



**NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Learning & Teaching Committee**

October 16, 2019

54 Meadow Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room  
New Haven, CT 06517

**In attendance:** Mayor Toni Harp (Chair of Committee), Mr. Wilcox (Vice Chair of Committee), Dr. Iline Tracey, Margaret-Mary Gethings, Mary Derwin, Pamela Augustine-Jefferson, Sandra Clark, Dr. Michele Sherban, Dr. Richard Therrien, Lynn Brantley, Kenneth Mathews, Keisha Hannans, Pedro Mendia, Brian Zahn, Dr. Paul Whyte, and Medria Blue-Ellis by phone.

**The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Mayor Harp welcomed everyone and there were brief introductions.

**2. Field Trips for Approval**

DATES	SCHOOL	LOCATION	GRADE	Students: Chaperones	NHPS TRIP LEADER
10/21/19- 10/23/19	W.Hooker	Nature’s Classroom Andover, CT	HS	32:4	Margaret-Mary Gethings
11/6/19- 11/8/19	ESUMS	Maryland & Washington, D.C. College Tour	HS	25:3	Linda Grant
Date Change to 11/7-11/8/19	HSC	Camp Hazen, YMCA Chester, CT	HS	60:6	Matt Brown

- Ms. Gethings presented the W.Hooker Nature’s Classroom trip. The school had been concerned about EEE virus and therefore had to delay their date for a month; this caused them to choose a date very close to this meeting in making their request.

**MOTION: Mr. Wilcox moved that the 10/21 W.Hooker trip to Nature’s Classroom be approved and that the Board of Education be notified.**

- Ms. Haxhi presented the memo about the previously-approved High School in the Community trip date-change.
- Mayor Harp ask that the date-change of the Camp Hazen Trip be noted in the minutes.

- Medria Blue-Ellis presented the ESUMS college trip to Maryland and Washington D.C. by telephone. She explained that it was an important trip for students to see the range of schools in the south. Because there are so many colleges there, students have a range of options to which to apply if they enjoy the trip and the area.

**MOTION: Mr. Wilcox made a motion that the 11/7 ESUMS college trip to Maryland and Washington, D.C. area be approved and moved to the full Board. Mayor Harp seconded the motion.**

## **2. Update on High School Supports/Ninth Grade Transition (Dr. Whyte)**

- Dr. Whyte noted that we are looking at grant options for funding the College & Career Centers requested by Wilbur Cross and James Hillhouse as well as some of the other requests of the Committee during the previous meeting. Mayor Harp asked that updates be given each meeting.

## **3. Head Start Organizational Chart (Pamela Augustine-Jefferson)**

- Ms. Augustine-Jefferson presented an organizational chart for the Head Start Program.
- Mr. Wilcox asked about the role of the Head Start Policy Council to denote the relationship. He suggested that there should be a dotted line between the Policy Council and the Board of Education and Mayor Harp agreed.
- Mr. Media asked why Truman School was listed under Kauaneeke Hernandez. Discussion ensued about various locations and duties. It was suggested that the boxes marking the schools be color-coded or otherwise marked so that it is easier to see where the schools/classrooms are listed.
- Mr. Wilcox noted that at the Head Start Leadership Conference, there was discussion about the relationships between Head Start Programs and principals of the buildings. Ms. Augustine-Jefferson explained that they are reaching out to administrators through PD and meetings. Dr. Tracey mentioned that the Principals were told last year that they needed to consider Head Start as part of their schools. Mayor Harp suggested that there may need to be a stronger statement about how principals interact with Head Start.
- Mr. Wilcox suggested adding the Principal's names to the organizational chart with their schools.
- Mr. Wilcox asked that Ms. Augustine-Jefferson make the suggested changes to the chart. Then, the Head Start Committee will review it and **prepare a final organizational chart to be reviewed by the full Board of Education.**

## **4. Update on Play-Based Learning (Pamela Augustine-Jefferson)**

- Ms. Augustine-Jefferson noted that they will continue the play-based learning partnership with the Gesell Institute of Child Development and will add to 5 more schools this year in PreK-K.
- It will take 6 years to implement PreK-3 in all 30 schools.

- There was professional development for all of the Pre-Kindergarten teachers on September 10, 2019. They will do an additional professional development on November 5<sup>th</sup> for Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers from 5 schools.
- They would like to involve administrators and coaches in the trainings as well. They are moving toward with calling the initiative “inquiry learning” or some other term that doesn’t suggest only “play.” They would like to hire coaches to assist with the implementation. They intend to also work on bringing the play-based learning concepts together with the Literacy Frameworks, Math Frameworks, etc.
- Mayor Harp asked if there were any evaluations of how the pilot went this summer. She asked that we continue to discuss at the next meeting.
  
- **The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM. Mayor Harp made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Wilcox seconded the motion.**

**The next meeting is November 20, 2019.**

- The following items were suggested for the agenda on November 20, 2019:
  1. Overview on SBA and NGSS Standardized Test Results (Dr. Sherban)
  2. Play-Based Learning Check-in (Ms. Augustine-Jefferson)
  3. Q1 Student Results Check-ins (previously suggested, Academic Supervisors)
  4. Check in on Requests re: High Schools and Transitions, College & Career Centers, etc. (Dr. Paul Whyte)



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**New Haven Public Schools Head Start Program  
SY: 2019-2020**

