

REVISED

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Stamford, Connecticut

May 28, 2009

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held on May 28, 2009 at the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Ms. Nabel, President with the following Board members present: Ms. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade. Absent: Mayor Malloy. Also in attendance: Dr. Starr, Dr. Hamilton, Dr. Nicholson, Ms. Gagne, 6 representatives from the SEA, 2 representatives from the ESEA, representative from the Advocate, News 12, and approximately 25 guests.

Salute to the flag.

Ms. Nabel stated that the purpose of this meeting is to finalize the budget for the 2009-2010 school year as well as to vote on a resolution regarding our food service provider. She asked Ms. Heftman, Chairperson of the Fiscal Committee to take over the meeting.

Ms. Heftman asked for a motion to move Item # 4 out of order.

Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak moved, seconded by Mr. King to move Item #4 out of order.

The motion passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Ms. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

**Resolution 05-28-09:108**

Ms. Heftman moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the proposal from Chartwell's (Option 1.5) to provide food service operations to the school district with a guarantee of no cost to the district from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 with the option to renew four times.

Ms. Nabel requested for consideration to be passed on should this provided be awarded the contract, which is that as much as possible

environmentally sound materials be used for packaging and food service purposes in general and has passed this information onto Mr. Murphy who indicated that this had been part of the discussions. Ms. Heftman indicated that all Board members had received a letter on the high fructose syrup lobbyists who were not happy that we had banned high fructose syrup from our menu. Dr. Starr thanked Mr. Murphy and the committee for their hard work.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Ms. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, and Mr. Rubino. Abstained: Ms. Wade.

#### **Resolution 05-28-09:109**

Ms. Heftman moved, seconded by Mr. King:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education revise the 2009-10 Operating Budget as outlined in the attached documents for a revised total of \$219,408,146 (.37%) and 1,888.7 positions.

Ms. Heftman indicated that this motion was approved by the Fiscal Committee and there was also a \$330,000 reduction consultant line that was approved by the Fiscal Committee, but was not reallocated and will be part of our discussion tonight. Dr. Starr provided updated information with respect to what was discussed on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 regarding teaching positions. Ms. Heftman indicated that the net reductions rather than being 45.7 is now 43.7, which now includes two contingency positions and \$71,000 for the last day of school. Dr. Starr indicated that by not having school on the last day staff would still be paid according to contractual obligations and we would save approximately \$50,000 in transportation and \$21,000 in utilities. This savings would be used to purchase maintenance supplies this year that could be used next year and transfer monies from the maintenance supplies next year to the salary account thereby saving positions. Dr. Starr noted that if the Board chooses to not have the last day of school they would have to vote on a new calendar. Ms. Heftman indicated that she was troubled by staff being paid and not having to come to work.

Dr. Starr provided a list of current consultants and made it clear that if cuts were made it would result in a drastic reduction of services which was echoed by Ms. Nabel. A lengthy discussion followed and the following motions were made:

Mr. Mathews moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to reduce the consultants account by \$330,000 to be applied to the teachers salary line account.

The motion passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Ms. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, and Mr. Rubino. Opposed: Ms. Wade.

Ms. Nabel returned to the main resolution which would now be revised to \$219,408,146 and 1,896.2 positions.

Ms. Heftman moved, seconded by Ms. Wade to stipulate that 5.5 positions which were just restored that 2 of those positions be music teacher positions at the middle school.

After discussion Ms. Heftman withdrew her motion and asked that when Dr. Starr evaluates the impact of this, if it looks like one of the programs would be lost would he opt to take one of the positions being saved in the \$330,000 and use those funds for music teachers. Dr. Starr indicated that it would be a timing issue and meeting contractual issues and recommended that cuts be made first and then discuss reallocations.

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak to reduce the Building Administrator Salary line by 2 positions (approximately \$280,000) and not fill the 2 retiring building administrator positions and propose that salary reduction be reallocated into the Teachers Salary account.

The motion passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, and Mr. Rubino. Opposed: Ms. Heftman, Ms. Lorenti, and Ms. Wade.

Mr. Rubino moved, seconded by Ms. Heftman to zero out Line 122 in Human Capital Development for clerical overtime account in the amount of \$62,892 to be transferred to the Teachers Salary account.

The motion passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Ms. Heftman, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade. Opposed: Mr. King and Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak.

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to reduce the Dues & Fees line by an additional \$10,000 (CABE Membership) and zero out our Clerical Overtime line of \$7,500 for a total reduction of \$17,500.

Ms. Nabel withdrew her motion.

Ms. Nabel moved, seconded by Mr. Rubino moved to make an additional reduction of \$10,000 to be taken from the Dues & Fees line of Program 30 budget and have those funds reallocated to the Teacher Salary line.

The motion **passed** with the following Board members voting in favor: Ms. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, and Mr. Rubino. Opposed: Ms. Wade.

Dr. Starr referred back to the motion to reduce the Assistant Principals and stated that since we have not signed anything with the SAU who has agreed to increase their health insurance to 19% which would give us approximately \$20,000 he anticipates that they will take this off the table at this point.

Ms. Nabel asked to go back to the main resolution which has been revised to \$219,408,146 (.37%) and 1,899.9 positions.

Ms. Heftman moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti to approve the revised resolution of \$219,408.146 (.37%) and 1899.9 positions.

Ms. Heftman moved, seconded by Ms. Wade to restore the \$71,000 cut for eliminating the last day of school.

The motion failed with the following Board members voting in favor: Ms. Heftman, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade. Opposed: Mr. King, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, and Mr. Polo.

Ms. Wade moved, seconded by Ms. Heftman to reinstate \$100,000 in the Teacher Extra Service Special Education ARTS line.

The motion failed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. King, Ms. Heftman, and Ms. Wade. Opposed: Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, and Mr. Polo.

Ms. Wade moved seconded by Ms. Lorenti to restore \$30,000 of the \$60,000 to the Domus account.

The motion failed with the following Board members voting in favor: Ms. Wade. Opposed: Ms. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, and Mr. Rubino.

Ms. Nabel asked for a vote to approve a final revised budget adoption.

#### **Resolution 05-28-09:109**

Ms. Heftman moved, seconded by Ms. Lorenti

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education revise the 2009-10 Operating Budget as outlined in the attached documents for a revised total of \$219,408,146 (.37%) and 1,899.9 positions.

Mr. Rubino indicated he would support the resolution, but that transportation and special education in the coming months that the Board seriously looks at reorganizing both since he believes there is an opportunity for big cost savings without sacrificing the quality of services.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Ms. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Dr. Starr reported that of the 11.2 there are 4 contingency positions at the middle schools, 2 positions at Stark, 2 middle school music positions that would be floating positions, 1 Northeast, 1 KT Murphy, and 1 Rogers.

**Resolution 05-28-09:110**

Ms. Heftman moved, seconded by Mr. King:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education revise the 2009-10 Grants Budget in the amount of \$27,318,027 and 180.6 positions as outlined on the attached documents allowing the Superintendent to apply for, accept funding, and administer all the itemized grants on the attached list.

Mr. Rubino moved, seconded by Ms. Heftman to amend the Technology Grant line 730 to reduce equipment instruction (laptops) for students by \$124,500 and that those monies be allocated at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Mr. Rubino rephrased his motion to add “transfer the teacher salary line 101 which would freeze up the teacher salary in the operating budget.”

The motion failed with the following Board members voting in favor: Mr. Rubino. Opposed: Ms. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, and Ms. Wade.

The resolution was passed with the following Board members voting in favor: Ms. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Ms. Nabel, on behalf of the Board, thanked Mr. Murphy for his tireless work in answering unending questions and his patience. She also thanked Dr. Starr and Dr. Hamilton for always treating our questions respectfully and congratulated Ms. Heftman for sheparding us through the budget process in her first year which has truly been a trial by fire. Dr. Starr also thanked Mr. Murphy for doing an incredible amount of work and his entire staff.

Dr. Starr asked the Board that if he is able to come up with another way to restore one of the assistant principal positions if they would consider holding a special meeting? Mr. Rubino asked if we could do this as a transfer at a regular meeting and Dr. Starr indicated we could do this at the next Board meeting on June 9, 2009.

Ms. Lorenti moved, seconded by Mr. King, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. with the following Board members voting in favor: Ms. Heftman, Mr. King, Ms. Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Lorenti, Mr. Mathews, Ms. Nabel, Mr. Polo, Mr. Rubino, and Ms. Wade.

Joshua P. Starr, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Executive Officer