

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
JANUARY 23, 2006**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, January 23, 2006, at Willowbrook Early Childhood Center, 95 Willowbrook Road, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M. by Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

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

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Marion Martinez, Superintendent of Schools
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Al Costa, Director of Facilities

The Superintendent presented to the Board several budget reduction options which resulted in a 9.86 percent increase over the current year adopted budget, equating to a budget of \$81,491,685.

Comments from Administration and Board Members Regarding Proposed Cuts:

- Mr. Mainuli noted the insurance numbers may change. We will not know the official amount until probably the end of February or early March;
- Re: CABE – proposed to cut the amount, but not the policy portion they provide to the Board;
- Re: elimination of two secretarial positions – Dr. Martinez noted this would be done by eliminating the least senior positions;
- Re: elimination of two custodial positions – Dr. Martinez noted this would be done by eliminating the least senior positions;
- Re: elimination of truck from Plant Maintenance – Mr. Costa noted he could possibly buy a used truck;
- All smartboards will be eliminated;
- A.P. position at Sunset Ridge will be eliminated;
- Eliminate three elementary teachers – resulting in larger class sizes; Dr. Martinez noted she will research the class size at the high school;
- Eliminate Webbased Applications (Human Resources);
- Eliminate Grade 9 positions: Science teacher, Social Studies teacher, Spanish teacher, English teacher and Math teacher at EHHS
- Grants Administrator and HVAC person will remain in budget for now;
- Ms. Yamamoto commented that she sees a lot of “staff, but not stuff” being eliminated;
- Ms. Reik suggested advertising to eighth graders there are other choices for them to attend programs other than the high school (large class sizes);

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
JANUARY 23, 2006**

- Mr. Damaschi suggested looking at conferences and workshops throughout the budget book;
- Mr. Mainuli noted that Fixed Costs are fixed.
- Ms. Yamamoto suggested that handbooks be cut back – she noted they can be stapled together, rather than bound with spiraling; we should send a message to students and parents of the budget dilemma. She firmly does not want to eliminate five teaching positions at EHHS – we can reduce in other ways.
- Ms. Yamamoto suggested eliminating travel reimbursement for administrators.

Dr. Martinez stated she does not want to cut teachers especially as it impacts class size. Tremendous gains have been made in this area in the last two years.

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien noted the difficulty in making decisions not knowing what ECS dollars will be coming.

Mr. Pawlowki would like to see a 5 percent cut brought forth by Administration rather than the 9.86 percent we are looking at this evening. Dr. Martinez stated she and Mr. Mainuli will go over the budget and try to get to the suggested 5 percent.

Regarding the comment about Woodland being filled, Dr. Martinez also noted that Deb Kaprove will call a committee together to discuss developing a continuation of services from Woodland to Synergy/LIFE to the high school.

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule two additional budget workshops – Wednesday, January 25th, 5:00 P.M. and Monday, January 30th, 5:00 P.M. at the Administration Building.

Dr. Martinez presented to the Board the Board of Education Survey on Standard Student Dress Code. It was the consensus of the Board to remove the sentence “Are you in favor of a mandatory student dress code?” It was also agreed that the survey will be mailed to Grade 6-12 homes; K-5 will go home with children.

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To adjourn the Special Meeting (7:30 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald