

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY
JUNE 14, 2021**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held via Zoom Meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Secretary Tyron V. Harris.

PRESENT Secretary Tyron V. Harris, Harry Amadasun, Jr.,
Vanessa Jenkins, Marilyn Pet, Dorese Roberts, Tom Rup, Stephanie
Watkins

ABSENT Chairman Bryan R. Hall, 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, Chief Operations Officer
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 Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes: Special Board of Education Meeting: April 21,
2021, 6:33 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: May 10,
2021, 5:49 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve the following Minutes: Special Board of Education Meeting: May 10,
2021, 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: May 10, 2021, 7:02 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: May 10, 2021, 8:11 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Faith Anane and Sherisa Smith and Delilah Terrero (Absent)

Student Representative Sherisa Smith shared her post-secondary acceptance and her appreciation for her time representing CIBA for the 2020-2021 Board of Education meetings.

Student Representative Faith Anane shared her gratitude and looks forward to representing EHHS as the Senior Class President and as the EHHS Student Representative to the Board during the 2021-2022 school year.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Stephen Guidetti, 471 Brewer Street, East Hartford, CT

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recognition of Student Representatives: Faith Anane, Sherisa Smith and Delilah Terrero

Secretary Harris on behalf of the Board recognized and shared his appreciation to the student representatives for their dedication and contributions throughout the year and wished them well as they embark on their post-secondary plans.

Superintendent Quesnel also shared his appreciation to the student representatives for reporting each month's activities, news and updates from their respective schools. Superintendent Quesnel congratulated the students and wished them the best on their next chapter.

Dorese Roberts, Harry Amadasun, Stephanie Watkins and Vanessa Jenkins shared their gratitude and appreciation to the student representatives.

Recognition of District Retirees and Staff of 25+ Years

Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources recognized East Hartford Public Schools' District Retirees and Staff with 25+ years of service. Mr. Wethje also shared his congratulations

and appreciation to those who have reached these significant milestones and wished them the best in their futures. Mr. Wethje noted that each staff member received token of appreciation for their service.

Each member of the Board of Education thanked the staff for their time, service and dedication to the East Hartford Public School community.

Superintendent Quesnel also congratulated our district retirees on their long and notable careers and to the staff with 25+ years of service for their continued dedication, work and commitment to East Hartford Public Schools.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Paul Apostalon
Cathy-Ann Barry
Helen Coiteux
Joanne Cornelius
Christine Covell

Tim DeMarco
Oksana Hart
Robert Nadler
Nicole Rossetti
John Shea

RETIREMENTS

Denise Beaulieu
Paulla Bogue
Linda Boyle
Rose Cessario
Patricia Cohen
Debra Dolan
Thomas Donato
Jamie Dowling

Mark Geoghegan
Harry Graus
Bonnie Lemire
Darlene McCarthy
Maureen McDermott
MaryBeth Natalie
Mark Nystrom
Andres Orejula

Leslie Sousa
Roxann Styga
Eileen Tarzia
Nancy Tierinni
Donna Tyrell
Anne Marie Wickersham
Margaret Wolf
Lan Yang

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report - None

Superintendent's Report

Nathan Quesnel

-Updates from the District:

- **ReOpen EHPS Update: Fall 2021 Planning**
- **Covid-19 Data Report**
- **EHPS Graduation Proceedings**
- **School Volunteer and Faculty Appreciation**

-Dates to Remember:

- **8/25/21:** First Day of School SY22
- **8/23/21:** Next Regular BoE Meeting

EHPS End of Year Report 2021

Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent

The End of Year (EY) Report for East Hartford Public Schools (EHPS) serves as an accountability and narrative marker of the work of the district for School Year 2020-2021. The report included district highlights such as, ReOpen 4.0, Faculty and Student Vaccination programs, and the launch of EHPS' 5-year Strategic Plan- *Pride in 5*. Superintendent Quesnel also presented highlights from each division: Secondary Schools, Elementary Schools, Pupil Personnel Services, Human Resources, Operations and Finance and Technology. For a full listing of annual projects completed at the district and divisional level, please refer to the Mid-Year Report on the website.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Update

Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent and Benjamin Whittaker, Chief Operations Officer

Superintendent Quesnel and Mr. Whittaker provided an informative update to the BOE outlining the current utilization plan for the \$20,926,568 that has been allocated to EHPS by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) through the Federal American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER- referenced herein as ARP) program. ARP funds provide an important avenue for EHPS to fully utilize significant federal funding to make a difference for students. Responding to the needs created by the pandemic of 2020, this planning integrates state and federal priorities with the EHPS strategic plan *Pride in 5*. As future funding and guidance is made available, this plan will continue to adapt to best meet district needs.

Foodservice Program Wage Increase

Benjamin Whittaker, Chief Operations Officer

Mr. Whittaker reported that the EHPS Foodservice Program, managed by Sodexo, employs 82 hourly foodservice workers, of which 43% earn the current minimum wage or under the 8/1/21 minimum of \$13/hr. To increase stability and sustainability of the program and aid in current recruitment efforts, we have implemented a plan to bring the base rate for all hourly foodservice program workers to \$15/hour effective July 1, 2021. In addition, all other hourly employees currently earning more than the new base wage of \$15 will receive a \$1/hour wage increase to mitigate the effects of wage compression. This strategy will not have any impact to the BOE General Budget as EHPS Foodservice Program currently self-sustains from Federal funding and revenues generated by the program.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Approval Capital Reserve Transfer

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins
To approve Capital Reserve Transfer
Motion unanimously carried.

Review and Approval of FSMC Contract Extension

MOTION By Stephanie Watkins
Seconded by Tom Rup
To approve of FSMC Contract Extension
Motion unanimously carried.

**Review and Approval of Acceptance of Project as Complete and Sign off Final Grant
Application Form SCG-1049F for Silver Lane Shingle Roof Replacement State Project#
043-0243 RR**

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve Acceptance of Project as Complete and Sign off Final Grant
Application Form SCG-1049F for Silver Lane Shingle Roof Replacement State
Project# 043-0243 RR
Motion unanimously carried.

**Review and Approval of Contract Award for ITB# 1784-21 Sunset Ridge Middle School
Roof Replacement State Project# 043-0244 RR**

MOTION By Vanessa Jenkins
Seconded by Tom Rup
To approve Contract Award for ITB# 1784-21 Sunset Ridge Middle School Roof
Replacement State Project# 043-0244 RR
Motion unanimously carried.

**Review and Approval of Contract Award for ITB# 1781-21 Dumpster Collection for Solid
Waste and Recycling Hauling Services**

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To approve of Contract Award for ITB# 1781-21 Dumpster Collection for Solid
Waste and Recycling Hauling Services
Motion unanimously carried.

Review and Approval Smart Start for Recovery Grant

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tom Rup
To approve Smart Start for Recovery Grant
Motion unanimously carried.

Review and Approval of Primary Mental Health Project (PMHP) grant

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tom Rup
To approve of Primary Mental Health Project (PMHP) grant
Motion unanimously carried.

Review and Approval of IDEA Grant

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To approve IDEA Grant
Motion unanimously carried.

Review and Approval of "Flexibilities" that the CSDE is extending for both teacher and administrative evaluation next year

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To approve of "Flexibilities" that the CSDE is extending for both teacher and administrative evaluation next year
Motion unanimously carried.

Review and Approval of Increase in Salary for Family Resource Center Staff Employees

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins
To approve of an increase in salary for Family Resource Center Staff Employees
Motion unanimously carried.

Board Member Representative Reports

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 (9:01 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.