

TO: The Honorable John G. Rowland, Governor, State of Connecticut
The Honorable Thomas Gaffey, Senate Chairman, Education Committee
The Honorable Thomas Herlihy, Senate Ranking Member,
Education Committee
The Honorable Cameron Staples, House Chairman, Education Committee
The Honorable Robert Heagney, House Ranking Member,
Education Committee

FROM: Theodore S. Sergi
Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: Progress Report on The Hartford Public Schools

DATE: November 7, 2001

The attached transmittal on the progress of The Hartford Public Schools is presented in accordance with Section 7 of Special Act 01-7. The state monitors are currently reviewing the Hartford administration's 2000-01 annual report submitted to the State Board of Trustees at its October 16, 2001, informational meeting in order to submit a cumulative summary of progress to the State Board of Education at its January 9, 2002, meeting.

The State Board of Trustees continues to effectively govern the Hartford school district. In cooperation with Superintendent Anthony S. Amato, it has actively promoted policies and procedures that have improved instructional and operational systems – and student achievement. The State Board of Trustees continues to hold two public meetings per month, visit schools and school-based parent associations, and have leadership responsibilities on the Operational Audit Steering Committee and the School Building Committee.

Prior progress reports on the Hartford Public Schools have noted the need to strengthen the city government capacity and the city-school system partnership in fiscal management and facility planning. Amendments to Special Act 97-4 found in Special Act 01-7 (see attached) include provisions for a school building committee to manage school facilities projects and a more clearly defined role for the Operational Audit Steering Committee to effect greater change in partnership with municipal and district leaders. Municipal and district officials have completed the upgrade of the joint financial management system, SmartStream. However, the conversion to the Human Resource/Payroll module of SmartStream still has not been completed. Internal capacity to support the new financial system continues to be a concern of the steering committee overseeing this project.

Regarding facility planning, the Attorney General, at our request, recently provided clarification as to the authority of the school building committee that has resulted in

quick action by the committee to contract for a program manager to implement the long-range facilities plan adopted by the State Board of Trustees. The first project to be addressed is the renovation of Hartford Public High School. The resolution of several items pertaining to this area and outlined in my October 5, 2001, letter to you (see attached) still needs to be addressed by all of us as soon as possible after Election Day. **The issue of recommitting to and implementing the long-range facilities plan should be our top priority.**

Many of the new amendments to Special Act 97-4 concerning the transition from an appointed State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools to a local Hartford board of education are outlined in the attached transmittal to the State Board of Education. While there is evidence of much progress in the Hartford Public Schools in the last few years (for example, accredited Hartford elementary schools, a focus on literacy and numeracy in every school, multiple ways to assess student progress, more professional development for administrators and teachers, and improved financial operations), much work still needs to be accomplished to *complete* the provisions outlined in these statutes. The support of teachers and parents, local corporations and community organizations, local colleges and universities, municipal, state and federal agencies, and other institutions with a commitment to the education of Hartford students should provide the needed coalition for the State Board of Trustees and the Hartford administration to reach their goals.

Attachments: Transmittal to State Board of Education (November 7, 2001)
Hartford School Construction Correspondence (May-October 2001)

cc: Senator Kevin Sullivan, President Pro Tempore
Senator George Jepsen, Majority Leader
Senator Louis DeLuca, Republican Leader
Representative Moira Lyons, Speaker of the House
Representative David Pudlin, Majority Leader
Representative Robert Ward, Minority Leader
Ms. Brenda Sisco, Legislative Director
Clerk of the Senate
Clerk of the House of Representatives
Clerk of the Education Committee
Office of Legislative Research
State Library
Legislative Library

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education
and
State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools

FROM: Theodore S. Sergi, Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: Progress Report on The Hartford Public Schools

DATE: November 7, 2001

The State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools received an annual report at its October 16, 2001, informational meeting summarizing the actions taken to implement the district's 2000-01 annual goals and objectives. This information is currently being reviewed by the state monitors in preparation for a cumulative summary of the progress of the district, to be submitted to the State Board of Education at its January 9, 2002, monthly meeting. A preliminary review of the district's progress as it pertains to the Trustees' 10 initiative areas has been completed; some of the initial findings are described in this transmittal. The state monitors anticipate receipt of data in the coming weeks concerning the Hartford district's summer 2001 program. Data requested by the state monitors concerning some of the visits to schools in spring 2001 was received recently and is currently being analyzed.

