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EDUCATION Matters!

E X T R A

This Week's Top Stories, Plus Links



1 Showing Up and Standing Up

A First Look at Board of Education Members' Voting

All four of the Hartford Board of Education Members to be elected this fall will be in a position to deeply impact the city's fragile school reform movement in a lasting way. This is why we are sharing this first look – and will be taking more thorough looks – at past voting records. If you are a Hartford school reform stakeholder, you should, too.

Our analysis of the incumbents' voting records takes into account the 2012 and 2013 meetings of Hartford's hybrid Board of Education. The four elected incumbents, who have not yet announced their candidacies for the fall, are Elizabeth Brad Noel, Robert Cotto, Jr., 1st Vice Chair Lori Hudson, and Luis Rodriguez-Davila. The appointed members are Board Chair Matt Poland, 2nd Vice Chair Cherita McIntyre, and Board Members Jose Colon-Rivas, Mayor Pedro Segarra, and Richard Wareing.

Whoever is elected November 5th will serve until 2018, while the five-Member majority appointed by the mayor last year is slated to serve until 2016. The staggered terms for elected and appointed Members, respectively, are designed to create stability and maintain institutional knowledge.

A new wrinkle emerged this week when City Council approved a proposed revision to the City Charter. It would, if approved by voters this fall, impel Mayor Pedro Segarra to step down from the Board of Education seat to which he appointed himself last year, appoint another member, and thus switch his role from a voting, appointed Board member to that of a non-voting ex-officio Member. That structural change will be on the ballot for November 5 voters to consider as well (*see the article below*).

Highlighting One Important Piece: Attendance

Board Members face long hours attending meetings and studying the issues. They encounter unexpected controversies in a heartbeat. Excellent judgment and strong tie lines to the community are a must. It is not exactly a thankless job; Board Members do regularly get to meet the most illustrious students, outstanding parents, diligent advocates, and high-powered educators in Hartford – and there are a lot of them. Still, the amount of homework and the political complexity make Board service, at its best, a major commitment in one's daily life.

One part of our full analysis - which we will share more completely in the weeks to come – is the critical aspect of attendance, both regular meetings and workshops. Below is a breakdown of Board member attendance since January 2012.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Board Meetings in 2012-2013* | Board Chair Matt Poland | 1 st Vice Chair Lori Hudson | 2 nd Vice Chair Cherita McIntye | Secretary Robert Cotto, Jr. | Board Member Jose Colon-Rivas | Board Member Elizabeth Brad Noel | Board Member Luis Rodríguez-Dávila | Board Member [Mayor] Pedro Segarra | Board Member Richard Wareing |
| 26 meetings | 2 absences | 10 absences | 7 absences | 2 absences | 3 absences | 5 absences | 14 absences | 8 absences | 2 absences |

* Newly appointed Board Members Poland, McIntye, Colon-Rivas, Segarra, and Wareing were not present at the January 17, 2012 meeting of the Board of Education; they were sworn in at the next meeting in February.

Note: Board Members attend many additional meetings by phone, participate in task force and committee meetings, and have individual meetings to address concerns.

We will be providing additional information of relevance and [welcome your ideas on how to do it better!](#)

2 Cultivating Teachers, Connecticut Science Center Style

Andrew and Joyce Mandell Distinguish Teacher Training Efforts ... by Tripling Them

What if, in the next stage of school reform, turnaround schools were filled with turnaround teachers trained to deliver the responsibility – as well as the inspiration for learning ... right to the student? That's what Joyce and Andrew Mandell are trying to achieve at the CT Science Center.

The number of teachers receiving “high-impact” professional development training at the CT Science Center is on track to grow from 500 each year to 1,500 in three years at its newly named Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers. The academy also is preparing to award up to nine graduate-level credits through Charter Oak State College. The 50 educators completing an intensive professional development program at the Center this summer will be the first to earn them.

Mr. Mandell has been a trustee of the Center since 2009. “Teaching teachers how to connect with their students is one of the more important things we have ever been involved with,” said Ms. Mandell, joining Gov. Dannel Malloy and a host of dignitaries to announce the effort July 2.

Here is what its supporters have to say about this program ramping up:

- ▶ Nearly 10 years ago, former State Education Commissioner (and Achieve Hartford! Board Member) Ted Sergi had the vision for how to provide best-in-class teacher professional development, CT Science Center President and CEO Matt Fleury explained.
- ▶ Now that it is taking a quantum leap with the Mandells’ support and with “Ted envisioning it and Matt running it,” Gov. Malloy said. “This is a celebration that will be played out in the years to come.”

- ▶ Recognizing Dr. Sergi's "remarkable work," State Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor put it in the context of the achievement gap battle being fought for low-income students. Recent data showing American middle school children being outranked by 24 countries in math – and CT students falling below Massachusetts, New Jersey, Texas, and North and South Dakota in Eighth-Grade math assessments are worrisome, he said. "We're getting passed by – and our country is getting passed by."
- ▶ Hartford's 2012 and 2013 Teachers of the Year, Keith Sevigny and Mario Marrero, respectively, have participated in the CT Science Center training, as have all faculty at Hartford's Annie Fisher STEM Magnet School. Sevigny explained that this teacher training is about speaking the language of inquiry, drawing children from Nintendo to evidence-based problem solving. He also managed to quote Mark Twain, who emphasized data-driven thinking long ago: "It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so."

3 Will the Mayor Have a Vote? Maybe Not.

Proposed Charter Revision to Board of Education Structure Says No

The Hartford City Council this week approved its once-in-a-decade proposed revisions to the City Charter. One proposal would make the Mayor a permanent, *ex officio* Board of Education Member - but remove his voting power.

Along with the four elected seats open on the nine-member Board of Education, the November 5 election is shaping up to be an important one for education – and school reform. But what does this proposed change in the mayoral role mean?

The history and work of the Charter Commission, including the proposed revisions approved by the City Council Monday, are [online here](#).

Articles of Interest

- [State Seeks To Avoid 'Double-Testing,' Promote Early Use Of New Computerized Test](#), Kathleen Megan, Courant, July 11, 2013
- [Bridgeport Superintendent Ordered to Leave Office; He'll Stay On During Appeal](#), Kathleen Megan, Courant, July 10, 2013
- [State to Seek Flexibility for Rollout of Teacher Evaluations, Common Core](#), Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, CT Mirror, July 10, 2013
- [Gallup-EdWeek Poll: What Superintendents Really Think](#), by the Editors, Education Week, July 10, 2013
- [Charter School Group Gears Up to Lower Suspension Rate](#), Kathleen Megan, Courant, July 8, 2013
- [Thousands More Children Get Free Meals](#), Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, CT Mirror, July 8, 2013
- [Schools Seeking to Arm Employees Hit Hurdle on Insurance](#), Steven Yaccino, New York Times, July 7, 2013
- [A New Education Mayor](#), New York Times Editorial, July 6, 2013
- [Our View – Schools: Separate and Unequal](#), New Britain Herald Editorial, June 30, 2013
- [City Audit of Hartford Schools Finds No Financial Irregularities](#), Vanessa de la Torre, Courant, June 28, 2013

- [Student Loan Rates to Double Amid Congressional Squabbling](#), Wes Duplantier, Courant, June 28, 2013



Upcoming Events

- The scheduled [Hartford Board of Education Meetings this fiscal year](#), including the next one, a **Regular Meeting, Tuesday, August 27, 2013, at Bulkeley High School, 300 Wethersfield Avenue.**



Best Bookmarks to Add

- The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving [Summer Programs Directory](#), available in English and Spanish – lists the tutorial, counselor-in-training, and camp programs it is supporting for Greater Hartford children and youth. That support is more than \$777,000 this year, building on summer program support since the 1930s.
- Achieve Hartford! Executive Director [Paul Diego Holzer's remarks at the inaugural graduation ceremony of the Hartford Parent University](#).
- [What Some African American Parents Believe about Education Reform](#), Frances Messano, Deloitte Consulting LLC [Project in conjunction with the United Negro College Fund], June 2013
- [Improving Access to Children's Mental Health Care: Lessons from a Study of 11 States](#), The Center for Health and Health Care in Schools, March 2013
- [For Each and Every Child: A Strategy for Education Equity and Excellence, the Equity and Excellence Commission, A Report to the Secretary](#), February 2013
- [Hopes, Fears, & Reality: A Balanced look at American Charter Schools in 2012](#), Robin J. Lake, Editor, Center on Reinventing Public Education, April 2013
- [How Labels Like "Black" and "Working Class" Shape Your Identity](#), Adam Alter, The Week, May 4, 2013
- [Colleges Preparing for the Future: Revisit Your Online Education Policies](#), OnlineUniversities.com
- [The Promise and Peril of Cage Busting](#) [*A View of Hartford Schools*], Marc Porter Magee, Education Week Guest Blogger, April 2, 2013
- [2013 Brown Center Report on American Education: How Well Are American Students Learning?](#), Brookings Institution, March 2013
- [Self-Efficacy Plays Prominent Role in Research on Teacher Effectiveness](#), Educational Research Newsletter and Webinars, March 2013
- [Teens and Technology](#), 2013, Pew Research Center, March 13, 2013
- [The Civil Rights Movement of Our Time? Not Yet](#), Stevona "Stevie" Rogers, Pass the Chalk – the TFA Blog, February 27, 2013
- The Hartford Public Access TV program, **Conversations in Education**, featured an interview by the District Superintendent, Dr. Christina Kishimoto, with the Student Senate President, [Tiffany Mitchell](#), and Hartford's two new Student Delegates to the Board of Education, [Minnie Lesperance](#) and [Joselyn Arroyo](#). Here's [the link to the broadcast](#).
- [Teens Today](#), The Journalism and Media Academy (Hartford), February Issue
- [Governor Dannel Malloy's 2013 Budget Address on CT-N](#), February 6, 2013
- [Education Week: Leaders to Learn from 2013](#), February 6, 2013

- [National Growth of Community Organizing: Essential to School Transformation](#), Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University, April 2012
- [Partnerships for Learning: Community Support for Youth Success](#), Harvard Family Research Project, January 2013
- [Teaching Students the ABCs of Resilience](#), Edutopia, January 13, 2013
- [Spiritual Leader {Benjamin Elijah Mayes, mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.}](#), University of Chicago Magazine, January-February, 2013
- [Teaching Tolerance Honors 2012 Culturally Responsive Teaching Award Winners](#) (includes link to January 25, 2013 live stream of Southern Poverty Law Center Award event), Education Week Teacher, January 17, 2013
- [Catching Up to College and Career Readiness](#), National Center for Educational Achievement, ACT, Inc., 2012 Report
- [State of Education: State Report Card, 2013](#), StudentsFirst, January 2013
- Issue brief: [“Best Practices for the Prevention of Youth Homicide and Other Youth Violences,”](#) from the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute.
- [Strife and Progress: Portfolio Strategies for Managing Urban Schools](#), Brookings Institution – New Books – Available December 7, 2012
- [The Roadmap to Closing the Gap](#), ConnCAN report, October 2012
- [Early and Equal Development of Human Potential: Professor James Heckman’s focus on investments in early childhood development](#), October 4, 2012
- [Pathways to the Middle Class: Why do some children do so much better than others? And what will it take to create more opportunity? Pathways to the Middle Class: Balancing Personal and Public Responsibilities](#), Brookings Institution, September 20, 2012
- [2012 Kids Count Data Book, produced by the Anne E. Casey Foundation](#); presenting information of 16 major factors affecting children’s well-being, including education; state data also available
- [The Head Start National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning](#), featuring a wide variety of research resources on early childhood education
- “The Invisible Student,” a report from the [CT Pushout Research and Organizing Project](#), looking at statewide statistics that indicate a "secret pipeline," into which students are counseled, coerced, or involuntarily placed – and pushed out of school