

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY
NOVEMBER 16, 2020**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, November 16, 2020, via Zoom Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairman Brian R. Hall.

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

ABSENT

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, Chief Operations Officer
Roberta J. Pratt, Chief Information Officer of Information Technology
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Harry Amadasun, Jr.
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting: October 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Valerie Scheer
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board of Education Meeting: October 19, 2020 at 7:03 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required
Christopher Wethje

Chairman's Report

Bryan R. Hall

Chairman Hall greeted Board members, administration and viewers. He began by recognizing that the November meeting traditionally honors our Teachers and Paraprofessionals of the year. While EHPS did not select Teachers and Paraprofessionals of the year last Spring due to the challenges of COVID, that does not stop us from pausing and acknowledging the incredible EHPS staff for the work they do. For that work, we sincerely thank you.

Additionally, Chairman Hall acknowledged the students who have been nominated to receive the Connecticut Association of Public-School Superintendents Award. Award winners received a personalized letter and certificate from Superintendent Quesnel recognizing their achievements. He stated that this award is something to be proud of and congratulated students on their success! Chairman Hall also shared gratitude towards all who support our students including, their families, our staff and the community.

In closing, Chairman Hall is looking forward to the Culturally Responsive presentation on the meeting agenda, and that this is a Board that continues to position itself in support of our kids and in support of making our schools the Pride of our Community. EHPS recognizes that the curriculum we teach must engage, compel, affirm and celebrate the students who walk through the doors of our schools. He is proud that what we teach in East Hartford, mirrors the community we serve and that through these lessons, we can bring people together in the unity of humanity rather than the difference of discord. Chairman Hall urgently asked for continued support in leading towards unity, peace and change.

Superintendent's Report

Nathan Quesnel

-Superintendent's Message

- FY 2021-2022 Budget Process
- Transition to Elementary Reduced Enrollment Model
- Inclement Weather Process Overview

-Updates from the District:

- 11/25/20: Early Dismissal PreK-12
- 11/26/20-11/27/20: Thanksgiving Holiday: District Closed
- 11/30/20: Budget Workshop #1 - Joint meeting of the BOE and Town Council (6-8 p.m. Virtual)
- 12/1/20: Budget Workshop #2 – Special Meeting of the Board (6-8 p.m. Virtual)
- 12/7/20: Regular Board of Education Meeting
- 6/8/21: Last Day of School

Technology Update

Roberta Pratt, Chief Information Officer

Ms. Pratt gave a detailed Technology update highlighting completed projects, 1:1 device configuration and distribution for every school and grade level, network and Wi-Fi capability, Helpdesk support, funding, and emerging priorities going forward.

Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading

Anne Marie Mancini, Deputy Superintendent, Elsie Torres, Assistant Superintendent, Sonya Stemmer, Supervisor of Professional Development & Evaluation

A detailed presentation was given on Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading. Student learning, cultural competence, and socio-political/ critical consciousness were key components discussed. Deputy Mancini, Ms. Stemmer and Assistant Superintendent Torres presented topics that highlighted: understanding our why, the core of our work, reflections of our community in the EHPS curriculum, and building our capacity for professional learning.

First Quarter Financial Report

Benjamin Whittaker, Chief Operations Officer

Mr. Whittaker's presentation of the First Quarter Financial Report for FY 2021 focused on a 3-month period: July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020. Quarterly analysis focused on emerging financial issues, material changes since the last report, and limited year-end projections. Areas of interest identified by the EHPS Finance Department included: transportation, debt service, special education tuition, magnet tuition, unemployment claim expense and staff vacancies. The food service program was identified as an area of concern and is being closely monitored.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Approval of Project Description and Budget, Educational Specifications, and School Construction Grant Application for Sunset Ridge Middle School Roof Replacement Project

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To approve the Project Description and Budget, Educational Specifications, and School Construction Grant Application for Sunset Ridge Middle School Roof Replacement Project
Motion unanimously carried.

BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Questions and Concerns by Board Members - None

Topics for Future Agendas - None

Adjournment

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins
To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board (9:23 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.