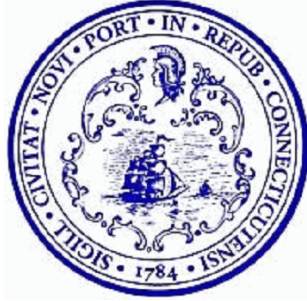


City of New Haven

*165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 946-6483 (phone)
(203) 946-7476 (fax)*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

6:00 PM

Meeting can be viewed on Board of Alders YouTube.

Aldermanic Chambers

Education Committee

(Board of Alders Notice New Haven) The Education Committee of the Board of Alders will meet “in-person” on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Alders Chamber located at 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, Connecticut, to hold the following workshop:

-- WORKSHOP OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS WITH THE NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS REGARDING: (1) YONDR POUCHES; AND (2) SUMMER PROGRAMS OFFERED IN 2025.

Per Order: Hon. Sal Punzo, Chair

Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City/Town Clerk

These items are on file and available in the Office of Legislative Services, City Hall, 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, Connecticut 06510.

For accessibility related accommodations, please call (203) 946 7651 (V) or (203) 946 8582 (TTY/TDD).

Public comment/testimony may also be submitted via email to publictestimony@newhavenct.gov before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

This meeting may be viewed on the New Haven Board of Alders YouTube page.

Minutes

Alder Sal Punzo, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present were Alders Sal Punzo, Chair, Amy Marx, Kiana Flores, and Frank R. Redente, Jr.

-- WORKSHOP OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS WITH THE NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS REGARDING: (1) YONDR POUCHES; AND (2) SUMMER PROGRAMS OFFERED IN 2025.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters:

- Kristina DeNegre, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Supervision
- Keisha Redd-Hannans, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Dr. Paul Whyte, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Supervision
- Greg Baldwin, Principal, New Haven Academy

Dr. Paul Whyte, Ms. Keisha Redd-Hannans, Mr. Greg Baldwin, and Ms. Kristina DeNegre presented this item. A copy of the presentation is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

In response to Alder Marx, Mr. Baldwin spoke how having the YonDr pouches have helped reduce anxiety for kids by allowing them to keep their electronic devices with them locked in their YonDr pouches and removed the burden to lock up the phones from the teachers to the students. Ms. Redd-Hannans discussed how the YonDr pouches became a cool thing because every student was using them.

In response to Alder Redente, Jr., Ms. DeNegre shared how the teachers' feedback has been positive. Teachers have shared how they are relieved they do not have to address cellphone issues. Using the YonDr pouches does not add the extra burden on teachers to ensure cellphones are not being accessed or used during the school day. Reviewed how children are starting to talk to each other and engage in discussion during lessons more.

Mr. Baldwin shared teachers were concerned initially with implementation. Discussed how if students did not place all electronic devices or teachers have issues, they just need to reach out to administration, who addresses the issues with the individual student.

In response to Alder Flores, Dr. Whyte reviewed the rollout plans for New Haven high schools. Ms. DeNegre confirmed the unlocking mechanisms were not easily accessible by the students, as they are located typically behind someone's desk, like a secretary's desk.

In response to Alder Punzo, Mr. Baldwin discussed how each school is different regarding students and size, and the implementation of the YonDr pouches is left up to the administration of the school to determine what is best for their school. Dr. Whyte spoke about how YonDr implementation specialists have spent time meeting with principals, so they principals can customize the use of YonDr pouches with what works best for their building. Ms. DeNegre

reviewed how different schools are implementing the YonDr pouches based on what works best in their building. Mr. Baldwin confirmed that the students at New Haven Academy take their YonDr pouches home. The pouches have a number assigned to them, which are tracked to the student to maintain they are in working and do not need to be replaced.

Ms. DeNegre reviewed how unlocking the phones is handled differently by each school, as they are allowed to determine the way that best works for them. Mr. Baldwin demonstrated how easy it was to unlock them. The YonDr pouches are checked every 2-3 weeks to ensure they are working.

Ms. DeNegre discussed how they have not received a lot of pushback regarding using the YonDr pouches, and most of the pushback surprising came from parents, not students. Reviewed how issues expressed by parents were addressed on a case-by-case basis, so the parents had a better understanding of how the YonDr pouches work.

In response to Alder Flores, Mr. Baldwin discussed how they required parents to sign to take responsibility for the YonDr pouches. All the pouches from the outgoing seniors were collected and in working order, so they have a surplus of pouches.

In response to Alder Punzo, Mr. Baldwin reviewed how they addressed the students' questions about the fairness of allowing teachers to keep and use their phones. As staff, they have discussed the importance of modeling expected behavior and limiting cellphone use, especially during classroom time, when they can use a different device.

Presenters:

- Kristina DeNegre, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Supervision
- Keisha Redd-Hannans, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Dr. Paul Whyte, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Supervision

Dr. Paul Whyte, Ms. Keisha Redd-Hannans, and Ms. Kristina DeNegre presented this item. A copy of the presentation is on file in the Office of Legislative Services. Ms. Redd-Hannans reviewed the various summer programs happening at New Haven schools this summer.

In response to Alder Punzo, Ms. Redd-Hannans reviewed the cost analysis of the school summer programs, and how they are expecting it to cost less than \$2 million dollars this summer. Discussed cost saving measures, which includes saving on transportation costs and shorting the programs by a few days.

In response to Alder Marx, Ms. Redd-Hannans discussed how currently have 900-1,000 K-3 students enrolled in this summer program. Reviewed how this program is available to all New Haven public school students in K-3, and families are notified by robocalls and through the schools. The program does not work for all families because it is a half a day, which does not work for all families, especially the ones who need to work.

Dr. Whyte reviewed how they provide food to all New Haven students during the

In response to Alder Punzo, Ms. Redd-Hannans confirmed July 25th (July 29th for high school credit recovery) with some community partner programs running until August 1st are the last days the school programs will be ran, which will allow staff time to prepare the buildings for the school year.

COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action.

Alder Frank R. Redente Jr. moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Kiana Flores. The motion was unanimously approved at 6:56 p.m.

Alder Frank R. Redente Jr. moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Kiana Flores. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourn: 6:57 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Board of Alders' YouTube channel here: <https://youtube.com/@boardofalders8363>.

Respectfully submitted,
Misty Maza, J.D., Legislative Aide II