

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
MARCH 19, 2007**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, March 19, 2007, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.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, Karen Howe

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 Cynthia Reik

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien noted she received a phone call from Henry Genga regarding Bill No. 1060 to which he has attached an amendment. It addresses access to the personnel files.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of
February 27, 2007 (5:05 P.M.)
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of
February 27, 2007 (5:55 P.M.)
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

1. Invitation to Inter-Elementary Honors Music and Art Festival, March 28th, EHMS, 7:00 P.M.;
2. CIBA is holding "Night of 1,000 Dinners", March 28th, 6-8 P.M. at CIBA;

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3. School/Business Partnership holding annual recognition reception at Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, April 12th, 4-5:30 P.M. Presentation of awards will be given to groups who have been supportive of the program;
4. Invitation sponsored by CAFE and the Connecticut State Department of Education to attend "Closing the Achievement Gap: You Can Make it Happen", April 30th, Hartford Marriott, Rocky Hill, 6-8:00 P.M. Dr. Denise Schnitzer, former Chief of Staff, Norfolk Public Schools, Virginia

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To add to this evening's agenda, a letter dated March 15, 2007, in support of Dr. Marion Martinez.
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve the letter dated March 15, 2007, in support of Dr. Marion Martinez
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia
Abstain: Dorese Roberts

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Matthew Larson and Kelly Rivera

- EHHS Girls Cheerleading made it to the Regional competition; Competition was cancelled due to inclement weather;
- EHHS Marching Band will play at the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 24th in Hartford;
- Members of the Student Council will attend the State Leadership Conference at Wesleyan University from Friday, March 23rd – Saturday, March 24th. Workshops will be presented by Merrill Bajana, Amber Jackson and Matthew Larson;
- March 31st – Student Council will hold its annual Bunny Breakfast;
- April 25th – Student Council will hold its annual Senior Citizens Prom; students are invited to participate in ballroom dance lessons in preparation for this event.

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To move Old and Unfinished Business to this area of the agenda.
Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Remove from Table and Approve Contract of Grant Writing Services with
Lisa Low & Associates**

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To accept Lisa Low & Associates contract of grant writing services with the East Hartford Public Schools.

Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Low was present as was her specialist in brokering, Melissa. Ms. Low commented that there are two current funding opportunities available for the East Hartford Public Schools: Magnet School Assistance Program and Technology Infrastructure Funding. Ms. Yamamoto asked Ms. Low to follow up on the Hewlett Packard Foundation as well as the Gates Foundation for additional funding possibilities.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Scott Megguier, 132 Arbutus Street – re: (1) the EHHS Principal controversy; (2) hiring practices – disagreed with legal counsel’s finding that all was in order; (3) CMT test scores for 2005-06; entire Board should be replaced, except for one person;
2. Dr. Daube, President, Manchester Community College – re: praised Dr. Martinez for an outstanding job being done; stressed the focus needs to be on the young people of East Hartford; move on with positive focus on children;
3. Lori Micel Villa, 12 Concord Street – must check on cleanliness of bathrooms in the district – custodians are busy cleaning other areas in the district;
4. Security Team, 869 Forbes Street – the entire Security Team was present to support Dr. Martinez; it was noted Dr. Martinez always showed respect and support for them;
5. Robin Zaicek, 382 Hills Street – re: works at EHHS and totally supports Dr. Martinez;
6. Micki Boccaccio , 164 Woodmont Drive – re: initiatives the district follows to ensure the best education for the children of East Hartford;
7. Lisa McMahon, 122 Leverich Drive –fully supports the school administration and the Board;
8. Randy and Sharon Walker, 76 Fitzgerald Drive - Ms. Walker is currently President of CIBA’s Parent Advisory Board; she has worked with Dr. Martinez and noted Dr. Martinez has demonstrated her competency and responds to concerns of parents;
9. Karen O’Connell, EHEA President – (1) noted she has had differences with the Superintendent; (2) noted 60 members of the EHEA were not supporting Dr. Martinez;
10. Ginny Lynch, 77 Chapel St. – re: supports the Superintendent; we must now move on and treat each other with respect ; we must work together to promote the positive happenings within our schools and town;

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11. Nancy and Tim Larson, former Mayor, Town of East Hartford– this is a time to reach out to parents; there is a need to make parents more accountable; the Board has done a good job; we must sell the value of public education to students and people in East Hartford; we must get our children involved in extra curricular activities;
12. Keith Kennedy, Senior, EHHS- suggests we look internally for a new principal at EHHS; what kind of example are we setting for students in East Hartford. We now have to move on;
13. Denise Mitchell – stop the madness; Board members are dedicated; now is the time to stay focused with goals at hand;
14. Ram Aberasturia – we should look within our system for a principal;
15. Harold McMahon, 122 Leverich Drive – his children went through the East Hartford school system and enjoyed going to school; he said thank you and he owed it to the Board, Dr. Martinez, teachers and staff; we need to work together to change and to get things done;
16. Dorese Roberts – praised Dr. Martinez for making safe harbor at Mayberry for 3rd grade students; initiatives were put in place by Dr. Martinez.

