

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
JUNE 19, 2006**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, June 19, 2006, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

PRESENT Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Robert Damaschi,
Cynthia Reik, Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Ram Aberasturia,
Marcus Oladell, IV, Karen Howe, Dorese Roberts

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Marion Martinez, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Matthew Larson, Student Representative to the Board
Kelly Rivera, Student Representative to the Board

ABSENT Prescille Yamamoto

Flag Day Ceremonies, Presentation of American Flag Essay Contest Winners
(Pat Begley, Vice-Chairman, Patriotic Commission)

The following received awards from the Patriotic Commission for their winning American flag essays. Each will receive a bond from the Patriotic Commission:

Kathy Quinn, freshman, EHHS
James DeCosta, 5th Grade, Norris Elementary School
Savannah Velez-Merritt, 1st Grade, O'Connell Elementary School
Natalie Phillips, EHMS
Stephanie Meuhaus

Senator Gary LeBeau was present for the awards.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting,
June 5, 2006.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting,
June 12, 2006.
Motion unanimously carried.

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WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Letter to Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien from Mayor Melody A. Currey, thanking the Board for sharing budget hearing agendas and also reminding the Board that it must adhere to the Town Charter and meet the deadline of January 4, 2007 for submission of the budget to the Mayor;
- Thank you note from Helene Marchese for the gift received recognizing her 25 years of service to the East Hartford school district;
- Letter to Superintendent Marion Martinez from Dr. Betty Sternberg, Commissioner of Education, noting workshops to be held regarding the new legislation for foods and beverages in schools. Schools are encouraged to attend workshops to be held July 19,20,25 and August 1 and 31;
- Letter to Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien from Donald Pitkin, regarding the Board not adhering to the Town Charter dates when submitting the budget.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Matthew Larson, Senior

Kelly Rivera, Junior

The Board welcomed the two new Student Representatives to the Board.

- Freshmen orientation will be held in August;
- Student Council induction will be held in the near future.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. **Bonnie Kishimoto**, Paraprofessional for 39 years, Norris School – re: please reconsider elimination of paraprofessionals;
2. **Ginny Lynch**, 77 Chapel Street – re: please reconsider elimination of Paraprofessionals.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Mr. Wethje reported there have been three certified staff appointments made. None require Board approval.

Student Discipline Report

(Guy Collins, Supervisor, Information Technology)

Mr. Collins reviewed the on-going process followed by the IT Department to report discipline and data to the State. He noted many programs need to be converted to accommodate the State's system. He further noted this year we must report all "in-school" suspensions.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports

Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien reported she is pleased to inform the Board that Dorese Roberts has agreed to serve on the Policy & Audit Committee.

Superintendent Martinez:

- Dr. Martinez announced East Hartford Student Council's project, Senior Citizen's Prom, was selected as a "2006 Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award" statewide winner. A reception was held at the State Capitol on June 15th to recognize all statewide winners;
- Dr. Martinez attended Woodland School graduation which was held during the day. It was a wonderful ceremony;
- Regarding services to parochial schools special education services, we exceeded the minimum requirements to both St. Rose and St. Christopher schools.
- Dr. Martinez thanked those who attended the Staff Recognition Tea. Dr. Martinez noted she has been around the district to personally thank those that are retiring and/or have given 25 years of service.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy & Audit – no meeting has been scheduled;

Curriculum – Cynthia Reik – at today's meeting; a book was approved for the 9th grade Science program. Math materials are in the process of being reviewed.

Facilities –Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – no meeting has been scheduled.

Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi – meeting scheduled for July 5th, 6:00 P.M.

Future Planning – Karen Howe – Committee met June 12th and reviewed the draft of the dress code;

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve the following one retirement:

Leslie McCullough, Teacher, effective 6/30/2006

To approve the following two resignations:

1. Jennifer Holowaty, .6 English, effective 6/30/2006;

2. Jessica A. Goodrich, Tutor, effective 6/19/2006

Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

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NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Roberts stated she prefers not to vote this evening on the following items, as she is a new Board member.

Approve Connecticut State Department of Social Services – Social Services Block Grant Program (Brian Reynolds, Director, Student Assistance Center)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the Connecticut State Department of Social Services Social Services Block Grant for the EHHS Student Assistance Center.
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

Mr. Brian Reynolds was present to answer any questions. Ms. Roberts asked what kinds of counseling are offered, and will the freshmen be made aware of what is being offered. Mr. Reynolds noted the services will be announced at the freshmen orientation.

Approve District Technology Plan
(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)
(Guy Collins, Supervisor, Information Technology)
(Denise Moynihan, Library Media Specialist)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the District Technology Plan for July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2009.
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

Mr. Collins noted every district must submit a technology plan. This plan will increase resources in the elementary schools. Most of the computers presently in the elementary schools are at least eight years old and not in the best condition. Dr. Martinez noted presently it is not until the sixth grade that students experience a technological environment. Mr. Emil Kopcha, a member of the technology committee, noted we have all these wonderful things that are happening and we must keep them going. Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien asked if volunteers from corporations could work with staff and students with technology issues. Mr. Kopcha stated anyone in the community could be valuable.

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Approve East Hartford/Glastonbury Elementary Magnet School Operating Budget

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

(Glen Peterson, Principal, EHGEMS)

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve the East Hartford/Glastonbury Elementary Magnet School operating budget for FY 2006-07 for \$2,371,092.

Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

Abstain: Dorese Roberts

Approve Two CREC Contracts for 2006-2007 School Year

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION

By Marcus Oladell, IV

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve two CREC Contracts for 2006-2007 School Year

(1) to provide technical assistance services to students and staff to support students with autism, behavioral challenges and,

(2) to provide support to schools regarding inclusive practices for students with disabilities.

Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

Abstain: Dorese Roberts

Approve Rescinding the Letters of Non-Renewal of Certain Non-Tenured Teachers

(Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

That the Board rescind the contract non-renewal notices issued to the following teachers in March 2006:

1. Linda J. Aiello Grades K-6
2. Heather C. Bailey Grades K-6
3. Sara J. Luddy Grades K-6
4. Kara L. Pac Grades K-6
5. Cassandra A. Thomas Grades K-6
6. Heather M. Zimmer Grades K-6

Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

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Approve Request for Pass/Fail Credit for East Hartford High School and Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy who Attend Wesleyan Creative Youth

(Debbie Kaprove, Interim Assistant Superintendent)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
 Seconded by Karen Howe
 To approve request for Pass/Fail Credit for East Hartford High School and Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy for students who attend The Center for Creative Youth – Summer Arts Residency program at Wesleyan University.
 Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

Approve Request for Textbooks for Journalism Class at EHHS

(Debbie Kaprove, Interim Assistant Superintendent)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
 Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
 To approve request for textbooks for journalism class at EHHS, totaling \$878.85.
 Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

Approve Waiver of Tabling Policy for First Read and Approve Student Dress Code Policy

(Karen Howe, Board of Education Member)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
 Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
 To approve waiver of tabling policy for first read and approve Student Dress Code
 Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS

Representative Reports:

East Hartford/Glastonbury Magnet School Building Committee – Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

- Mr. Pawlowski thanked the Board for approving the plan and for their continued support;

Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) – Karen Howe – council meeting will be held June 20th.

Adopt-A-School – Woodland School – Karen Howe – Ms. Howe thanked Dr. Martinez for coming to Woodland School last week.

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1. Toni Hutchinson – re: (1) paraprofessional positions being cut – does not want positions to be eliminated. We have dedicated people in our school system – elimination of 12 paraprofessional positions is not good; (2) re: dress code – it is fine – it just needs to be implemented.

QUESTIONS ASKED BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ram Aberasturia – (1) re: comments made by him at the June 5th Regular Meeting – he makes no apology; (2) to the Director of Human Resources – have we rescinded all of the teachers that were to be cut. Dr. Martinez and Mr. Wethje both stated all have been rescinded; (3) when will the Board receive policy books. Chairperson Mayranen-O’Brien stated CAGE will be asked to put together what they have done to date. Mr. Pawlowski stated it is important to give “something” to Board members. Dr. Martinez stated Administration will make policies available to Board members.

Robert Damaschi – re: hopes Administration can come up with something to give to the Town Council on our budget;

Chairperson Mayranen-O’Brien - noted “Questions Asked by Board Members” should be changed to “Questions and Concerns by Board Members”.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- NCLB Update – Dr. Martinez suggested having an evening meeting, inviting Town Council members.

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

To adjourn to Executive Session (9:15 P.M.) to discuss the following:

1. Interview with Possible Action on Candidate for High School Assistant Principal;
2. Contract Negotiations with Human Resources Director with Possible Action;
3. Update on East Hartford High School Principal Search
4. Approve with Possible Action Use of Employee Vacation Time
5. Approve with Possible Action Certified Staff member Requesting Long Term Leave

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald

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Regular Board meeting reconvened at 10:45 P.M.

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Marcus C. Oladell, IV
To appoint David DeCarli Assistant Principal, East Hartford High School, to fill the position vacated by Peter Kenny, Step 1.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To approve the continuation of the consulting agreement with Jan Skolnick two (2) days per week through the end of July 2006.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Karen Howe
To approve the use of # FY 2006/2007 vacation days in FY 2005/2006 for Donna Fitzgerald.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve long term leave requested by Gail Campbell.
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To adjourn the Regular Board Meeting (11:27 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Dr. Marion H. Martinez