

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY
May 11, 2020**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, May 11, 2020, via Google Meets.

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 PM by Chairman Bryan R. Hall.

PRESENT Chairman Bryan R. Hall, Harry Amadasun, Jr.
Vanessa Jenkins, Marilyn Pet, Dorese Roberts, Tom Rup,
and Stephanie Watkins

ABSENT Secretary Tyron V. Harris, Valerie Scheer

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 – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tom Rup
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting: April 6, 2020 at 5:21 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting: April 6, 2020 at 6:03 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tom Rup
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting: April 6, 2020 at 6:53 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS - None

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. He commented that this is the second virtual meeting of the Board and acknowledged that it is getting easier.

Chairman Hall extended his thanks to each of the Board Members and also to the dedicated EHPS staff who have been nothing short of remarkable during this time of pandemic. He noted that the Superintendent has continually updated the Board on district progress and how impressed he is at the innovation, hard work and commitment the Board has seen across the district as educators have continued to do what they do best...teach our kids.

Chairman Hall mentioned that the Board has a busy agenda and will go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting for the purpose of the Superintendent's evaluation. The agenda includes topics that have significant impact starting with the Administrations recommendation, aligned with state policy, to revise our annual graduation ceremony. Chairman Hall noted that Graduation is a sacred time for school systems and Boards. It's the celebration of our student's journey, and of our parents sacrifices and our communities' accomplishments. He acknowledged that it is sad that these times of pandemic have put some of these traditions on hold but Chairman Hall knows that his responsibility as a leader is to ensure the safety of our kids, our faculty and our community. He mentioned that while things may be different in these conditions, the pride we all feel for our students as they transition on is something that always will remain the same. Chairman Hall challenged himself to lead and to continue to focus the district on the values we all hold dear.

Finally, tonight, more than ever, the little things matter. The way we engage, the way we support, and the way we lead. Our school system has accomplished so much but the next few weeks are truly going to be a challenge as our state attempts to find the delicate balance of recovery and caution. In this time, Chairman Hall mentioned that he is heartened to know that he works with a Board, not divided by petty politics, but rather committed to kids and to service. He looks forward to working with each of them on this challenge and knows that their work as a Board truly matters. Glad to be here and glad you are here...Let's get to work!

Superintendent's Report

Nathan Quesnel

-Updates from the District:

- Unified Command Updates
- District Recovery Conversations
- O'Brien Principal Hiring Process
- Hiring Update
- Transportation Contract Negotiations
- Meals
- Distance Learning Plan (DLP) Resources
- Going the Distance Update

-Dates to Remember:

- 5/25/20: Memorial Day: District Closed
- 6/8/20: Next BOE Meeting
- 6/12/20: Last Day of School

DLP Phase III Grading Plan – Elementary

Elsie Torres, Assistant Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent Elsie Torres reported that she and Deputy Superintendent Anne Marie Mancini in line with the District Learning Plan (DLP) Phase III Grading Plan have worked extensively together and with their teams to address the grading system for PreK to grade 12. They reviewed multiple documents in terms of guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) on assessment and grading. One part of the documentation was regarding a pass/fail model which they chose not to adopt. Superintendent Mancini worked with her team to develop a comprehensive rubric for the secondary students that Superintendent Torres was able to adapt and modify for elementary grades K-5 with additional modifications for the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) for the 3- and 4-year old's. This model considers both the effort towards the distance learning plan and the content in ELA, mathematics and science. Working with the Elementary team they selected power standards that progress throughout the year and merged the power standards to help build the DLP as they progressed through the weeks, specific to the grading and content areas. Superintendent Torres stated they are using the power standards, assessments grading and rubric to drive the DLP

DLP Phase III Accountability/Grading Plan- Secondary

Anne Marie Mancini, Deputy Superintendent

Deputy Superintendent Anne Marie Mancini reiterated that she and Assistant Superintendent Elsie Torres worked together to develop the DLP Phase III Grading plan. She noted that the State Department of Education issued their guidance on April 9, 2020. From that point, Deputy Superintendent Mancini worked closely with other Assistant Superintendents across the state and shared her concerns related to how the pass/fail system would impact our students. The first reason is what impact it would have on a student's transcripts, how would it impact our students when they went on to schools that had test optional admission's policies and the impact of a pass on a transcript for the NCAA would be equivalent to a D and would affect our student athletes.

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The team wanted to develop a plan that was equitable to our students and would benefit them during the process. In the development of the plan the team wanted to be sure the following were in place.

- That teachers continue to work together to produce content that reflect the most essential content and skills that should be taught in each of the courses for the remainder of the year and that they that stayed on pace with one another.
- That the rubric measures two things; the essential content and the student effort so that students would receive two grades on each assignment.
- To have a failsafe option for those students who have certain struggles at home that we were able to be identified through our house system so those students would receive the additional support that they need. These students would not necessarily receive grades.

Deputy Superintendent Mancini mentioned how pleased she is with the way she and Assistant Superintendent Torres and their teams worked together on this system and feel they implemented a plan that is best for our students.

Third Quarter Financial Report

Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services

Mr. Mainuli presented the third quarter financial report. This year the financial estimates were greatly affected by school closings in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The uncertainty of school closures, (59) days, has had a far-reaching impact on financial operations. Student transportation expenditures along with Special Education costs/revenues placed the most stress on our financial operations as we close the fiscal year. A main focus was to ensure that everyone gets paid in the District through the end of the school year and that is happening. The only expenses that have been incurred at the end the third and start of the 4th quarter have been related to our building infrastructure, health and safety issues as well as technology and one to one devices provided to our students and the district. As a result, our financial forecast projects a general budget fund balance savings at year end of approximately \$1.4 million. This figure may change as Purchase orders and invoices are closed out. Fiscally we are in a good position. Our main concerns for year-end are the Health Benefits Insurance Reserve, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Reserve and the Capital Reserve Fund for technology and building infrastructure projects. The recommendation that is planned for the Board in June is to move the remaining funding the to the three areas mentioned depending on need.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Fourth Renewal Food Service Amendment - Sodexo

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins
To Approve the Fourth Renewal Food Service Amendment-Sodexo
Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Exemption of Graduation Requirements Class of 2020

MOTION By Vanessa Jenkins
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To Approve the Exemption of Graduation Requirements Class of 2020
Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Virtual Graduation-Class of 2020

MOTION By Stephanie Watkins
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To Approve the Virtual Graduation -Class of 2020
Motion unanimously carried

Approval of Federal Head Start COLA 2020

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins
To Approve the Federal Head Start COLA 2020
Motion unanimously carried

Approval of Head Start 2020 Self-Assessment Plan

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To Approve the Head Start 2020 Self-Assessment Plan
Motion unanimously carried

Approval of Silver Lane “Main Building” Roof Replacement State Project # 043-0242 RR - Construction Contract Award to Premier Building Associates and Authorization for the Director of Facilities to Execute Contract on Behalf of the Board of Education

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins
To Approve Silver Lane “Main Building” Roof Replacement State Project # 043-0242 RR - Construction Contract Award to Premier Building Associates and Authorization for the Director of Facilities to Execute Contract on Behalf of the Board of Education
Motion unanimously carried

Approval of Review and Approval - Silver Lane “Shingle” Roof Replacement State Project#043-0243 RR- Local Plan Review and Sign-off on “Request for Review of Final Plans” Form SCG-042

MOTION By Vanessa Jenkins
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To Approve Silver Lane “Shingle” Roof Replacement State Project#043-0243 RR- Local Plan Review and Sign-off on “Request for Review of Final Plans” Form SCG-042
Motion unanimously carried

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Board Member Representative Reports - None

Public Participation - None

Questions and Concerns by Board Members - None

Topics for Future Agendas - None

Adjournment

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board (7:21 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

Approved By Board of Education