



BOARD OF EDUCATION for HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

David M. MacDonald, Chair
Pamela M. Richmond, Vice Chair
Lori L. Hudson, Second Vice Chair
Sharon Patterson-Stallings, Secretary

Elizabeth Brad Noel
Ada Miranda
Israel Flores
Luis Rodriguez-Dávila
Robert Cotto, Jr.

February 23, 2011

HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

Statement on Mayor Pedro Segarra's Request to Initiate A National Search for Superintendent

The Superintendent Search process is being carried out according to Board of Education policy on Leadership Succession and included opportunities for school and community input through forums, surveys and conversations whereby more than 700 people participated. The Search Committee was comprised of Board of Education members and 5 appointed representatives from the following stakeholder groups: teachers, parents, principals, and the business community. The Committee worked with a consultant to develop interview questions, review all applicant information and conducted first and second interviews of internal candidates. Finally a recommendation from the Search Committee was made to the BOE for the internal candidate. The timeline for the process was publicly displayed and carried out as planned.

We respect the Mayor's request to extend our process, but at the same time we stand by the integrity of said process. The process has been fair and transparent. The Superintendent Search Committee will consider the Mayor's request to extend the search to include additional external candidates.

It is the Board's position that it would have been more beneficial and appropriate for the Mayor to have taken the time to either participate in the process, or to have brought his concerns to the Board much earlier, rather than waiting until the 11th hour before the candidate selection meeting. As a Board, we have strived to avoid last minute decision-making due to its disruptive nature. We believe it sends the wrong message to members of our community.

Dr. Christina Kishimoto is the reform leader that has been responsible for the execution of one of the pillars of our reform strategy, the establishment of an All Choice System of High Performing Schools. Without her drive and commitment Hartford Public Schools would not be Connecticut's most improved urban school district. We remain strong in our desire to have Dr. Kishimoto be a part of this process, which is entirely her choice. It is

our hope that she will continue her impassioned interest in our pursuit of the best candidate for Hartford Public Schools. We remain committed to delivering the best possible education to every single child in our community.

Per the Board of Education's Succession Policy the internal search process is still open and our next steps include:

1. The Superintendent Search Committee will convene within a week to consider the Mayor's request.
2. The Superintendent Search Committee will make a final recommendation to the Board.
3. The Board of Education will consider the Search Committee's recommendation in Executive Session and vote on how to proceed.

Contact:
David MacDonald
Chairman, Hartford Board of Education
860-805-8935