

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
MARCH 6, 2006**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, March 6, 2006, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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
Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Crystal Maldonado, Student Representative

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the following Minutes of the Special Meeting, January 30, 2006, as corrected:
Mr. Rojas excused himself from the meeting.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Jason Rojas
Seconded Robert Damaschi
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 30, 2006
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Jason Rojas
To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 6, 2006, as corrected:
Page 5: To approve the Woodland School Roof Replacement **for educational appropriation.**
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Jason Rojas
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 27, 2006
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of
March 1, 2006, as corrected:
(1) Remove name of Cynthia Reik as being present;
(2) Action taken at Special Meeting was to review budget.
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Crystal Maldonado

- March 29th – “Mr. EHHS” will be held at 7:00 P.M.;
- March 16th – PRIDE Night will be held from 6-8 P.M.
- March 24th-25th – Student Council States field trip in Southbury for participation in leadership seminars;
- March 22nd – Student-Faculty game;
- March 28th – Student Council meeting;
- April 7th – Annual Bunny Breakfast;
- April 29th – Annual Senior Citizens Prom;

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Lisa Riccio, 122 Hills Street – re: requests Ms. Patria be reinstated as Coach;
2. Jamie Riccio, 122 Hills Street – re: requests Ms. Patria be reinstated as Coach;
3. Megan Blaskhe – re: requests Ms. Patria be reinstated as Coach;
4. Arthur Goodwin, 88 Olde Roberts St – in support of reinstating Ms. Patria as Coach.

Mr. Aberasturia made a Motion to rescind action taken on January 30, 2006 and have Coach Patria reinstated immediately. Motion died for lack of second. Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated the Board will be reviewing all issues regarding this decision. She further noted that Ms. Patria can reapply for her position as Coach next year.

BOARD OF EDUCATION APPRECIATION

(Dan Brodeur, Principal, Goodwin Elementary School and Building Principals)

Mr. Brodeur, Principal, Goodwin Elementary School, on behalf of all principals, thanked the Board members for their continued efforts and asked them to accept the gifts from children in the East Hartford public schools.

Karen O'Connell, President, EHEA, thanked the Board for their service to East Hartford school district.

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INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Magnet School Update

(Dr. Joseph Townsley)

(Dr. Bruce Douglas) not present

Dr. Townsley gave the Board an update from the Task Force. He discussed the suggested increase in tuition and transportation, noting transportation costs will be \$1,200 per student.

Dr. Townsley further noted that empty seats in the magnet school can be filled by parent choice. The sending districts will pay; however, ECS dollars for that district will be cut. Regarding tuition, there have been no increases since magnets have been built. CREC is asking that Boards consider increasing tuition. Dr. Townsley stated he has made this presentation to the Governance Board. We must have a decision by the Board by April if they are willing to assume a tuition increase. He noted, for example, if East Hartford increased its tuition by 5%, it would add \$15,100 to the budget for the Two Rivers Magnet School and \$13,200 to the budget for the East Hartford/Glastonbury Magnet School.

United States Tennis Association Grant

(David Flanagan, Department Head)

Mr. Flanagan thanked the Board for their continued support and dedication to the children of East Hartford.

Mr. Flanagan noted he applied for funding and did receive part of the funding for instructional time and equipment for tennis and other games for the East Hartford Middle School.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports

Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

- Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien - re: NEASC evaluation: commended East Hartford Middle School for completing 96 percent of the recommendations;
- Read a letter from the Chairperson to Ms. Patria, dated March 3, 2006, reiterating the Board's position regarding her coaching assignment. Mr. Rojas commented that the Superintendent made a decision and the Board did not overrule the Superintendent's decision.

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Superintendent – Dr. Marion Martinez

- March 8 – 7:00 P.M. Public Hearing on Budgets; The PowerPoint presentation shown to the Town council can be located on our Web site;
- Thanks to Savings Bank of Manchester Charitable Foundation for giving us \$12,000 for the music program to purchase instruments for third year players in elementary schools;
- Regarding Policy & Audit Committee – the title will remain Policy & Audit Committee;
- Policy & Audit Committee may wish to establish guidelines for volunteer coaches – Special Olympics has offered to assist in this process.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy & Audit – Jason Rojas – meeting scheduled for March 14th, 6:00 P.M. to go over the zero series and then discuss how the policy service with CAFE works;

Curriculum – Cynthia Reik – meeting scheduled for March 21st -6:30 P.M.

Facilities –Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – meeting scheduled for March 22nd – 6:30 P.M.

Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi – meeting scheduled for March 8th – 6:00 P.M.

Future Planning – Karen Howe – meeting scheduled for April 10th.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Jason Rojas

To approve the following seven resignations:

1. Shari Atwater, Para, effective 2/15/06;
2. Donald Logan, Behavior Mgr., effective 2/17/06;
3. David Mulazzi, Behavior Mgr., effective 1/20/06;
4. Cheryl Ryan, Spec. Ed. Teacher, effective 2/15/06;
5. Margaret Storrs, Nurse, effective 2/9/06;
6. Denise Turner, Secretary, effective 2/24/06;
7. Brian Walton, Tutor, effective 2/17/06

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

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NEW BUSINESS

Possible Action Regarding Memorandum of Agreement between East Hartford and Glastonbury Boards of Education and CREC for the Management of East Hartford/Glastonbury Elementary Magnet School

(Dr. Joseph Townsley, CREC)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Jason Rojas

To **table** Memorandum of Agreement between East Hartford and Glastonbury Boards of Education and CREC for the Management of East Hartford/Glastonbury Elementary Magnet School

Motion unanimously carried.

Possible Action Regarding Memorandum of Agreement between East Hartford Board of Education and CREC for the Management of Two Rivers Middle Magnet School

(Dr. Joseph Townsley, CREC and

Dr. Bruce Douglas, CREC) (not present)

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Karen Howe

To **table** Memorandum of Agreement between East Hartford Board of Education and CREC for the Management of Two Rivers Middle Magnet School

Motion unanimously carried.

Approve Appropriation Transfers

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Jason Rojas

To approve appropriation of transfers as presented on March 6, 2006

Motion unanimously carried.

Approve Participation in the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Energy Purchasing Consortium Program

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve participation in the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Energy Purchasing Consortium Program

Motion unanimously carried.

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Mr. Andy Moreau, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Energy Services, was present to discuss the consortium. He noted presently nine communities and school districts are part of the consortium. They will save more than \$800,000.

It was noted the Town has been approached to participate and it has now been forwarded to the Town Council for their acceptance. However, the Board of Education will act separately.

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Durham, NH - March 17-18, 2006

**(Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent and
Jill LeJeune, EHHS)**

MOTION

By Jason Rojas

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To approve request for overnight travel to Durham, NH
March 17-18, 2006

Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Hartford, CT- March 23-25, 2006

**(Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent and
Emil Kopcha, Department Head)**

MOTION

By Jason Rojas

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve request for overnight travel to Hartford, CT
March 23-25, 2006

Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Southbury, CT- March 24-25, 2006

**(Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent and
Paul Apostalon, EHHS)**

MOTION

By Jason Rojas

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

Approve request for overnight travel to Southbury, CT
March 24-25, 2006

Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Webster, MA- March 31- April 1, 2006

**(Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent and
Christopher Mientus, Sunset Ridge)**

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Jason Rojas

To approve request for overnight travel to Webster, MA
March 31- April 1, 2006

Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

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Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Philadelphia, PA- April 26-29, 2006

**(Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent and
Michael Cain, EHHS)**

MOTION By Jason Rojas
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve request for overnight Travel to
Philadelphia, PA
April 26-29, 2006
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Madrid, Spain- February 16-27, 2007

**(Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent and
John Bacon, EHHS)**

MOTION By Jason Rojas
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve request for overnight travel to Madrid, Spain
February 16-27, 2007
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

**To Table for First Read Policy 3435 – Business/Non-Instructional Operations
Accounts/Fraud Prevention and Investigation**

**(Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent and
Jason Rojas, Board of Education Member)**

MOTION By Jason Rojas
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To **table** for first read Policy 3435 – Business/Non-Instructional
Operations Accounts/Fraud Prevention and Investigation
Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve 2006-2007 Board of Education Business Calendar

(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To approve 2006-2007 Board of Education Business
Calendar
Motion unanimously carried.

INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS

Representative Reports:

CABE – Prescille Yamamoto

Willowbrook Policy Committee – Cynthia Reik – parking situation at Willowbrook is of
great concern – not sufficient for parents/families/staff.

School/Business Partnership – Karen Howe

Child Plan – Jason Rojas

CREC – Karen Howe

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Ms. Yamamoto thanked East Hartford for hosting the CT Music Educator Festival. She also thanked Mr. Kopcha and the 12 students who represented East Hartford.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Ginny Lynch – Union Representative for Paraprofessionals – (1) thanked Board of Education members for all they do; (2) concerned with possible elimination of 12 paraprofessional positions – some of these people will be eligible for pensions in a few months and this action would hinder the pensions;
2. Karen O’Connell, President, EHEA – re: Coach Patria – husband is here this evening and this is the first time he has heard about the letter sent to Ms. Patria – Ms. O’Connell stated she is disappointed with the Board for not stating Ms. Patria’s coaching position will be reinstated. Please reconsider
3. Joe Patria – Sue Patria’s husband – re: asked if there are plans to further discuss this with a possible conclusion that the Superintendent’s decision may be overruled? He stated this happened in October and it is now March – would like to know now what is going to happen so they can get on with their lives.

QUESTIONS ASKED BY BOARD MEMBERS

Jason Rojas – Do we have an answer for Mr. Patria? Chairperson Mayranen-O’Brien stated the letter stands as read and approved by the Board;

Ram Aberasturia – Why wasn’t the letter given to Ms. Patria prior to hearing about it at this evening’s Board meeting?

Jason Rojas – Requests an update on the principal search for EHHS;

Karen Howe – Requests information on number of students at Synergy in the LIFE program; at Woodland School how many need special education services; how many have been placed as a result of the expulsion process. Dr. Martinez stated at the next Board meeting all programs will be discussed for their effectiveness and success rate, as well as where we are moving;

Marcus Oladell, IV – re: “rotating” bathrooms at EHHS; why is this being done – closed at certain times of day and students having to use other bathrooms?

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

MOTION

By Jason Rojas

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To recess to Executive Session (8:45 P.M.)

to discuss, with possible action, position of
Assistant Superintendent

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The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:40 P.M.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Karen Howe
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:45 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald