HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2020

MINUTES

Arturo Perez-Cabello, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Board Members: Arturo Perez-Cabello, Melinda Saller, Lynn Campo, Christopher Daur, Melissa Kaplan, Gail Mitchell, Walter Morton IV., Roxana Walker-Canton and Gary Walsh(7:01 P.M.). Student Representatives: Mariam Khan(left at 9:15 P.M.) and Darius Cummings(left at 9:36 P.M.)

Staff: Jody Goeler, Tom Ariola, Gary Highsmith(7:03 P.M.), Karen Kaplan, and Christopher Melillo INTRODUCTIONS FROM BOARD CHAIR

Board Chair, Arturo Perez-Cabello explained the procedure for questions from press and public for the Zoom platform,

Board Chair, Arturo Perez-Cabello stated Executive Session was going to be moved to the end of the meeting.

Board Chair, Arturo Perez-Cabello requested a Moment of silence and honor lives of those taken by COVID-19.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

The Superintendent recognizes all Hamden Public school staff, Whitson’s food service, HPS families, our students, especially our seniors, First Responders, especially Hamden Fire Chief Gary Merwede, Arturo Perez-Cabello, Chris Melillo and Tom Ariola, for all they have done during the unprecedented time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS

The following people spoke during Public Comments on Information Items: Valerie Horsley and Stephanie Bezerra

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Arturo Perez-Cabello requested the following be added to the Agenda: Amend 2019-20 school calendar to add April 28th as a school day turning June 9th into the 180th school day and therefore the last day of school.

REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM AGENDA

Tom Ariola requested Pending Action 10b1 Approval of an amendment to the First Student contract in accordance with Governor Lamont’s executive order #7, be removed from the agenda,

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Move to accept the Consent Agenda.

Saller Seconded by: Morton IV. Unanimous

1) Approval of a building usage request from Ameya’s Dance Studio to use room the Hamden Middle School auditorium on July 25, 2020 for a dance recital (Operations Committee, April 7, 2020).

PUBLIC COMMENT ON INFORMATION ITEMS

The following people spoke during Public Comments on Information Items: David Lee Asbery and Christina

INFORMATION ITEMS

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

The Superintendent reported on what has happened starting back on Thursday, March 12, when it was the last day of school. He updated the Board on what the Admin staff has been doing, and meetings that he has attended around COVID-19.

Chris Melillo updated the Board on the grading policies that came from State Department of Education, including changes to ranking of the top seniors.

Tom Ariola updated the Board concerning construction projects, the bus contract, the CARES ACT and the Governor’s Executive Orders.

Gary Highsmith updated the Board on the Governor’s Executive Order 7R with its implications on staffing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum Committee – Committee Chair, Melissa Kaplan stated there was no meeting in March or April, but they will meet in May for a presentation on Online Learning.

ACES/Wintergreen – Committee Representative, Lynn Campo, updated the board even though no meeting was held.

Operations Committee – Committee Chair, Chris Daur, reported on the activities of the committee.

Finance Committee – Committee Chair, Walter Morton IV, reported on the activities and stated next week there will be a meeting,

Personnel Committee – Committee Chair, Walter Morton IV, stated everything would be discussed in Executive Session.

Policy Committee – Committee Chair, Melinda Saller, stated the next meeting would be in May.

Evaluation and Goals Committee – Committee Chair, Lynn Campo, stated there needs to be a measurement for evaluation.

Equity Committee – Committee Chair, Arturo Perez-Cabello, stated the next meeting would be on April 28.

2. Move to Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining strategies for the Guard union at 9:36 PM besides the Board, the following people were ii invited: Jody Goeler, Gary Highsmith Tom Ariola and Attorney Bill Ryan.

Daur Seconded by: Morton IV Unanimous

3. Move to return to Public Session at 10:15 PM

Saller Seconded by: Kaplan Unanimous

ACTION ITEM FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

4. Move to approve Security Guards’ contract

Walsh

Seconded by: Morton

Unanimous

5. Move to amend 2019-20 school calendar to add April 28th as a school day turning June 9th into the 180th school day and therefore the last day of school.

Saller

Seconded by: Morton IV

Unanimous

COMMENTS FROM PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following people spoke this evening: David Lee Asbery and Tandy

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

The following Board Members spoke: Gail Mitchell, Chris Daur, Walter Morton IV, Roxana Walker-Canton and Arturo Perez-Cabello.

6. Move to adjourn at 11:16 PM Saller Seconded by: Morton IV. Unanimous

Respectfully submitted, Melinda Saller, Board Secretary