



**NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Connecticut

**Board of Education Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 22, 2021 via Zoom**

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

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Wilcox led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance

**III.** **On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Mr. Conaway to approve the Minutes from the February 8, 2021 meeting.**

**039-21**

**Approval of the Board Minutes: 2.8.2021**

Mr. Goldson inquired on how we can record the individuals that participate in the live Public Participation portion of the meeting. Atty. Alexiades added that something could be listed to show that Public Participation took place, list of persons speaking and a note of the video if available. Ms. Rivera made a note that Dr. Joyner recused not abstained during the Personnel Report Vote.

**On the Motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Mayor Elicker to approve the Minutes from the February 8, 2021 meeting as amended.**

**Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes.**

**IV. Public Participation:** *Channel Name:* New Haven BOE TV  
*YouTube Link:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XblaG57EuZg>  
Public Participation Begins 9:36 – 20:11

Public Participation: (6 Participants)

- Dave Cicarella
- Citywide Parent Team (Ms. Waters)
- Maritza Spell
- Black & Brown United in Action
- Claudette Kidd
- Jessica Light



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*Submitted Public Participation*

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**Name \*** Sandra Charles

**Email \*** [sandra.charles@new-haven.k12.ct.us](mailto:sandra.charles@new-haven.k12.ct.us)

**Comments \*** My question is, when would teachers be vaccinated?

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**Name \*** Carmen Ruotolo

**Email \*** [carmen.ruotolo@snet.net](mailto:carmen.ruotolo@snet.net)

**Comments \***

I want to bring to your attention a problem that High School students are facing. The community service requirement under normal circumstances is a challenge. To require 50 hours per year is excessive. This school year 2021, the hours have been reduced to require 150 instead of 200 students most complete in order to graduate. I find this requirement unfair and over reaching. It is as if the board does not recognize what our families are enduring. In a community with such a high poverty level there is no concern what so ever for families with multiple children in the household who do not have the time or the means to support this. Nor is there concern for students that have to work and go to school to survive and then do this too. There is no concern for the students health and safety since most of the community service requires them to expose themselves. The remote options to do community service are nonexistent. In view of the circumstances this community and the world is facing I am requesting that you consider waiving this requirement. The students that have completed and or are working towards it could be recognized and or compensated in other ways for their efforts. This is an undue burden on families, students and this community.

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**Name \*** Deborah Schmidt

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

**Comments \*** What is being done to help the class of 2021? I keep hearing that students will be "caught up" next year, but the class of 2021 has no next year! These students will be aging out of services. They'll be moving on to jobs or continuing their educations at a deficit. We need to address this not just in New Haven, but across the board.

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**V. Students' Report:** Ms. Arouna states there is nothing to update at this time, and the students still have monthly student council meetings.

**VI. Superintendent Report:** *Dr. Iline Tracey* Prior to the Personnel Report, Dr. Tracey wanted to let the Board know that one of the Central Office Staff in Human Resources had passed away. Ms. Donna Jones and that she will surely be missed.

**i. Personnel Report:** **On the Motion by Mr. Goldson seconded by Mr. Conaway to table the first item on the Personnel Report. (Motion Passed)**

**040-21 Table First Item** Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Dr. Jackson, Yes; Mr. Conaway, Yes; Mayor Elicker, Yes; Mr. Goldson, Yes; Mr. Rivera, Yes; Ms. Arouna, Yes.

**041-21 Approve Personnel Report as amended** **On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox seconded by Mr. Conaway to approve the Personnel Report as amended. (Motion Passed)**

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

**ii. ESSER II:** Ms. Redd-Hannans states that ESSER (Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief) is poised to provide NHPS with 37.8 million dollars over the next 2.5 years with this grant. In an effort to spend funds on targeted goals of the community and district, focus groups will be implemented and include administrative, teachers, parents, community leaders, and support staff. Parent focus groups are coming up this week to discuss initial ideas.

<b>(1) Focus Groups</b>	<b>(2) Planning Committee</b>	<b>(3) Executive Team</b>
<i>To inform</i>	<i>To assess and recommend</i>	<i>Review and final determination</i>

Dr. Jackson wants the District to be flexible for the working parent's schedules when scheduling these meetings. Mr. Goldson asks if the Executive Team will bring the decisions to the Board prior submitting, so the Boards input will be considered as well, and added that Ms. Waters from the Citywide Parent Advocates must be invited for input as well.

Ms. Redd-Hannans adds that the Focus Groups that have past have had a good turnout for those wanting to provide their input. Priority Discussions have been scheduled for targeted discussion, such as: Family & Community Connections, Remote Learning Staff Development and the Digital Divide, School Safety & Social Emotional Learning, and Academic Support.



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**iii. Sample Teaching and Learning Experience**

Ms. Velazquez provided an introduction where students and staff were able to voice how the Teaching and Learning Experience has been for the school year so far.  
 Abby Gerry – 4<sup>th</sup> grade Sound School  
 Elizabeth Gonzalez – Parent      Jorge Rodriguez – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Martinez  
 Jennifer Pilleterc – Parent      Kristina Crivellone – Teacher  
 Luis Menacho – Principal      Edith Johnson – Principal

**iv. Budget Updates**

Mr. Penn presented his Budget Presentation to the Board Members. He noted that they amended the 2021-2022 Initial Budget Projection per the unallocated revenue Mr. Goldson noted a few meetings ago. Property Utilities decreased due to the two school closures currently. He adds concerning Transportation may return to normal levels, 3 million vs. 1.5 million. Government Budget Freeze 2 year into the 10-year plan the ECS and Alliance Grant at the current levels will not be able to offset the salaries yearly rates if government funding freezes. Mr. Goldson inquires of the definition of the unallocated funds, and asks for clarification regarding the GF Schools. Dr. Tracey states the GF (General Fund) Schools, Mr. Penn adds these are Neighborhood Schools only 4 GF Schools. Mr. Penn states the unallocated funds means it needs to be updated in the journal entries.

**v. Updated Case Reporting Procedures**

Dr. Tracey states that beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> Teachers can get vaccinated.

**vi. School Nurses**

Dr. Bond introduces the Chief President of School Nurses Ms. Cynthia Harrison. It was stated that the nurses collaborated with a Temp Agency to ensure there is always a School Nurse at every school. Pre-k – 8 has coverage, High Schools coming soon. It was discussed with Labor, the Union as nurses are a hot commodity now with the pandemic, and the salaries need to be competitive. Mr. Goldson asks if every school has a nurse, Dr. Bond confirms that 5 schools have a temporary nurse assigned, but ensures the Board that they are actively recruiting and interviewing candidates and appreciate all of the nurses and Ms. Harrison efforts. Ms. Rivera asks if candidates must be RN or is LPN acceptable. Dr. Bond answers the State requires RN.

**vii. Bus Monitors**

Mr. Carl Jackson states that many applied for the position from 3 to 33 applications, which were invited to virtual hiring event last Thursday only 8 choose to participate. No Bus Monitors on all buses, those available are on buses with students Pre-k and SPED on them. The anticipated uptick of Bus Monitors needed may affect the Budget and require shifting for flexibility. Mr. Carl Jackson adds another hiring event will be conducted. Dr. Jackson asks if Bus Monitors can be paid from the Covid Relief funds, Mr. Penn adds that its possible. Mr. Wilcox stresses the need for more Bus Monitors for mask enforcement and social distancing. Dr. Jackson adds that buses without Monitors should not rely on drivers to enforce Covid procedures since they need to focus on the road.



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**viii. Substitute Teachers**

Ms. Lisa Mack states there are currently 199 Active Substitute Teachers in the database, but notes that some of these individuals hop from District to District; and are not guaranteed to the District. The list is fluid as the State allowed non-degree substitutes in the State Support Order. Substitute coverage is monitored with the Absent Management System to pick up assignments. No policy of coverage the system being used is the Frontline Education System. We have also been able to utilize Paras to cover classrooms for up to 10 days per month, with the recently ratified contract with Paras in which they will receive a Stipend for the days contributed.

**ix. COVID Dashboard**

Dir. Bond states the dashboard is forward facing available to the Public; color coded by category (Active – Red, Inactive – Green, Pending + - Purple) Can see cases within the Schools.

