

DRAFT
State of Connecticut
Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB)
Regular Meeting
Board of Regents (BOR) 61 Woodland Street, Hartford

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, March 1, 2018

Members in attendance:

Co-chairs: OPM Secretary Benjamin Barnes, William (“Bill”) Cochran (designee of State Treasurer Denise Nappier) Members: Mark Waxenberg, Sal Luciano, Thomas Barnes

Members not in attendance: Commissioner Jackson, Patrick Egan, Thomas Hamilton, Mary Glassman, Peter Gioia

Staff: Robert Dakers

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks by Secretary Ben Barnes and State Treasurer Denise Nappier

Meeting was called to order by Secretary Ben Barnes at 10:18 am. Noted for record that William Cochran, Designee for Treasurer Nappier, representing the Treasurer.

II. Public Comment:

No public comment

III. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes: February 8th, 2018

No action on minutes due to no quorum. Will be an action item at the April 5, 2018.

IV. Introduction of Newly Appointed Member(s) by Secretary Barnes and Opening Remarks by New Member(s), Update on Board membership by Secretary Barnes, and Swearing-in of Newly Appointed Member(s) by Treasurer Nappier:

Secretary Barnes introduced and welcomed new MARB member Thomas Barnes, appointed by House Minority Leader Themis Klarides.

V. Freedom of Information (FOI) Training for Members:

Thomas Hennick, Freedom of Information Commission, gave an overview. Hand-outs offered to the MARB members covering FOI requirements. Discussed proper notice, agendas to be posted 24 hours in advance to the Secretary of the State and OPM websites. Discussed requirement that meetings be open to the public. Discussed that FOI liaison Gareth Bye from OPM is available as a resource for any questions. Discussed any sub-committees that come out of the MARB are required to follow the same FOI rules.

Question regarding laws of records retention. Mr. Hennick recommended if there are questions regarding these, that members can receive a file retention schedule from OPM. Duplicate copies of materials received from OPM do not need to be retained by members. Documents or communications created by members or sent to them by other parties related to MARB business should be maintained.

Secretary Barnes discussed that OPM intends to put on-line all documents for deliberation and all documents that the MARB receives. Secretary ensured that everything will be made public. If someone comes to the Board with requests that documents be exempt and request non-disclosure, this will need to be raised in advance and sorted out, legally, prior to filing.

Secretary Barnes stated he expects to receive and refer to the Board, within the coming weeks, multi-year plan funding request for 2018 and beyond from Hartford and West Haven. He further discussed the need to identify MARB sub-committees that can review specific plans and sit with representatives in the community and report back to the MARB.

Discussion raised by Bill Cochran on possible staffing issues for reviewing documents and assisting sub-committees. Office of Policy and Management has Michael Sullivan, Robert Dakers and some support staff. Members will be identified and contacted about volunteering for a sub-committee/working group. Sub-committee meetings may be held at town halls or other locations.

VI City of West Haven:

a. Review and Discussion Monthly Financial Report:

Mr. Kevin McNabola gave a brief overview of the status of the FY17 – FY18 budget for the city, covering both revenue and expense breakdowns. Handout was submitted prior to the meeting for review by the MARB. More systematic plan from the City will be developed and submitted.

Mayor Rossi informed the MARB that the City is actively looking at health insurance and will be doing a side-by-side comparison of options. Further stated it would cost the City \$4.5 million to separate from their Anthem contract.

b. Review, Discussion and Member Comments re Proposed BOE FY2018 -19 Budget:

Neil Cavallaro submitted the BOE FY19 proposed budget prior to the meeting for review by the MARB. Discussion on BOE budget took place.

c. Review and Potential Action re Non-Labor Contracts:

ERS Dispatchers and the City have a tentative agreement on contract as reported by the Mayor and Mr. McNabola that was submitted Tuesday February 27, 2018. This tentative agreement will be submitted to the MARB.

d. Discussion re Schedule for Submittal of Three or Five Year Financial Plan by City:

West Haven's budget for FY19 and the 5 Year plan will be submitted prior to the next MARB meeting on April 5, 2018. The budget goes to the City Council on March 15th. The MARB will be required to review and comment on the City's budget prior to action by the City Council.

VII City of Hartford:

a. Review and Discussion Monthly Financial Report:

Monthly financial report was submitted prior to the meeting for review by the MARB. Discussion and run-through by the City. Report will be further reviewed by the MARB.

- b. Review and Discussion of Board of Education Budget Issues:** Hartford Public Schools presented a financial overview Powerpoint presentation. Questions were asked by Board after Powerpoint. Discussion ensued regarding the district redesign: District Model for Excellence. Reported that \$15 million would be freed up with new redesign plan and savings through attrition due to consolidation of schools. Not refilling positions of employees who retire once consolidations take place is the plan. Present vacancies and what the pattern of new teachers/hires leaving within the first 3 or 4 years. Question was asked if savings would go towards schools or to address Hartford's budget deficits, or a combination of both.

City to submit more information to the MARB on tuition costs, magnet school costs, transportation.

VIII. Discussion Regarding Potential Creation of Board Committees

Members who are interested in serving on a sub-committee are requested to notify the co-Chairs and Robert Dakers. Secretary Barnes will reach out to members not present.

**IX. Information Posted to MARB Website; Additional Information Requests from Members:
All information from the MARB meetings are posted on-line for review:**

X. Future Meetings:

- a. Announcement of Next Meeting: April meeting**
Next meeting scheduled for April 5, 2018. Location to be determined and posted.
- b. Review Upcoming Meeting dates for conflicts and consider alternate dates if necessary – no action.**

XI. Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.