



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Minutes – Board of Education Meeting – May 11, 2020

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

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

Absent: Mr. N. Rivera

Dr. Joyner led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

261-20 Dr. Joyner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Conaway, to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 27, 2020.

Mr. Goldson initiated a discussion regarding the meeting minutes of April 13th in which he said he was unfairly accused by Mrs. Rivera and Mr. Wilcox of impugning someone’s character and he asked at the meeting of April 27th whose character he had impugned and he still has not received an answer. Therefore, he is giving notice that at the next meeting he is going to put forward a resolution asking that those who accused him of impugning be censored. Mr. Wilcox explained to him the context in which that statement was made in detail. Mr. Goldson was not satisfied and continued to ask what he actually said and whose character did he impugn. He wants to know what did he say and do to impugn someone’s character.

Dr. Joyner addressed Mrs. Rivera and suggested that we deal with this issue in another venue and have people look into it. Mrs. Rivera agreed.

Mr. Conaway noted the following corrections:

Page 7, 3rd sentence from the top, should read **CMHC** not **CMC**.

Pg. 15, under Mr. Wilcox’ Head Start report, should read **Pamela Augustine Jefferson**, not **Pam Gaffney, Augustine Jefferson**.

262-20
Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2020, as Amended
On the motion by Dr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was unanimously voted, by roll call, to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 27, 2020, as amended.

Public Participation Mrs. Rivera reported that the Board received two emails and they were forward to Board members.

Mr. Goldson commented that he received an email from a constituent related to a recent



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memo pertaining to the Pandemic and Electronic Benefits Transfer Program. Ms. Krystal Augustine wanted to know what we are doing in regards to this program. Mr. Goldson explained that apparently this program allows you to transfer money to families who are eligible for free and reduced school meals.

Dr. Tracey remarked she will have to look into that because she does not recall seeing that transmittal. Mr. Goldson commented there is a deadline of May 13th to that transmittal and he will forward it to her.

Dr. Joyner suggested that when Board members receive emails of this nature, they should immediately forward them to Dr. Tracey. Mr. Goldson said that he received it, Dr. Tracey received and Mrs. Rivera received it.

Student’s Report

Ms. Arouna reported that she and Nico have been keeping students updated on information and any questions they might have through their social media platform. They had a meeting with Dr. Tracey a week ago, in which she answered some of the questions and concerns that students had and it was very helpful. They have also been trying to get the student’s perspective on 4th quarter grades and encouraging them to fill out the survey that was sent to them to hear their concerns.

Dr. Joyner told Ms. Arouna that if she needs any books, to please let him know and he will send her some based on her interests.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Tracey welcomed everyone back. She asked for approval of the Personnel Report.

**263-20
Approval of
Personnel Report**

On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was unanimously voted, by roll call, to approve the Superintendent’s Personnel Report.

*COVID-19 Update – Tiger Teams Planning
Reopening of Schools*

Dr. Tracey explained what the term “Tiger Team” means. It is a new name that we are calling our Task Force on the suggestion of Mr. Penn, to address the different plans that we have. We have launched a task force, looking at different aspects of opening our schools. These teams have been working behind the scenes to do some of the things we have to do immediately, i.e., what should our school openings in the fall look like, etc. Dr. Tracey explained in detail.

Dr. Tracey remarked that she reached out to her team to involve all Board members, members from the student body, parents, community members, teachers and a wide cross-section of people, to help with that plan. Students fielded questions and concerns



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and we answered to the best of our ability. We are planning our reopening since the Governor has said the schools are closed for the rest of the school year.

Dr. Tracey mentioned that Mr. Goldson suggested we have a meeting with high school seniors and we followed through with that suggestion, and she thanked him for that. Dr. Tracey commented we have met with high school seniors, all the parents of high school students, fielded questions and concerns and answered to the best of our ability. Dr. Tracey said she feels it went well.

Educational Continuity

Dr. Tracey explained that one of the things folks want to know is about the technology device distribution. In their packets they will see a breakdown as to the tech distribution school by school and by grade. One of the things they are trying to focus on right now is to work with our schools and get information on the lack of participation from some of our students. She noted that Chief Reddish is releasing some of the SRO officers who have been working in the schools with our young people to assist in our effort to find students. We need to connect with them and we need to know what is preventing them from engaging in learning. Dr. Tracey gave a shout out to YFCE and also to Danni Diaz and Sergio Fernandez for their involvement in this effort. Everyone has been working; it's been all hands on deck.

Mr. Goldson referred to the sheet regarding computer distribution and thanked her for getting it to them. In looking it over, he has noticed a difference in distribution, i.e., 67.7% of Wexler/Grant students have received a computer from their school and only 29.7% of West Rock Academy students have received a computer. Mr. Goldson wanted to know why the difference in distribution and what is being done to fix it.

Mr. Goldson noted he asked, for the record, because his grandson, who lives in his home, goes to West Rock and he has not yet been able to get a device. Dr. Tracey answered it depends on what was available at the schools at the time of distribution. She explained in detail. Dr. Whyte added that the inventory changes and parents need to communicate their needs to the district. He and Dr. Tracey explained the procedure that is used and the follow-up. She also mentioned that currently we do not have one-to-one for all of our students and she explained.

Mr. Goldson explained what happened with his son and grandson. He commented that he will reach out to Dr. Whyte. Dr. Whyte noted that he should contact the principal and let them know because they reach out to him.

For the record, Dr. Joyner remarked since this is a public meeting, he would hope that people would contact the administration rather than a Board member because it would be more expeditious.

Proposed 2020-2021 Calendar



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Dr. Tracey noted that they have emailed the calendar to Board members. She commented that Dave Cicarella will explain.

Mr. David Cicarella, NHFT President, addressed this topic. He remarked that they have met with the Calendar Committee, 3 administrators and 3 teachers, and the six of them came up with the drafts. As always, they normally do two drafts, one before Labor Day and one after Labor Day. He explained in detail and explained the reason for the three drafts.

The teachers vote on the calendar because we have a unique clause in our contract that you cannot start before Labor Day. We put the draft together and sent it to the teachers to see if they were amenable to it.

They chose Option 2, a before Labor Day start, a four day vacation (2 week days and 2 weekend days) in February, and a full week in April and the last thing is that it does line up with the regional calendar which lines up with ACES and the same calendar as the surrounding towns.

Mr. Goldson wanted to know how many teachers were involved in the election and what percentage voted for supporting that calendar. Mr. Cicarella commented just over 1000 teachers voted and he will get the exact numbers of the vote and let him know. Mr. Goldson continued to ask questions and Mr. Cicarella answered in detail.

Dr. Jackson also had questions for Mr. Cicarella and he answered and explained them in detail.

Dr. Joyner noted he thinks it is a good thing to sync our calendar with the region and he explained why. This is a great example of collaboration between the Unions and the Superintendent.

Mr. Goldson mentioned because the vote was so close, he feels uncomfortable voting on this item.

Mayor Elicker noted that they gave teacher's a day off for the election and he just wanted to make sure it was incorporated into the agreement. Dr. Tracey answered that was April 28th and that is not happening because school is closed; there will not be a primary for the Presidential election.

264-20
Approval of
2020-2021
School Calendar, Option 2

On the motion by Mayor Elicker, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted by roll call, with one abstention by Mr. Goldson and two nays by Dr. Jackson-McArthur and Ms. Arouna, to approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar, Option 2.



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*Ratification of Executed Employment Contracts for:
Assistant Superintendents (2)
Human Resources Director
Chief of Youth, Family & Community Engagement*

A motion was made by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Dr. Joyner, to approve for the Ratification of Executed Employment Contracts and Mr. Goldson, for the record, wanted to know if they should include the names of the people and their salaries. It was agreed.

**265-20
Ratification of
Executed
Employment Contracts**

On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was voted unanimously by roll call to amend the motion to add the names and salaries along with the positions as follows:

- Assistant Superintendents**
 - Dr. Paul Whyte, \$171,666**
 - Ms. Keisha Redd Hannans, \$171,666**
- Human Resources & Labor Relations Director**
 - Ms. Lisa Mack, \$148,569**
- Chief of Youth, Family & Community Engagement**
 - Ms. Gemma Joseph-Lumpkin, \$152,774**

Each contract is for a two (2) year term expiring June 30, 2022.

President’s Report

Mrs. Rivera noted that she does not have a report at this time but may have one after Executive Session based on the emails she received. She wants to discuss that with the full Board.

Finance & Operations Committee Report

Mr. Wilcox reported this committee met on Monday, May 4th and are presenting to the Board for approval two abstracts, one agreement and five contracts, as listed on the their agenda.

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

ABSTRACTS

**266-20
After School
First Robotics
Competition Program**

After School First Robotics Competition Program for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount of \$5,600, funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education.



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267-20 *Head Start Grant* in an amount of \$5,743,498 for the period of July 1, 202 to June 30, 2021, funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.
Head Start Grant

AGREEMENT

268-20 An agreement with Total Communications PSP LAN/WAN to provide basic maintenance of internal connections and to provide ‘on-call’ support for trouble shooting and emergency repairs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.
Total Communications

CONTRACTS

269-20 First Option to renew a Contract with H.D. Segur Insurance Co., to provide student accident insurance coverage to New Haven Public Schools, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$58,062.
1st Option to Renew, H.D. Segur Ins. Co.

270-20 Renewal of Contract # 21631B-1-2 with Anytime Sewers Drain and Jetting Services, LLC to provide On-Call Sewer Maintenance Services, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.
Renew Contract Anytime Sewers Drain & Jetting Services

271-21 Renewal of Contract #21632B-1-2 with Boisvert Plumbing, Inc., to provide On-Call HVAC Repairs, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.
Renew Contract, Boisvert Plumbing

272-20 Renewal of Contract #21405-3-3 for United Rentals (North America), to provide On-Call Scissor Lift Repairs, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.
Renew Contract, United Rentals (North America)

273-20 Renewal of Contract #21623-1-2 with Filter Sales and Service, Inc., to provide On-Call HVAC Filter Services from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.
Renew Contract, Filter Sales and Service, Inc.

Governance Committee Report

Dr. Jackson-McArthur stated that we lost a student in one of our Charter schools. She was a young lady, 18 years old. She lost her battle with a terrible brain tumor. She asked everyone to say a prayer for the family that is in a lot of pain right now. Dr. Joyner asked if we are doing anything to express our sympathies. Dr. Jackson-McArthur remarked that she has been there from day one and if we want to send a card to her family from us, that would be great and her mother would really appreciate it.



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Dr. Jackson-McArthur reported that Governance met and she remarked they have received emails with some substantial questions on the Procurement Policy and the Pandemic Policy. CABA would like to see our edits on the Procurement Policy. The Grading Policy and Internet Safety Policy are on the agenda as first readings. She asked Board members to please read through these policies and contact her with any recommendations and/or revisions. There is nothing to vote on tonight. Dr. Jackson-McArthur remarked that the committee would like Board members to have peace of mind with the policy they present. She asked that they please submit all of their edits and questions sooner rather than later.

Mrs. Rivera asked if she anticipates that we are coming to our next meeting ready to vote on the Procurement and Pandemic Policies. Dr. Jackson-McArthur answered yes, as long as it doesn't have to go to CABA. We will review it on Monday and then bring it to our next meeting.

Dr. Joyner gave a shout out to Dr. Jackson-McArthur and gave her 5 stars on the work she has done since she became Chair of the Governance committee. She is as good as they come. He iterated, to get their comments to the committee sooner rather than later and to be in a position to vote on it at our next meeting. Dr. Joyner then talked about the Procurement Policy and commented that it was sent to CABA and then sent back to us and he continued to explain.

Mr. Goldson echoed Dr. Joyner's comments regarding Dr. Jackson-McArthur. Based on the Superintendents comments, he looked at the Grading Policy and it seemed to be in order. He suggested that since it has been Ok'd by the Governance Committee and the Teaching & Learning Committee, it is good to go and he would have no problem moving it up to a second reading so we can vote on it. Both committee Chairs agreed.

**274-20
Amend Agenda to
Move Grading Policy
To Second Reading**

On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, it was unanimously voted, by roll call, to amend the agenda to move the Grading Policy to a second reading.

**275-20
Approve Grading
Policy**

On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was voted unanimously by roll call, to approve the Grading Policy, second reading per the recommendations of the Governance Committee and Teaching & Learning Committee.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur thanked everyone including Dr. Tracey and Typhanie Jackson for putting together such a great team. Dr. Tracey thanked Ms. Typhanie Jackson and her team for putting this policy together.

Choice & Enrollment Lottery Results - Discussion



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Mr. Marquelle Middleton and Ms. Michelle Bonanno gave an update on the recent lottery that took place on April 14th. Mr. Middleton explained what they have been doing and how many people have applied and noted that they have extended the timeline from two weeks to four weeks. In our Interdistrict Magnet Schools we were able to open up the entry grade levels at the 69/31 split, which means there are additional seats for New Haven residents in PreK and Grade 9 settings, as well. He mentioned for the high schools they worked with the principals to maximize the number of seats available at those schools. He gave examples of this.

Dr. Joyner remarked that this young man works very hard he is labor intensive and highly qualified and the fact that he is a graduate of our school district says something about him. You are a great person and he hopes he continues and he hopes that he continues to do what he is doing and continues to serve his community.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur thanked Choice & Enrollment and specifically Mr. Middleton and Ms. Bonanno for their hard work.

Head Start Committee Report

Mr. Wilcox reported that this committee will next meet on May 21st at 5:00 p.m.

Food Service Task Force Committee Report

Mr. Wilcox reported that this committee will next meet on Wednesday, May 13th at 5:00 p.m.

**276-20
Convene
Executive Session 1**

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was unanimously voted, by roll call, to go into Executive Session 6:50pm pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 1-200 (6)(E) and 1-210(5) & (10) re: discussion of financial information and attorney-client privileged communications concerning potential amendments to First Student agreements. Dr. Tracey, Atty. Alexiades, Mr. Pinto, COO and Mr. Penn, CFO, were also invited to attend.

**277-20
Executive Session 2**

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted, by roll call to go into Executive Session pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 1-200 (6)(A) re: discussion of contractually obligated evaluation of the Superintendent and discuss process to move forward with the hiring of the Superintendent. Also invited were Atty. Alexiades.

**278-20
Reconvene Public
Session**

On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted to Reconvene Public Session at 8:08 p.m.

Mrs. Rivera commented that we had several discussions but no votes were taken in Executive Session. Regarding the Personnel Report, we received 997 emails from the public regarding whether or not we should conduct a hiring search for the position of



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Superintendent or appoint Dr. Tracey. 915 or 92% of the emails were pro Dr. Tracey and 82 or 8% were in favor of conducting a search. We will continue conversations in the Personnel Search Committee meetings and, hopefully, make some decisions by our next Board meeting.

279-20
Adjournment

On the motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was unanimously voted, by roll call, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Atty. Alexiades commented that he knows the meeting is adjourned but he suggested that the mover and seconder of the motion be restated for the benefit of the Recording Secretary. He was watching the transcript of the Closed Captioning and it did not pick it up.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger McHugh

BOE Recording Secretary