

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 5, 2007**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, February 5, 2007, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:00P.M. by Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

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

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

ABSENT Karen Howe

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien asked for a moment of silence in memory of Karen Howe's father.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, December 18, 2006 as corrected.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of
January 16, 2007 (6:06 P.M.)
Motion carried. Abstain: Ram Aberasturia

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
January 16, 2007
Motion unanimously carried.

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WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Norris School – March 2nd - “Read Across America Day” program to be held;
- Langford School – February 16th - Presidents’ Day celebration to be held 2:00 P.M.
- Saturday, February 10th - Airborne Jazz program will be held at the Cultural Center; senior tickets \$10, others \$15 – proceeds will benefit the East Hartford Senior Centers.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Matthew Larson and Kelly Rivera

- LEAD Conference will be held the weekend of March 3rd;
- Spring Fling will be held on March 10th;
- Bunny Breakfast will be held on March 31st;
- Senior Citizens Prom will be held on April 25th;
- Sixth Grade Orientation will be held in May – date to be announced;
- Regarding Violence Act – English classes are doing essays on this subject; the representatives asked the Board if they still want students to do surveys. Dr. Martinez stated she will get together with the student representatives to further discuss the non-violence issues;
- Performance of Cabaret was amazing on Saturday evening;
- State Student Council Conference will be held March 23-24;
- There are ten days remaining until the Spain trip!

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Mr. Wethje noted we have hired one teacher, tutors and behavior managers.

Report on The Big Picture High School, Bloomfield

(Jennifer Marshall-Nealy, Learning Through Internship Coordinator)

(Trish Hymes, Principal)

(Dawn Perito, Advisor)

(Michael Reaves, Student)

A presentation was made to the Board by Jennifer Marshall-Nealy, Internship Coordinator, and Trish Hymes, Principal of The Big Picture High School, regarding the success and concept of The Big Picture High School located in Bloomfield, CT. The following facts were noted:

- 62 students attend the facility; the capacity of the school is 130.
- students come from 43 schools throughout the country;
- all students have a mentor; there are 16 students to each advisor and they have the same teachers for four years;
- one of the requirements for graduation is to have the students write a 75 page autobiography; each student also has to present an exhibition.

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- before graduation, students have six college credits;
Mr. Michael Reaves, student, noted to the Board that he had a cardiologist as a mentor and observed an open heart surgery at the age of 14.

Ms. Hymes noted students are being accepted through February 16th. The school is free, as it is a host magnet school. The school covers expenses to those going to Capitol Community College. Funding is received from the State at 95%. They have a budget of \$500,000. There were 32 students enrolled last year with 77 mentors.

Ms. Hymes noted the breakdown of students attending the school:

1 – Rocky Hill	2 - Simsbury
1 – New Britain	4 - Granby
1 – Canton	5 - Windsor
2 – Avon	1 – East Hartford

The remaining students are from Bloomfield.

Policy 6164.12 Aids

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit)

Ms. Yamamoto has brought this policy to the Board for informational purposes only. The policy was recently reviewed January 9, 2007.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

Superintendent Marion H. Martinez

Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

- Thanked all those involved in making Cabaret a wonderful success – it was an excellent performance; a special thank you to Emil Kopcha;
- Received an e-mail from Linda Kauffmann congratulating the Kindergarten students for their involvement in the library.

Dr. Marion Martinez, Superintendent of Schools

- Thanked Norris and Silver Lane schools on behalf of Deb Rowe – Linda Kauffmann worked very hard to get library cards for the students;
- Last week Friends of East Hartford Library had their first meeting – people were concerned about the quality of the library – they are uniting as an active group to consider other sources of revenue to support the library;
- Thank you to the Town Council for allowing us to give our presentation regarding NCLB – thank you to Deb Kaprove, Linda Kauffmann and Marcia Huddy;
- Thank you to Board members for supporting “Closing the Achievement Gap: You Can Make it Happen” – continuation of discussions will be held in a three-part series for the Superintendents and Board of Education leaders at the Hartford Marriott in Rocky Hill;

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- Met with members of the Republican Town Committee and others at an informal meeting; Dr. Martinez stated she also invited the Democratic Town Committee, but has not yet heard back from Mr. Salemi. She is looking forward to hearing from him;
- Safety Meeting scheduled for February 13th will be rescheduled.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy & Audit – Prescille Yamamoto – no meeting has been scheduled for February; next meeting is March 13th, 5:00 P.M.

Curriculum – Cynthia Reik – meeting scheduled for February 15th, 5:30 P.M.

Facilities –Hank Pawlowski, Jr. –meeting scheduled for February 6, 6:30 P.M. we will be reviewing the Five Year Plan to be presented by Mr. Costa.

Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi – meeting scheduled for February 7, 6:00 P.M.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To approve the following **Retirement:**

1. John Horan, Teacher, effective 6/29/07

To approve the following seven **Resignations:**

1. Linda Kauffmann, Supervisor, Elem. Ed, effective 2/23/07;

2. Helen Buckley, Tutor, effective 1/4/07;

3. Ariana Texidor, Tutor, effective 1/2/07;

4. Jonathan Ramos, Tutor, effective 1/19/07;

5. Amy Brayman, Tutor, effective 1/12/07;

6. Willona Amoakah, Tutor, effective 1/26/07;

7. Rondell Tyson, Behavior Manager, effective 2/2/07

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Remove from Table and Approve Policy 0521/4118.11/4218.11 – Nondiscrimination

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To remove from table and approve Policy 0521/4118.11/4218.11

Nondiscrimination

Motion unanimously carried.

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**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3524 – Hazardous Material in Schools
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To remove from table and approve Policy 3524 – Hazardous
Material in Schools
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3524.1 – Hazardous Material in Schools –
Pesticide Application on School Property**

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To remove from table and approve Policy 3524.1 – Hazardous
Material in Schools – Pesticide Application on School Property
Motion unanimously carried.

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3541 – Transportation

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To remove from table and approve Policy 3541 – Transportation
Motion unanimously carried.

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3541.1 – School Bus Riders

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To remove from table and approve Policy 3541.1 School
Bus Riders
Motion unanimously carried.

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3541.23 Transportation – Bus Contractor

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To remove from table and approve Policy 3541.23 Transportation
Bus Contractor
Motion unanimously carried.

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To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3541.3 – Transportation – Routes and Services

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To remove from table and approve Policy 3541.3 – Transportation Routes and Services
Motion unanimously carried.

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3541.341 – Special Transportation for Non-Public School Students

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To remove from table and approve Policy 3541.341 – Special Transportation for Non-Public School Students
Motion unanimously carried.

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3541.4 – Transportation Equipment

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto
Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To remove from table and approve Policy 3541.4 – Transportation Equipment
Motion unanimously carried.

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3541.5 – Transportation Safety Complaints

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To remove from table and approve Policy 3541.5 – Transportation Safety Complaints
Motion unanimously carried.

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3541.8 – Transportation – Student Bus Assignments

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To remove from table and approve Policy 3541.8 – Transportation – Student Bus Assignments
Motion unanimously carried.

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To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4212.42 – Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To remove from table and approve Policy 4212.42 – Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers
Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Maximum 4% Tuition Increase for East Hartford Glastonbury Magnet School (Robert Damaschi, Board of Education Member)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve maximum 4% tuition increase for East Hartford Glastonbury Magnet School
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia Abstain: Dorese Roberts

Approve the Revised East Hartford High School Coaches Handbook (Maureen Rodgers, Athletic Director)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the revised East Hartford High School Coaches Handbook
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Damaschi asked how many volunteer coaches we have. Ms. Rodgers stated none at present. She noted there is a procedure to follow if anyone is interested in volunteering. Mr. Aberasturia thanked Ms. Rodgers for the fine work she has done.

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Middletown, CT for participation in Student Council State Leadership Conference (Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent) (Paul Apostalon, Student Council Advisor)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve request for overnight travel to Middletown, CT for participation in Student Council State Leadership Conference
Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Yamamoto asked if we have enough chaperones for thirty students. Mr. Apostalon stated he believes we do at this time, but if not, we can have additional chaperones.

