

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY
JANUARY 10, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, January 10, 2022, in the Lecture Hall of the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT.

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

PRESENT Chairman Tyron V. Harris

**ATTENDED
VIRTUALLY** Secretary Vanessa Jenkins, John Pereira, Marilyn Pet, Dorese Roberts, Valerie Scheer, Stephanie Watkins

ABSENT Dr. Annabelle Diaz-Santiago, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools

**ATTENDED
VIRTUALLY** 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 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 Vanessa Jenkins
To approve Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes, December 20, 2021,
7:02 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS –

Diego Romero, CIBA and Faith Anane, EHHS

- 1/14/2022 from 3 to 4 p.m., and 1/18-1/20 from 12 to 3 p.m. in the CIBA Library: NHS will be hosting Cookies, Cocoa and Cram. This is a chance for students to study independently, with a peer or with a tutor.
- 01/18-01/21 and 1/24: Midterms; these are all early dismissal days.
- 1/25/2022: Quarter 3 begins
- 1/26/2022: Mid-Winter Festival from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Students will have fun and socialize with their friends after midterms!
- 2/2/2022: PAC meeting at 6:30 p.m. All CIBA parents and guardians are invited to attend.
- Athletics Update: Wrestling win vs. South Windsor, Boys' and Girls' Varsity Basketball games @ Tolland on 1/14. Visit EHHS website to view Athletics calendar.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report

Tyron V. Harris

Chairman Harris welcomed his fellow board members and meeting attendees to the first Board of Education meeting of 2022. Chairman Harris reflected on the past couple of weeks and the successes thus far. He shared his appreciation for all of the efforts to keep EHPS open and shared that to date, EHPS has handed out over 5,000 test kits and over 50,000 masks to the community.

Chairman Harris summarized the agenda and shared that he is looking forward to the continued support of the State Delegation and his appreciation for the work they do to support EHPS. Chairman Harris is looking forward to the robust 5-year Capital Improvement Plan presentation by Mr. Whittaker this evening.

Superintendent's Report

Nathan Quesnel

-Updates from the District:

- Back to School '22 Update
- Updates to Back to School '22-Isolation/Quarantine Guidelines and Discontinuation of Contact Tracing:
 - Individuals who are even mildly symptomatic with any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 should immediately isolate at home, test for the virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) with a PCR, antigen, or self-test, and remain away from activities outside of the home until they are fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms are significantly improved.
 - Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate at home for at least 5 days, or longer if symptoms develop and persist. A mask should continue to be worn for an additional 5 days at all times when around others.
 - Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals who are notified that they have had a close contact with an individual who has confirmed or suspected COVID-19 should immediately quarantine at home and test for the virus 5 days after their last exposure to the COVID-19 case. This is especially important in situations where extended high-intensity exposure may have occurred, such as with household contacts, in unmasked social settings (e.g., sleepovers, parties), and/or during athletic activities.
 - Contact tracing of individual exposures that occur inside schools or during school-organized and supervised activities will be discontinued.
- Secondary Schools Mid-Term Exam Protocols

-Dates to Remember:

- 1/17/22: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day-District Closed
- 1/18/22-1/24/22: High School Exams (early dismissal Gr. 9-12)
- 2/7/22: Next BOE Meeting
- 6/6/22: Last Day of School (Woodland 6/7)

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East Hartford Public Schools Legislative Priorities

Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent

Superintendent Quesnel presented the framework for EHPS' policy positions that we ask our legislative delegates to consider in their policy development and advocacy work during the 2022 Legislative Session. Priorities included are funding and policy. For each position, EHPS is prepared to develop a comprehensive package that could support forthcoming legislation.

RFP & ITB Awards 1st half of FY 22

Benjamin Whittaker, Chief Operations Officer

Mr. Whittaker summarized the Request for Proposals (RFP) or Invitation to Bid (ITB) processes conducted/awarded by EHPS during the 1st half of FY22 that did not require BOE authorization prior to award per BOE Policy 3323 *Purchasing*. This included, RFP # 1794-22 – Athletic Trainer Services for which EHPS received (1) response. After careful consideration, a non-exclusive award to provide athletic trainers, as needed and in compliance with CIAC policies, was made to Select Physical Therapy. Select is a reputable firm in the athletic trainer industry with a reasonable hourly rate. Select's hourly rate is \$45 for school year 2021-2022, \$50 for school year 2022- 2023, and \$55 for school year 2023-2024. The agreement runs (3) fiscal years (through 6/30/2024).

The RFP review process incorporates both qualitative and quantitative measures through which responses are evaluated and ranked by a three-person (minimum) team. Ranking is based on the quality of the response, relevance of experience, strength of references, and pricing. The top scorers are usually invited to attend a panel interview, where they are asked detailed questions about their experience, approach, and capabilities. Responses are again ranked, and contractors are selected based on the best value and fit for the district's needs. Under some circumstances, contracts are awarded to multiple vendors, taking advantage of different skill sets and specialties and having back-up in case one contractor is unable to perform a task order. Contracts are usually for (3) full fiscal years with (2) 1-year extension options. ITBs are typically awarded to the lowest cost responsible and responsive qualified bidder, however, the lowest bidder is always subject to a detailed reference checking process to ensure they are capable of successfully performing the work.

Capital Improvement FY 23-27 Plan Presentation

Benjamin Whittaker, Chief Information Officer

Mr. Whittaker presented the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that covers FY2023 through FY2027. The entire CIP can be viewed on the EHPS website which includes details for each of the projects in the plan. The FY23-27 CIP includes all major infrastructure improvements and capital asset purchases across the entire district and is through/by the District's general budget, Capital Reserve, grants or bonding. Projects are "live" in the plan until they are funded.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Approval of the FY 23-27 Capital Improvement Plan

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MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To approve the FY 23-27 Capital Improvement Plan
Motion unanimously carried.

**Review and Approval for Acceptance of Project as Complete and Sign-off Final Grant
Application Form SCG-1049F-Sunset Ridge Middle School Roof Replacement Project
State Project #043-0244 RR**

MOTION By John Pereira
Seconded by Vanessa Jenkins
To approve Acceptance of Project as Complete and Sign-off Final Grant
Application Form SCG-1049F-Sunset Ridge Middle School Roof Replacement
Project State Project #043-0244 RR
Motion unanimously carried.

Board Member Representative Reports - None

Questions and Concerns by Board Members – None

Topics for Future Agendas - None

Adjournment

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:25 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.