

APPROVED
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD (MARB)
HARTFORD SUBCOMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Meeting Location: Board of Regents Conference Room, 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT

Members in Attendance: Kimberly Kennison (OPM Secretary designee), Christine Shaw (State Treasurer designee), Mark Waxenberg, Robert White

OPM Staff Present: Julian Freund, William Plummer

City of Hartford Officials and Staff Present: Superintendent Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, Lori Mizerak, Jolita Lazauskas, Leigh Ann Ralls

I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Kennison at 10:04 AM.

II. Approval of minutes

- April 29, 2019 special meeting: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 29 meeting. The motion was approved.
- August 15, 2019 regular meeting: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 15 meeting. The motion was approved.

III. Review and Discussion re: Follow up items from prior meetings, including Achievement First and charter school expenses

Superintendent Torres-Rodriguez reviewed several informational items provided to the committee in response to questions from prior meetings. Members discussed the considerable cost differences in tuition expenses at various schools, and particularly tuition costs for special needs students. Ms. Torres-Rodriguez noted that approximately 20% of Hartford students receive special education services and the district is assessing the long-term sustainability of service provision. Members also discussed the contract with Achievement First and some of the legal aspects of that agreement. Legal counsel is evaluating the district's options in light of the fact that the school's test scores are not included in the district's performance metrics.

IV. Discussion: Special Education Services

Members continued their discussion regarding special education services, cost drivers and how individualized education programs are developed. The district is planning to undertake a study to evaluate different service delivery options, both in district and out of district, for special education services. Subcommittee members expressed an interest in gaining more of an understanding of the programmatic and fiscal outliers related to special education service provided to Hartford students. Deeper analysis of the cost and complexities of providing special education services is an ongoing initiative of the Superintendent and will be part of the scope of a subsequent evaluation of the district's special education programming.

V. Other Related Business

The Superintendent noted that a tentative agreement with Local 566 was recently approved by the Board of Education

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.