Both the State Board of Trustees and the Hartford administration continue to move from *developing* new academic and operational systems to *implementing* and *enhancing* these structures via multiple mechanisms. Central office officials, school administrators, teachers and support staff members review student data regularly to modify instruction and address student achievement goals. However, much of this important work regarding the assessment of student work and the reporting of these findings is not reflected in the district's annual report, nor is it part of the discussions held between the Trustees and the Superintendent at their regular meetings. The State Board of Trustees recently instituted a monthly calendar of regular reports it plans to receive on each of its 10 initiatives. These reports should (a) clearly articulate the administration's actions to implement board policies, (b) record the financial and other resources used to complete goals, and (c) present data that demonstrate the progress of *all* students (i.e., students in general education, special education, bilingual education, alternative and adult education programs) in districtwide initiatives to improve academic and social growth. The State Board of Trustees should consider receiving and discussing student achievement data at each of its meetings as the data become available to school administrators and teachers.

Superintendent Anthony S. Amato's strategy to improve academic and operational systems continues to be demonstrated in many ways – from a monthly professional

development program to strengthen content instruction in academic programs to establishing written financial procedures in response to audit findings. A new teacher evaluation system is in place this year that is linked to local school improvement goals, content area goals, professional development and school administrator evaluation. Central office and school administrators also began exploring last spring the adoption of a unified leadership model for the district.

Much work still has to be accomplished to achieve the district's goals for student achievement and school improvement. The roles of teachers, parents and community partners still need to be better defined to support the development and implementation of new systems. Examples of productive partnerships include the Technology Advisory Committee; the Operational Audit Steering Committee; School-Based Numeracy Teams and the Connecticut Academy for Education in Math, Science and Technology; the Least Restrictive Environment Strategic Planning Committee; and the School and Community Partnership Committee (focusing on extended-day and extended-year programs).

Recommended actions to address the State Board of Trustees' 10 initiative areas include the following:

- *School and District Management and Accountability.* Central office officials should continue to monitor the completeness of the data in the district's student information system to ensure that current information is reported for *all* Hartford students, and that the central office and school-level support structure in place is appropriate to properly maintain the data system. A similar mechanism is recommended to maintain information on new teachers. Central office support to *fully* implement board policy concerning effective school improvement teams in every school is still needed.
- *Curriculum and Course Offerings.* The district's curriculum and instruction department, in collaboration with Hartford teachers and other staff members, should have target dates for its committees to complete revisions to the curriculum handbook for *all* content areas and provide ongoing teacher training in the use of the guides. District officials across departments should also develop and implement a plan that would ensure that teachers in bilingual, special education and alternative education programs receive support to modify and implement the general PK-12 curriculum, as needed. A goal of this plan, in addition to improved student achievement, would be to show evidence of equity of educational opportunities for students in categorical programs (e.g., content instruction in all academic areas is provided by certified teachers and all districtwide academic initiatives are in place).
- *Instruction, Assessment and School Climate.* Central office officials should continue the practice of meeting regularly with priority schools and all schools in the accreditation process to identify and provide resource needs. The State Board of Trustees and the Hartford administration should also consider publicizing, regularly, the many forms of student achievement data collected, using the school and categorical programs within schools as the units of analysis. An evaluation of dropout prevention efforts in place should be conducted by the assistant superintendent for student support services to determine if more

support can be provided to high school students. The assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction should continue to analyze the academic intervention programs in place for students who are not demonstrating adequate progress, monitor student progress in these programs, and work with community partners to identify additional resources to assist students in need of these support services.

- *Professional Development.* Professional development opportunities are provided monthly and in greater quantity and quality than in the past; however, the district still needs to complete and implement a multiyear comprehensive professional development plan in collaboration with district departments, administrators and teachers, local colleges and universities, and regional educational service centers. This plan is critical to supporting the professional growth of teachers tied to the new teacher evaluation system and to continuing to refine academic initiatives in order to ensure student success. It is important that the plan include the specific training needs of teachers in categorical programs.
- *Early Childhood.* With the governance and policy issues in early childhood education settled, the Hartford administration should begin to monitor the progress of students engaged in the district's early childhood curriculum, and report this regularly to the State Board of Trustees – including the academic growth of students in the Curiosity Corner program, and the technology, second-language and other components of the early childhood skills inventory. It should also develop an immediate plan to ensure that *all* state-funded placements for three- and four-year-olds will be used this year and that the appropriate program fees will be collected on a monthly basis to enhance the program.
- *Technology.* The initial technology plan for the Hartford district expired this year. The State Board of Trustees and the Hartford administration should finalize, adopt, implement and broadly distribute a three-year technology plan to enhance instructional and noninstructional use of technology. A codified plan will provide the needed structure for the State Board of Trustees, schools and community partners to support specific technology initiatives linked to student benchmarks and operational goals.
- *Student Support.* Given the variety of educational opportunities for Hartford students, the State Board of Trustees and the Hartford administration should develop and implement a mechanism for evaluating and reporting the success of Hartford students in charter schools, magnet schools, career academies, theme-based programs, special education programs, bilingual programs, alternative education programs and adult education programs to determine if all Hartford students are achieving academic and social goals at high levels. Lessons learned from the success of students in specific schools or programs can be used to strengthen practices in other schools. The quality of academic instruction continues to be a focus of ongoing special education compliance monitoring in Hartford. The Hartford administration should also consider beginning the extended-year program planning *earlier* (a) to develop appropriate content expectations for all students; (b) to ensure sufficient certified teachers are hired;

and (c) to create a format for reporting student progress that may be shared with parents and teachers.

- *Parent and Community Support.* Greater support from the central office is still needed to fully implement board policies concerning parent involvement. Districtwide initiatives concerning parent associations, open houses, parent-teacher conferences, and family resource aides in every school may have resulted in more parent and community engagement; however, it is not clear what kinds of data are collected by central office officials to consider progress over time. Parents continue to request additional meaningful opportunities to engage the administration in efforts to resolve the needs of students receiving special services, develop theme-based programs, eliminate overcrowded schools, and receive a timely response to individual concerns.
- *Fiscal Management.* Internal capacity to complete the conversion to a joint financial system, and to support the new system, continues to be an area of need. The conversion to the Human Resource/Payroll module of SmartStream has not been completed. The central office administration has accomplished its goal to move to a biweekly payroll cycle for most bargaining units. Conversion to the new 6.5 version of SmartStream has been completed for the financial modules in place. General funds are reported to the Trustees monthly, and special fund reports are made quarterly. The Trustees do not receive status reports on *all* funds on a monthly basis. A comprehensive budget analysis should be conducted in order to provide the opportunity to reallocate existing funds, in the likely event that state and federal revenues are not significantly increased.
- *Facilities Management.* New amendments to Special Act 97-4, found primarily in Special Act 01-7 (see attachment), include provisions for a school building committee to manage school construction projects. Although limited action has taken place to implement the long-range facilities plan and to renovate Hartford Public High School, the new school building committee recently has received clarification from the Attorney General as to its authority and, as a result, has distributed a request for proposals to hire a project manager to perform specific duties related to these projects. Submission of progress payment requests to the Department on existing projects has improved dramatically. A financial management firm has been retained to file the necessary documentation with the Department to close completed projects. Fire code and safety improvements have been made to 10 schools identified in the long-range plan. It is not clear what kinds of reports have been made to determine the effectiveness of the new work order, preventive maintenance and inventory control systems.

