

**SPECIAL MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
JUNE 18, 2007**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, June 18, 2007, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:14 P.M. by Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

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

**ALSO PRESENT** Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent of Schools  
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent  
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To adjourn to Executive Session 5:13 P.M. to conduct interviews  
of East Hartford High School Principal candidates and to discuss  
leave of absence requests for two paraprofessionals.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:  
Christopher Wethje

The Special Board meeting reconvened at 6:58 P.M.

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

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To appoint Matt Ryan as Principal of East Hartford  
High School at Step 1 of the Principal salary schedule effective  
July 1, 2007.  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve a leave of absence for Amy Tougas, a  
paraprofessional, for the 2007-2008 school year.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Cynthia Reik  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To approve a leave of absence for Jennifer Doyon, a  
paraprofessional, from August 30, 2007 through January 7, 2008.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
June 4, 2007, as corrected:  
Page 12 – Dorese Roberts visited Silver Lane School...They **have  
increased** parent participation;  
Policies approved for deletion were incorrectly numbered.  
Corrections follow:

<u>Policies</u>	<u>Correct Numbers</u>
4141	4301
4143	4321
6141.321	6179

Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

- Many letters have been written supporting Matt Ryan for Principal;
- Many letters of thank you from the Top Twenty students;
- Thank you to Cheryl Looke for making name tags for Board members.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS** - None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Ms. Smith, teacher, Silver Lane School – re: in support of having after school programs it is essential. Dr. Martinez stated we have been actively involved with people in the community in an attempt to plan after school programs.
2. Ram Aberasturia stated it was unfortunate we lost Ms. Smith as a result of administration’s lack of support. Furthermore, we should heed Ms. Smith’s words of warning that after school programs are essential in serving the academic needs of our students. If we are to be successful in addressing the academic needs of our students the Board must have a paradigm shift and realize that no only is

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academics important, but just as important if not more so, our students need such after school programs to address their needs.

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

Mr. Wethje noted we have hired an LPN for one on one services to a child. It is now official that Matt Ryan is the new principal at EHHS.

**Report on Project Lead the Way**

**(Michelle Hacker, Department Head)**

**(Greg Kane, State Department of Education)**

Mr. Kane, State Department of Education, gave a comprehensive presentation on specifics of Project Lead the Way. Currently, there are 175,000 students in the program. Ms. Hacker believes Project Lead the Way would be an excellent opportunity for East Hartford High School to expand its course offerings. Ms. Hacker noted the curriculum focuses on math and science standards. Mr. Kane noted the dire need for engineers.

The cost of the program is approximately \$19,000 per year. Dr. Martinez stated the East Hartford Rotary Club has offered financial support for two or the three years for this program, and it is a perfect program for our students. An after school support program would be built into the program ensuring increased student success.

**Annual Review of EHHS Coaches Handbook**

**(Maureen Rodgers, Athletic Director)**

**(David Caruso, EHHS)**

Ms. Rodgers offered a suggestion that the Board policy on transporting students be incorporated into the Coaches Handbook. Dr. Martinez stated she would not like to see anyone transporting students alone. She asked that other districts be contacted to see what they do in this regard. Ms. Yamamoto suggested getting a facility more local for students to practice, rather than driving so far way and getting home late.

Mr. Aberasturia stated the "C" rule should be abolished. It gives our students other avenues to make connections within our schools. Then by participating in after school programs or if you will smaller learning communities they become stakeholders within our schools and as such their grades will improve. Ms. Howe noted she is in favor of the "C" rule. She noted by maintaining a "C" average gives incentive to our students. Also, she is not in favor of transporting anyone.

Mr. Damaschi noted our job is to concentrate on academics. Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated we should revisit the transporting of students issue.

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**Update on Gifted and Talented**

**(Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel)**

**(Tim Reid, EHHS)**

**(Emil Kopcha, Supervisor)**

A detailed overview of the program was presented. Ms. Lefkowitz stated the State requires every school district to identify gifted and talented students (top 5%-10%). We are presently serving about 5% of the population for gifted and talented. Ms. Lefkowitz further noted we will be looking at other measures to identify a broader representation.

It was stated we will be using several methods with which to identify gifted and talented students; i.e., artistic observation, parent recommendations, PPT process and the gifted and talented staff. Mr. Kopcha noted regarding the "talented", that it is performance based.

Mr. Damaschi asked if there is a dollar amount on the gifted and talented testing. Ms. Lefkowitz stated approximately \$2,000. Mr. Damaschi requested information on the dollar amount we are spending in the current budget. Ms. Roberts asked if we have a dance program in place. Ms. Yamamoto noted Mr. Kopcha does a wonderful job in getting outside support from the community.

**Report on Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant**

**(Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel)**

Ms. Lefkowitz noted she has applied for a Federal grant which would provide \$1.5 million. The grant focuses on creating safe school environments, promoting healthy childhood development and preventing youth violence and use of drugs. Mr. Damaschi asked for a breakdown of people who were involved in the grant and what is being proposed for staffing, should we receive the grant. It was noted a copy of the grant will be made available to the Board.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports**

**Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien:** Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien congratulated all of the recent graduates and stated this is a very exciting time for all.

**Dr. Martinez:**

- Dr. Abernino, State Department of Education, sent a thank you to Mary Meggie for her involvement in the development of CAPT;
- Dr. Martinez attended a State Boards of Education meeting during which time Desi Nesmith was recognized;
- Desi Nesmith will be returning to our district to work here in the coming year;
- The Governor came to East Hartford and signed the pesticide bill.

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**Special Committee Reports**

**Policy & Audit, Prescille Yamamoto** – no meeting has been scheduled.

**Curriculum – Cynthia Reik** – meeting scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.

**Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr.** – meeting scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 P.M.;

**Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi** – meeting scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup>;

**Future Planning – Karen Howe** – meeting scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 P.M.

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION**

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve Twelve (12) Resignations:

1. Karen A. Sklarz, teacher, effective 8/31/07
2. Christa L. Potts, teacher, effective 6/30/07
3. Natalie M. Sullo, teacher, effective 6/29/07
4. Heather Kelly-Welch, teacher, effective 8/30/07
5. Melissa Y. Cannon, teacher, effective 6/29/07
6. Jeannine M. Enamait, teacher, effective 6/29/07
7. Jennifer L. Daley, Nursing Supervisor, effective 6/1/07;
8. Sonia E. Manganello, Tutor, effective 5/22/07;
9. Nathan D. Jandreau, Tutor, effective 5/30/07;
10. Dory L. Nickerson, Tech Specialist, effective 6/15/07;
11. Christine Angell, Nurse, effective 6/29/07;
12. Luis Smith-Rosario, Teacher, effective 6/29/07

Motion unanimously carried.

**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**- None

**NEW BUSINESS** -

**Approve Family Resource Center Program Grant – Silver Lane School**

**(Carolyn Elmore, Program Coordinator)**

**(Andrea Einhorn, Principal, Silver Lane)**

**MOTION**

By Karen Howe

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve the Family Resource Center Grant for  
Fiscal Year 2007-09.

Motion carried. Nay: Prescille Yamamoto, Ram Aberasturia

Mr. Damaschi requested a breakdown of all expenses to run the entire program, including bus transportation. He further requested a listing of in-kind services received.

It was noted that both the Silver Lane Family Resource center and Hockanum School Family Resource Center should both have the same salaries for those involved in overseeing the program. Dr. Martinez stated we should do something with both programs.

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**Approve Family Resource Center Program Grant – Hockanum School  
(Lisa Beauchamp, Principal, Hockanum)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To approve the Family Resource Center Grant for  
Fiscal Year 2007-09.  
Motion carried. Nay: Prescille Yamamoto, Ram Aberasturia

**Approve Compliance with Connecticut Section 3 Public Act 06-63, an Act  
Concerning Healthy Food and Beverages in School**

**(Maureen Rodgers, Athletic Director)  
(Marci Noguiera, Sodexho, General Manager)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To approve and comply with Connecticut Section 3 Public Act  
06-03, An Act Concerning Health Food and Beverages in school  
Motion carried. Nay: Dorese Roberts, Ram Aberasturia

**Approve Cross Roads Café Dining Improvements Program for Sodexho – School  
Services**

**(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve Cross Roads Café Dining Improvements Program  
for Sodexho – School Services. The estimated cost for the  
improvements are \$50,500.  
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

Mr. Aberasturia noted he is concerned with the dollars involved. Mr. Mainuli assured Mr. Aberasturia that funds would come out of the lunch account.

**Approve Food Service Management Contract with Sodexho Management, Inc.  
(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To approve the one year agreement commencing July 1, 2007  
and continuing until June 30, 2008. The agreement is subject  
to renewal for one additional year term upon mutual agreement  
of both parties.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve Increase in School Lunch Rates for 2007-08  
(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi

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Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve the lunch rate changes as indicated in memo dated  
June 18, 2007.  
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

**Approve Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank  
(Christopher T. Wethje, Director of Human Resources)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To approve certified staff member's use of employee sick bank  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve the World Language Curriculum  
(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To approve the World Language Curriculum  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve CREC Contract for Sub SLP Services in the Birth-to-Three Program  
(Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To approve the SLP services brokered through CREC.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve CREC Contract for Sub SLP Services in the Pre-K Program  
(Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve SLP services brokered through CREC.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Cynthia Reik  
To table for first read the following policies:  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 0521.2 – Commitment to Religious Neutrality  
(Prayer in Schools)**

**(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**To Table for First Read Policy 1112.5 – Media Access to Students  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

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**To Table for First Read Policy 1212 – School Volunteers**  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**To Table for First Read Policy 1331 – Smoking/Tobacco Products in School Facilities**  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**To Table for First Read Policy 2210 – Administrative Leeway in Absence of Board Policy**  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**To Table for First Read Policy 2400 – Evaluation of Administrative Personnel**  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**To Table for First Read Policy 3231 – Medicaid Reimbursement for Special Education Students**  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**To Table for First Read Policy 3541.44 – Use of Privately Owned Vehicles on School Business**  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**To Table for First Read Policy 4118.13/4218.13- Conflict of Interest**  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**To Table for First Read Policy 4155/4255 – Employee as Holder of Elective Office**  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**To Table for First Read Policy 5131.21 – Threats of Violence by Students**  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**To Table for First Read Policy 0050 – Code of Ethics**  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Cynthia Reik

To table for first read Policy 0050 – Code of Ethics.

Motion carried. Nay: Hank Pawlowski, Jr. Ram Aberasturia

Robert Damaschi

Abstain: Dorese Roberts

Mr. Aberasturia doesn't believe CAGE should be developing our Code of Ethics.

**To Table for First Read Policy 0100 – Mission Statement**  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**MOTION**

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.



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Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To table for first read Policy 0100 – Mission Statement  
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

**To Table for First Read Policy 1312 – Public Complaints  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To table for first read Policy 1312 – Public Complaints  
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

**To Table for First Read Policy 2000.1 – Board-Superintendent Relationship  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Cynthia Reik  
To table for first read Policy 2000.1 – Board-Superintendent  
Relationship  
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia, Robert Damaschi,  
Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Abstain: Dorese Roberts

**To Approve Contract Agreement for Medical Advisor  
(Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve CCMC – Faculty Practice Plan to provide Medical  
Director consultant services to in-district nursing staff and/or  
administrative personnel.  
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

Mr. Damaschi requested additional information on the duties of Dr. Milanese and what she has accomplished this past year.

Ms. Howe asked that she be part of the interview process for the Supervisor of Nursing.

**INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS**

**Representative Reports**

**Ram Aberasturia** – (1) attended Norris and Mayberry schools Mr. Aberasturia gave them a pizza party as a thank you for Board Appreciation Day; (2) viewed the ROPES course last Friday – it is a very good and essential program; (3) attending CIBA graduation.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

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**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Prescille Yamamoto** – (1) asked Mr. Mainuli the status on a computer workshop – Mr. Mainuli stated it was presented to the Curriculum Committee. This will be brought to the Board as an informational report;(2) re: NIKE Outdoor National – would like us to look into overnight travel re: athletic policies;

**Karen Howe** – asked Mr. Wethje – to provide information on the process being used to develop the Coaches Handbook – would like specific understanding of who is affected; i.e., coaches, etc. and who evaluates the coaches.

**Ram Aberasturia** – re: (1) re: CIBA graduation – noted there were seven males out of 39 students – why; (2) DRA scores update – it was noted these scores went out in Board packets last week; (3) FRC – pay equity issue; (4) expulsions – how many of the expelled kids were in after school programs prior to expulsion; (5) requests an itemized bill for legal fees for all members for the last three years; (6) status of outdoor track – Mr. Costa will get back to the Board on this subject;

**Dorese Roberts** – congratulations to all graduates of East Hartford – parents have done a good job.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

**-Mentoring Issues**

**-Advisors at EHHS**

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board (10:00 P.M.).

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:  
Donna Fitzgerald