Board Recess: 8:50 P.M.

Meeting Reconvened: 9:10 P.M.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Update on Trip to Spain

(John Bacon, East Hartford High School)

Mr. Bacon gave a PowerPoint presentation on the recent trip to Spain. Both student representatives to the Board went on the Spain trip and spoke of their experiences. Other students who went to Spain were present and shared their experiences. The trip was enjoyed by all. Mr. Bacon is planning a Costa Rican trip for next year.

Update on Third Quarter Financial Report

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

(Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel)

Mr. Mainuli made three documents available to the Board: FY 2006-07 Object Summary, FY 2006-07 Monthly Financial Report – by Program and FY 2006-07 Transfer Report. Mr. Mainuli stated we are in the process of setting priorities for what needs to be accomplished between now and the end of June.

Ms. Lefkowitz noted there were 129 students placed out of district; we anticipate revenue of \$1.3 million to come back to the Town.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien noted :

- attended the retirement dinner for Craig Jordan;
- will keep the Board informed on Bill 1060.

Superintendent Marion H. Martinez noted the following:

Dr. Martinez thanked the Board for their support for the kind concern for her husband during his illness.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy & Audit – Prescille Yamamoto –meeting scheduled for April 11th, 5:00 P.M.;

Curriculum – Cynthia Reik – meeting scheduled for March 26th , 5:00 P.M.

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

Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi – meeting scheduled for April 4th , 7:00 P.M.

Future Planning – Karen Howe – no meeting has been scheduled.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve the following two **Resignations:**

1. Jerena Felton, Para/Sped, effective 2/28/07

2. Felicia Kenniston, Para/Sped, effective 3/16/07

Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Costa Rica
(John Bacon, East Hartford High School)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To approve request for overnight travel to Costa Rica

2/14/08-2/23/08

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Bacon noted they now will be leaving on a Saturday, and the students will not miss an extra day of school.

Approve Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank
(Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources)

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve certified staff member's use of employee sick bank

Motion unanimously carried.

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**Approve Access Transportation Contract
(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve Access Transportation Contract through
June of 2009.
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia, Dorese Roberts

Mr. Mainuli noted our student transportation contract allows for a two-year extension of services with approval of the full Board. He also noted the student transportation costs will increase by three percent in each of the next two years.

Approve Purchase of Computer Servers from the Western States Contract Alliance Purchasing Consortium

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Karen Howe
To approve purchase of computer services from the
Western States Contract Alliance Purchasing Consortium
at a cost of \$42,851.00, which includes cost of delivery.
Motion carried. Abstain: Ram Aberasturia

INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS

Representative Reports

Ram Aberasturia visited Norris and Mayberry schools.

Dorese Roberts visited O'Connell School and observed the Math/Science program. Ms. Roberts also noted she would like to see more science materials for the elementary schools so they may do more experiments.

Karen Howe –School/Business Partnership will hold an event on April 12th at Sunset Ridge Clubhouse. CREC will hold a meeting on March 21, 2007.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ram Aberasturia – re: (1) received a telephone call from a parent who is concerned about drugs. Dr. Martinez asked that the parent be referred to her in the future; (2) commended the Boys Varsity Basketball Team and EHHS cheerleaders.

Karen Howe – re: concerned with comment made by a parent re: nurses at EHHS relative to denying students use of lavatories without passes. **Robert Damaschi** requests a copy of the protocol for nurses.

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TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

1. Invite Supervisor of Nursing to be present at a Board meeting to discuss services and protocol;
2. Ms. Yamamoto requests a Technology Workshop be held.

Proposed Executive Session

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To recess to Executive Session (10:30 P.M.) to discuss the following:

1. Discussion with possible action regarding request for Sabbatical leave for certified staff member;
2. Discussion of evaluation with possible action on Middle School principal position;
3. Discussion with possible action on appointment of Interim High School Principal;
4. Discussion of Interim High School Assistant Principal position

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald

The Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 11:12 P.M.

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Karen Howe

To deny a sabbatical leave for certified staff member.

Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To table appointment of Middle School Principal.

Motion **defeated**. Opposed: Ram Aberasturia, Robert
Damaschi, Karen Howe,
Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien
Approved: Prescille Yamamoto,
Dorese Roberts

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MOTION By Marcus Oladell
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To appoint Pietro Cerone as the Principal of East Hartford
Middle School.
Motion carried. Nay: Prescille Yamamoto

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 11:21 P.M.
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Christopher Wethje