



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CONNECTICUT
 Board of Education Committee
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 February 28, 2022 via Zoom

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| I. Called to Order | The meeting was called to order at 5:33 by President, Yesenia Rivera. |
| Attendees Present | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Yesenia Rivera, President • Mr. Matthew Wilcox, Vice President • Mayor Justin Elicker • Dr. Iline Tracey • Dr. OrLando Yarborough III • Dr. Abie Benitez • * 1 Ms. Ma'Shai Roman • * 2 Mr. Anthony Fiore |
| Officers Absent | Mr. Darnell Goldson Dr. Edward Joyner, Secretary |
| I. Call to Order | Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by President, Rivera |
| II. Pledge of Allegiance | Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Yarborough |
| 021-22 Report from Director of Public Health Maritza Bond re: pandemic and masks | <p>On the Motion by President Rivera, to amend the agenda to add a new item – motion Board of Education adopt the resolution, to continue the support of mask mandate order enacted by the City of New Haven seconded by Mr. Wilcox.</p> <p>Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Dr. Benitez, yes; Dr. Yarborough, yes; Ms. Rivera, yes; Mr. Fiore, yes; Ms. Roman, yes. (passed).</p> <p>Director Bond gave an overview on COVID -19 situational awareness, variants of concern, CT DPH newly issued school guidance and the City of New Haven Executive Order. Further she elaborated on the City of New Haven recommendations. Positivity test rate at 2.5% and hospitalization is at 74% of ICU bed which give a downward trend from Omicron virus.</p> |

¹ * Non-Voting Member

² * Non-Voting Member



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| <p>Attorney Antoinette</p> | <p>vaccination rate is in the lower percentage in the City of New Haven. In comparison to other surrounding cities we are ranking very low in similar age groups. She spoke on vaccination rates by age group by town. Vaccinations rate has been low in New Haven. Close surveillance and monitoring continue for the omicron BA2.1 DPH is changing to a local community model to identify cases within our county and explore vaccination status and contingency plans for outbreaks etc. DPH continue to work with the Board of Education. Surveillance and monitoring efforts of other variants & their severity continues to be monitored.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>Recommend continued with mask mandate to unforeseeable future due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low vaccination rate for age group 5-17 as compared to surrounding towns • Significant percent of high-risk students in the district – 40% • Masks have been shown to be effective should there be another surge • Ongoing Surveillance & Monitoring. <p>Attorney Antoinette also gave an overview of the framework for COVID-19 related mask mandate rules moving forward. The Special Acts 2022 -1 state that Boards of Education, municipalities and local health departments work together and consult when making these important decisions. The authority of the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, issued binding guidelines and rules for the operation of schools in relating to COVID-19. The State Department of Education and DPH retain that authority as they did under Executive Order 91 and Section 13 A. The new law prohibited those commissioners from rescinding the statewide mask mandate in schools prior to today. However, they no longer require universal masking at the statewide level effective today, but retained the authority to reinstitute their mask mandates at any point up until June 30th. Masks rules are now in the hands of local leaders.</p> <p>The CDC reported it would no longer requires masks on school buses or vans, however, local boards of education and local leaders can decide on masks wearing in schools and buses, depending on the conditions in their localities. The different sources of authority in consultation with their minimalities can decide on mask wearing.</p> |
| <p>IV 022-22</p> | <p>On the Motion by President Rivera, that the Board resolve to agree to the continued application of the City of New Haven mask mandate emergency order, for the NHPS staff and students seconded by Dr. Benitez.</p> |



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| | Dr. Benitez, yes; Dr. Yarborough, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Ms. Rivera, yes; Ms. Roman; Mr. Fiore, yes; (passed) |
| IV i Public Participation | Channel Name: BOE TV You Tube Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEY46ioJn9U <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Johnson • Kathy Johnson |
| ii Approval of Board Meeting Minutes (February 14, 2022) | It was suggested that the minutes be tabled for the next Board meeting for approval. |
| i. 034-22 Personnel Report – <i>Dr. Iline Tracey</i> | Dr. Tracey invited all to observe a moment of silence for two staff members who passed away On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox to approve the Action Items of the Superintendent’s Personnel’s Report seconded by Dr. Benitez. Mayor Elicker, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Mr. Fiore, yes; Dr. Benitez, yes; Dr. Yarborough, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Ms. Rivera, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes. (Passed). |
| iii 024-22 Finance and Operations Committee Mr. Matthew Wilcox | On the Motion by Ms. Rivera to approve Amendment #2 to Agreement #96108229 with Clifford Beers Guidance Clinic, Inc., to decrease funding of \$350,000.00 by \$155,963.00 to \$194,037.00 due to starting services later in the year, with no change in funding source or funding account number seconded by Dr. Yarborough. Dr. Yarborough, yes; Mr. Wilcox, recused; Ms. Rivera, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Mr. Fiore, yes; Dr. Benitez, yes; (Passed) |
| 025-22 | On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox to approve 2 Abstracts, 4 Agreements, 1 Contract and 1 Change Order as recommended by the F & O Committee seconded by President Rivera. |



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| | <p>Dr. Benitez, yes; Dr. Yarborough, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Mr. Fiore, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; President Rivera, yes. (F & O Items Passed)</p> |
| <p>V. Students Report Mr. Fiore Ma'shai Roman</p> | <p>Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water fountains are being installed however electrical component and has delayed usage. • Mold observation in foods at school - noted for resolve • Student security lines -extensively long during cold weather • Citywide student council of New Haven, expressed at their meeting the desire to have the Superintendent of Schools administration present at future meetings • Dr. Tracey expounded on the concern of physical altercations and the practices and protocols the District implement to arrive at safe resolutions for staff and students • Student vaccine collection data verification concern – automatic database upload done • Teacher/student appropriate word usage communication • Request for wellness Wednesdays for high school students • Policies re code of conduct for in-school fights – Dr Tracey spoke on different levels of school discipline |



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| <p>VII. Superintendent's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates – Dr. Iline Tracey • Literacy Update – Ms. Lynn Brantley • <p>Discipline Update - Dr. Michele Sherban</p> | <p>Dr. Tracey reported on Winter Fund camp, coordinated by Ms. Gemma Joseph was a success. Eight hundred application were received with 200 was accepted. As a result, a spring intercession camp is being planned.</p> <p>Formative and summative data assessments - Benchmark Assessment Systems used in the schools to measure the level of proficiency obtained at the end of an instructional unit. This guides daily work and we use assessments to listen to students read. We listen for their point of difficulty and focus to teach and analyze \ those areas. We also have sections on fluency and comprehension. and then we have summative data. 52% is the average score and 50.8% of the students participating in this were deemed proficient.</p> <p>School Discipline Sanctions Reviewed our core values about equitable opportunities, high expectations, a culture of continuous improvement Focused on the strategic plans Period covered August 30 -January 31st. School suspensions reduced from 258 down to 56 out of school. Suspensions were reduced from 907 to 755 during this period. Difficult categories were studied to gather disciplinary data e.g. English learner status versus special learner status. Expulsion were also categorized by ethnicity and schools. There were decreases and increases in suspension and expulsions in different schools at different periods.</p> <p>Grade distribution focused on grades 5 through 8 report cards. This represent the number of grades for marking period 1 which was compared to marking period 2.</p> <p>Focus was on students passing with 92% of students passing with a C or better. There was a variation on grades in different schools. There was also overall increases and failure in some schools. High schools making periods issues grades 3 and sometimes 4 times per year. A larger % of grades fell to not passing in high schools. Failing grade varies across the different subject areas from low of 11%. high of 13% in mathematics.</p> |
| <p>VIII. President's Report – Ms. Yesenia Rivera</p> | <p>Date of Board Retreat has been rescheduled. New date will be announced. First session is March 16 with Attorney Money.</p> |



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| IX. Head Start Report – Mr. Matthew Wilcox | Minutes posted on website. Vacancies for registration are available. Staff working on grant application. Policy council of parents going well. Health clinic at Mayo school are in motion. |
| X. Citywide School Bldg. Committee Report – Mr. Wilcox | No report. Date of next meeting March 10, 2022 |
| XI. Finance & Operations Report – Mr. Matthew Wilcox | Update on District presentation of school budget for next year scheduled for this Thursday at 5:30pm and one next Tuesday at 5:30pm, virtually. Financial report in Board packet. \$4.9M deficit reported for this year. District staff addressing relocating funds through State request. |
| XII Governance Report – Dr. Abie Benitez | Policy update continues. Process and constituency policy update for students, parents and staff. Manual to be purchased from CAPE and its utilization Encourage committee to review policy proposal Creating timeline for the process Update on homebound plans re curriculum issues Re-entry process for students |
| XIII. Food Service Task Group Report – Dr. Yarborough | Updated food service Food Allergy Plan has been posted to the school website Collaborators -the school and community partners. close food gap shared hundreds of bags of groceries with families. |
| XIV Adjournment 027-22 | On the Motion by Mayor Elicker to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Wilcox it was voted by roll call to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 pm. Dr. Yarborough, yes; Dr. Benitez, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; President Rivera, yes. (Passed) |

“A video of this meeting is available the NHPS website, NHPS.net, Public Meeting

Respectfully Submitted
Myrtis Mason
Recording Secretary