



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Board of Education Regular Meeting
(Monday, March 25, 2024)**

Members present

Yesenia Rivera, Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, Dave Cruz-Bustamante, John Serana Musser

1. Welcome

Procedural: 1.01 Call to Order

Ms. Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:32pm

Procedural: 1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Public Participation

Procedural: 2.01 Public Participation - Guidelines

3. Action Items - Discussion and vote anticipated on each topic

Action: 3.01 Approval of the Minutes of March 11, 2024

Mx. Cruz-Bustamante requested a revision to the meeting minutes to include more context in the Student Report section.

Motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2024 as revised.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Matthew Wilcox, second by Dr Edward Joyner.

Yes: Yesenia Rivera, Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, Dave Cruz-Bustamante, John Serana Musser

Action: 3.02 Personnel Report - Dr. Madeline Negron

Motion to approve the Superintendent's Personnel Report as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Matthew Wilcox, second by Dr Abie Benitez.

Yes: Yesenia Rivera, Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, Dave Cruz-Bustamante, John Serana Musser

Action, Discussion: 3.03 Motion to name the front foyer at James Hillhouse High School after Dr. Lonnie Garris, Jr.

Motion to name the front foyer at James Hillhouse High School after Dr. Lonnie Garris, Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Dr Edward Joyner, second by Dr Abie Benitez.

Yes: Yesenia Rivera, Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, Dave Cruz-Bustamante, John Serana Musser

Action, Discussion: 3.04 Motion to name the Library Media Center at Roberto Clemente after Mrs. Hazel Pappas.

Motion to name the Library Media Center at Roberto Clemente after Mrs. Hazel Pappas.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Dr Edward Joyner, second by Dr Abie Benitez.

Yes: Yesenia Rivera, Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, Dave Cruz-Bustamante, John Serana Musser

Action, Discussion: 3.05 Finance and Operations Committee - Mr. Matthew Wilcox

Motion to approve of 1 Resolution required by the State Dept. of Agriculture as recommended by the Finance & Operations Committee

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Matthew Wilcox, second by Dr Edward Joyner.

Yes: Yesenia Rivera, Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer, Dave Cruz-Bustamante, John Serana Musser

Motion to approve of 2 Abstracts, 9 Agreements, and 1 Contract as recommended by the Finance & Operations Committee

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Matthew Wilcox, second by Dr Edward Joyner.

4. Abstracts

Abstract: 4.01 Every Child Art Experience Grant, in the amount of \$2,500.00 to provide tickets to "Sanctuary City" at Hartford Theater Works for 30 New Haven Academy students, from February 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024. Funding Source: CT State Office of the Arts

Abstract: 4.02 Open Choice Program Grant in the amount of \$317,875.00, reflecting CT State Department of Education awards of \$3,000.00 per student for a total of 105 students from surrounding towns enrolled in non-Interdistrict Magnet Schools, Bishop Woods, Brennan-Rogers, Celentano, Roberto Clemente, Conte-West Hills, East Rock, F.A.M.E., John Martinez, Elm City Montessori, Barack H. Obama, and Wilbur Cross, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Funding Source: CT State Department of Education

5. Agreements

Agreements: 5.01 Agreement with Caley Schwartz Psychological Service, LLC, to provide a student full program to support the development of core social deficits-functional life skills, self-care, functional use of language, and problem solving and, to provide a parent involvement and training component, from February 22, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$67,000.00. Funding Source: IDEA Program Acct. #2504-5034-56903-0490

Agreements: 5.02 Amendment #1 to Agreement with Learn Regional Service Center, (LEARN), to add a funding source and account number, splitting the total funding of \$122,000.00 as follows: Funding Source: School Improvement Grant, (SIG - Hillhouse) Program Acct #2531-6394-56694-0062 (\$90,000.00) School Improvement Grant, (SIG-Hillhouse) C/O Program Acct. #2531-6426-56694-0062 (\$32,000.00)

Agreements: 5.03 Agreement with Auntie Rose Child Day Care and Development Center, to provide a COLA increase for 46 School Readiness spaces, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$28,835.00. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority COLA Program Acct. #2523-6428-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.04 Agreement with The Little Schoolhouse, to provide a COLA increase for 18 School Readiness spaces, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$14,028.00. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority COLA Program Acct. #2523-6428-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.05 Agreement with Creative ME, to provide a COLA increase for 32 School Readiness spaces, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$24,939.00. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority COLA Program Acct. #2523-6428-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.06 Agreement with Central CT Coast YMCA, to provide a COLA increase for 18 School Readiness spaces, from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$15,587.00. Funding Source: School Readiness Priority COLA Program Acct. #2523-6428-56697-0442

Agreements: 5.07 Amendment 1 to Agreement with Winston Strategic Partners LLC to change funding source from 190-40700-56694 to funding source 270-40700-56697, with no change in funding amount of \$60,000.00. Funding Source: Interdistrict Funds Acct. #270-40700-56697

Agreements: 5.08 Agreement with MAJ Kiernan Shippee as an instructor of the JROTC Program at Hillhouse High School from February 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$44,467.40 (BOE Portion: \$22,233.70) Funding Source: 2023-2024 Operating Budget Acct. #190-43362-50135

Agreements: 5.09 Agreement with Crown Castle International Corp. to upgrade the Wide Area Network for New Haven Public Schools district to provide greater bandwidth and stability from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2029, 2024-2025: \$544,500.00 (ERATE: \$54,450.00) 2025-2026: \$544,500.00 (ERATE discount rate: \$54,450.00) 2026-2027: \$544,500.00 (ERATE: \$54,450.00) 2027-2028: \$544,500.00 (ERATE: \$54,450.00) 2028-2029: \$544,500.00 (ERATE: \$54,450.00) in an amount not to exceed \$2,722,500.00. (Total amount after ERATE applied \$272,250.00) ERATE applied at 90% This is a reimbursement grant. Funding Source: 2023-2024 Capital Projects Acct. #3C22-2263-58704

6. Contracts

Contracts: 6.01 Award of Contract 21922 with Auto Parts & Services Inc. to provide on call vehicle maintenance services for NHPS fleet, from March 18, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00. Funding

7. Resolutions

Resolution: 7.01 "Be it resolved that it is in the best interest of the New Haven Board of Education to enter into contracts with the CT Department of Agriculture. In furtherance of this resolution, the President of the New Haven Board of Education is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the New Haven Board of Education. the President of the New Haven Board of Education is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the state or federal government in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto. The Secretary is authorized to impress the seal of the New Haven Board of Education on any such documents, amendment, rescission, or revision."

8. Other Materials - Information Only Finance & Operations Items

Information Only: 8.01 Information Only - Finance & Operations Items

Purchase Order: 8.02 Purchase Order under PEPPM 2022 with CDW Government for renewal of Adobe Creative Cloud subscription from March 7, 2024 to June 30, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$12,500.00. Funding Source: 2023-2024 Capital Projects Acct. #3C22-2263-58704

Information Only, Minutes: 8.03 Minutes - Finance & Operations Committee

9. Other Materials - Reports

Information Only, Reports: 9.01 Information Only - Personnel Report

10. Student's Report

Reports: 10.01 Student Members

Mx. Cruz-Bustamante presented the students report.

The students remain passionate and steadfast in the request for a cease fire in Gaza.

The City of New Haven has ignored the request for a resolution. Which in past practice a Resolution was passed on the war in Ukraine within 42 days (LM-2022-0120). As a sanctuary city the silence is clear.

At the most recent student meeting held the topic of conversation primarily turned to Facilities regarding the lack of attentiveness to the school restrooms. There are schools that have limited bathrooms available and with the large schools the district has not having restrooms close by affects the students. As well as ensuring they are fully stocked with supplies and are cleaned. Mr. Wilcox adds that because of the students starting this conversation regarding the restrooms status, the Finance & Operations Committee requested a Restroom report be provided and thanks them for their advocacy on shining the light on this important topic.

11. Teaching and Learning Report

Discussion: 11.01 Dr. Edward Joyner

Dr. Joyner states the topic of conversation at the last meeting was with World Language where Ms. Haxhi presented a report a condensed version of this report was provided to the board. Dr. Joyner and Ms. Downer both discussed an event they attended recently that had student representatives competing. They both thanked the event and students who attended in recognition from their NHPS school.

12. Facilities Naming Committee Report

Discussion: 12.01 Dr. Edward Joyner

Dr. Joyner states that he has received new requests for possible naming of facilities in the district. He will be able to provide more information in an upcoming meeting.

13. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Madeline Negrón

Reports: 13.01 Dr. Madeline Negrón

Update: 13.02 Strategic Operating Plan Design Update

Dr. Negrón presented that the second design sprint of the Strategic Operating Plan took place last week and is on track. The design team reviewed feedback that was collected from the community. She presented the report that provides more context and details on what was discussed throughout the plan from all parties.

Reports: 13.03 Superintendent's Spring Reading Challenge

The goal of the Superintendent Spring Reading Challenge is to incentivize children to read books. To build reading stamina and to develop a love of reading within our students.

Reports: 13.04 Superintendent's Attendance Challenge

The Attendance challenge will have a friendly competition to encourage students to come to school to be excited and to have an opportunity to incentivize the students. Mr. Mayor encourages the program and says he's already hearing vocal support of it. He adds that every Elementary and Middle school has nurses assigned, however since Worthington Hooker School is split, the current nurse is split between the locations. He has spoken with Director Bond from the City of New Haven Health Dept and are working to work that out as soon as possible which was made possible through parent advocacy.

14. President's Report

Update: 14.01 Ms. Yesenia Rivera

Ms. Rivera states we need to work on day 2 of board retreat, she will be reaching out to board members for availability.

15. Head Start Report

Discussion: 15.01 Mr. Matthew Wilcox

Mr. Wilcox states we are at 82% enrollment there are 91 seats available, most at Mayo School. Grants and training were discussed at the March meeting.

16. Citywide School Building Committee Report

Discussion: 16.01 Ms. Matthew Wilcox

Mr. Wilcox states that the Report is available on the City website, the pools have updates and there were discussions regarding some of the playground projects. There were Grant discussion in this committee regarding the Hillhouse Floyd Little Athletic Center the departments are working on.

17. Finance & Operations Report

Discussion, Reports: 17.02 Monthly Financial Report - February 2024

Mr. Wilcox states the Financial Report and those mitigation measures were discussed at that meeting. The minutes and recording of the meeting are available on the District website and NHPS Youtube channel for review. The purchasing department is also transitioning to an OpenGov software for procurement the Bonfire system that was previously utilized will be transitioning from April 15th to June 30, 2024.

Update, Reports: 17.03 School Restroom Report

The Restroom report that was previously mentioned in the students report is also available for review.

18. Governance Report

Update: 18.01 Dr. Abie Benitez

Dr. Benitez states she was absent at the last meeting, but Ms. Downer and Ms. Jackson were able to complete and submit to the board, the Sexual Harassment policy has several numbers on the top right corner. Dr. Benitez explains that the numbers are due to the policy being applicable not only to students but to personnel as well. She requests Board Members to review the policy and provide feedback.

19. Food Service Task Group Report

Discussion: 19.01 Dr. Orlando Yarborough

Mr. Wilcox states Dr. Yarborough could not be in attendance this evening however the minutes from the meeting are posted to the website for review on discussion that took place.

20. Executive Session

Action: 20.01 Executive Session

Motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-200(6)(A) re: discussion concerning contractual agreements of public officers in the positions of: (a) Gemma Joseph-Lumpkin, Chief of Youth, Family, and Community Engagement; (b) Lisa Mack, Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations; and (c) Keisha Redd-Hannans, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; (d) Dr. Paul Whyte, Assistant Superintendents; and (e) Linda Hannans, Chief Financial Officer.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Yesenia Rivera, second by Dr Edward Joyner.

Yes: Yesenia Rivera, Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer

21. Return to Public Session

Action, Discussion: 21.01 Discussion and possible action on matters heard in Executive Session

Motion to approve contractual agreements of public officers in the positions of: (a) Gemma Joseph-Lumpkin, Chief of Youth, Family, and Community Engagement; (b) Lisa Mack, Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations; and (c) Keisha Redd-Hannans, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; (d) Dr. Paul Whyte, Assistant Superintendents; and (e) Linda Hannans, Chief Financial Officer as recommended by Dr. Negrón and give our Board President permission to sign the contracts on our behalf.

Motion Passes

Motion by Matthew Wilcox, second by Dr Edward Joyner.

Yes: Yesenia Rivera, Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer

22. Adjournment

Action: 22.01 Move to Adjourn

Move to adjourn at 7:05pm

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Motion by Matthew Wilcox, second by Dr Edward Joyner.

Yes: Yesenia Rivera, Dr Edward Joyner, Matthew Wilcox, Justin Elicker, Dr Abie Benitez, Andrea Downer

Not Present at Vote: Dr Orlando Yarborough, Dave Cruz-Bustamante, John Serana Musser

Respectfully Submitted,
Salina Manning
Executive Administrative Assistant

“A video of this meeting is available on the YouTube Channel – New Haven BOE TV and NHPS.net, About Us - Public Meetings”