

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
APRIL 6, 2006**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Thursday, April 6, 2006, at the Administration Building, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

PRESENT Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Robert Damaschi, Karen Howe, Cynthia Reik, Prescille Yamamoto

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 Services
Linda Kauffmann, Supervisor, Elementary Instruction
Nancy Moriarty, Supervisor, Early Childhood Programs
Jason Rojas, E.H. citizen
Terry Madigan, Executive Director, East Hartford Housing Authority
Linda McComber, Director, East Hartford Housing Authority

To Discuss Relocating the Head Start Program into East Hartford Housing Authority Facilities

(Terry Madigan, Executive Director, East Hartford Housing Authority)

(Linda McComber, Director, East Hartford Housing Authority)

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien welcomed Mr. Madigan and Ms. McComber and noted we will be discussing cooperative efforts that can be moved forward with the East Hartford Housing Authority.

Dr. Martinez noted we want to maintain the quality of our Head Start program. However, we also want to consider changes that might result in increased parent involvement. With that focus, she asked if relocating the program would be feasible, what kind of resources the Housing Authority might have; i.e., after school programs, how we can make activities more meaningful for children. Ms. Moriarty noted the Head Start enrollment at the end of September was at 214; November, fully enrolled. Head Start will be looking for a substantial number of children, as many are leaving to go into Kindergarten.

Dr. Martinez noted Head Start is not self-supporting. The Board of Education has contributed \$116,000 to Head Start. Grants, in general, are not keeping pace with costs. This will continue to be a problem.

Mr. Madigan noted many families do not have transportation. There are only two programs in Connecticut that still offer transportation. We are looking at two locations for consideration: Hockanum area and Veteran's Terrace. He noted they have community rooms, but they are very small. He stated possibly they could look for State funding to enlarge Veteran's Terrace; he also noted there is room to enlarge at the Hockanum site.

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Mr. Madigan noted the Housing Authority has met with Goodwin College to discuss possible collaboration. They could help in providing space, bringing in programs and food, if we were located in a Housing Authority facility. Mr. Madigan stated he would appreciate Ms. Moriarty consulting on program space for children's programming.

Mr. Madigan noted he will be hiring a grants person soon. If the Board sees any possibilities that the grants persons can investigate for collaborative efforts, please call him/her.

Ms. Kauffmann noted we are surveying some of our schools regarding after school programs. Some children cannot access these programs due to transportation.

Mr. Madigan offered to assist us in any way that he can. Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien noted many retirees may wish to volunteer. Ms. Howe asked if we could service the children without Head Start and use Readiness or other programs with teachers. Ms. Kauffmann stated we can seek out Goodwin College's Early Childhood Program and possibly collaborate with them.

Dr. Martinez mentioned she did talk with Representative Christ regarding funding an additional Family Resource Center in the O'Brien School area. She was told funding is not an option at this time.

Dr. Martinez asked Mr. Madigan if he and Ms. McComber could help with Head Start recruitment. Ms. McComber said she can generate a specific mailing list of families with young children. Dr. Martinez suggested that the direct mailings include some type of preschool activity for parents to do with children to stress the importance of attending preschool. Ms. Moriarty stated there is a one percent decrease in Head Start funding. School Readiness programs have lost funding due to changes in Care 4 Kids. She further stated we will require our Readiness families to apply to Care 4 Kids as we receive a larger parent fee when families qualify for the Care 4 Kids program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald