

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY  
OCTOBER 18, 2021**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, October 18, 2021, in the Lecture Hall of the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT.

**The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by Chairman Bryan R. Hall.**

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

**ABSENT** Secretary Tyron V. Harris

**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

**RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Superintendent Quesnel thoughtfully recognized Board Members Bryan R. Hall and Thomas Rup for their dedicated years of service to the East Hartford Board of Education by presenting each with a plaque. Both Chairman Hall's and Board Member Rup's terms are ending in November 2021.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA** – Yes, create a Consent Calendar under New Business to Table for First Read Items: 5-27.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Vanessa Jenkins  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Regular Board of Education Meeting: September 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION** - None

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS** –

**Diego Romero, CIBA and Faith Anane, EHHS**

- **10/15/21:** Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. Celebration included traditional dances, a presentation about Hispanic individuals who are noteworthy in various areas, and a poem. CIBA is really proud to celebrate Hispanic Heritage!
- **10/21/21-10/22/21:** Middle Years Programme (10/21) and Diploma Program (10/22) Inaugurations during I period. There will be a live stream of the program.
- **10/29/21:** Last day of Quarter 1.
- **10/29/21:** Picture day. Students must wear CIBA uniform.
- **10/29/21:** Harvest Festival from 7 to 9 p.m.

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- **11/06/21:** CIBA has partnered with UCONN for College Assistance Day. These events provide 1 on 1 support to seniors with their college essay. Seniors must sign up for this opportunity by October 29th.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

**Human Resources/No Action Required**

**Chairman’s Report**

**Bryan R. Hall**

Chairman Hall greeted his fellow Board members, administration and audience. He shared that this evening will be his final meeting as Chairman. Chairman Hall took a moment to thank his colleagues, the viewing public, parents, teachers, school leaders, the cabinet team and the superintendent for an amazing 12-year run, with the last six as Chairman and two years prior as Secretary.

Chairman Hall reflected on the legacy relationships the Board has built with the Mayor and Council, and how they have found a way to truly collaborate and work together by managing minimal budgets, facilities projects, and the initiatives that have been funded, namely ECLC at Hockanum School. Chairman Hall noted spending time at the hiring table and the incredible leadership team that the Board has built and entrusted to guide our schools. EHPS has hired a group of leaders who are talented, dedicated and extremely hard-working. Chairman Hall stated he is proud of the incredible growth EHPS has seen in student achievement, graduation rates and offering AP and Early College Experience (ECE) courses in our schools. He is proud of how the district has embraced the important conversation around race, racism and bias and that the classrooms reflect learning filled with diverse, culturally responsive teaching. Lastly, Chairman Hall shared that he is proud of how EHPS led through COVID-19, how laptops were delivered to all students and how EHPS has worked to meet the many needs of the past 19 months.

Chairman Hall closed his remarks with a message to his fellow Board Members: “Continue the work, refuse to allow divisive words, intentions or actors to separate you from your commitment to East Hartford’s kids. Continue to work together, to support each other and to support our community.” Chairman Hall also thanked EH residents and neighbors, for their trust in him to lead the Board of Education. The opportunity to serve the children of EH has been an honor.

**Superintendent’s Report**

**Nathan Quesnel**

**-Updates from the District:**

- Back to School '22 Update
- Staff Mandatory Vaccination Updates
- FY22-23 Budget update
- Update on Parent Teacher Conference Week 10/12-10/15

**-Dates to Remember:**

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- **11/02/21:** Election Day- School Closed for Students- Professional Development for Staff
- **11/11/21:** Veteran's Day- No School
- **11/15/21:** Next BoE Meeting
- **06/03/22:** Last Day of School (Woodland 6/4)

**East Hartford Alumni Association & Education Foundation**

**Brittany Cavaliere and Jason Rojas**

Ms. Cavaliere and Mr. Rojas introduced East Hartford Alumni Association and Education Foundation. The EHAAEF is an all-volunteer organization founded in 2018 with a mission to promote excellence, innovation and creativity in education for our students through networking, mentoring and fundraising. EHAAEF provides scholarship and staff grant awards, among other opportunities.

**East Hartford Public Schools Music Education Program**

**Thomas Scavone, Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts**

Mr. Scavone was proud to present that EHPS was designated a National Best Community for Music Education in 2021. Mr. Scavone shared that in order to qualify, a comprehensive survey about our K-12 music program and community support was completed. The National Award Program identifies school communities for their commitment to music education and, as part of a well-versed education curriculum, ensures music access for all students. He thanked the Board for their unwavering commitment as this is an incredible honor for EHPS' school community and the East Hartford community-at-large.

**Q1 Financial Report**

**Benjamin Whittaker, Chief Operations Officer**

Mr. Whittaker's presentation of the First Quarter Financial Report for FY 2022 covering a 3-month period: July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021. Quarterly analysis focused on emerging financial issues, material changes since the last report, and very limited year-end projections. Subjects identified as Q1 areas of interest by the EHPS Operations and Finance Division include: OPEB, special education tuition, magnet tuition, unemployment claim expense, staff vacancies and food service.

**Facilities Report/Summer Work**

**Benjamin Whittaker, Chief Operations Officer**

Mr. Whittaker shared an in-depth presentation on the completed and ongoing facilities projects in the district. In line with the mission to continually improve the facilities in district and to maximize value, Mr. Whittaker's presentation outlined specific goals: manage construction phase of time-sensitive projects, execute several smaller projects as planned in budget, develop plans to leverage unprecedented grant opportunities and effectively allocate capital reserves and initiate projects. The report included site renovations/ projects with before and after pictures of completed work along with the corresponding budget.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Review and Approval of Dattco Student Transportation Contract Modifications and Authorization for Chief Operations Officer to Execute Contract Modifications on Behalf of the Board of Education**

**MOTION** By Tom Rup  
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins  
To approve of Dattco Student Transportation Contract Modifications and Authorization for Chief Operations Officer to Execute Contract Modifications on Behalf of the Board of Education  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Review and Approval of Submission of CABA Board Recognition Award**

**MOTION** By Vanessa Jenkins  
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins  
To approve the Submission of CABA Board Recognition Award  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Review and Approval of Coordinator of Pre-K Services Coordinator position**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve the Coordinator of Pre-K Services Coordinator position  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Review and Approval Head Start Policy Council Bylaws Revision**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Valerie Scheer  
To approve Head Start Health and Nutrition Services.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Create Consent Calendar under New Business to Table for First Read Items: 5-27**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To create Consent Calendar under New Business to Table for First Read Items: 5-27  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 5141.31 Health Assessments and Screenings**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 5141.31 Health Assessments and Screenings  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 6146.11 Grade Weighting / Class Ranking**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 6146.11 Grade Weighting / Class Ranking  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 6172.6 Credit for Online Course**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 6172.6 Credit for Online Course  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Bylaw 9325 Meeting Conduct**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Bylaw 9325 Meeting Conduct  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 1212 School Volunteers Student Interns and Other Non-Employees**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 1212 School Volunteers Student Interns and Other Non-Employees  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 1250 Visitors and Observations in Schools**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 1250 Visitors and Observations in Schools  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 1330 Use of School Facilities**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 1330 Use of School Facilities  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 1700 Possession of Deadly Weapons or Firearms**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 1700 Possession of Deadly Weapons  
or Firearms  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 1810 Green Cleaning Programs**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 1810 Green Cleaning Programs  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 1900 Non-Discrimination - Discrimination Complaints  
(Community Members)**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 1900 Non-Discrimination -  
Discrimination Complaints (Community Members)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 2002 Retention of Electronic Records**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 2002 Retention of Electronic  
Records  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 3323 Purchasing**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 3323 Purchasing  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 3541 Transportation**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 3541 Transportation  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 4118.11 4218.11 Non-Discrimination Personnel- Certified  
Non-Certified**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 4118.11 4218.11 Non-Discrimination  
Personnel- Certified Non-Certified  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 4118.112 4218.112 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace**

MOTION By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 4118.112 4218.112 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 5131.911 Bullying Prevention and Intervention and Safe School Climate Plan**

MOTION By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 5131.911 Bullying Prevention and Intervention and Safe School Climate Plan  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 5132 Student Dress**

MOTION By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 5132 Student Dress  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 5145.1 Student Privacy**

MOTION By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 5145.1 Student Privacy  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 5145.4 Non-Discrimination Students**

MOTION By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 5145.4 Non-Discrimination Students  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 5145.52 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment**

MOTION By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 5145.52 Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements**

MOTION By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup



To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table for First Read - Policy 6172.4 Parent and Family Engagement**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tom Rup  
To approve to Table for First Read - Policy 6172.4 Parent and Family  
Engagement  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Board Member Representative Reports**

**Board Member Marilyn Pet** shared a Farm to Table update. She applauded the work of a CIBA who received a \$2000 grant to go towards a garden dedication at Norris Elementary School. She noted the work of our food service staff to honor Hispanic Heritage month and spoke to the work that UCONN and Shoprite offer to provide nutrition education.

**Board Member Harry Amadasun, Jr.** shared the approved Racial Equity Mural to be completed by local artists, Micaela Levesque, Michael Rice, and Tiyah Thompson on East River Drive. The mural will be a great addition to the landscape of East Hartford.

**Questions and Concerns by Board Members** - None

**Topics for Future Agendas** - None

**Adjournment**

**MOTION** By Marilyn Pet  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:13 PM)  
Motion unanimously carried.

Approved by Board of Education



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Recorded by: Tracey Hadden-Deptula

*Approved By Board of Education*