

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY
April 6, 2020**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, April 6, 2020, via Google Hangouts.

The meeting was called to order at 6:53 PM by Chairman Bryan R. Hall.

PRESENT Chairman Bryan R. Hall, Secretary Tyron V. Harris, Harry Amadasun, Jr. Vanessa Jenkins, Marilyn Pet, Dorese Roberts, Tom Rup, Valerie Scheer and Stephanie Watkins

ABSENT None

ALSO PRESENT Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools
Anne Marie Mancini, Deputy Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum
Elsie Torres, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum
Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Ben Whittaker, Director of Facilities
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Roberta J. Pratt, Chief Information Officer of Information Technology

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA – Yes, A Consent Calendar was created to approve items A-N under Approval of Minutes of previous meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting: February 10, 2020 at 6:10 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board of Education Meeting: February 10, 2020 at 7:05 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting: March 5, 2020 at 5:03 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting: March 5, 2020 at 5:20 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting: March 5, 2020 at 5:34 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting: March 5, 2020 at 5:49 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting: March 5, 2020 at 6:04 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting: March 10, 2020 at 2:32 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board of Education Meeting: March 12, 2020 at 4:30 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board of Education Meeting: March 12, 2020 at 5:04 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board of Education Meeting: March 13, 2020 at 2:31 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board of Education Meeting: March 17, 2020 at 2:00 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board of Education Meeting: March 20, 2020 at 4:30 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board of Education Meeting: March 26, 2020 at 12:00 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Lillian Bertram reported on her experience with the Distance Learning process.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report

Bryan R. Hall

Chairman Hall welcomed fellow Board members, administration and the audience.

Chairman Hall thanked the Board and Administration for their collaborative and supportive spirit shown over the past 6 weeks as our school district has worked hard to respond to COVID-19. While this is our first virtual regularly scheduled BOE meeting since the pandemic, he noted how appreciative of the time everyone has committed to the Emergency and Special Board meetings that Superintendent Quesnel has requested in order to keep everyone updated. Chairman Hall mentioned how he smiled this weekend when he caught the highlights of Queen Elizabeth's II address when she said, "I hope in years to come, everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge." He shared how proud he is to be a part of an organization that has taken care of our kids, our faculty and our community.

Chairman Hall shared three important points:

- Our Board of Education made the decision to continue paychecks and benefits to all district employees regardless of current required roles. This is an extremely important action as it keeps our employees whole through June 30th and hopefully takes additional financial stressors off our staff during this challenging time.
- Our Board of Education is working to provide a high-quality Distance Learning Plan (DLP) for all students. In less than two weeks, the team had this up and running and as our second week of formal learning is launched it is really impressive to see how our kids and teachers are working together.
- Our Board of Education and administration are working hard to balance communication with our staff and families throughout this pandemic. We have used a blend of videos, letters, emails, tweets and website posts to keep our community informed and inspired regarding the shared work. Chairman Hall strongly encouraged the East Hartford Public School Community to visit our home page at www.easthartford.org where they will find a wealth of news stories and resources.

An important agenda item this evening is the FY2020 Board of Education Budget. Chairman Hall is aware that in these times we are all concerned about the fiscal impact that COVID-19 will certainly have on our schools. He reminded the Board that while tonight's actions certainly close a nearly 6 month long local process, there will be a need to continue to monitor our fiscal health and communicate all needs as they arise. Finally, while it feels odd to be conducting this meeting under these circumstances, he shared that he feels a sense of control, and normalcy as we all learn the new technology. Chairman Hall closed his report by reminding Board Members, Administration, Parents, Teachers, Students...our community needs you, it needs us, it needs us to continue to work together—let's continue to do our part. We are glad to be here and glad you are here...Let's get to work!

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Superintendent's Report

Nathan Quesnel

-Updates from the District:

- Employment Status Updates
- Technology Roll-Out Update
- Governor Lamont's COVID 19 Learn from Home Task Force (LHTF)
- Distance Learning Plan (DLP) Update
- Fund for Teachers Update

-Dates to Remember:

- 4/10/20: Good Friday, District Closed
- 4/13-4/17/20: Spring Recess, Schools Closed
- 5/11/20: Next BOE Meeting
- 6/12/20: Last Day of School

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Head Start Selection Criteria 2020-2021

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To Approve the Head Start Selection Criteria 2020-2021
Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of CT Healthy Foods Certification (1) FY 2020-2021

MOTION By Valerie Scheer
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To Approve Pursuant to C.G.S. Section I 0-21 Sf, the East Hartford Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs and any fund-raising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organization and groups.
Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of CT Healthy Beverages Certification (2) FY 2020-2021

MOTION By Vanessa Jenkins
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To Approve the East Hartford Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages

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not listed in Section 10-221 q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on a weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer practices, play rehearsals and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Career and Technical Education Secondary Supplemental Enhancement Grant 2020

MOTION By Valerie Scheer
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To Approve the Career and Technical Education Secondary Supplemental Enhancement Grant 2020
Motion unanimously carried

Approval of 2020-2021 Budget

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins
To Approve the 2020-2021 Budget
Motion unanimously carried

Board Member Representative Reports - None

Public Participation - None

Questions and Concerns by Board Members - None

Topics for Future Agendas - None

Adjournment

MOTION By Vanessa Jenkins
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board (7:49 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

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Recorded by: Cynthia Hadden

Approved By Board of Education