

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, September 18, 2006, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting,
September 5, 2006
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Thank you from Assistant Principal, David DeCarli, for the plant sent to him in his new assignment.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Matthew Larson

Kelly Rivera

- First Student Council meeting was the largest in years;
- September 16th the Back to School dance was held and raised \$1,250;
- September 21st – annual Back to School night for parents will be held;
- September 30th – 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. – Student Council induction ceremony; workshops will be held.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Ram Aberasturia, 36 Eric Way, E.H. – re: cited a pattern of low standardized test scores; urged the public to take action and get involved in our children's future.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006**

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Mr. Wethje noted a new elementary principal, Andrea Einhorn, has been hired and will begin on September 28th.

Mr. Aberasturia requested a report on retention rates for years 2003 to present.

Report on Elementary Class Enrollment

(Dr. Marion H. Martinez Superintendent)

Dr. Martinez noted at the elementary level, if a class enrollment exceeds maximum numbers as reflected in the teacher's contract, classes are split. Last spring seven elementary teaching positions were eliminated. Six classes were collapsed and six were added at other schools. The six were reassigned to schools that were near their maximum, and the remaining teacher was transferred to another grade in the same building. At this point, we do not have to add additional teachers. Additional support was placed at Norris for Kindergarten and at O'Brien for Grade 3.

Dr. Martinez noted little disruption has taken place through the cooperation of the EHEA, principals, teachers, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Wethje. Total enrollment to date is 7,847.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien - None

Superintendent Marion H. Martinez

- Dr. Martinez thanked those Board members who attended the PureComfort System ribbon cutting ceremony held earlier today at EHHS. She also thanked former Mayor Tim Larson, Mayor Melody Currey and Al Costa;
- Dr. Martinez will be attending the senior citizen picnic at the Elks Club;
- Transportation added to a very smooth opening of schools, thanks to Mr. Simons, Paul Mainuli and First Student;
- Principals will be reporting on CMT results in October.

Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy & Audit – Prescille Yamamoto – meeting scheduled October 10th;

Curriculum – Cynthia Reik – meeting scheduled September 25th, 6:00 P.M., will be reviewing all workshops from the summer;

Facilities–Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – joint meeting with PBC is scheduled for Thursday, September 28th, 6:30 P.M., to discuss window wall options at EHHS;

Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi – meeting scheduled for October 4th, 6:00 P.M.

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

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006**

**PERSONNEL
MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the following 4 Resignations:
1. Carlos Gomez, Behavior Manager, effective 9/1/06;
2. William Lawrence, Behavior Manager, effective 9/1/06;
3. Daisy Serano, Para, effective 9/7/06;
4. Richard Shellman, Teacher, effective 8/29/06;
Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 5114 – Students/Suspension and
Expulsion/Due Process**

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To remove from table and approve Policy 5114 – Students/
Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 5131.7 – Students/Weapons and Dangerous
Instruments**

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To remove from table and approve Policy 5131.7 – Students/
Weapons and Dangerous Instruments
Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

**Approve the Request for a Service Agreement with New Hope Manor to Provide on-site
Counseling Services at EHHS**

(Brian Reynolds, EHHS))

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve the request for a service agreement with New Hope
Manor to provide on-site counseling services at EHHS
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Reynolds was present to discuss the program, which is paid for from the priority school grant. Ms. Roberts had concerns regarding the program. Dr. Martinez stated she would provide additional information regarding the program.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006**

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to People's State Forest – Barkhamsted, CT
(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve request for overnight travel to People's State Forest –
Barkhamsted, CT, October 28th and 29th
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Hershey, PA
(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve request for overnight travel to Hershey, PA,
November 4th and 5th for approximately 150 marching
band students to attend the All-State Championship.
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Kopcha stated the band is representing East Hartford on Wednesday at the Big E.

Approve Federal Head Start Grant
(Nancy Moriarty, Supervisor, Willowbrook)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve Federal Head Start grant.
Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Moriarty noted this is year two of a three year grant application cycle for the Federal Head Start grant which funds 180 slots at Willowbrook School. She stated we have 191 students as of today.

INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS

Representative Reports:

Willowbrook Policy Committee – Prescille Yamamoto – attended the Policy Committee at Willowbrook. Many parents were present. There was good representation from CRT, FRC, and the Child Plan Committee. We hope this continues;

EHHS PTO Meeting – Cynthia Reik attended the PTO meeting on September 11th; dress code was moving along nicely; Project Graduation has received \$1,900 to date;

Norris School – Ram Aberasturia attended the open house; concerns expressed were (1) technology; (2) ESL program. Mr. Aberasturia also attended the East Hartford vs. Weaver soccer game -- East Hartford won;

Dorese Roberts – attended the PureComfort system ribbon cutting ceremony at EHHS earlier today. She stated she was upset the Superintendent failed to mention her name while other Board members' names were mentioned. She questioned whether she “treats our children like that.” Superintendent Martinez apologized, but stated she had introduced her.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Robert Damaschi – (1) to the Superintendent: requests status of SRO programs that should be in effect by now; the Superintendent stated she has not had an update at this time but will follow through on this subject.; **(2) to Ms. Lefkowitz:** requested information on physicals. Ms. Lefkowitz provided information this evening in a hand-out to Board members. She noted she talked with attorneys and learned the Federal law states Boards have the right to do random drug testing. Mr. Damaschi then asked that Ms. Lefkowitz provide information as to if any district in the State of CT is doing drug testing and, if so, would she ask for their Policy regarding drug testing, as well as costs associated with drug testing; **(3) to Mr. Costa** – requests report on energy efficient systems.

Prescille Yamamoto – to Ms. Lefkowitz: have track teams received physicals. Ms. Lefkowitz will make this information available.

Ram Aberasturia – re: how many students from non-English speaking homes do we have in our schools; do we have an ESL program.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Report on ESL Program;
- Mr. Costa noted he will make available to the Facilities Committee at its 9/28 meeting information on the energy efficient systems and then to the Board;
- Prescille Yamamoto asked AI to make available additional pamphlets that were distributed at the PureComfort ceremony this morning.

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To adjourn to Executive Session (8:05 P.M.) to discuss the following:

1. 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 8:17 P.M.

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve Leave of Absence request for Nancy Parandes

Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006**

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To deny Leave of Absence request for Genella Milner
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To adjourn the Regular Board meeting (8:19 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Christopher Wethje