Amendments to Special Act 97-4 were made in the last legislative session to provide the State Board of Trustees with additional time to establish structural improvements in the areas noted above, and to effectively transition to a local board of education. These amendments are included in the following new acts: Special Act 01-7, Public Act 01-9 of the June Special Session (JSS) and Public Act 01-1(JSS) (see attachments). The new statutes concerning the State Board of Trustees are summarized as follows:

1. The tenure of the current State Board of Trustees now extends until December 2002 to accomplish the main requirements pursuant to Special Act 97-4 (see Special Act 01-7, Section 1).
2. From December 2002 until December 2005, a partially appointed and partially elected Board of Trustees shall govern the Hartford Public Schools (see Special Act 01-7, Section 2). The process for selecting the appointed board members was amended in Public Act 01-9(JSS), Section 96(b): The new provision requires that the appointments be made by the Mayor in consultation with the Governor and the leadership of the General Assembly, and approved by the City Council (see attachment).
3. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003, the city of Hartford may use up to \$100,000 to contract for training in the duties of membership on a board of education. Of this amount, \$50,000 shall not lapse on June 30, 2002, but shall be available for expenditure during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003 [see attached Section 34 of Public Act 01-1(JSS)].
4. During the time that the State Board of Education monitors the Hartford Public Schools (now extended to December 2005 pursuant to Special Act 01-7), the State Board of Education may reject, for good cause, the appointment of any Hartford superintendent of schools within 30 days of such appointment (see Section 2(c) of Special Act 01-7).
5. In December 2005, the new Hartford Board of Education will be determined in accordance with the charter of the City of Hartford.

The State Department of Education continues to provide ongoing technical support to Chairperson Ritter, the State Board of Trustees, Superintendent Amato and Hartford school administrators, teachers and parents to achieve districtwide goals to "increase student achievement, enhance the quality, adequacy and equality of educational opportunities, and allocate and manage resources efficiently and effectively" (Section 1, Special Act 01-7).

Attachments: Special Act 01-7, An Act Concerning The Hartford School District
June Special Session, Public Act 01-1, An Act Concerning Expenditures of the
Programs and Services of the Department of Education (selected sections)
June Special Session, Public Act 01-9, An Act Concerning the Expenditures of the
Office of Policy and Management (selected sections)

ATTACHMENT: AMENDMENTS TO SPECIAL ACT 97-4

Substitute Senate Bill No. 453

Special Act No. 01-7

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HARTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 1 of special act 97-4 is amended to read as follows:

(a) It is hereby found and declared that the Hartford school district is in a state of crisis and that the continued existence of this crisis is detrimental to the children of the city and in conflict with the educational interests of the state and the resolution of the crisis is a matter of paramount public interest and that to achieve this resolution it is necessary, appropriate and an essential public purpose to provide in this act for the dissolution of the Hartford Board of Education for a period of at least thirty-seven months and for the creation of a State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools to be responsible for the governance, management and fiscal operations of the Hartford school district, all in order to increase student achievement, enhance the quality, adequacy and equality of educational opportunities, and allocate and manage resources efficiently and effectively.

(b) The State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools requested and received an extension of time for its management of the Hartford school district through the Monday preceding the first Tuesday in December, 2002, in accordance with section 2 of special act 97-4, as amended by this act. Such extension was granted in order to allow the State Board of Trustees additional time to: (1) Improve student achievement; (2) address the Hartford Improvement Plan developed by the Commissioner of Education and the recommendations of the fiscal and operations audit of the school district; (3) continue the accreditation process for the elementary and middle schools; (4) implement a long-term school building program based on the findings of the long-range facilities study; and (5) implement revised policies for the school district. Accordingly, during such extension period, the State Board of Trustees shall continue to manage the Hartford school district in accordance with the provisions of special act 97-4, as amended by this act.

(c) For purposes of this section and sections 4 and 6 to 9, inclusive, of special act 97-4, as amended by this act, "reconstituted Hartford Board of Education" means

the Hartford Board of Education managing the school district pursuant to subsection (b) of section 2 of special act 97-4, as amended by this act, from December 3, 2002 to December 5, 2005.

Sec. 2. Section 2 of special act 97-4 is amended to read as follows:

[The Hartford Board of Education in existence on the effective date of this act shall dissolve on June 1, 1997.]

