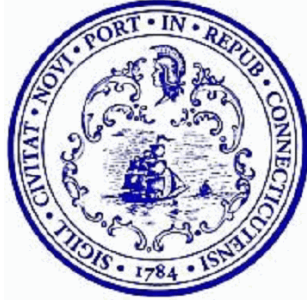


City of New Haven

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

6:00 PM

Via Teleconference

Education Committee

(Board of Alders Notice New Haven) The Education Committee of the Board of Alders will meet on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., via video conference at <https://bit.ly/33sZNfC> and by phone at (646) 558-8656 Webinar ID: 956 1007 2038, to hear and act on the following items (for required password contact publictestimony@newhavenct.gov):

[LM-2019-0560](#) **ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ISSUES AND CONCERNS RELATED TO THIS YEAR'S NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION PLAN.**

Per Order: Hon. Jody Ortiz, Chair;

Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City Clerk

These items are on file and available in the Office of the City Clerk, Room 202 at 200 Orange Street; New Haven, CT 06510.

For accessibility related accommodations, please call (203) 946 7833 (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.

If you wish to present testimony at the meeting, you must register in advance at <https://bit.ly/33sZNfC> or by calling (203) 946-7934 before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

Public can view the meeting at <https://bit.ly/33sZNfC> or listen by phone at (646) 558-8656 Webinar ID: 956 1007 2038. For the required password, contact publictestimony@newhavenct.gov.

Minutes

Alder Jody Ortiz, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present were Alders Jody Ortiz, Chair; Darryl Brackeen, Jr., Vice Chair; Steven Winter; Carmen Rodriguez; and Eli Sabin.

Noncommittee members present include Alders DeCola, Edwards, Festa, Furlow, and Roth:

1. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ISSUES AND CONCERNS RELATED TO THIS YEAR'S NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION PLAN.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Dr. Paul Whyte, Assistant Superintendent at New Haven Public Schools, 170 Osborne Avenue; Michael Pinto COO at New Haven Public Schools, 449 Central Avenue; Carl Jackson, New Haven Public Schools Transportation Director, 181 Overland Road, Hamden; Paul DeMaio, Senior Manager at First Student, 140 Middletown Avenue; and Michael Trujillo, Area General Manager at First Student 68 Alna Lane, East Hartford presented this item to the committee.

COO Pinto reviewed how primarily the bus routes are the same this year as last year. Reviewed how cards advising parents were mailed out the week of August 17, 2020. Reviewed the mask protocols, capacity expectations, and cleaning of the buses regarding Covid-19. A copy of the presentation is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

Alder Anna Festa reviewed how the item was submitted last year regarding the bus stops changes and appreciates that the issues have been addressed.

In response to Alder Festa, COO Pinto reviewed how there are some bus monitors on some of the buses, and they are working on hiring and finding funding for additional bus monitors. Spoke about how they could have communicated better last year about their intentions behind the changes and how the changes made the routes more efficient and reduced the bus fleet by 23 buses. Reviewed how some of the changes were technical or where one student was getting on the bus.

Mr. Demaio reviewed how they currently have 65 buses running as of last week. Spoke about the measures they are doing to protect the children from Covid-19.

In response to Alder Winter, Mr. Demaio reviewed how currently they have approximately 60 bus monitors and currently 243 buses do not have bus monitors.

COO Pinto reviewed how they have posted to hire additional bus monitors. Spoke about how they are working with the State of Connecticut and finance to find funding to hire additional monitors.

Mr. Demaio reviewed how once school starts, they typically need to add buses after the first or second week.

Both COO Pinto and Mr. Demaio reviewed that they will not be checking temperatures either for bus drivers, monitors, or riders. Reviewed how they are recommending people to do self-checks at home. COO Pinto spoke how the City has given out about 3,000 thermometers to families.

In response to Alder Winter, Mr. Trujillo reviewed how they have not had any drivers test positive for Covid-19 with most schools in Connecticut starting for the past 2-3 weeks. Reviewed how they are not requiring their drivers to be tested for Covid-19, but they are required to complete a self-assessment.

In response to Alder Sabin, COO Pinto reviewed how they will be working with First Student to maintain as much ventilation on the buses as possible, but that cold/bad weather as well as traveling home during night will affect being able to keep the windows open.

Mr. Demaio reviewed how keeping the windows and roof hatches open is left to the discretion of the bus drivers, as it depends on the weather. However, they have been advised to have as much ventilation on the buses as possible.

In response to Alder Roth, Assistant Superintendent Whyte reviewed in the various ways in addition to mailing the postcards that they reach out to the parents to advise them

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder C. Rodriguez moved to read and file item # 1, seconded by Alder Winter. All of the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

Alder Winter moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Sabin. The motion was unanimously approved at 7:18 p.m.

Alder Brackeen moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Sabin. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourn: 7:20 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be found online at the Board of Alders' YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pu56g0oPKz8>.

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