

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 25, 2006**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 25, 2006, at the Administration Building, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 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 Oladell, Hank Pawlowski, Jr.(arrived 5:40 P.M.)

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Marion Martinez, Superintendent of Schools
Dennis Beiu, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Linda Kauffmann, Supervisor, Elementary Education
Jan Skolnick, Consultant to Human Resources

On January 23, 2006, 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. Since that time, it was the consensus of the Board to direct the Superintendent to present further reductions to equate to a 5 percent increase over the current year adopted budget.

Comments from Administration and Board Members Regarding Proposed Cuts for a 5 Percent Increase Over Current Year Adopted Budget:

Mr. Mainuli reviewed with the Board the proposed cuts that would be needed to get to a 5 percent increase. Following are the many jobs and programs that would be eliminated, in addition to those proposed at the January 23, 2006 budget meeting:

Staff

- 13.4 teaching positions at EHHS;
- 5 secretarial positions;
- 10 custodial positions;
- 12 paraprofessionals;
- 1 supervisor;
- 1 administrator – non-certified position
- 1 Mail carrier position
- 1.5 nurses

Programs

- Ropes Program;
- Freshmen Sports;
- Stipends for Team Leaders at EHMS and EHHS

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Other

- Staff development, travel, library books;
- Department Heads would teach two classes;
- Focus periods would be eliminated;
- CREC requires one year's notice prior to withdrawal from magnet programs. We would withdraw from Two Rivers in 2007-2008;
- Smaller Learning Communities would be scaled back;
- Ms. Yamamoto suggested we ask the Administrators Union to reimburse the travel expenses given in the recent contract;
- Mr. Mainuli noted that Fixed Costs are fixed;
- Ms. Yamamoto suggested eliminating travel reimbursement for administrators;

Mr. Mainuli noted we have to pay \$1.0 million to retirees in July. He also noted that overall fixed costs represent a \$6 million increase.

Dr. Martinez stated we cannot make any more cuts. We can cut whole programs; i.e., early intervention program. We cannot close an elementary school. Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated the 5% increase is not workable. Mr. Mainuli noted we do not have a budget number from the Town with which to work, and we will not know our final budget from the town until April.

Mr. Rojas asked if we can go to the Unions and ask for give backs. It was suggested this not be done.

Dr. Martinez stated she tried to balance cuts with certified and classified. She stated she deliberately did not cut psychologists and social workers positions since they play a crucial role in the EIP and PPT process.

Ms. Yamamoto stated we should have had this budget in before now, according to the Town Charter. Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated we can submit a budget to the Town that covers our fixed costs stating this is what it would be like if we do not get the dollars requested. We cannot do a 5% increase.

Ms. Yamamoto asked what do ten custodial positions equate to in dollars as compared to five positions at EHHS. Mr. Mainuli will provide this information.

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It was the consensus of the Board to schedule a budget workshop with the Mayor and Town Council on Monday, January 30th, 5:00 P.M. at the Town Council Chambers. Mr. Rojas suggested it be on TV. An alternate date would be February 6 at 7:00 P.M.

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To adjourn the Special Meeting (6:10 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald