

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
APRIL 2, 2007**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, April 2, 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, Karen Howe

**ALSO PRESENT** Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent of Schools  
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services  
Al Costa, Director of Facilities  
Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources  
Matthew Larson, Student Representative to the Board

**ABSENT** Cynthia Reik, Dorese Roberts

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of  
March 5, 2007  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of  
March 12, 2007  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of  
March 13, 2007  
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of  
March 14, 2007  
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

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**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of  
March 15, 2007  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
March 19, 2007  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve the Minutes of the two Special Meetings of  
March 21, 2007 (5:35 and 6:43 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

- Invitation from Goodwin College to attend the Belden Theatre in Hartford on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> for a performance;
- Invitation sponsored by CAFE and Connecticut State Department of Education – “The Board’s Role in Using an Accountability System for Learning” – “Closing the Achievement Gap: You Can Make it Happen” – April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Hartford Marriott, Rocky Hill, 6:00-8:00 P.M.;
- 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Lions Club Quest Dinner – April 22<sup>nd</sup>

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

**Matthew Larson**

- The annual Bunny Breakfast was held on Saturday – 30 student council members attended; the event was very successful;
- April 25<sup>th</sup> – Senior Citizens Prom will be held from 4:00-8:00 P.M.
- Student/Faculty Basketball game was held – the students won!
- Regarding the Disney trip for next year – Mr. Larson noted when he took this trip he found it to be a great experience;
- April 29<sup>th</sup> – National Honor Society Induction will be held at the Community Cultural Center.

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Jane Apel – the PTO supports the decision to appoint Matt Ryan as Interim Principal. Thanks to the Board and Administration;

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

**Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required**

**Update on the Robotics Team Overnight Trip to Boston**

**(Chuck Nystrom, Robotics Team leader, EHHS)**

Mr. Nystrom gave an update on recent events that took place when 26 students went to Boston with the Robotics Team. East Hartford did very well. Mr. Nystrom noted the team held eleven different fundraising activities to support the recent trip. Mr. Oladell asked where he might see the robots being built – 701 Main Street, E.H.

**Update on Student Information System**

**(Guy Collins, Supervisor, Information Systems)**

**(Frank Staples, Department Head, Guidance, EHHS)**

**(Liz D’Amico, Sr. Systems Programmer Analyst, New Rochelle)**

Ms. Liz D’Amico was present to discuss the possible implementation and training of eSchool Plus student information system. She noted some of the advantages over our current Pentamation system; i.e.,

- Absentee reporting;
- NCLB reports – reporting capability is right here;
- Report cards w/comparison capability can be produced;
- Grade book uses – implementation is key to success
- Guidance Department – could create master schedules
- Strategic Plan

Training of staff would be done by using the “train the trainer” approach – with one key learner acting as a resource to train others. Each software application requires training. All training would be done on site. East Hartford would continue to use Pentamation while converting data.

Mr. Pawlowski requested (1) additional information on security; (2) parent use policy and procedure; (3) asked Mr. Collins to provide a list of what other districts have been contacted and what programs they use.

Mr. Damaschi stated a workshop is needed to further discuss. Ms. Yamamoto asked if the union is aware of this. Mr. Mainuli stated we have not presented this to the union at this time. We have talked with several teachers and staff. We have done on-site visits and brought in vendors.

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The up front cost would be \$311,000. Mr. Pawlowski requested to see how the contract is written.

**Status of High School Principal Search**

**(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)**

Superintendent Martinez noted the application for Principal is being revised; we will be doing extensive postings. We will be checking the sex offender website, checking licenses and any other pertinent information.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien**

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien attended the InterAI performance and noted it was fantastic.

**Superintendent Marion H. Martinez**

- Thank you to Deb Colson for serving as Interim Assistant Principal at Sunset Ridge;
- Dr. Martinez and Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent, attended a volunteer recognition program sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools;
- Mr. Art Arpin sent a letter regarding Breanna Hennessey, a Junior, as being selected as one of the Governor's Scholars;
- Tyler Hoxley, Exploravision Coach, received honorable mention for the 2007 Toshiba Award;
- Received an e-mail from Chris Mientus – 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders went to Central Massachusetts to attend a choir show. Awards were given out at the end of the program and East Hartford fared well;
- Congratulations to the EHHS Band for receiving an award for their participation in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade;

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**Curriculum – Cynthia Reik – (Marcus Oladell reporting in Ms. Reik's absence)** meeting scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>;

**Facilities –Hank Pawlowski, Jr.** – meeting scheduled prior to next Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>;

**Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi** – meeting scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.

**Future Planning – Karen Howe** – no meeting scheduled.

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve the following **Resignations:**

**Valerie Raymond-Sousa, Tutor, effective 3/28/07;**

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To approve the following **Retirement:**  
**Beverly Houle, Para, effective 6/29/07**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Orlando, FL**

**(Candis Guastamachio, EHHS)**

**(Laura White, EHHS)**

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To approve request for overnight travel to Orlando, FL  
4/14-4/18/07 for members of the EHHS band and choir.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank**

**(Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources)**

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To approve certified staff member's use of employee  
sick bank  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve Investing and Personal Finance Grant**

**(Michelle Hacker, Department Head)**

**MOTION**

By Hank Pawlowski

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve Investing and Personal Finance Grant  
Sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of  
Education to provide career opportunities for students  
in the financial field.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Discuss and Approve the Capital Improvement Plan – FY 2007**

**(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)**

**MOTION**

By Hank Pawlowski

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve the Capital Improvement Plan – FY 2007  
Motion unanimously carried.

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Mr. Costa noted that all projects in the Capital Improvement Plan are not eligible for reimbursement. The current Capital Improvement Plan is estimated to be a total of \$21,656,000 of which \$11,136,810 is State reimbursable. He further noted since 1990 the Board has completed approximately \$54 million in construction projects.

Mr. Pawlowski commended Mr. Costa for his extensive report and work well done.

**Approve Bid #1568-07 Surface Repairs – Outdoor Athletic Track EHHS**  
**(Al Costa Director of Facilities)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To approve Bid #1568-07 Surface Repairs – Outdoor  
Athletic Track EHHS  
Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Yamamoto requested a date of when work would be completed.

Dr. Martinez stated the following three Motions pertaining to graduation dates are being proposed due to June 19<sup>th</sup> being the last day of school:

**Approve Synergy Graduation Date of June 14, 2007**  
**(John Karzar, Principal, Synergy)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve Synergy graduation date of June 14, 2007  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve CIBA Graduation Date of June 15, 2007**  
**(Art Arpin, Principal, CIBA)**

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve CIBA graduation date of June 15, 2007  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve EHHS Graduation Date of June 19, 2007**  
**(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve EHHS graduation date of June 19, 2007  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS**

**Representative Reports**

**Ram Aberasturia** noted the 20 students are finally going to the Department of Labor;  
**Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – EH/Glastonbury Magnet School Building Committee** – we are ready to submit the proper paperwork to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The project is moving forward.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ram Aberasturia** – thanked the parents for coming out today for the Board meeting.

**Robert Damaschi** - would like a workshop on the Student Information System.

**Prescille Yamamoto** – re: (1) letter received from Mr. Mainuli – asked for background information on the Garabedian Scholarship. Mr. Mainuli explained this scholarship fund began through the sale of stocks; (2) requests that the 2007-08 school calendars be checked more closely so as to ensure Board meetings and others will not fall on holidays; i.e., Passover.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Student Information System

**PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To recess to Executive Session (8:50 P.M.) to discuss the following:

1. Discussion with possible action on the appointment of an Interim First Assistant Principal at EHHS;
2. Discussion with possible action on administrative reorganization;
3. Discussion with possible action regarding additional vacation for a non-certified staff member;
4. Discussion with possible action regarding request for leave of absence for a certified staff member;
5. Discussion of Assistant Principal search;
6. Discussion of pending claims and litigation

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by  
Donna Fitzgerald

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The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:44 P.M.

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To appoint David DeCarli as the Interim First Assistant Principal at East Hartford High School effective April 3, 2007.  
Motion unanimously carried.  
Absent: Dorese Roberts, Cynthia Reik

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To appoint Dan Moleti as the Interim Assistant Principal at East Hartford High School effective April 3, 2007.  
Motion unanimously carried.  
Absent: Dorese Roberts, Cynthia Reik

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To grant non-bargaining unit member two vacation days to use by June 30, 2007 in lieu of salary increase for the 2006-2007 year only.  
Motion unanimously carried.  
Absent: Dorese Roberts, Cynthia Reik

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve an unpaid leave of absence for Rodney Moore for the 2007-2008 school year.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Marcus Oladell  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 9:45 P.M.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:  
Christopher Wethje