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**VII. Presidents Report:**

Ms. Rivera states the Columbus Committee list incomplete discuss for meetings dates and list of members by the end of the week.

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**VIII. Finance & Operations Report:**

Mr. Wilcox presented the F&O Report for committee approval. Mr. Goldson notes disappointment in the Boys & Girls Club funding being decreased.

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

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

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**043-21  
Brennan Rogers**

Low Performing Schools Bond Funding– Brennan/Rogers School, in the amount of \$199,941.00 for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

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**044-21  
Celentano**

Low Performing Schools Bond Funding – Celentano School, in the amount of \$174,002.00 for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

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**045-21  
Troup**

Low Performing Schools Bond Funding – Troup School, in the amount of \$199,899.00 for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

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**046-21  
Truman**

Low Performing Schools Bond Funding – Truman School in the amount of \$186,842.00 for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

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**047-21 HSC** Low Performing Schools Bond Funding - HSC in the amount of \$199,431.00 for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

**048-21 All Pointe Home Care** Agreement with All Pointe Home Care, LLC to provide one-to-one nursing care to a medically fragile student with developmental delays, from February 8, 2021 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$24,500.00.

**049-21 Boys & Girls Club** Amendment #1 to Agreement #96273553 with Boys and Girls Club of New Haven, to decrease funding of \$65,200.00 by \$18,000.00 to \$46,400.00 for Bishop Woods School, due to late start of program, and to change funding accounts

**050-21 Windstream** Agreement with Windstream Enterprise to provide telecommunications carrier services at three locations VOIP phone system (Gateway Center, Wilbur Cross, and Hill Central) from January 8, 2021 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$56,244.00.

**051-21 Local 217 Agr.** **On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox seconded by Mr. Conaway to approve the Local 217 - 4 year Agreement. (Motion Passed)**

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

**IX. Head Start Report:** Mr. Wilcox stated subcommittee met enrollment # fine under Covid, if no Covid we would be under enrolled need to find a new direction. Head Start position job posted.

**X. Governance Report:** Dr. Jackson states she has two updates; Resource Officer drafted and will be available at the next meeting. The recently voted Discipline policy that was approved previous meeting.

**XI. Teaching & Learning Report:** Ms. Velazquez states on 2/17 2 presentations curriculum dept – math adoption will be on the next F&O. Ms. Haxhi laid out timeline for the coming year for international trips. Dr. Jackson discusses Black and Latinx education, Ms. Velazquez states it will be put together, High School full credited course.

**XII. Food Service Task Force Report:** Mr. Conaway states March 4 next meeting, previous minutes on website for review. Urban Agriculture want BOE to participate distribution during and remote learning doing well.



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**XIII. Compensation  
Equity Committee  
Report:**

Mr. Conaway started discussion 2 sub committees (1) Job Description (2) Rate.  
Added Part Time Pay to the discussion, hope to have rec by the end of the year.

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**XIV. Facilities  
Naming Report:**

Next Meeting is on April 15, 2021.  
Dr. Jackson is now chair.

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**XV. Citywide  
School Building  
Stewardship  
Report:**

Next Meeting is on March 11, 2021.  
Martinez dehumidification system is not working and not only does the roof require maintenance but all the ductwork connecting to it requires replacement as well (estimated \$400,000 worth of renovation). Currently awaiting PO Requisition.

Hot Water Tanks and Boilers at several schools are in need of replacement and are currently awaiting PO Requisition as well. One school that typically runs 3 boilers is now down to 1 boiler, so this an item we are pressing to complete very soon.

The City Engineering Dept. Chief Landscape Architect has been working with Edgewood School concerning the Edgewood Playground that is in need of repair. There is currently a walkthrough being conducted to address the large tree with the roots sticking up and options were discussed regarding the playground flooring.

Adult Education Facility is in need of repairs, our team advises that with the proposed Like-New renovation the new owners suggest will be very costly to the district, and other alternatives should be discussed further as well as obtaining an assessment from a consultant or architect regarding the proposed renovation.

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**Adjournment:**

On the Motion by Dr. Jackson to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted by roll call to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

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

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Respectfully Submitted,

*Salina Manning*

Salina Manning

Executive Administrative Assistant

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