



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

**Minutes –Board of Education– February 24, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Mrs. Y. Rivera, President. The meeting was held in the Auditorium of King Robinson School, 150 Fournier Street, New Haven, Connecticut.

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

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Dr. T. Jackson- McArthur, Ms. L. Arouna, Mr. N. Rivera

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

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Mrs. Rivera remarked that some items on the agenda have to be corrected and she thanked Mr. Goldson for pointing them out, as follows:

Page 3, paragraph after committee appointments, he volunteered to remove himself from the Finance Committee after Dr. Joyner made a comment about there being four Board members being on the committee.

Page 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, we discussed the policy and what we are going to do with it and he believes that we decided that it would remain in Governance but the Board requested the superintendent and CFO make comment on the draft before then. He doesn't think this is clear enough because it says a lengthy discussion took place, but it doesn't say what the result of the discussion was.

Mr. Wilcox pointed out on page 3, referred to the number of how many members could be on a committee. He checked and our Bylaw 9131A states that our Governance and Finance & Operations committees will have a membership of 3 or more Board members with one Board members serving as a quorum, if necessary.

Mr. Goldson commented that under Teaching & Learning it does mention committee of the whole. Mr. Wilcox noted that it also states that Governance and Finance & Operations committees will have a membership of 3 or more Board members. He suggested we check it with legal to see if that's correct.

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Mrs. Rivera commented that before we go into Public Participation, she would like to make amendments to the order of the agenda and some of the items on the agenda. She remarked that they made an attempt to change the agenda around to see if it worked with having some of the voting items first and then move on to discussions. She is not sure that is working out so we have to take another look at this and tweak it.



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The President’s report will be after Approval of the Minutes. Mr. Goldson mentioned to Mrs. Rivera that he thinks it is her prerogative if she wants to just move items around; she doesn’t need a vote. She thanked Mr. Goldson for pointing that out.

President’s report will be moved to before Public Participation, superintendent’s report and track team after public participation, governance items will move to Governance voting items and on the Governance item we are withdrawing the Code of Ethics Policy and the Code of Ethics Policy 1234 and we will also withdraw Executive Session.

For clarification Dr. Jackson-McArthur noted that they have not reviewed these policies, those are on the agenda in error.

Mr. Goldson commented that he would like to amend her request to call an executive session related to the transportation director position, to have a discussion around that position. Mrs. Rivera told Mr. Goldson that she saw his email and consulted with Corp council attorney who advised that we not do that because the person we are going to be discussing has not been noticed at this time. Mr. Goldson asked that it be added to the agenda at our next meeting because we cannot avoid having a discussion around that because last time we let a case linger on and it cost us \$500,000. Mrs. Rivera asked him to send her an email to remind her to put it on the agenda.

Mrs. Rivera mentioned that the persons who are going to speak during Public Participation should be able to speak and we should not engage into a back and forth conversation with them. The reason for that is that if we start to get into a discussion that is not on the agenda we could violate FOI rules. She wants to make sure that everyone understands that they should keep it to 3 minutes. If you are going to sign up, make sure you sign up before we start so that you can participate. There should be no signing by proxy, and we should probably have these discussions ongoing on the regarding rules around public participation on the board side as well as the public side.

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**On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Dr. Joyner, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020, as corrected.**

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181-20  
Approve Board  
Minutes of 2/10/20

**Public Participation**

Mr. Marquelle Middleton, Director of School Choice, remarked that last year he was appointed as Director of School Choice and at that time he was very excited to be back in his hometown to serve the students in New Haven. He was present tonight to correct the narrative which suggests that the district’s administration and those individuals tasked with recent Magnet School projects do not care about the students of New Haven. He remarked that nothing can be further from the truth and he explained his history in New Haven in detail; Ms. Michele Bonanno, School Choice administrator, thanked the Board for giving her



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this opportunity to speak about her commitment to New Haven children. Ms. Bonanno explained her history in New Haven and in its schools; she called out the members of the Board who she has worked with in the past, Mr. Conaway, Dr. Joyner and Dr. Tracey, to name a few and she continued in detail; Mr. Harold Brooks, President Local 3144, spoke on behalf of 287 and their contract and talked about what has been paid to Go To for janitorial services; he asked the Board to consider keeping the work as a union position and to allow the members of 287 to have some trajectory to move in their career; Mr. Rodney Williams, city resident, remarked that education determines where you end up in life and a good education always affords you extra opportunities; he feels we need to do a better job with our kids; he hopes the new Board argues less and does more problem solving; Ms. Hyclis Williams, Local 3429 President, talked about the reinstatement of an employee; Ms. Krystal Augustine, ESUMS parent, member CPT, told about ESUMS and some of the programs that they are doing for Black History Month; she also talked about transportation and her concerns and noted that there is nothing on the bluesheet of anyone taking the position of transportation director; Ms. Leslie Blatteau, MBA teacher, volunteer NHPS Advocates, thanked members of the BOE and central office who came to her Community Management Team meeting last week to present the budget and invite members of the public to support funding for our New Haven Public Schools; she commented that it mattered to her as a community member and she is going to reach out to our legislators; she reported on the NHPS Advocates event that took place 2/13 at the Fair Haven School Library, “Break-Up with Testing and Fall in Love with Your School”, she gave a detailed report; Ms. Maria Harris, parent, member CPT, spoke about her daughter who attends Brennan/ Rogers and that the majority of the school is of color and they never have any programs for Black History Month; last year she had a child that was tested and at the end of the results the director said to her that the test was not made for black kids; she also doesn’t know how Title I schools can be used in schools without parent engagement; parents can’t help their child be a better student if there is no engagement with teachers; Ms. Kirsten-Hopes McFadden, ESUMS parent/teacher, commented that she knew Marquelle Middleton and then gave her educational history and remarked that she also cares about New Haven and its kids; she talked about furlough days and explained that she is going to tell her teachers not to use furlough days; she also talked about the opt-out situation and she noted that this board has control over quarterly assessments and she gave her opinion; Ms. Carolyn Ross-Lee, remarked that the committee on student elections has started to meet. She gave the following important dates: petitions will be online this Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> and they must be turned into the Superintendent’s office Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> by 4pm; the campaign will be from March 27<sup>th</sup> thru May 29<sup>th</sup>; the candidates forum will be on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and the election process will be on April 29<sup>th</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. The candidates must be a resident of New Haven, a current student in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and must be enrolled in a New Haven Public School; Ms. Hazel Pappas, retired matron, Title I representative, commented that she was born in Newton, MS she graduated and they had to walk 3 miles to and from school and the year they left they got school buses; her kids went to Lee High and Roberto Clemente and their teachers were very involved in the children’s education; she remarked



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that it's not where you live, it's what you do where you live and make sure your children get a good education; we have to work with teachers and administrators to help our children; Ms. Florence Caldwell, retired matron, Title I Advocate, commented that the last two board meetings have been so ridiculously long and she remarked that she thought board meetings were only to last two hours; she also commented that we have only been talking about magnet schools and that is a slap in the face to the other schools; and it is her personal opinion that sometimes we get into mixing personal feelings with professional feelings and when you're serving the public you have to leave your personal feelings at the door; she continued.

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Mayor Elicker remarked that he has to leave early because he is going to the vigil for the young man who got shot and killed and he feels he has to be there. He apologized for having to leave.

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**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Tracey introduced herself as the proud Interim Superintendent of the New Haven Public Schools. She introduced the Hillhouse Track Team, their coaches and Mr. Eric Patchkofsky, athletics director. Dr. Tracey remarked that she always says that our children are more than test scores as proven by the Hillhouse Boys Track Team. Dr. Tracey told the team she is proud of them.

Mr. Patchkofsky stated that this is the 6<sup>th</sup> straight State Championship for this team. They were moved from Class M to Class L, which is a testament to these young men. Mr. Patchkofsky acknowledged their coaches, Coach Moore, Coach Moore and Coach Daryl. He commented that their hard work and dedication is a testament to this team's accomplishments. Mr. Patchkofsky commented he is sure they will be back next year.

Mayor Elicker commented that thinking about where he is going and thinking of the work that they are doing and your mentorship and the belief that so many people have in you, have made you so successful. You are an inspiration to everyone. We should not be losing any young people in this City. He is touched and overwhelmed by the work they are doing because it is not only six years you are investing in but so many more years beyond these six years. These young men will be successful going into the future. Mayor Elicker told them that he is so proud of them.

Mr. Goldson remarked that he is super proud of them and he is the only Hillhouse graduate on this board. He told them to keep up the good work and if they need anything to please let them know.

Coach Gary Moore thanked the Board for honoring the boys and what they accomplished this year. Like Eric said, we weren't picked to win this year. They met with the boys earlier to tell them how proud they were of them and hoped that they learned life lessons from



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adversity. If you work hard, at the end of the day you will rise. They weren't even in the top three and they pulled it out.

Dr. Tracey called on the Board members to step forward and shake the hands of these young people. They will receive their plaques as soon as they arrive. Dr. Tracey thanked them and said we are very proud of them.

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**Finance & Operations Committee Report**

Mr. Wilcox reported that the committee met on February 18<sup>th</sup> and present for approval three agreements.

Mr. Goldson pointed out a correction on Agreement #3 that was noted in committee, Mr. Wilcox concurred and explained that the amount listed should be \$23,000 and the \$21,084.10. Mr. Goldson amended the report to include this correction.

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**On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was unanimously voted to approve the following February 18, 2020 FINANCE & OPERATIONS-RELATED ITEMS as amended and corrected.**

**AGREEMENTS**

**181-20  
Amendment #1,  
ACES**

Amendment #1 to Agreement #96108452 with Area Cooperative Educational Services, (ACES), to correct funding amount of \$249,290.00 as stated on the December 2, 2019 agenda, to \$290,290.00, the amount listed on the agreement.

**182-20  
Amendment #1,  
Dr. June Levy**

Amendment #1 to Agreement #96108452 with Dr. June Levy, to change the Funding Acct. # from School Improvement Grant, Acct. # 2531-6276-56694-0048 to School Improvement Grant, Acct. # 2531-6297- 56694-0048, with no change in funding amount.

**183-20  
Ellen Kramer**

Agreement by and between the New Haven Board of Education and Ellen Kramer, to develop and maintain the Regional Science Materials Resource Center Partnership, from February 10, 2020 to June 30, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$23,000.

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Mr. Wilcox reported the next thing on the agenda was an agreement from the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting which was approved at that meeting but was not presented at the board meeting with Go-To Services custodial contract. He feels this item should go back to committee for further discussion. Mr. Goldson supported Mr. Wilcox.

**184-20  
Go To Agreement  
Further Discussion**

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**On the motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Mr. Goldson it was unanimously voted to send the December 2, 2019 agreement with Go To Janitorial Services back to committee for further discussion.**

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**Governance Committee Report**

Dr. Jackson-McArthur reported that this committee has met and are requesting approval of the following policies: Homeless Students and Migrant Students.

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**On the motion by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, seconded by Mr. Conaway, it was unanimously voted to approve the second reading of the following policies:**

**185-20** Homeless Students: McKinney-Vento Act, #5118.1

**186-20** Migrant Students, #6141.312(a)

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**Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Tracey asked for approval of the Personnel Report. She called on Ms. Mack to clarify some information. Ms. Mack referred everyone to Page 3 and noted a typo in the salary on the first entry. It should read \$47, 551 not \$70,551 and the correct salary is \$45,357 because he has a bachelor’s degree and no years of experience.

Mr. Goldson referred to the resignation position and commented that he would like to table this contract until we have a discussion with legal or the superintendent. Dr. Tracey remarked that because this is a personal matter, we cannot discuss it publicly. Dr. Goldson said he just wants to know what the legal ramifications would be. A lengthy discussion took place.

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**187-20** **On the motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, it was voted by**  
**Approval of** **roll call vote, to approve the Personnel Report with the stipulation that the position**  
**Personnel Report** **of Director of Transportation be put on hold for future hiring.**

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**Financial Report for 2021 Proposed Budget**

*Presented by Mr. Phil Penn, CFO*

Mr. Penn commented that he knows that most of them were at the special meeting we had last week. Working with the leadership team they made some refinements to the budget proposal that he will share with them tonight.

Mr. Penn stated the 20-21 proposed budget is a turn the lights on budget and he explained in detail.

There was a lengthy discussion.

Mr. Goldson proposed the following resolutions:

- #1 – A raise for P/T Instructional Staff – Dr. Joyner made motion, Mr. Wilcox seconded.
- #2 – Personnel Salary Study – Mr. Goldson made motion, Dr. Joyner seconded.



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- #3 – Staff Attrition – Mr. Goldson made motion, Dr. Jackson-McArthur, seconded.
- #4 - Turnover and Hiring Practices – Mr. Goldson made motion, Mrs. Rivera seconded.

**188-20**  
**Approval of**  
**Proposed Budget**

**On the motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Mr. Goldson, it was unanimously voted by roll call vote, to amend the original motion to include the original amount of \$199,019,490 reducing mitigation strategies with Resolution #2 as a draft.**

**Teaching & Learning Committee Report**

Mr. Wilcox reported that this committee met on February 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed four field trips.

**189-20**  
**Approval of**  
**Field Trips**

**On the motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Jackson-McArthur, it was unanimously voted to approve the following field trips:**

- 3/3-3/5/20      Clinton Avenue to Fairlee, VT,**
- 4/20-4/22/20    Adult Education to Washington, DC, Baltimore, Bowie, & Dover, MD,**
- 4/28-5/3/20      Career to Detroit, MI, to Detroit, MI,**

**Student’s Report**

Ms. Arouna reported that they are still working in response to the student survey data and they are launching a campaign called START, Students That Achieve Respect Today and she explained. In response to students concerns about the impact the NHPS has on the climate, they have been working to address issues regarding composting, etc. and she has been working closely with the food task group in this effort. She gave them for helping them and being responsive to their suggestions. Ms. Arouna explained that they are working students concerns about tardiness and she explained. She also spoke about Music Haven and that the state has reinstated their funding. Ms. Arouna noted that she is a product of Music Haven as is her sister. Ms. Arouna pointed out that the process for student representative begins soon.

**President’s Report**

Mrs. Rivera reported that she along with the Head Start staff went to Boston to the Head Start Regional Office. We had fallen short of our enrollment numbers but by the time we Arrived, they had found our numbers went up. Mrs. Rivera gave the statistics. They are very willing to work with us and they are giving us extra money for trauma and informed care. Mr. Wilcox mentioned that he also felt it was a good meeting.

Mr. Goldson wanted to know where we are in forming a central office for applicants. Mrs. Rivera commented that she does not know at this moment.

Mrs. Rivera stated they are planning a Board Retreat for Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Some of the things they will be covering are Roberts Rules of Order, Board Governance and some other topics that they recommended. In answer to Mr. Goldson, Mrs. Rivera said Shipman & Goodwin and the location has not been determined.



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**Superintendent's Report**

The school presentations will be held next meeting because both schools had to leave.

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Dr. Tracey called on Mr. Penn to give the January financial report in detail.

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**Governance Committee Report**

Dr. Jackson-McArthur reported that the Governance Committee met on February 18<sup>th</sup> and she gave the attendants. She updated the following: the procurement policy was reviewed with revisions and Dr. Joyner gave it to Ms. Jackson to approve for next meeting.

Mr. Goldson suggested if they are going to have a vote on it, it should be on the agenda twice so that folks have a chance to read it for transparency.

Dr. Jackson-McArthur reported that the Opt-Out report is now in her committee for parents who choose to opt out their children for testing.

She also mentioned that Mrs. Ross-Lee was at the meeting about the student elections and she is helping out with that.

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**Teaching & Learning Committee**

Dr. Joyner reported that he was at the meeting, Mr. Conaway wasn't able to be there, and he thanked Mr. Wilcox for running the meeting. They discussed trips and some policies and since this is a transition phase, Mr. Conaway and I have to meet and take a look at what has gone on in the past. One of the things we both agreed on is that we want the teachers and building leaders to have more of a voice because it gives the teachers' time to teach and the children time to learn. He continued to explain.

Mr. Conaway noted that he is looking forward to the next meeting and working with Dr. Joyner.

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**Food Service Task Group Report**

Mr. Wilcox reported that this committee met on February 12<sup>th</sup> and he let them know that the chocolate milk pilot continues and he gave the stats. Information was presented on the Southern Central Regional Council for Government who are having an incentive pilot program for food waste. It is a two year program and the city would receive assistance in funding to pilot one to three schools; there is a lot of interest in this.

The district planning for Summer Meals Program begins this week. Their next meeting will be Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

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**Head Start Report**

Mr. Wilcox reported that Mrs. Rivera gave most of the report earlier. He added that we are





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at their target percentage and hopefully on our way to full enrollment. You will be hearing a report on the funding for next year and the mental health contracts.

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Mr. Goldson referred to an email from a parent who had received incorrect information for enrolling. He will send her his notes.

190-20  
Adjournment

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**On the motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Goldson, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:07pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Ginger McHugh*

Recording Secretary