

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
JANUARY 17, 2006**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2006, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:48 P.M. by Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

PRESENT Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Secretary Jason Rojas, Robert Damaschi, Karen Howe, Cynthia Reik, Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Prescille Yamamoto, Ram Aberasturia, Marcus Oladell, IV

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Marion Martinez, Superintendent of Schools
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Art Arpin, Director of Human Resources
Jennifer Sierra, Student Representative

PUBLIC HEARING ON SUPERINTENDENT'S 2006-07 BUDGET

1. Peter Santoro, 16 College Drive – re: does not believe in putting more dollars into the educational system. We need to look at binding arbitration. People should get paid for performance; feels salaries, benefits and pensions are taking away from children; salaries too high for human resources director and assistant superintendent; where are the dollars going.
2. Jane Apel, President of EHHS PTA – re: supports the budget, including proposed position of grants administrator as well as five additional positions at EHHS.
3. Debra Gaudette, 22 Higbie Drive – re: believes the budget is outlandish – shows the board is out of control – urged everyone to say “no” to the Superintendent’s proposed budget and “no” to salaries of Assistant Superintendent and Human Resources Director.
4. Stan deMello, 140 Leverich Drive – re: supports the proposed five positions at EHHS; supports the position of Grants Administrator; praised the Board and stated they should keep up the good work.
5. Ginny Lynch, 77 Chapel Street – re: supports the Superintendent’s proposed budget; Superintendent’s budget should reflect the children’s needs; noted some classrooms are cold while others are hot – requested a heating consultant review this situation; media centers should be modernized; we need more staff to address discipline problems.
6. Susan Skowronek – complained of poor quality of public schools – she stated she is forced to send her children to a parochial school; dollars need to go to children.
7. Susan Kniep, 50 Old Roberts Street – re: what percentage of 12 percent constitutes wage increases; salaries should be frozen; believes in giving vouchers so children can go to any school system they choose.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
JANUARY 17, 2006**

4. Denise Mitchell – supports the Superintendent’s proposed 12% increase in the budget; we are investing in our children.

Board recess: 8:27 P.M.

Meeting reconvened: 8:40 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Jason Rojas
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the following Minutes, as corrected:
Regular Meeting, December 19, 2005
Page 6 – Motion should read: **to approve change in start time for Regular Board of Education meetings to 7:00 P.M.**
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Jason Rojas
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 27, 2005.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 3, 2006, as corrected:
Page 5: under questions asked by Board members – Ms. Yamamoto...**incident boxes are being shared with others.**
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Invitation from East Hartford Parade Committee to attend St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 11, 2006;
- Invitation from Jim Moriarty, Central Connecticut Cultural Committee, to participate in the St. Patrick’s Day parade on March 11, 2006, beginning at Capitol Avenue.

Chairperson Mayranen-O’Brien asked Board members to respond if they are interested in marching in the parade.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
JANUARY 17, 2006**

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS - None

Jennifer Sierra

(Mr. Aberasturia read Ms. Sierra's remarks as she had to leave early)

- New teachers luncheon will be held on January 19th from 12:15 P.M.-1:30 P.M. in the EHHS Cafeteria;
- Mr. EHHS – Applications are available to junior and senior boys. The event will be held on March 20th;
- Bunny Breakfast, sponsored by EHHS and EH Parks and Recreation Department, will be held on Saturday, April 8th from 8:00-12:00 P.M. It is open to all children of East Hartford.
- Senior Citizens Prom – event will be held at East Hartford High School on April 26th, 4:30 P.M.-7:00 P.M. Dinner will be served in the cafeteria by students, followed by dancing with students.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Ginny Lynch, 77 Chapel Street – re: supports Superintendent's recommended increase.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Mr. Arpin noted there is one addition to staff.

Recognition of Kevin Bagley

Connecticut State Department of Education

(Craig Jordan, Principal)

(Melissa Gavarrino, Department Head)

Mr. Bagley was recognized for his exemplary portfolio submitted in the study of science. Mr. Jordan and Ms. Gavarrino stated Mr. Bagley is dedicated to the success of his students. He is also participating in the Professional Learning Committee dedicated to science.

Second Quarter Financial Report

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

Utilities are still a huge issue for expenditures, as well as salaries and employee benefits. These three areas contribute to much of the budget.

Mr. Mainuli also noted we have a \$1.5 million shortfall in tuition costs; however, an additional \$1 million in revenue is expected by year-end. We may be faced with a deficit of \$200,000 - \$400,000.

Mr. Mainuli stated we will be bringing a utility consortium proposal to the Board and have asked the Town to also participate. We are exploring all areas to reduce utility costs.

Mr. Mainuli stated we are still operating under a 10% freeze.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
JANUARY 17, 2006**

Ms. Reik asked for an update on the energy audit. Mr. Costa noted we have brought the Energy Performance Contract before the Board. We are submitting a request to the Superintendent that will allow us to present a Performance Contracting proposal before the Town Council. We are using many emergency saving concepts. Mr. Costa noted our buildings are old and that constitutes higher energy costs.

Tech Prep Program (Allied Health)

(Tom Yacavone, Department Head)

(Debbie Kaprove, Supervisor, Secondary Instruction)

Mr. Yacavone and Ms. Kaprove presented three students who are enrolled in the Allied Health Program which is affiliated with the Capital Community College. Students earn credits for their participation. Currently, there are sixty students enrolled in the Allied Health Program. One hundred percent of the students have furthered their professions after the Allied Health Program. Mr. Yacavone attributed the success of the program to staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent – Dr. Marion Martinez

- Thank you to the Fine Arts Commission for expanding the Ballroom Dance Program;
- Dr. Martinez hosted a Chamber of Commerce and School/Business Partnership meeting last week;
- Dr. Martinez will hold a roundtable discussion at 7:00 P.M. tomorrow at CIBA.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy & Audit – Jason Rojas – meeting scheduled for February 7th, 4:30 P.M.; also scheduled is a meeting for March 14th, 6:30 P.M. to go over the 9,000 series.

Curriculum – Cynthia Reik – meeting scheduled for February 7th, 5:15 P.M. to discuss World Languages curriculum;

Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – no meeting has been scheduled; we expect to schedule a meeting toward the end of the month;

Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi – meeting scheduled for February 1st, 6:00 P.M.;

Future Planning – Karen Howe – meeting scheduled for January 26, 6:00 P.M.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
JANUARY 17, 2006**

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Jason Rojas

To approve the following three **retirements and resignations**:

Retirements:

1. Hazel Allen, Teacher, effective 6/30/2006
2. Kerry Carey, Teacher, effective 6/30/2006
3. Patricia Pucci, Teacher, effective 6/30/2006

Resignations:

1. Richard Garcia, Para/General, effective 1/13/2006
2. Laura Mannhaupt, Tutor, effective 1/20/2006
3. Janine Reese, Secretary, effective 1/27/2006

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approve Reading Language Arts and Math Curricula

(Linda Kauffmann, Supervisor, Elementary Instruction)

(Debbie Kaprove, Supervisor, Secondary Instruction)

MOTION

By Jason Rojas

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve the Reading Language Arts and Math Curricula as presented and approved by the Curriculum Subcommittee.

Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS - None

INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS

Representative Reports:

CABE – Prescille Yamamoto attended a CABE breakfast meeting;

Willowbrook Policy Committee – Cynthia Reik attended the monthly Policy Committee meeting;

School/Business Partnership – Karen Howe noted Dr. Martinez gave an excellent presentation on the Strategic Plan that was outstanding; Ms. Howe also noted donations are under consideration by many business groups throughout the community;

Child Plan – Jason Rojas will be attending the upcoming meeting;

Mr. Aberasturia will be attending the January 18th Courageous Conversations meeting in Meriden;

CREC – Karen Howe will be attending the Council meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
JANUARY 17, 2006**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS ASKED BY BOARD MEMBERS

Hank Pawlowski – re: Pat Perrone, Adult Education – what can we do to provide childcare for her Adult Education program. Dr. Martinez noted she will bring forth some options in this area. Ms. Howe stated some programs offer credits for babysitting.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS - None

Proposed Executive Session

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Jason Rojas
To recess to Executive Session (9:45 P.M.) to discuss with possible action the following:
1. Pending wage and hour claim by a former employee;
2. Pending claim;
3. Personnel matter;
4. Internal transfers.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 10:20 P.M.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To adjourn the Regular Board meeting (10:25 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald