

City of New Haven

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

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, February 28, 2024, 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 NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS FOR THE CREATION OF THE NEW FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.

Per Order: Hon. Sal Punzo, Chair

Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City/Town Clerk

These items are on file and available in the Office of the City Clerk located at 200 Orange Street, Room 202, 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 6:05 p.m.

Present were Alders Sal Punzo, Chair, Jose Crespo, Vice Chair, Sarah Miller, Amy Marx, Kiana Flores, Henry R. Murphy, Sr., and Frank R. Redente, Jr.

□ WORKSHOP OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS WITH NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS FOR THE CREATION OF THE NEW FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Dr. Madeline Negrón, Superintendent, New Haven Public Schools; Dr. Michael Finley, Chief of Staff; and Keisha Redd-Hannans, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. Dr. Negrón presented the Strategic Operating Plan Development Process. A copy of the presentation is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

The purpose and charge of the SOP Design Team was to develop a focused, coherent, and actionable multi-year plan to advance student achievement, engage stakeholders in a transparent planning process to create a shared vision for success, and commit to a long-term process to support strong plan implementation, progress monitoring, and continuous improvement.

Reviewed the comprehensive community engagement platform, which will allow both qualitative and robust quantitative data with instant in-depth analysis. Discussed the project roadmap and timeline.

Spoke about how the design team includes a diverse team of sixty-six constituents representing New Haven Public Schools students, parents, staff, union representatives, Board of Education members, community partners, college/university partners, City of New Haven representatives, alders, state representative, and clergy with 83% participating in Sprint 1. Discussed the anatomy of the strategic plan.

The current articulated mission is to provide all students in New Haven Public Schools with personalized, authentic, and engaging learning experiences through creativity, exploration, innovation, critical thinking, problem-solving, and high-quality instruction to foster a culture of continuous improvement through collaborative partnerships with staff, families, and the New Haven community to support students' growth and development by utilizing the Whole Child Framework.

Reviewed the current articulated vision is to be a premier urban school district that ensures access to equitable opportunities and successful outcomes for all students as they prepare for college, career, and life.

Discussed their current articulated beliefs including equitable opportunities, culture of continuous improvement, high expectations, and collaboration.

In response to Alder Miller, Dr. Negrón discussed how she appoints an executive sponsor to take responsibility, who is responsible for conveying to the group. Ms. Redd-Hannans discussed the level of engagement through messaging to involve people in the room. Reviewed how there will be achievable steps along the way. Dr. Finley discussed the importance of being intentional, of having something concrete that can be followed through on. Dr. Negrón reviewed the importance of connectivity.

In response to Alder Crespo, Dr. Negrón reviewed how every district needs to put forth their plan to hire a diverse workforce. Discussed the importance of continuing to diversify; leveraging our own students to train more teachers. Spoke about how there is a national teacher shortage. Reviewed the importance of working with their paraprofessionals to provide them with a path to becoming licensed teachers. Discussed the partnership with Yale that allows teachers to work on a master's degree to help retain teachers. Reviewed how they look outside of New Haven to Puerto Rico and the Caribbean to recruit teachers.

Reviewed how ESSER funding has helped tremendously, but with the ESSER funding and grant funding ending, they are having to look for additional funding. Reviewed how they will have to cut summer learning because they will not have the \$4 million dollar funding that they had available last year. Currently, they have a team developing summer learning program, so they can use the available funds wisely.

In response to Alder Punzo, Dr. Negrón discussed the importance of system instruction and getting buy in from community partners. Reviewed the importance of the building leader, and how that person sets the culture for the school. Dr. Negrón discussed how there is a team working on a plan that is concise and actionable.

In response to Alder Miller, Dr. Negrón discussed that for her the plan needs to include literacy goals and college/career plans for students/teachers. Reviewed how she has focused on attendance but will be shifting to culture and climate of the buildings.

In response to Alder Crespo, Ms. Redd-Hannans reviewed how students are required to take a financial literacy class, which is state mandated. Discussed how the teaching and training has evolved to meet the needs of the students.

COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action.

Alder Jose Crespo moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Frank R. Redente, Jr. The motion was unanimously approved at 7:08 p.m.

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

Adjourn: 7:18 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