

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
JUNE 08, 2020**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, June 8, 2020, via Zoom Meeting.

The Meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by Chairman Bryan R. Hall.

PRESENT Chairman Bryan R. Hall, Secretary Tyron V. Harris, Harry Amadasun Marilyn Pet (6:18 pm), Valerie Scheer, Dorese Roberts, Tom Rup, and Vanessa Jenkins

ABSENT Stephanie Watkins

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

Chairman Hall opened the meeting with a moment of silence to reflect on the unrest facing our nation sparked with the senseless death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Chairman Hall shared his frustration that conversations need to continue despite the progress we all aspire to make, in a nation where racism continues. He reiterated the statement that he and the Superintendent sent to the community, in times, beyond the anger, emotion, frustration and doubt, we all look for hope that we can make a change. He further noted in times like these, we look to find hope in the faces of the children who walk the hallways and classrooms of our schools from all races, religions and cultures. These children embrace each other as humans and they seem to have figured this out - why is this so hard for us? In times like these, we all pray for the simplicity of a child and for the future of our town, state and nation.

East Hartford is a school system committed to building Schools that are the Pride of OUR community. We are a school system committed to EVERY child, EVERY day. We are a school system that stands with our kids and stands for justice.

Tonight, tomorrow and every day moving forward, we will continue our quest for equity and opportunity for our community. The future of our great city, our kids, are watching us and expecting us to prepare a world that welcomes, celebrates and embraces them. They need a world that keeps them safe and that lifts them up. Our words, next actions and choices will create this world for them—let's not disappoint.

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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, May 11, 2020 at 5:50 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting, May 11, 2020 at 7:35 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, May 26, 2019 at 5:42 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting, May 26, 2019 at 6:46 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS –

Lillian Bertram and Alan Corder were present for their final Board of Education meeting as Student Representatives.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Chairman Hall pointed out that while the limitations of COVID-19 have certainly changed the format of the East Hartford Board of Education's Annual Recognition event, the Board did not want to miss the chance to say thank you during our final Board meeting of the year. He shared

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the Board’s appreciation of our Parent Volunteers, School Governance Council Leaders and Teacher Volunteers. He continued by thanking the twenty-five (25) and forty (40) year employees who are being recognized for their service and providing a special goodbye to our retirees.

On behalf of the entire Board of Education, please accept our deepest appreciation, admiration and thanks.

Recognition of Student Representatives: Lillian Bertram, Alan Corder and Kyle Janty

Chairman Hall on behalf of the Board recognized and shared his appreciation for their dedication and contributions throughout the year and wished them well as they embark on their next journey. He noted that the students were sent a plaque and Amazon gift card.

Superintendent Quesnel also shared his appreciation to our student representatives for taking the time to provide us with a bi-weekly update of the great things going on in our schools and wished them well in the future.

Recognition of Volunteers of the Year, District School Organization Presidents and School Governance Council Chairs

Superintendent Quesnel was pleased to honor those who make it all happen. He applauded our Volunteers of the Year, PTO Presidents and SGC leaders who spend late hours in our buildings working hard, giving back and supporting our kids. Each of these individuals received a Certificate of Appreciation.

2020 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

**Martha McKerley
Stanley Staron
Rebecca Johansen
Dominie Dickens
Jennifer Lopez
Candice Ortiz
Vanessa Kelman
Sarah Rojas
Christina Pinto
Mari Nevue
Linda Chamberlain
Patrick McLaughlin**

**CIBA
EHHS
EHMS
Goodwin
Langford
Mayberry
O’Brien
O’Connell
Pitkin
Silver Lane
Sunset
Woodland**

2020 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS

Ramadan Gherri	CIBA
Christie Crooks	EHHS
Kayla Hernandez	Goodwin
Justina Baptist	Mayberry
Omyra Wilson	Mayberry
Vanessa Kelman	O'Brien
Keysha Starks	O'Connell
Christina Pinto	Pitkin
Alice Stout	Silver Lane
Linda Chamberlain	Sunset
Sarah Rojas	Sunset
Keysha Starks	Sunset

2020 SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL CHAIRS

Amy Bryan	EHHS
Rebecca Johansen	EHMS
Shanoa Flores-Criss	EHMS
Tom Donato	Langford
Sarah Gorra	Langford
Marisa David	Mayberry
Stephanie Gemme	Mayberry
Ariel Vellani	O'Brien
Katherine Balog	Silver Lane
Linda Chamberlain	Sunset Ridge
Sarah Rojas	Sunset Ridge
Keysha Starks	Sunset Ridge

Recognition of District Retirees and Staff of 25+ Years

Superintendent Quesnel congratulated our district retirees on their long and distinguished careers of building hope for kids and to the staff with 25+ years of service for their continued dedication, wisdom and commitment to East Hartford Public Schools

Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources also shared his congratulations and appreciation to our staff who have reached these significant milestones and wished them continued success and good health. Mr. Wethje noted that each staff member received a letter from the Superintendent and an Amazon gift card.

RETIREMENTS

**John Bacon
Lisa Beauchamp
Elijah Boyd
Sandra Cianci
Kim Coutu-Chiger
Valerie Cuva
Gail Giampolo
Carol Godzyk-Synnott**

**Patricia Graham
Walter Jennings
Pamela Jordan
Cheryl Looke
Paul Mainuli
Robin Markham
Helene Marchese
Pauline McLaughlin**

**Michael Moan
Lesley Morgan-Thompson
Timothy Reid
Raven Smith
Teresa Sanders
Alvah Sprague
Connie Stiles**

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Linda Boyle
Rose Cessario
Beatrice Corrado
Jill Gauthier**

**Daniel Lawrence
Jennifer LeDoux
Terry Nebelski
Karen Stewart**

**Jessica Torres
Carmen Velazquez
Heidi Webster**

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Nancy Tierinni

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report

Bryan R. Hall

Chairman Hall thanked the community, families, kids and faculty for a great year. June is typically a busy month for the Board but it is a month filled with incredible highs and deep reflection. We all feel sadness as we miss our graduations and celebratory events. Despite this, please take comfort in knowing that we will return and that this passing phase has shown the true color of our schools—students first, team second. For all of us Board members, seeing our kids succeed is personal, it's about our families, our community, our city and our future. In moments like these, we must find the meaning, satisfaction and drive that continues to encourage us to volunteer our time as a Board member and be a part of something special for community.

In closing, Chairman Hall acknowledged his fellow Board Members who participate in Board meetings twice a month, who work through and study lengthy board packets and who are always willing to be interrupted by a neighbor at the supermarket. The Board has done some big things this year and they walk away knowing that they have all made a difference for the children and families we serve. Thanks for your willingness to work together on all issues, and thanks for your support of me as your Chair. It is an honor to serve together and I continue to look forward to good work ahead.

Superintendent's Report

Nathan Quesnel

- Superintendent's Message:
- Updates from the District:
 - East Hartford Public Schools Community Response;
 - District ReOpening Town Halls;
 - East Hartford Public Schools Graduation Proceedings;
 - School Volunteers and Faculty Appreciation;

Next Steps:

6/12/20: EHHS/CIBA/Synergy/Woodland Virtual Graduation Release

6/12/20: Last Day of School

8/26/20: First Day of School SY21

8/31/20: Next Regular BoE Meeting

East Hartford Public School COVID-10 ReOpening Process

Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent

Superintendent Quesnel discussed that the objective of the ReOpening Plan is to develop and oversee a comprehensive Plan for East Hartford Public Schools (EHPS) that safely and efficiently restores the district to normal operations. Recognizing the scope of developing a comprehensive ReOpening plan for EHPS, the district has elected to utilize the Superintendent's Cabinet to lead this process. Based on the structure of this team, this provides the optimum ability to gather feedback and expertise from each sector field and channel this information into the plan. In turn, this structure provides a double loop learning model to offer implementation feedback in real time allowing for immediate plan adjustments. Superintendent Quesnel reviewed the Principles of EHPS ReOpening Process:

- *Safe*: Our plan will lead with a focus on the physical and emotional safety of our students, our faculty and our community.
- *Incremental*: Our plan will lead with small incremental steps that gradually close the gap between current status and desired outcome.
- *Adaptive*: Our plan will lead with an adaptive mindset that continually adjusts to new contexts, data or requirements.

The EHPS ReOpening report will be a comprehensive yet concise operating manual that will guide Fall 2020 implementation. This report will provide the necessary tools for school leaders to develop local policies and procedures that meet the individualized context of EHPS schools. The report will provide a consistent operating process for EHPS schools that will ensure our ability to meet our objective of a safe and efficient re-opening.

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Update on RFP/Service Contract Awards – FY 2020

Ben Whittaker, Director of Facilities

Mr. Whittaker reviewed the RFP process and explained that the entire process is reviewed and approved by the EHPS Purchasing Agent prior to award. EHPS has recently conducted an RFP process to secure each of the following:

- Fire Sprinkler Services – Awarded to both Hartford Sprinkler for inspections and testing and Mack for service work and projects
- Tree Pruning and Removal Services – Awarded to Distinctive Gardens and Tree Care, Marchion and Faucher and Mountain Tree Services
- Design Services for EHMS Soccer Field/Track Renovation Project - Awarded to TO Design
- Janitorial Supplies and Equipment – Awarded to New England Industrial Supply (NEIS)

Mr. Whittaker also noted that EHPS works with the Town of East Hartford during the preparation phase of most RFPs to include potential shared services, and all RFPs allow the Town of East Hartford the option to utilize selected vendors.

1:1 District Initiative

Robert Pratt, Chief Information Officer

Ms. Pratt reported that a plan is being developed to provide devices for all students PreK-12 before school begins in the fall. It has been determined that tablets are best for Pre-K – through grade 2, Chrome Books for grades 3-6 and laptops for grades 7-12. As the District moves forward the refresh cycle will provide ChromeBooks for all students as the laptops age out. It is financially prudent to purchase ChromeBooks over Laptops at an almost 3:1 ratio. The need for district purchases will be evaluated as grant funding for technology is extinguished and with donations that continue to come in prior to looking at district contributions. The optimal way to fund these devices in future years is to budget for a refresh cycle that will replace devices that are older than 3 years. The difficulty with this approach is few school districts or municipal budgets can sustain large refresh cycles every year. Ms. Pratt will provide the Board an update when more solid information and costs are available.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Approve Capital Reserve Transfer -

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Valerie Scheer
To approve the Capital Reserve Transfer
Motion unanimously carried.

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Review and Approve the East Hartford Adult Education PEP Grant 2020-2021-

MOTION By Vanessa Jenkins
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the East Hartford Adult Education PEP Grant 2020-2021
Motion unanimously carried.

Review and Approve a Revision of Authorized Signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs -

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To approve a Revision of Authorized Signers of the Ed-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs
Motion unanimously carried.

Review and Approve Rescinding Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teacher-

MOTION By Valerie Scheer
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the Rescinding of Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teacher
Motion unanimously carried.

Board Member Representative Reports

Public Participation-

Ms. R. Mitchel, 139 Columbus Circle, East Hartford inquired about end of year celebrations for kids graduating from East Hartford Middle School and the opportunity to retrieve belongings from Norris Elementary School. Superintendent Quesnel responded that the information was sent to parents regarding both inquiries and that Ms. Mitchel could contact the Superintendent's office for more information.

Questions and Concerns by Board Members –

Board Member Vanessa Jenkins requested an Executive Session. Chairman Hall asked Ms. Jenkins to contact him.

Topics for Future Agendas – None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board (7:28 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.