discussion continued at length.



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Dr. Jackson-McArthur joined the conversation and told Mr. Wilcox what they did at F&O when she was on the committee before she became Chair of the Governance Committee.

Dr. Joyner, Mr. Conaway, Mayor Elicker, Mr. Pinto and Dr. Tracey also joined this discussion. This entire discussion may be viewed on the meeting video at NHPS.net.

260-20

Mr. Goldson made a motion to give the authority to Dr. Tracey to extend the contracts that have not been approved to our July 13th meeting at the rates of the new proposed contracts. Mr. Conaway seconded.

Dr. Tracey remarked she would rather go with a special emergency meeting as proposed by Mr. Wilcox to have a proper discussion. Mr. Pinto noted that they have to go to F&O to be properly vetted, which is the procedure. Dr. Tracey said then we can call a special F&O to have it done. Mr. Wilcox added his opinion as well as his questions and concerns.

Mr. Goldson remarked he would be opposed to having two special meetings and said that it is unnecessary and complicated. It puts the staff under the gun because they have a process they already use; so, he thinks it is ridiculous to set up a special meeting in one week. He hopes the rest of the Board would support Mr. Pinto and his staff to help them negotiate savings with these contracts.

Dr. Joyner remarked we should stop trying to run the school system and let them manage it and he explained.

Mayor Elicker called a point of order and asked if this was on the agenda and the answer was no. Mr. Goldson said, with all due respect, Dr. Joyner is confused about what Mr. Pinto said and he continued to explain why. Mayor Elicker called a point of order and commented if this is not on the agenda, we can take the conversation offline and discuss whether or not to have a special meeting.

Dr. Joyner noted that Dr. Tracey is the Chief Executive Officer of the school system and we are wasting so much time without sticking to the agenda. Mr. Goldson interrupted Dr. Joyner and called a point of order. Mrs. Rivera told him that he is not making a point of order but a rebuttal.

Dr. Tracey insisted that we call a special meeting to discuss these items in more detail. We can have the special meeting this week to have this level of discussion. She thought Mr. Goldson had an emergency he had to attend to when he took her off her report. Mr. Goldson wanted to know if his motion is on the table or not.



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Mrs. Rivera deferred to Mr. Alexiades and commented that this is something that is not on the agenda and has been brought up by Mr. Goldson. Mr. Alexiades wanted to know what the motion is that is wanted to be added to the agenda.

Mrs. Rivera explained to Mr. Alexiades what Mr. Goldson's motion was. Mr. Goldson interrupted and said it was wrong and Mrs. Rivera told him to restate it.

Mr. Alexiades explained that there are legitimate points of order and then there are things that happen that are not a point of order. Mr. Goldson interrupted Mr. Alexiades who asked him to please not do that. Mr. Alexiades continued to say, it is important for us to understand that if there is a motion on the floor and it has been seconded. The answer was, yes, and Mr. Alexiades wanted to know what the motion is.

Mr. Goldson repeated his motion, seconded by Mr. Conaway, to give the authority to Dr. Tracey to extend the on-call contracts that have not been approved by us to our July 13th meeting at the rates of the new proposed contracts. He said it is his belief that there are more than two contracts involved.

Mr. Alexiades answered that it is his opinion that that is out of order and because it is not on the agenda if the Board wants to take it up, then the correct procedure would be to amend the agenda to add it in accordance with FOI.

Mr. Goldson remarked, remember this.

Mrs. Rivera told him he was out of order. Mr. Alexiades commented that is his advice to the Chair and the Chair rules on the point of order.

Mr. Wilcox pointed out that the items that have not been moved forward are on-call contracts for a lot of services that we will be seeing at our next meeting. Mr. Goldson said he confirmed that there are more than two contracts. Mr. Wilcox explained the on-call contracts in full detail and, for clarification he explained the premise of on-call contracts. He feels that it would be great if we can decide this issue and he will come to any special meeting that is called by this Board or a committee.

Mayor Elicker commented that since there's a question on whether or not this motion is valid there shouldn't be any more discussion on it; it is up to the Chair. Mrs. Rivera commented she is following Mr. Alexiades' advice. The motion is invalid because we would have to amend the agenda to add it.

Mr. Goldson appealed Mrs. Rivera's decision. He referred to a conversation that was had two weeks ago and specifically remembers it was an item not on the agenda that was



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voted on because it was germane to the issue. He continued to explain. He will show the Board physical proof of that meeting.

Mr. Goldson said that his motion, seconded by Mr. Conaway, is to give the authority to Dr. Tracey to extend the on-call contracts that have not been approved by us to our July 13th meeting at the rates of the new proposed contracts. He said it is his belief that there are more than two contracts involved.

Mr. Goldson explained his appeal in detail.

261-20
Mr. Goldson's
Appeal Out of Order

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to approve Mr. Goldson's motion to appeal as out of order and invalid because the agenda would have to be amended to add it. Mr. Goldson, no; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes. Motion passed.

Atty. Alexiades remarked that he almost never interrupts a vote but are the members of the Board clear on what yes and no means in this context. Mrs. Rivera asked the members if they understood and Mr. Alexiades clarified a no vote is to overturn the decision. If you vote yes, you're voting in favor of Mr. Goldson's appeal, a majority in the negative is voting for the Chair's motion. The vote was taken again.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur wanted to know how Atty. Alexiades is related to us. Mrs. Rivera explained that months ago she appointed him Parliamentarian to the Board so that he can explain some of these issues when they are not perfectly clear. Mr. Goldson added that he is hired by the City as Corp Counsel.

Mr. Alexiades explained that he is an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City Of New Haven and he is assigned primarily to the Board of Education. Mrs. Rivera appointed me him Parliamentarian to advise the Chair. That is why he is here.

Governance Report

Dr. Jackson-McArthur asked for approval of the Procurement Policy. Dr. Joyner seconded.

Mr. Goldson remarked that he has issues with the way it is written. A lengthy discussion took place.

262-20
Approval of
Procurement Policy

On the motion by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted, by roll call to approve the Procurement Policy as submitted by the Governance Committee. Mr. Goldson, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes. Motion passed.



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Dr. Jackson-McArthur thanked Typhanie Jackson, Dr. Joyner and Mr. Goldson for their participation. It was a team effort. A lengthy discussion ensued.

President's Report

School Security Design Committee

Mrs. Rivera reported she is working to finalize the list of the member's names for the workgroup that will be under the Governance committee. They will be tasked with discussing and making recommendations to the Governance committee whether or not to remove SRO's from the classrooms.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur asked if people can recommend people and Mrs. Rivera answered, absolutely. Dr. Jackson-McArthur then stated that since the committee will be under the umbrella of Governance just make sure you give us the names of the members and the Chair so that we will be able to coordinate with them. Mrs. Rivera said they will do all of that.

Mr. Goldson remarked that Bylaw #9130 states that the Board of Education shall establish committees of the Board it doesn't say the President. He asked Mrs. Rivera if she knows of another Bylaw that she can select a committee to please point it out to him. Mrs. Rivera pointed out that it is a work group that is under the Governance committee and we discussed this at our last meeting. This discussion continued at length.

Mrs. Rivera asked Atty. Alexiades if he had clarification on that. He is trying to look up the Bylaw that Mr. Goldson referenced and it only applies to standing committees. This is not a standing committee; it is a work group under the guidance of the Governance committee. The discussion continued at length with all Board members participating.

Renaming of Christopher Columbus Family Academy

Mrs. Rivera stated that the next issue is changing the name of the observed Christopher Columbus Day Holiday on the NHPS calendar, in light of the recent public outcry. The resolutions that will be read shortly are about making a commitment to the entire New Haven community. In that spirit, tonight it will not be about changing the name but simply the commitment to discuss changing the name at a future date.

Mrs. Rivera went on to say the last part of that was to move that the holiday recognized by the State of Connecticut and the federal government as Columbus Day shall hereinafter be designated as Indigenous Peoples Day on the New Haven Public Schools calendar. Dr. Jackson-McArthur seconded.

Mr. Wilcox remarked that changing the name to indigenous people's day only changes it on our school calendar. A lengthy discussion took place on this issue with Board members explaining their reasons for supporting this motion.



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After a lengthy discussion it was determined that these were two separate motions and the discussion continued.

263-20
Discuss Changing
Name of Christopher
Columbus School

On the motion by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to approve having a discussion to change the name of Christopher Columbus School and a new name decided at a later date. Mr. Goldson, no; Dr. Joyner, yes; Dr. Jackson-McArthur, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Conaway, yes; Mrs. Rivera, yes. Motion passed.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the changing of the Columbus Day Holiday on the New Haven Public Schools calendar to Indigenous Peoples Day.

264-20
Columbus
Day Changed on
School Calendar

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, it voted by roll call to approve the holiday recognized by the State of Connecticut and the federal government as Columbus Day shall hereinafter be designated as Indigenous Peoples Day on the New Haven Public Schools calendar.

Superintendent's Report (cont'd)
Personnel Report

Dr. Whyte read a statement that Ms. Rosalyn Diaz-Ortiz, new supervisor of English Learning, had provided thanking everyone who believed in her during the process. She gave a shout out to her current building leaders and her family. She knows that this job comes with great responsibility and she is happy to be working and collaborating with others. Board members congratulated Ms. Diaz-Ortiz on her appointment.

Dr. Tracey stated that she has to leave because of a family emergency. Mr. Goldson accused Dr. Tracey of mocking him and Dr. Tracey said she has a family emergency and she doesn't care what he says. Mrs. Rivera told Mr. Goldson he is out of order.

Dr. Tracey remarked that we have a draft of the Cleaning Protocol that is in your packets and we have the Proposed Mitigation Items and the Deficit Update Year to Date. She excused herself to go to the hospital because of a family emergency.

Draft- Facilities Cleaning Protocol

Mr. Pinto gave the highlights of this program. He remarked that we've been working with the unions and with Echo to build a process for changing some of the time slots so that we have more staff on, particularly as we come back for camps. In the fall we will make sure that we have a building manager and an assistant building manager and he explained this in detail.

Mr. Pinto commented that they are also looking at what other states are doing and they expect new guidance from the state this week which will help us as we move forward. The filter change protocols are another thing we are working on. We are hoping to do this is an



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efficient and cost effective manner. He explained other measures that they will be putting in place.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur and Mr. Goldson asked questions of Mr. Pinto and he answered in detail.

Mr. Conaway and Mrs. Rivera thanked Mr. Pinto for his presentation.

2020-21 Budget Proposed Mitigation Items

Mr. Penn remarked that they sent a memo to the Board, a list of potential things that we could do to mitigate next year's anticipated budget deficit. At that time, the consensus was we needed more. Mr. Penn gave the background of the original budget request and explained in detail. He went through each item on the budget and explained each line in detail. Mr. Penn also explained the strategies being used to mitigate the deficit increase in detail. Mr. Penn gave a summary of the strategies as well as a list of proposals and a lot of them have an impact; some more than others. He continued at length.

Mrs. Rivera asked Mr. Penn if he wants a decision tonight. Mr. Wilcox gave his thoughts on how to balance this budget. Mr. Goldson gave his opinion on the budget as presented and he asked Mr. Penn multiple questions about the para, buses, etc. This discussion continued at length.

Mayor Elicker commented that voting these items up or down is not appealing to him. Mr. Penn commented he wasn't hearing a lot of support for what is on here. This discussion continued at length with Mayor Elicker, Mr. Goldson, Mrs. Rivera, Dr. Jackson and Mr. Wilcox participating.

In answer to a question by Mrs. Rivera, Atty. Alexiades commented the item is on the agenda to discuss the proposed action. Mr. Goldson remarked that the reason why we put items on the agenda is for an update and for information. This conversation continued.

Mr. Conaway suggested that we put this on the agenda for the special meeting. It was agreed to follow Mr. Conaway's suggestion.

Mr. Penn continued with his presentation regarding the budget forecast.

Teaching & Learning Committee Report

Dr. Joyner thanked Dr. Therrien and all of the supervisors and assistant superintendents. Jessica Haxi made an announcement that we have 148 students in nine high schools that will receive the Seal of Literacy in 13 languages, and that is up 47 students from last year, which is quite an accomplishment. Dr. Joyner noted that the other thing that was



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outstanding was the work of the Tiger Team organizing the district for the Harvard Learning Initiative and he explained in detail.

Mr. Conaway spoke on indigenous and disengaged youth and said that the teachers are going to include these students in their entire plan. It was a very exciting meeting and he is looking forward to working with the new Assistant Superintendent as we move this thing ahead.

Head Start Report

Mr. Wilcox reported that the committee met on Thursday, June 18th. Our enrollment numbers stay fine and they think that they're on track for enrolling the number of students we need to enroll for the fall. They provided information that we are out of our non-compliance with our mental health. Their deficiency on active supervision team met to do a root cause analysis facilitated by the Head Start training and technical assistant team and they will be doing additional work with all the stakeholder groups. They were also awarded \$460,600+ for COVID relief and they will be presenting a budget for how they will be spending that money.

Food Task Force Group Report

Mr. Conaway reported that things are the same. We are going into the summer feeding program and we have some work to do with the sites. We are not feeding as many kids as we want to. He commented that he will have a more complete report at our next meeting.

265-20

Adjournment

On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger McHugh

BOE Recording Secretary

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