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Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Webster, MA to participate in Show Choir Competition

(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

(Christopher Mientus, Sunset Ridge)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To approve request for overnight travel to Webster, MA to participate in Show Choir Competition

Motion unanimously carried.

To Reinstate Summer Fine Arts Academy

(Emil Kopcha, Supervisor, Fine Arts)

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To reinstate Summer Fine Arts Academy

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Kopcha stated this is a month-long program for students in any of our schools Grades 2-8. Mr. Kopcha was congratulated for the wonderful things that are going on in our schools. Ms. Yamamoto asked if he would comment on the relationship between the Fine and Performing Arts and the Fine Arts Council. Mr. Kopcha stated the Fine and Performing Arts relationship with the Fine Arts Council is a very close partnership.

Approve 2007-2008 School Calendar

(Emil Kopcha, Supervisor, Fine Arts)

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To approve the 2007-2008 School Calendar

Motion unanimously carried.

Dr. Martinez thanked Dr. Fusco, Mr. Brodeur and Mr. Kopcha for the work they did on preparing the school calendar.

Approve East Hartford Public Schools Emergency Operation Plan

(Joseph Sikora, Director of Security)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve the East Hartford Public Schools Emergency Operation Plan

Motion unanimously carried.

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Approve Appropriation Transfers FY 2006-2007
(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

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MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve appropriation transfers for FY 2006-2007
Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve Resolution regarding Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding
(Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Board of Education Chair)**

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve the Resolution regarding Connecticut Coalition for
Justice in Education funding
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Aberasturia thanked Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien for bringing this Resolution forward.

**To Table for First Read Policy 4118.231/4218.231 – Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To table for first read Policy 4118.231/4218.231 - Alcohol,
Drugs and Tobacco
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 6121 – Nondiscrimination in the Instructional Program
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To table for first read Policy 6121 – Nondiscrimination in the
Instructional Program
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 6141.312 – Migrant Students
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To table for first read Policy 6141.312 – Migrant Students
Motion unanimously carried.

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**To Table for First Read Policy 6146.1 – Grading/Assessment Systems
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To table for first read Policy 6146.1 – Grading/Assessment
Systems
Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted this was also reviewed by Dr. Martinez and administrators in our district.

**To Table for First Read Policy 6161.3 – Comparability of Services
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To table for first read Policy 6161.3 – Comparability of Services
Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted CABE brought this to our attention. This is a State mandated policy.

**To Table for First Read Policy 6164.11 – Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To table for first read Policy 6164.11 – Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol
Motion unanimously carried.

INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS

Representative Reports

- **Early Childhood Programs** - **Prescille Yamamoto** attended the Willowbrook Policy Committee meeting and will attend the next meeting of that group on March 1st.
- **Ram Aberasturia** organized a field trip to the State Department of Labor, February 14th, 9:30-noon, for 25 students from East Hartford High School to learn how to write effective resumes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

- **Marcus Oladell to Jody Lefkowitz** – a parent asked Mr. Oladell why change a student after being in one program for two years to another program in another facility. The Superintendent and Ms. Lefkowitz will follow up on this concern.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS - None

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MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To recess to Executive Session (8:10 P.M.) to discuss the following:

1. Discussion with possible action regarding request for leave of absence for a paraprofessional;
2. Request for extension of leave of absence for a paraprofessional;
3. Discussion with possible action regarding pending claims and litigation;
4. Discussion with possible action for non-bargaining members to purchase group health insurance at full cost.

Motion unanimously carried.

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 8:19 P.M.

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To approve leave of absence without pay request for a Paraprofessional.
Motion carried.
Absent: Karen Howe

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski
To approve an extension of a leave of absence without pay request for a paraprofessional.
Motion carried
Absent: Karen Howe

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 8:20 P.M.
Motion unanimously carried.
Absent: Karen Howe

Recorded by:
Christopher Wethje

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald