

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
JANUARY 27, 2014**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, January 27, 2014 at the Board of Education Administrative Offices, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM by Chairman Jeffrey Currey.

PRESENT Chairman Jeffrey Currey, Marilyn Pet, Tom Rup, Christopher Gentile, Stephanie Watkins, Dorese Roberts, Valerie Scheer

ABSENT Secretary Bryan Hall, Tyron Harris

ALSO PRESENT Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Morgan Barth, State Department of Education
Mr. Andrew Ferguson, State Department of Education
Dr. Lesley Morgan-Thompson, Principal, O'Brien School

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To go into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the O'Brien Assistant Principal position.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Board meeting reconvened at 6:55 PM

MOTION By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To appoint Corrie Schram as the Assistant Principal of O'Brien Elementary School.
Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Application of O'Brien School to Commissioner's Network

Superintendent Quesnel stated there has been an incredible amount of discussion that has taken place regarding the Commissioner's Network as it relates to the proposed application for O'Brien School. The Commissioner's Network is a commitment between the CT State Department of Education (CSDE) and selected schools (11 already on board) that have been identified as needing improvement in student achievement.

Superintendent Quesnel stated we believe O'Brien School can be the model school in Connecticut. We believe it is headed in the right direction and we have the right staff, headed by Dr. Lesley Morgan-Thompson, Principal. When we add what the Commissioner's Network can bring to this school, it works. Dr. Morgan-Thompson has had meetings with staff and faculty regarding supporting the Commissioner's Network. All has been very positive to date.

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This is a three-year commitment of funding. After that, we will continue to look for funding. We have \$4.3 million coming in from the State from the Alliance grant. We have had overwhelming encouragement from the State. The State will finalize their selection on April 2nd.

We are asking our Board to move this application forward to the next step by developing a turnaround committee. Dr. Lesley Morgan-Thompson will be a member of the turnaround committee, as well as the Superintendent. Others member will include one parent, two teachers appointed by the Teacher's Union and the Commissioner. Superintendent Quesnel noted the State has control presently and will continue to. This process begins with an audit. The State will meet with teachers. This is a collaborative effort. A team will visit the school and spend time – we will sit as partners that will involve additional collaborative effort. The Alliance grant is modeled on the same basis.

We will put bond money in one school for this collaboration with the Board, staff and State. We are working with people who put kid's first.

Chairman Currey stated we are here to get your approval to move forward. Superintendent Quesnel echoed the Chairman's remarks.

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Marilyn Pet

The Board moves to approve an application for O'Brien School's participation in the Commissioner's Network; and if O'Brien School is selected by the Commissioner of Education for participation in the Commissioner's Network, it be further moved that the Board appoints Lesley Morgan-Thompson and a parent representative, to be appointed at a later date by the Board Chair, to serve as district representatives on the Turnaround Committee. For the sake of this motion, the Board recognizes that the administration has not yet received the full support of the bargaining group for this process. It is the sincere hope of the Board that through continued conversations, collaborations and planning sessions that the Turnaround Committee will alleviate the ambiguities that currently exist.

Motion carried. **Nay:** Stephanie Watkins, Tom Rup.

MOTION

By Christopher Gentile

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board (8:00 PM)

Motion unanimously carried.