

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 28, 2006**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 28, 2006, at the Administration Building, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

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

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Marion Martinez, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Interim Asst. 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
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Rich Kehoe, Chairman, Town Council
Ginny Lynch, President of the ParaEducators Union

ABSENT Prescille Yamamoto, Marcus Oladell, IV

Discussion with Possible Action on 2006-2007 Budget

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

Mr. Mainuli stated approximately \$570,000 in combined savings has been found in out-of-district tuition revenues and expenditure accounts. The use of these funds to cover retirement cash outs in the current budget year would allow the Board to re-appropriate funds in next year's budget. In addition, the out-of-district tuition revenues will be passed through to the Town at year end as new revenue. This action would allow the Board to re-appropriate general budget funds in the out-of-district account to restore vital programs. Beginning with the coming fiscal year, the Town will set aside the revenues the Board receives from out-of-district tuitions. Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated Mr. Mainuli has been working diligently with the Town's Finance Department to draft a resolution to establish this new accounting practice.

Mr. Mainuli stated that the Town has hired a new labor attorney who will be working directly with the Board administration on union negotiations and other labor issues. This will garner approximately \$50,000 in savings in legal fees next year. This savings can also be re-appropriated by the Board for another purpose. Also, Mr. Mainuli reported that we have been successful locking in favorable pricing for fuel oil and electricity. We have locked in fuel oil prices for the next five years at \$1.98/gal and electricity at 9.93 cents per kilowatt hour. This favorable pricing should save the Board and Town thousands of dollars.

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Ginny Lynch, the President of the ParaEducators Union, noted that the loss of 12 para positions is painful. Ms. Lynch proposed a plan to the Board that would restore some para positions and prevent any layoffs. This proposal was approved by the Board.

There was further discussion concerning the shifting of children into appropriate settings. Dr. Martinez stated this will allow us to provide a more inclusive setting, as required. Ms. Lefkowitz stated PPT's have all been done and parental permission has been secured. We will continue to provide in-district programs of high quality. This will not substantially impact out-of-district children. Ms. Lefkowitz further noted the State requires that students spend 80% of their time with typical peers. Dr. Martinez stated Federal law requires us to place children in regular education classes, then PPT reviews what settings are available to all children.

Dr. Martinez noted the district must pay the cost of that placement. We need to know how many students will be moving into the district. We verify and confirm residency. IEP's are reviewed by Ms. Lefkowitz and staff and recommendations are made.

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To restore seven paraprofessional positions at a cost of \$131,000, using surplus dollars.
Motion unanimously carried.

Regarding restoring custodians, Mr. Costa noted the eight custodial positions are a vital resource to the district.

Building rentals to local organizations do not get charged for use of our buildings. Mr. Costa noted keeping buildings open cost approximately \$44,000 in utilities, directly attributed to building rentals usage.

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated we need to communicate better with the Town. It is hoped the Board and Town can have shared services. Mr. Kehoe stated the issue becomes one of how best we do this more efficiently. We can look at this together. Mr. Damaschi mentioned the use of shared services with the Town regarding use of buildings. We will talk with the Town Council.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Karen Howe
To restore eight custodial positions at a cost of \$318,927, using surplus dollars.
Motion unanimously carried.

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Regarding restoring construction improvements, Mr. Pawlowski stated this is a great, long term investment.

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To restore construction improvement services and freshmen sports.
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

Mr. Costa stated he prefers to have the Facilities Committee decide the highest priorities.

Regarding restoring a grants administrator position, Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien asked what if we hired a part-time grants administrator. Mr. Wethje stated we could explore this option. Mr. Kehoe stated he would like to explore the issue of grants administrators in-depth. He would like to see this happen. He further suggested maybe we could work with the Youth Services agency.

Regarding restoring a behavior manager position, Dr. Martinez recommends not restoring this position.

Regarding restoring a library/media position at EHHS, Dr. Martinez would like to reassess this at the end of this year. She further stated she feels the Board should support a grants administrator position and evaluation at the end of the year. We would get an idea of its value. We need this position.

Regarding renewal of CAFE membership, Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated we can be members for ½ year. Dr. Martinez stated CAFE will be working with us for one more year, as part of a three-year agreement. She further noted that CAFE's role as an advocate for local Board's of Education is important.

Regarding the Ropes Program, it is understood that the Rotary Club has committed to pay for this for this year. Mr. Aberasturia favors this program and stated maybe Linda Chamberlain could come to the next Board meeting to discuss the program. Mr. Mainuli stated we have Penny War dollars available that could pay for this program. This proposal will be considered at the next Finance & Audit Committee meeting schedule for Wednesday, July 5th.

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Discussion with Possible Action on Principal and Assistant Principal Position at EHHS

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve having Craig Jordan return to position of Principal at EHHS for the full academic year and to have Dennis Lyon Return to position of Assistant Principal.
Motion carried. Nay: Dorese Roberts, Ram Aberasturia

Dr. Martinez noted we will be considering applicants from search consultants for both of these positions.

Discussion with Possible Action on Assistant Superintendent Position

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To table this agenda item.
Motion carried. Abstain: Ram Aberasturia

Approve Student Planners
(Debbie Kaprove, Interim Assistant Superintendent)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the proposal for Student Planners at a cost of \$10,135.60 and award to Premier Agendas.
Motion carried. Nay: Dorese Roberts Abstain: Ram Aberasturia

Discussion of with Possible Action on School Resource Officer Program Agreement

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To table this agenda item.
Motion unanimously carried.

Community Conversations

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien would like to have the Board be more visible in the community. It was suggested having individual committees presenting what they do. She asked Board members for their comments. Mr. Aberasturia suggesting having office hours to meet with members of the community. Ms. Howe suggested having Board meetings at different schools. Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated it was very effective in the past.

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Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated we can meet another time and talk about our goals. She also mentioned to Board members to please get their Superintendent's evaluation in to her.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To adjourn the Special Meeting (7:40 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald