



# NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CONNECTICUT  
Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
November 28, 2022 via Zoom

I. Called to Order	The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by President, Yesenia Rivera,
Board Members Present	Ms. Yesenia Rivera, President Mr. Matthew Wilcox, Vice President Dr. Edward Joyner, Secretary Mayor Justin Elicker Dr. OrLando Yarborough III Mr. Darnell Goldson Dr. Abie Benitez Mr. Dave Cruz-Bustamante, Student Board Member
Board Members Absent	Ma'Shai Roman, Student Board Member
Others Present	Dr. Iline Tracey – Superintendent, NHPS Attorney Alexaides – Corporation Counsel, City of New Haven Attorney Sierra-Milan
II. Pledge of Allegiance	Dr. Yarborough led in the Pledge of allegiance.
Personnel Report President Rivera	Channel Name: BOE TV You Tube Link: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEY46ioJn9U">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEY46ioJn9U</a> .
III.	Ms. Hycllis Williams, Para Local 3429 – Testimonies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sought Board’s approval of the MOA – Before/school pay increase for Para-professionals from \$14.50 to \$25.00</li> </ul> Jasmine Reid, Para-professional - Clinton Ave School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sought Board’s approval for Para-professionals MOA – Before/after school pay increase from \$14.50 to \$25.00.</li> </ul> Mr. Goldson requested the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Score sheet re approved cleaning contract</li> <li>• FOI emails between Board members and Communications Director which directly related to silencing Mr. Goldson.</li> <li>• Denied access to T &amp; L committee and needs it to be corrected</li> <li>• Briefing of student transfers at Brennan Rogers School</li> <li>• Request a special meeting with Commissioner of Education re attendance and suspension in the school system</li> </ul>



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<p><b>i.</b> <b>190 - 22</b></p> <p>Personnel Report Dr. Iline Tracey</p>	<p><b>On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Joyner to approve the Action Items of the Superintendent’s Personnel’s Report.</b></p> <p>4 Teachers resignation, 2 retirements and 3 new teacher hire.</p> <p><u>Suggestion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiring external firm to do exit interview to give succinct reason for staff leaving.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mr. Wilcox, yes; Ms. Rivera, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Dr. Benitez, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mr. Cruz-Bustamante, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Yarborough, yes. (passed)</b></p> <p>Dr. Tracey reported that Dr. Michelle Sherban is leaving the school district.</p>
<p><b>iii.</b> <b>191-22</b></p> <p>Head Start request for Approval for Funding Application</p>	<p><b>On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Joyner to approve the submission of the application for the administration to carry-over unused funds.</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Dr. Benitez, yes; Ms. Rivera, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mr. Cruz-Bustamante, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Yarborough, yes. (passed)</b></p>
<p><b>iv.</b> <b>192 - 22</b></p> <p>MOA for Para Professional for Before/After School Program</p>	<p><b>Mr. Wilcox took the chair due to technical difficulties.</b></p> <p><b>On the Motion by Dr. Yarborough, seconded by Dr. Benitez to approve the MOA for Paraprofessionals before/after-school program.</b></p> <p><u>Discussions</u></p> <p>It was questioned if the teachers attached to the MOA and are there staff issues of attendance re the MOA? Dr Tracey stated the immediate focus was on the para-professionals.</p> <p><b>Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Ms. Rivera, yes; Dr. Benitez, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mr. Cruz-Bustamante, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Yarborough, yes. (passed)</b></p>
<p><b>v.</b> <b>193 - 22</b></p> <p>Finance and Operations Committee – Mr. Matthew Wilcox</p>	<p><b>On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox to approve 1 Abstract, 4 Agreements, 1 contract and 3 Purchase Orders as presented by the F&amp;O Committee</b></p> <p>Suggestion: Board add the information only items to the agenda.</p>



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	<p>Information only items are included in the meeting packet. Website is a guided model to parents to utilize school choice preferences with ease prior to the lottery.</p> <p><b>Mr. Wilcox, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Ms. Rivera, yes; Dr. Benitez, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mr. Cruz-Bustamante, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; Dr. Yarborough, yes. (passed)</b></p>
<p>V. Student's Report</p>	<p>Concerns – Restorative justice implementation November student council meeting convened. Student council gathered and voted on their main concerns (phase 1 - lack of community safety and accountability) Phase 2 – common theme among student expressed they had nothing to lose. Solutions are been applied to enable safe sturdy environment for the month of December.</p> <p>School discipline was discussed extensively. Implementation of positive solutions including how to empower students into school and community.</p>
<p>VI. Teaching and Learning Dr. Edward Joyner</p>	<p>Building safe community. Minutes available for review. School suspension-mediated violence and the opposite <u>Discussion:</u> Chronic absenteeism and suspension during our first marking period.across different schools.</p>
<p>VIII Superintendent's Report Dr. Tracey</p> <p>• K-3 Reading Pilot Update – Ms. Keisha Redd-Hannans, Ms. Lynn Brantley</p>	<p>Dr. Tracey reported that the State accepted the NHPS District leadership team literacy into its second cohort in the master's into the science of reading on November 30, 2022, 8 - 3pm. Administrators, teachers, central office and school level staff who will spear-headed the project. Coaching support will be provided.</p> <p>The team gave a data power-point presentation on the Pilot Program. Six different vendors were brought to the school district which some Board attended for questions and answer re the new pilot program. Teacher and instructional coaches reviewed the pilot program which will focus on certain grades in the school District. It is legislated and focus areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing readers to raise scores</li> <li>• Ensure that the NHPS Literacy curriculum embodies the of the Appropriation Bill that requires 7 components of reading.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train all stakeholders</li> <li>• Need to align K-3</li> </ul> <p><i>The program selection is guided by qualities -time allotment, strategies and resources in English and Math. Pilot details are to match the program to schools, train staff, review student work samples, observation and share data with teachers.</i></p> <p><i>Program next steps are to - schedule the training of teachers for the pilot program; match the pilot program to schools; expand the plan to 3 more years</i></p> <p>The reading expo gave a great feedback. Implementing the pilot is important to see student engagement and teacher interaction with the materials re lesson plan. Schools were chosen based on performance, bi-lingual etc. to ensure diversity and material implementation. The right to read legislation will have to be adopted by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 and submitted to the State</p>
<p>IX. <b>194 - 22</b> President's Report – Ms. Yesenia River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion and possible action on selection of executive search firm to perform a national search for Superintendent of Schools</li> </ul>	<p>Board has selected McPherson and Jacobson LLC, firm to recruit a new superintendent for the District. The position will be advertised nationally.</p> <p><b>On the Motion by President Rivera to approve the award to McPherson &amp; Jacobson LLC according to their RFP response, seconded by Dr. Joyner.</b></p> <p><u>Discussion</u> The two top firms were suitable candidates with a 2-point difference.</p> <p><b>Mr. Wilcox, yes; Ms. Rivera, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Dr. Benitez, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mr. Cruz-Bustamante, recused; Mr. Goldson, recused; Dr. Yarborough, yes. (passed)</b></p>
<p>IX. Head Start Report <i>Mr. Matthew Wilcox</i></p>	<p>Standing meeting cancelled. Will be rescheduled Date of next meeting December 8, 2022.</p>
<p>X. Citywide School Bldg. Committee Report – <i>Mr. Wilcox</i></p>	<p>No Report</p>
<p>XI. Finance &amp; Operations Report Mr. Matthew Wilcox</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked through Series 3000</li> <li>• Updated cover sheet memo forms used for easy access and clarity</li> </ul> <p>Procurement policy has been updated and posted on the website.</p>
<p>XII. Governance Report – Dr. Abie Benitez</p>	<p>Date of next meeting is on December 5, 2022. Series 3000 will be addressed.</p>
<p>XIII.</p>	<p>Next meeting will be in December 2022</p>



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<p>Food Service Task Group Report – Dr. OrLando Yarborough</p>	<p>Food Gap sub-committee team on the will work on the December school break.</p>
<p>XV. <b>195 - 22</b> Executive Session pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 1-200(6)(B) and §§ 1-201(b)(4) &amp; (10) - - re strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims by Angela Walder, and discussion which would result in the disclosure of attorney-client privileged communications.</p>	<p>On the Motion by President Rivera, seconded by Dr. Joyner to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 1-200(6)(B) and §§ 1-201(b)(4) &amp; (10) re strategy and negotiations related to pended claims by Angela Walder, and discussion which would result in the disclosure of attorney-client privileged communications. Invitees are Attorneys Alexiades and Sierra-Milan.</p> <p><b>Dr. Yarborough, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Benitez, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mr. Cruz-Bustamante, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; President Rivera. (passed)</b></p>
<p>XVI. <b>196 -22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion and Possible Action – Approval of Walder Settlement</li> </ul>	<p><b>No votes taken out of session.</b></p> <p><b>On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox, seconded by Dr. Joyner to approve the proposed settlement agreement with Angela Walder and move further, that the Board authorizes the President to execute and sign the agreed settlement with Angela wilder.</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Yarborough, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Benitez, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mr. Cruz-Bustamante, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; President Rivera. (passed)</b></p>
<p>XVII <b>197 – 22</b> Adjournment</p>	<p><b>On the Motion by Mr. Goldson, seconded by Mr. Wilcox it was voted by role call to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm.</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Yarborough, yes; Mayor Elicker, yes; Mr. Wilcox, yes; Dr. Benitez, yes; Dr. Joyner, yes; Mr. Cruz-Bustamante, yes; Mr. Goldson, yes; President Rivera. (passed)</b></p>

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

*Respectfully Submitted*  
*Myrtis Mason*  
*Recording Secretary*