

# Quick Recap



## Takeaways:

Reform Direction Is Supported by All

Inequities in Funding and Opportunity Among Schools an Area of Particular Interest

Agreement on the Board's Role in **SUPPORTING LEADERSHIP** ... and not Micromanaging

Agreement on Using Data for Decision Making

Strong Recognition of Recent Progress ... and Difficult Challenges to Still Overcome

## City Council Public Interviews of Board of Education Appointees, 1-26-12

This week's Public Insights supplement to our weekly Education Matters! presents additional information about Mayor Pedro Segarra's five new appointments to the Board of Education, with highlights of key statements from the City Council's Public Interviews from Thursday night, January 26, 2012. Perhaps most noteworthy, Mayor Segarra said he "most definitely avoided" appointing himself to the Board, but ultimately did so as "a matter of conscience," given the importance of education to the city's future. Education is ultimately his responsibility, and any blame will fall on him, he pointed out.

His appointment of five new members was no reflection on the past Board members, he said, but stemmed from his need, as Mayor, to have a level of comfort with the Board of Education going forward. The new appointees "may not be perfect in terms of the visuals," he commented, but they do have deep commitment and constitute "the best that I can produce." **Importantly, the Mayor said he is committed to the continuation of school reform.**

We'll follow up on this in the future, as Hartford enters a new era in education governance.

**Dr. José Colón-Rivas ...**  
*Director of the City Department of Families, Children, Youth, and Recreation*

Experience as a Principal at Hartford Public High School, supports small academies

Believes "we are on the right track to universal Pre-K" ... highlights Hartford as a national model in Pre-K accreditation

Concerned that some children are in schools that lack resources

His City Department allocates \$1.9 million in school readiness funds to the school district, but he sees no conflict of interest

**Dr. Cherita McIntye ...**  
*ESPN Director of Learning and Development*

Has a PhD in industrial psychology; was Board chair for an AIDS program in Dallas and served on two other Boards in Seattle

Reflects that an ideal school would have educators who "create an environment that inspires the child to get addicted to learning"

Believes that teachers with tenure should be held to an even higher standard of performance than others

Experienced in budgeting, committed to working with the Superintendent and not micro-managing

**Matt Poland ...**  
*CEO, Hartford Public Library*

Family moved to Dutch Point and Frog Hollow in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century; father never finished high school, mother was a Bulkeley High School graduate

Strong views on the Board's role "to understand what administrators are doing and get behind them" and listen to teachers, parents and students, "who know what's going on every day"

Worried about "uneven opportunity in the city"

Cites how change is managed in organizations as a key to success

**Richard Wareing**  
*Partner, McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney, & Carpenter LLP*

Places a strong value on public service

Served on Metropolitan District Commission: "You learn over time how to listen to experts, how to challenge them, and, ultimately, how to make policy in conjunction with them ..."

Not an educator, but "I will match my knowledge of government budgets against anyone."

*On micromanaging Supt, Christina Kishimoto:* "I have my own business. So I have no intention of managing her's."