(a) The State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools, established pursuant to section 3 of [this act] special act 97-4, shall be solely responsible for the management of the Hartford school district, as provided in [this act] special act 97-4, as amended by this act, during the period from June 1, 1997, through June 30, 2000, except that the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools, on or before January 1, 2000, may request the State Board of Education to extend the period [until June 30, 2002] in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. Such request shall be based on such factors as the need for additional time to improve student achievement and sufficiently address the Hartford Improvement Plan described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 4 of [this act] special act 97-4, as amended by this act, and the findings and recommendations of the fiscal and operations audit conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of section 6 of [this act] special act 97-4, as amended by this act. The State Board of Education shall act on such a request by February 1, 2000. If the State Board of Education grants such an extension, the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools shall continue to manage the Hartford school district [through June 30, 2002] in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. [In January, 2000 or, if an extension is granted pursuant to this subsection, in January, 2002, the Governor shall issue a writ of election directed to the municipal clerk of the city of Hartford ordering an election to be held in Hartford on a date in March specified in the writ for members of a new local board of education. Such members shall take office on July 1, 2000, or July 1, 2002, as appropriate. The terms of office of such members shall be in accordance with the charter of the city of Hartford except that the terms of six members shall expire on the Monday immediately preceding the first Tuesday in December in 2001 or 2003, as appropriate, and the terms of three members shall expire on the Monday immediately preceding the first Tuesday in December in 2003 or 2005, as appropriate. During the period from the election of such members until June 30, 2000, or June 30, 2002, as appropriate, the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools shall hold joint meetings with the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education to provide for the transition in the management of the Hartford school district from the State Board of Trustees of the Hartford Public Schools to the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education.]

(b) The Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools shall continue to manage the Hartford school district through December 2, 2002. From December 3, 2002, to December 5, 2005, the Hartford school district shall be managed by a board of education consisting of four elected members, and three members who are electors of the city of Hartford and are appointed by the mayor of Hartford with the approval of the Hartford City Council. The elected members shall be elected at the election held in November, 2002, and they shall take office on December 3, 2002. Except as provided in this subsection, on and after December 6, 2005, the Hartford school district shall be managed by a board of education that is determined in accordance with the charter of the city of Hartford. The number of members of the board of education shall be in accordance with the charter and the length of the terms of individual members elected in 2005, may be different in order to meet any provision of the charter requiring staggered terms. Notwithstanding the provisions of the charter of the city of Hartford concerning the election of members of the board of education, commencing with the election held in November, 2002, and for all subsequent elections, candidates for the board of education shall be elected with party designation.

(c) The state monitors appointed pursuant to section 8 of [this act] special act 97-4, as amended by this act, shall continue their duties [under the newly elected board of education for one year] until December 5, 2005. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, during the time that the State Board of Education monitors the Hartford school district, the State Board of Education may reject, for good cause, the appointment of any Hartford superintendent of schools within thirty days of such appointment.

Sec. 3. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 4 of special act 97-4 are amended to read as follows:

(b) The State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools and the Superintendent of Schools shall jointly appoint a seven-member advisory council composed of parents, classroom teachers, school principals and representatives from institutions of higher education. The council shall advise the State Board of Trustees and the superintendent on such matters as curriculum, student achievement, parental and community involvement, and school safety and discipline. [The advisory council shall terminate on the date the State Board of Trustees transfers responsibility for the Hartford school district to the newly elected Hartford Board of Education.] The advisory council shall terminate on December 31, 2003.

(c) The State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools shall ensure that all elementary and middle schools in Hartford join the New England Association of Schools and Colleges through the association's accreditation process. The

reconstituted Hartford Board of Education shall continue the accreditation process and shall develop, implement and periodically report on a comprehensive written strategy for achieving the accreditation of all elementary and middle schools in Hartford. The strategy shall be developed in consultation with the Commissioner of Education and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Said board of education shall ensure that the schools that have been accredited maintain such accreditation.

(d) The city of Hartford shall remain financially responsible for any liabilities or obligations, including contingent liabilities and obligations, incurred by the city council, ~~or~~ the Hartford Board of Education prior to June 1, 1997, or the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools.

Sec. 4. Section 6 of special act 97-4 is amended to read as follows:

(a) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any public or special act, the Hartford City Council shall allocate funds to the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools and provide in-kind services to said State Board of Trustees in accordance with this ~~[subsection. (1)]~~ subdivision. (A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, and each subsequent fiscal year that the Hartford school district is under the management of the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools, the Hartford City Council shall: ~~[(A)]~~ (i) Allocate to the State Board of Trustees all state and federal aid, except amounts received pursuant to chapter 173 of the general statutes, tuition revenues and revenues from private sources received by the city of Hartford for educational purposes in said fiscal years, and ~~[(B)]~~ (ii) provide to said State Board of Trustees at least the same type and amount of in-kind services as were provided to the Hartford Board of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997. ~~[(2)]~~ (B) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1998, and June 30, 1999, the Hartford City Council shall allocate to the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools the amount of local funds it allocated to the Hartford Board of Education for educational purposes in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, plus any additional amount needed to satisfy the requirements of section 10-262j of the general statutes. Such allocation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, shall be based on estimates approved by the Commissioner of Education, provided an adjustment based on final audited revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, shall be made by the Hartford City Council no later than March 1, 1998. ~~[(3)]~~ (C) The State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools shall determine the amount of local funds needed to meet the needs of the school district for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, and any subsequent fiscal year the Hartford school district is under its management and shall provide such information to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education for purposes of the report required under section 9 of ~~[this act]~~ special act 97-4, as amended by this

act. The Hartford City Manager shall be responsible for the prompt disposition of all purchasing requests made by the Superintendent of Schools. For purposes of this [subsection] subdivision and subdivision (2) of this subsection, "local funds" means the funds allocated by the Hartford City Council in excess of the funds described in subparagraph (A) (i) of this subdivision [(1) of this subsection] or subparagraph (A) (i) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, as the case may be.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any public or special act, the Hartford City Council shall allocate funds to the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education in accordance with this subdivision. (A) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2003, and June 30, 2004, shall: (i) Allocate to the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education all state and federal aid, except amounts received pursuant to chapter 173 of the general statutes, tuition revenues and revenues from private sources received by the city of Hartford for educational purposes in said fiscal years, and (ii) provide to said board of education at least the same type and amount of in-kind services as were provided to the State Board of Trustees for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002. (B) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2003, and June 30, 2004, the Hartford City Council shall allocate to the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education at least the amount of local funds it allocated to the State Board of Trustees for educational purposes in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, plus any additional amount needed to satisfy the requirements of section 10-262j of the general statutes. (C) The reconstituted Hartford Board of Education shall determine the amount of local funds needed to meet the needs of the school district for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, and shall provide such information to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education for purposes of the report required under section 9 of special act 97-4, as amended by this act.

(b) (1) The State Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall contract for a fiscal and operations audit of the Hartford school district by a certified public accounting firm. The audit shall be paid for by the city and the contract shall require a report by January 1, 1998. The State Board of Trustees shall develop a plan to address the findings of the audit and to implement the recommendations in the report. (2) The reconstituted Hartford Board of Education shall continue to implement the recommendations from the fiscal and operations audit of the Hartford school district pursuant to this subsection. The audit steering committee created under the State Board of Trustees or such other entity with similar responsibilities created under the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education shall continue until December 6, 2005, unless reauthorized by the Hartford Board of Education, and shall meet monthly to accomplish the following actions: (A) Prioritize and recommend projects necessary to address the recommendations in both the fiscal and operations audit and more recent annual financial audits; (B) help to ensure that financial and

operational controls for completed recommendations are established; (C) assist the Hartford district to formalize an internal audit function for the Hartford Public Schools; and (D) assess and report on progress and concerns. Each member of the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education shall receive a copy of the monthly status reports distributed to the audit steering committee. The reconstituted Hartford Board of Education shall hold at least semi-annual informational meetings devoted to providing the board and the general public with a full progress report on the status of audit improvement efforts. The Hartford City Council shall maintain its support and provision of in-kind services to the audit steering committee through December 5, 2005.

Sec. 5. Section 7 of special act 97-4 is amended to read as follows:

(a) The State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall develop a long-term school building program pursuant to section 10-220 of the general statutes for the Hartford school district. The State Board of Trustees or the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education, as appropriate, and the Hartford City Council shall expeditiously implement the program. All school construction projects shall be managed by a school building committee, three members of which shall be appointed by the State Board of Trustees or the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education, as appropriate, three members of which shall be appointed by the Hartford City Council and one member of which shall be chosen by a vote of the other members. The members of the appointing authorities may be appointed to the building committee. The building committee may delegate management responsibilities to an external entity approved by the Commissioner of Education. The Hartford City Council shall continue to pay the municipal costs of school construction projects. To the extent that a Hartford bond referendum is required for the authorization of school construction projects, the Hartford City Council shall present to the voters projects that have been determined by the State Board of Trustees or the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education, as appropriate, to be in accordance with the long-term building program, provided, in the case of projects approved by the State Board of Trustee or the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education, as appropriate, the City Treasurer has determined that such projects are within the fiscal capabilities of the city.

(b) The audit steering committee, in consultation with the State Board of Trustees and the Hartford City Council, shall recommend a mechanism to effectively and efficiently complete facilities projects authorized prior to the effective date of this act and to implement the long-term school building program. The audit steering committee or such other entity with similar responsibilities created under the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education shall provide semi-annual reports, until December 5, 2005, on school building projects to the Hartford City Council

and the State Board of Trustees or the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education, as appropriate.

Sec. 6. Section 8 of special act 97-4 is amended to read as follows:

(a) The Commissioner of Education shall appoint, within available appropriations, two state monitors for the Hartford school district. The state monitors shall report directly to the Commissioner of Education. The monitors shall consult with and assist the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools, [and] the Superintendent of Schools and the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education in assessing the progress and the needs of the school district and securing outside assistance from corporations and universities for meeting such needs.

(b) The state monitors, the Superintendent of Schools and the Commissioner of Education shall meet regularly to review the progress and needs of the school district.

[(c) The state monitors shall prepare a monthly written report to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education on the progress and needs of the Hartford school district. The report shall include information on any additional assistance required by the school district. The state monitors shall submit copies of the report to the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools and the Superintendent of Schools.]

Sec. 7. Section 9 of special act 97-4 is amended to read as follows:

(a) On or before October 1, 1997, the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education shall report to the Governor, and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education on the operation of the Hartford school district and progress made under the management of the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools. Such a report shall be made on a quarterly basis until the management of the Hartford school district is returned to the control of the Hartford Board of Education pursuant to section 2 of [this act] special act 97-4, as amended by this act. The report submitted pursuant to this section in January, 1999, shall contain a recommendation on the amount of local funds necessary for the operation of the Hartford school district for the subsequent years that the school district is under the management of the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools.

(b) On or before December 31, 2002, the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the

general statutes, to the Governor, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, the Hartford City Council and the reconstituted Hartford Board of Education on the operation of the Hartford school district and its progress. Such report shall be made on a semi-annual basis until June 30, 2005.

Approved July 6, 2001

House Bill No. 7507

June Special Session, Public Act No. 01-9

AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPENDITURES OF THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT.

