



New Haven Citywide Parent Team

January 8, 2016

To The President of the Board of Alders and all New Haven Alders, and to the President of the Board of Education, and the Board of Education:

On behalf of New Haven Public School's Citywide Parent Team, we are urging the Board of Education and New Haven's Board of Alders to:

1. Use mediation to resolve the conflict, in lieu of a costly lawsuit, regarding the number of board members present on the current Board of Education, with an opportunity to have New Haven Public School families to speak openly before the mediation; and,
2. Request that Daisy Gonzalez NOT be removed from the current Board of Education, allowing an opportunity for NHPS families to comment publically on the greater impact of this decision, as noted below.

We understand that there are opposing views on the legalities of the Board of Alders ability to legally remove a Board of Education member. In reviewing a document of resolutions that the Board of Education had submitted to the Board of Alders, dated November 23, 2015, it is also our understanding that the Board of Education did submit resolutions for review by the Board of Alders.

With current opposing views between the Board of Alders and Board of Education, our hope is that the decision is made to use mediation to resolve this concern *without* a costly and lengthy lawsuit, which will directly distract all parties from focusing and advocating on our children's' behalf. Equally noteworthy, a lawsuit will absorb funding and resources that are needed for our children's education throughout the district.

As the Board of Alders is comprised of elected officials, we believe NHPS families should have an opportunity to provide commentary on concerns regarding the removal of Board of Education members, specifically one who is the only NHPS parent on the current Board of Education, and openly acts as a parent liaison. Further, it must be noted that Daisy Gonzalez was elected and chosen by NHPS families via the Citywide Parent Team to act as a parent liaison on the Board of Education on our behalf.

As the school district and city work to implement and teach restorative practices to youth, it is imperative for our adults to lead by example to mediate and resolve conflict through discussion. Regardless of how the conflict has come to pass, our group firmly believes that openly discussing and mediating the situation is the best way to set a precedent based on what we are teaching youth in schools.



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The Citywide Parent Team, comprised of families throughout the entire New Haven Public School district, focuses on strengthening parent voice and working with NHPS families to advocate for students throughout the district. To ensure families have an opportunity to share our concerns, we are opening this letter for signature from any NHPS families who support our request – and encourage all families to reach out to individual Alders and Board of Education members.

Please consider joining us at our next monthly meeting, and meet many NHPS families and voting New Haven residents' in-person. Dinner is also served beginning at 5:00pm – and we would love to have any Board of Alders and Board of Education members attend as our special guests, and continue this important conversation.

Monthly Citywide Parent Team (CPT) Meeting:

Thursday, January 14, 2016
Wilbur Cross High School
181 Mitchell Drive, New Haven
Dinner served at 5:00pm
Meeting begins at 5:30pm

We look forward to your response and hope to see you at our January meeting.

Best regards,

Citywide Parent Team, Steering Committee:

(Alphabetical order by last name)

Tim Holahan
Edgewood School Parent

Daniel Juarez
Columbus Family Academy

Marleen Kim
John C. Daniels School Parent

Jennifer Ricker
Davis Street School Parent

Mary Rosario
Fair Haven School Parent

Ruth E. Swanton, MPH
Sound School Parent

Nijija-Ife Waters (representing)
**James Hillhouse High School and
Elm City Montessori School Parent**

JoAnne Wilcox
**Edgewood School, Sound School, and
New Light High School Parent**

Stephanie Wilson
Hill Central Academy Parent