

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2006**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2006, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

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

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

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Cynthia Reik  
To adjourn to Executive Session (6:05 P.M.) to interview candidate for position of Silver Lange Principal with possible action.

Recorded by:  
Donna Fitzgerald

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 6:40 P.M.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To hire Andrea Einhorn as principal of Silver Lane Elementary School at Step 1 (\$102,466)  
Motion carried. Abstain – Karen Howe  
Marcus Oladell  
Nay – Ram Aberasturia

**Introduction and Swearing in of New Student Representatives to the Board of Education - Matthew Larson and Kelly Rivera**

Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien welcomed Matthew Larson and Kelly Rivera to the Board and administered the oath of office to them as new student representatives to the Board.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION**

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting,  
August 7, 2006 as corrected:  
Page 4 – last Motion: Mr. Aberasturia’s vote should be a “Nay”  
Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

- Thank you note from Art Arpin, Principal, CIBA, thanking Board and Dr. Martinez for plant he received;
- Thank you to the Board from a student at EHHS for the Board allowing him to finish his senior year at EHHS;
- Invitation to the Board to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony at EHHS on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 11:00-12:00 noon for the installation of the Tri-Gen Purecomfort unit of UTC Power;
- Letter from State Department of Education stating the district’s technology plan was reviewed and accepted;
- E-mail from Barbara Cotoia, former Board member, thanking Dr. Martinez for the outstanding newsletter;
- Notice from Child Plan noting they will be offering the second Parent Leadership Training Institute Program beginning in October. Please call 569-5630 if interested;
- Letter from K. C. Hancock in support of the Success Program.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT -**

**Matthew Larson**

**Kelly Rivera**

- School year is going great;
- Student Council held its Freshmen Orientation on August 23<sup>rd</sup>;
- September 15<sup>th</sup> Back to School dance will be held;
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> Back to School night will be held;

Ms. Yamamoto and Ms. Reik noted they went to CIBA and Woodland School for the opening of school and both were very impressed.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. K. C. Hancock – re: thanking teachers and faculty for the Success Program and Life Program that helped him tremendously.

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

Mr. Wethje noted we have hired seventeen certified staff and fourteen non-certified staff.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien**

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien went to EHMS and noted we have hired a math teacher who was originally from East Hartford . This was her "dream" to someday be able to teach in the East Hartford Public Schools.

**Superintendent Marion H. Martinez**

- Dr. Martinez noted we had an absolutely seamless opening. On the first day, she started at the high school, meeting Mr. Damashi there, and then proceeded to visit most of the other schools.
- We continue to register students at Central Registration; Dr. Martinez noted enrollment is up, 8,000, she does not anticipate having to hire additional teachers;
- Dr. Martinez thanked everyone who contributed to the Professional Development program and also thanked Ms. Yamamoto and Ms. Reik for attending the convocation.

At this time, Dr. Martinez referred to Mr. Costa to address the Fire Marshall's report:

Mr. Costa noted all items have been completed and all life safety systems to all schools are operational. Our schools continue to meet an adequate level of life safety. Mr. Costa noted this was a very large, detailed task that went very smoothly. He noted Mr. Vernile has done an outstanding job. He also thanked the Facilities Committee and Mr. Damaschi for their support.

Mr. Damaschi reported the buildings are in good shape.

Mr. Pawlowski asked Dr. Martinez about the 10<sup>th</sup> day enrollment of students. Dr. Martinez noted she will give a full report at the next Board meeting. Transfers may result in the collapsing and adding of classes.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Policy & Audit – Prescille Yamamoto** – meeting scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 P.M.;  
**Curriculum – Cynthia Reik** – no meeting scheduled. A new schedule for meetings is being devised;

**Facilities –Hank Pawlowski, Jr.** – tentative meeting scheduled with PBC September 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – to review window wall options at EHHS;

**Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi** – meeting scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 P.M.

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

Regarding the East Hartford/Glastonbury Magnet School Building Committee, Mr. Pawlowski noted we are moving forward and are in close communication with the Town.

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**PERSONNEL  
MOTION**

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve the following 17 Resignations:

1. Linda Aiello, Teacher, effective 6/30/06;
2. Karen Benson Tutor, effective 7/27/06
3. Antoinette Boyle, Para, effective 8/14/06;
4. Barbara K. Butler, Psychologist, effective 8/29/06, or until a replacement is found;
5. Terry Cafazzo, Para, effective 8/21/06;
6. Jennifer Covington, Para, effective 8/1/06;
7. Brenda L. Greene, Teacher, effective 8/15/06;
8. Cheryl W. Greenier, Para, effective 8/3/06;
9. Nicholas Jones, Teacher, effective 8/15/06;
10. Jean Kulesa, LPN 1 on 1, effective 8/25/06;
11. Elizabeth Mace, RN, effective 8/8/06;
12. Steven Sandler, Teacher, effective 7/31/06;
13. Angela Schmitdt, Teacher, effective 7/21/06;
14. Luisa G. St. Pierre, Security, effective 8/2/06;
15. Katherine Tomasek, Teacher, effective 8/2/06;
16. Michael A. Tortora, Teacher, effective 8/21/06;
17. Jessie Rosario Vega, Tutor, effective 8/7/06;

Motion unanimously carried.

**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 5112 – Students/Ages of Attendance  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To remove from table and approve Policy 5112 – Students/Ages of Attendance.

Motion unanimously carried.

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 5113.2 – Students/Truancy  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To remove from table and approve Policy 5113.2 – Students/Truancy

Motion unanimously carried.

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**TUESDAY,  
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**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 5118.1 – Students/Homeless Students  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To remove from table and approve Policy 5118.1 – Students/  
Homeless Students  
Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted this is an NCLB mandate.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Table for First Read Policy 5114 – Students/Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To **table** for first read Policy 5114 – Students/Suspension and  
Expulsion/Due Process  
Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion took place regarding Section V, Procedures Governing Suspension.  
Ms. Yamamoto stated Policy 5114 has now been combined with Policy 5131.

**Table for First Read Policy 5131.7 – Students/Weapons and Dangerous Instruments  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To **table** for first read Policy 5131.7 – Students/Weapons and  
Dangerous Instruments  
Motion unanimously carried.

**INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS**

**Representative Reports:**

**Willowbrook Policy Committee** – Prescille Yamamoto – September 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 A.M. is the  
next meeting.

**No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**

Dr. Martinez noted each principal will report on their school's CMT results.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**QUESTIONS ASKED BY BOARD MEMBERS and TOPICS FOR FUTURE**

**AGENDAS**

**Marcus Oladell, IV** – was pleased to read in the newspaper this weekend East Hartford had the second to the lowest increase in the budget process. He noted our problems are the same as other districts. Taxpayers of this Town should be happy that we have done a good job with the budget. He noted if people in the town would like to know the budget process, here is an invitation;

**Prescille Yamamoto** – re: asked Mr. Costa to put together a brief report for the Board on the energy efficiency program. Mr. Pawlowski noted this would be a very useful report at this time. Mr. Costa noted the tri gen unit is a milestone for East Hartford. There are very few of these systems. It will pay us back in 5-6 years. Mr. Costa stated we have the energy study, and he will update the Facilities Committee as well as the Board.

**Ram Aberasturia** – re: (1) do we have a program in place for in-school suspensions. Dr. Martinez stated we have a student assistance model as a first intervention step; (2)

Mr. Aberasturia noted he went to elementary schools re: the ESL program – the schools stated they are meeting only two hours for the program; (3) He commended Mr. Wethje for doing an excellent job; (4) is the consultant (Jan Skolnik) still with us – Dr. Martinez responded no. She noted the secondary supervisor is not yet on board.

**Robert Damaschi** – to Jody Lefkowitz – re: would like an audit taken on football students – how many have had physicals and how many have not had physicals. Also, re: drug testing – are we doing it. Ms. Lefkowitz replied no. Dr. Martinez will get more detailed information on this subject. Ms. Howe noted drug testing would be very time consuming. You would also need consent of parents. Chairman Mayranen-O'Brien stated when a parent signs off on the release for a child doing sports, we could include a statement of consent. Mr. Aberasturia stated this should pertain to **all** sports, not just football. Mr. Pawlowski stated when we are doing research on this subject, we should include privacy, legal liability and FOI consideration. Ms. Roberts believes it would be a very important part of the examination to have drug testing and that most parents would want to know if their children are on drugs. Mr. Aberasturia stated that everyone should be drug tested.

**Cynthia Reik** – re: what dollars are available for the Thanksgiving Day football account. Dr. Martinez replied roughly \$20,000, also reiterating it is the Board's prerogative to determine whether the game will be held at Rentschler Field.

**Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien** – re: rejoining CABE – this would be the conduit for information such as drug testing.

**Karen Howe** – to Dr. Martinez – re: status of series of informational sessions. Dr. Martinez also noted she would be happy to meet people in their homes for Fireside Chats as was introduced last year. Dr. Martinez also noted she is available to any civic groups. Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien suggested maybe Board meetings could be held at different schools for the second Board meeting of the month.

Mr. Pawlowski prefers Regular Board meetings be held as is – other meetings could be held at different schools.

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**PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To adjourn to Executive Session (8:15 P.M.) to discuss the following:

1. Discussion with possible action regarding strategy with respect to pending litigation;
2. Discussion with possible action regarding request for leave of absence for two paras.

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:  
Donna Fitzgerald

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:30 P.M.

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To adjourn the Regular Board meeting (9:34 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:  
Christopher Wethje