Sec. 96. Section 2 of special act 97-4, as amended by section 2 of special act 01-7, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools, established pursuant to section 3 of special act 97-4, shall be solely responsible for the management of the Hartford school district, as provided in special act 97-4, as amended by this act, during the period from June 1, 1997, through June 30, 2000, except that the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools, on or before January 1, 2000, may request the State Board of Education to extend the period in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. Such request shall be based on such factors as the need for additional time to improve student achievement and sufficiently address the Hartford Improvement Plan described in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 4 of special act 97-4, as amended by this act, and the findings and recommendations of the fiscal and operations audit conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of section 6 of special act 97-4, as amended by this act. The State Board of Education shall act on such a request by February 1, 2000. If the State Board of Education grants such an extension, the State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools shall continue to manage the Hartford school district in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools shall continue to manage the Hartford school district through December 2, 2002. From December 3, 2002, to December 5, 2005, the Hartford school district shall be managed by a board of education consisting of four elected members, and three members who are electors of the city of Hartford and are appointed by the mayor of Hartford, [with the approval of] in consultation with the Governor, president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives and the majority leader and minority leader of the House of Representatives. Such appointments shall be approved by the Hartford City Council. The elected members shall be elected at the election held in November, 2002, and they shall take office on December 3, 2002. Except as provided in this subsection, on and after December 6, 2005, the Hartford school district shall be managed by a board of education that is determined in accordance with the charter of the city of Hartford. The number of members of the board of education shall be in accordance with the charter and the length of the terms of individual members elected in 2005, may be different in order to

meet any provision of the charter requiring staggered terms. Notwithstanding the provisions of the charter of the city of Hartford concerning the election of members of the board of education, commencing with the election held in November, 2002, and for all subsequent elections, candidates for the board of education shall be elected with party designation.

(c) The state monitors appointed pursuant to section 8 of special act 97-4, as amended by [this act] special act 01-7, shall continue their duties until December 5, 2005. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, during the time that the State Board of Education monitors the Hartford school district, the State Board of Education may reject, for good cause, the appointment of any Hartford superintendent of schools within thirty days of such appointment.

House Bill No. 7502

June Special Session, Public Act No. 01-1

AN ACT CONCERNING EXPENDITURES FOR THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Sec. 34. Any additional funds received pursuant to the Educational Cost Sharing Grant for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003, and any funds appropriated for Supplemental Education Aid in section 1 of special act 01-1 of the June special session shall be used for local education purposes provided that up to one hundred thousand dollars of any amount received by the city of Hartford shall be used by the city to contract to provide for training in the duties of membership on a board of education. Fifty thousand dollars of such amount shall not lapse on June 30, 2002, but shall be available for expenditure during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003.

Sec. 37. Section 10-223c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

(a) [For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the] The Commissioner of Education shall provide grants, within available appropriations, to local and regional boards of education that have one or more schools in need of improvement on the most recent list prepared pursuant to section 10-223b. Eligible boards of education shall use grant funds for costs related to the implementation of improvement plans for such schools, partnership programs between such schools and public libraries in the school district and actions necessary for such schools to become accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. An eligible board of education shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, to the Department of Education, at such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes.

(b) The plan for the expenditure of grant funds shall be approved by the department, after consultation with the State Librarian for purposes of the partnership programs, and shall include: (1) Methods and school-based programs identified pursuant to section 10-223d that address the specific subject areas, by grade level, in which students attending the school were most deficient on the state-wide mastery examinations pursuant to section 10-14n, [and] (2) actions that are necessary for the school to be accredited, and (3) partnership programs with public libraries in the school district that are designed to improve

family literacy and parent involvement. The plan may include a quality after school program.

(c) A quality after school program shall include: (1) Criteria for student participation in the program; (2) leisure activities that facilitate social and cognitive development; (3) safe indoor and outdoor environments; (4) trained staff skilled in child development; (5) specific strategies and interventions for children with demonstrated academic weaknesses to improve academic performance and reduce social promotion; (6) family involvement and an assessment of transportation needs for families to utilize the program; and (7) program evaluation.

(d) Each board of education receiving a grant pursuant to this section shall set aside an amount equal to at least ten per cent of the grant for partnership programs with public libraries in the school district.

(e) The Department of Education may retain up to one per cent of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for coordination, program evaluation and administration.

(f) No funds received pursuant to this section shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding to the local or regional board of education for such schools.

(g) Expenditure reports shall be filed with the Department of Education as requested by the commissioner. School districts shall refund (1) any unexpended amounts at the close of the program for which the grant was awarded, and (2) any amounts not expended in accordance with the approved grant application.

(h) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the Hartford school district shall not receive grants pursuant to this section but shall use a portion of the supplemental aid provided in section 35 of special act 00-13 to implement improvement plans and partnership programs in accordance with this section.