

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
MARCH 20, 2006**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, March 20, 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, 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

ABSENT Jason Rojas

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the following Minutes of the Regular Meeting,
March 6, 2006, as corrected: Page 6: Ms. Yamamoto stated
dates of trips to be taken should be noted.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of
March 13, 2006
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Letter to Dr. Martinez, Mrs. Mayranen-O'Brien and Mr. Jordan from Jayne Apel and Linda Zigmont, Co-presidents of EHHS PTO and Oksana Hart and Peter Hart, Co-chairs of EHHS Project Graduation requesting date of Project Graduation be changed to June 20, 2006;

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To add to this evening's agenda under New Business, item f, request
that Project Graduation date be changed to June 20, 2006.
Motion unanimously carried.

- Invitation to attend the 19th Annual Inter-Elementary Honors Music and Art Festival, Wednesday, March 29, 2006 in the EHMS Auditorium – either 9:45 A.M. or 7:00 P.M.;

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-Letter from Dr. Martinez to Board of Education members announcing EHHS cheerleading team won the State Championships this past weekend in New Haven. They will now represent Connecticut this weekend in the New England Championships in Durham, NH;

-McDonald's Night is March 21st 5-7 P.M.;

-Sunset Ridge School meeting of the Parent-Teacher Family Council is Tuesday, April 11, 2006, 7:00 P.M. at the EHMS. Ms. Catherine Carbone, Principal, EHMS, will present an overview of the seventh grade program.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Karen Howe, Board Member, re: attended Cabaret on Saturday evening and commented it was a very well done performance. She and Prescille Yamamoto attended the event.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Update on LIFE, Synergy and Woodland Programs

(Craig Jordan, Principal, EHHS)

(John Karzar, Principal, Synergy)

(Helene Marchese, Principal, Woodland)

(Debbie Kaprove, Supervisor, Secondary Instruction)

(Jody Lefkowitz, Director, Pupil Personnel)

Ms. Kaprove noted this is an update to the Board. The respective principals/supervisors of the programs will be going back to Future Planning and then to the Board.

Ms. Kaprove stated there are several alternative programs for students who may have behavioral problems or other issues. She noted we provide a continuum of services to meet these students' educational needs. Currently there are 100 students enrolled.

Regarding time offered in the programs, Ms. Kaprove reported we are looking at options for individual students. We try to structure a program to meet their needs. Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien asked if it would be feasible to offer mentors for these children. Dr. Martinez said they had thought of having alumni of Synergy come back to assist. Mr. Karzar stated they presently have one alumni working with students. Mr. Damaschi asked how many students are in the Success program. It was noted there are presently 21 students enrolled. Mr. Damaschi also asked what the student ratio presently is and are there plans to change it.

Ms. Yamamoto asked Mr. Jordan if the LIFE Credit Recovery Program is still available. He noted it is and takes place for 90 minutes after school.

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Dr. Martinez noted we need a continuum of services. Students who go to LIFE or Synergy should be able to go back to the high school or vice versa. Ms. Kaprove stated it is all about creating options for students.

Ms. Lefkowitz presented expulsion data. Mr. Damaschi asked the capacity of Synergy and Woodland. Ms. Reik requested more detailed data on tardiness within the programs as well as student/teacher ratio for all programs. Ms. Yamamoto asked the optimum enrollment for Success students in the LIFE Program

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent Martinez:

- Dr. Martinez noted she was contacted by a parent in December proposing to have the Superintendent attend evening meetings at parents' homes. Dr. Martinez has labeled them "fireside chats". She noted she would be very happy to attend meetings that parents would have in their homes. They can contact her at 622-5107;
- Dr. Martinez congratulated the cheerleaders at EHHS for winning the State Championships this past weekend;
- Dr. Martinez encouraged parents to fill out and return the dress code surveys.

Dr. Martinez asked Mr. Mainuli to highlight the third quarter financial report.

Mr. Mainuli noted a detailed report will be prepared for the Finance & Audit Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 5, 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Mainuli stated as of March 8, we have a balance of \$595,000. We have been going through Purchase Orders at this time. Electricity will be in excess of \$200,000; oil will be in excess of \$38,000. We will be transferring \$166,000 to the Head Start program for cash match. Regarding State transportation grants, we have spent 100 percent through the beginning of March. We will need an additional \$60,000-\$70,000.

Mr. Mainuli noted we are trying to save dollars to get through this year. Out of district tuitions is a huge factor in affecting our budget.

Mr. Damaschi asked Mr. Mainuli if all this has been shared with the Town Council. Mr. Mainuli stated some of these have been shared through the public hearing and their receipt of financial reports. He further noted we have had a hold on our spending since last July.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum – Cynthia Reik – meeting scheduled for March 21st -6:00 P.M. New teacher orientation and retreat for staff will be discussed;

Facilities –Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – meeting scheduled for March 22nd – 6:30 P.M. Woodland Roof Project and Five-Year Capital Building Plan will be discussed;

Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi – meeting scheduled for April 5th – 6:00 P.M. Status of the budget will be discussed;

Future Planning – Karen Howe – meeting scheduled for April 5th – Alternative programs will be discussed. A second meeting will be held April 26th – we will be compiling results of the parent survey.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve the following retirement:
Eileen Kummer, Secretary, effective 6/30/06.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve two resignations:
1. Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent, effective 4/24/06;
2. Christopher Jones, Tutor, effective 3/31/06
Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3435 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations
Accounts/Fraud Prevention and Investigation**

(Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent)

(Jason Rojas, Board of Education Member)

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Karen Howe
Remove from table and approve Policy 3435 – Business/Non-Instructional Operations Accounts/Fraud Prevention and Investigation.
Motion unanimously carried.

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Remove from Table and Approve Memorandum of Agreement between East Hartford and Glastonbury Boards of Education and CREC for the Management of East Hartford/Glastonbury Magnet School

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Remove from table and approve Memorandum of Agreement between East Hartford and Glastonbury Boards of Education and CREC for the Management of East Hartford/Glastonbury Magnet School.
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia
Abstain: Prescille Yamamoto

Remove from Table and Approve Memorandum of Agreement between East Hartford Board of Education and CREC for the Management of Two Rivers Magnet Middle School

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Remove from table and approve Memorandum of Agreement between East Hartford Board of Education and CREC for the Management of Two Rivers Magnet Middle School.
Motion carried. Nay: Prescille Yamamoto, Ram Aberasturia

NEW BUSINESS

Approve 2006-2007 School Calendar
(Dr. Pauline Fusco, Principal, Sunset Ridge)

(MOTION) By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve the 2006-2007 School Calendar.
Motion unanimously carried.

Dr. Pauline Fusco presented the proposed 2006-2007 school calendar and reviewed it with the Board. Dr. Martinez noted this was presented to the Future Planning Ad Hoc Committee and approved by them.

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Kent, CT, May 6-7, 2006
(Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent)

(Tyler Hoxley, EHHS)
MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve request for overnight travel to Kent, CT May 6-7, 2006.
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

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Table for First Read Policy 0200-Mission Goals-Objectives)

(Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent)

(Jason Rojas, Board of Education Member)

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Karen Howe

To **table** for first read Policy 0200-Mission Goals-Objectives.

Motion unanimously carried.

Table for First Read Policy 5125.1(a) – Confidentiality and Access to Student Records

(Dennis Bieu, Assistant Superintendent)

(Jason Rojas, Board of Education Member)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Karen Howe

To **table** for first read Policy 5125.1(a) – Confidentiality and Access to Students Records.

Motion unanimously carried.

Approve Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teachers

(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Karen Howe

To approve non-renewal of non-tenured teachers, as presented

By the Superintendent in memorandum dated March 20, 2006.

Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

Dr. Martinez noted the Board of Education must vote to non-renew prior to April 1st. Failure to meet the deadline would result in termination hearings with increased financial liability.

Approval of Date Change for Project Graduation

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To present approval of date change for Project Graduation at the April 3rd Regular Meeting.

Motion unanimously carried.

INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS

Representative Reports: - None

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Karen O'Connell, President, EHEA – Re: (1) took issue with not being involved in devising the school calendar – she had no input into the calendar; (2) Mr. Skolnick is in violation of the contract by allowing 42 teachers being cut; Ms. O'Connell stated we must first establish programs, not be “last hired”. She further stated, “we will adhere to the contract - we will grieve this”.

QUESTIONS ASKED BY BOARD MEMBERS

Cynthia Reik – re: would like to have a well-done booklet on the Magnet Schools for distribution to parents;

Prescille Yamamoto – requests an update on lottery at various magnet schools

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Concerns re: Policy & Audit (re: Mr. Rojas' departure)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To recess to Executive Session (8:30 P.M.)
to discuss, with possible action, the
Assistant Superintendent position, Human Resources
position, and High School Principal position
Motion unanimously carried.

The Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 8:41 P.M.

MOTION

By Cynthia Reik
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To appoint Deborah Kaprove Interim Assistant Superintendent
effective April 24 at the rate of \$120,000 annually (prorated) and until
such time as the permanent replacement begins his/her first day.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Karen Howe
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:08 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald