

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
OCTOBER 16, 2006**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, October 16, 2006, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

PRESENT Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Robert Damaschi, Cynthia Reik, Hank Pawlowski, Jr. (arrived at 5:40 P.M.), Ram Aberasturia, Karen Howe (arrived at 6:00 P.M.), Dorese Roberts, Marcus Oladell, IV (arrived at 6:27 P.M.)

ABSENT Prescille Yamamoto

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
(left at 6:00 P.M.)
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To adjourn to Executive Session (5:35 P.M.) for the following reasons:
1. Interview with possible action candidate for position of East Hartford Middle School Principal
2. Interview with possible action candidate for position of East Hartford High School Principal
Motion carried Absent: Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Karen Howe, Marcus C. Oladell IV

The Special Board meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT Prescille Yamamoto

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

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting,
October 2, 2006
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting,
October 4, 2006
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Invitation previously received to attend Child Plan breakfast at Silva's Daycare on 10/28/06 has been cancelled;
- Letter from Mayor Currey regarding October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month-invitation to join at Town Hall on October 20th to promote this cause.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Matthew Larson and Kelly Rivera

- The second Student Council informational meeting was held; Council members will be choosing a theme for this year's window and poster painting;
- Friday, October 20th – homecoming game against Southington;
- Saturday, October 21st – homecoming will be held from 7-10:30 – theme is Vintage Hollywood;
- Thursday, October 19th – PRIDE night from 6-8 P.M.
- Re: violence in the schools – student council members talked with students within the school and it was the consensus that all feel the school is safe; security staff and administration are working together to stop the violence;
- Three members of the Student Council went with the Mayor to the CT Conference of Municipalities – one workshop focused on violence; this was a very productive day;
- Many student council members attended the Hartford Marathon to support the cause;
- This weekend a rowing event, Head of the Charles, will take place in Boston. East Hartford's rowing team will participate. This is one of the largest races in the world.

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien asked the student representatives their thoughts on the issue of the Thanksgiving Day game to possibly be held at Rentschler Field. Both Ms. Rivera and Mr. Larson noted it is good for the school spirit to hold the game at Rentschler. They have received feedback from students and it is the consensus that the game should be held at Rentschler Field. Ram Aberasturia believes it is in the best interest of the students to hold the game at Rentschler Field. Robert Damaschi and Hank Pawlowski are opposed to having the game at Rentschler Field. This subject is an agenda item that will be discussed later in the agenda.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Karen O'Connell, President, EHEA – re: (1) welcomes Dorese Roberts to the Board; (2) incident at Woodland School – asked that a Task Force be established – what is the status of the Task Force – asked that she be continued to be informed.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Mr. Wethje noted we have hired four additional tutors, a secretary, security officer and one speech & language to our staff.

Strategic Plan 2006-2007

Dr. Martinez stated we are trying to raise achievement of all students. Principals will begin to address the Board this evening and will continue to do so at subsequent meetings. The Plan is broken into tiers. It is a very ambitious plan. We are celebrating goals we have attained this year. The District Data Team will monitor progress. A statewide Data Fair will be held again in April. We will have our own Data Fair in the spring as a report to the Board on progress.

Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove stated the professional development plan allowed us to have the opportunity to participate with the support of the State Department of Education. Last year, East Hartford won a CABE award for its Strategic Plan. Mr. Aberasturia asked if we have established a percentage that we would like to achieve for CMT scores. Ms. Kaprove stated we will meet what is required of NCLB. Generally we have agreed to a 10 percent goal which shows our students are making progress; however, Dr. Martinez pointed out that anticipated growth data is embedded in the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Kaprove presented a Powerpoint overview of the district's CMT scores. The CMT test was previously given in the fall. The next test for CMT was spring 2006.

Principals' CMT Presentation – Pitkin, O'Connell, Mayberry, O'Brien Elementary Schools

Jenny Correa, Principal, Mayberry

Ms. Correa stated a three-year School Improvement grant allowed Mayberry to do additional professional development and become a model. When asked by Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien what the Board could do to help, Mr. Correa stated to continue to support professional development activities, have resources to support curriculum and have reasonable class sizes. Mr. Aberasturia asked what support the school has for ESL. It was stated that Mayberry has one full time ESL teacher.

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Michael Litke, Principal, O'Brien

Mr. Litke stated we have retained staff at O'Brien. We continue to utilize the Data Team Model which provides a structure that promotes teamwork. When asked what the Board could do to help, Mr. Litke stated he would like a longer day and longer year. In response to Mr. Aberasturia's question regarding what support the school has for ESL, Mr. Litke stated O'Brien has one full time ESL teacher. He further noted the larger ESL populations have one full time teacher.

Linda Iverson, Principal, Pitkin

Dr. Iverson noted Pitkin focused on Data Driven Decision Making to address individual needs of all students. The school will continue to apply the Data Driven Decision Making process to bridge the gap between students who are at risk or who scored below on the CMTs. We will continue to focus on Robert Marzano's Effective Teaching Strategies.

Scott Nozik, Principal, O'Connell

Mr. Nozik stated he believes much of the success to the progress being made at O'Connell is due to improved classroom instruction. The initiatives will continue to close the achievement gap for students in identified subgroups.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien thanked all who worked at the Hartford Marathon.

Superintendent Marion H. Martinez

- The Teacher in Residence program will be a future agenda item. Desi Nesmith, Teacher in Residence, goes to Mayberry School one day per week and works at the State Department of Education four days per week. He will give his formal presentation in December;
- Deb Kaprove and Dr. Martinez attended the inaugural ceremony at CIBA. A Blue Ribbon ceremony celebration will be held on November 15th, 10:00 A.M. at the EHHS auditorium, with a reception at CIBA
- Dr. Martinez noted that at the last Board meeting, we decided to renew our membership with CABA. It is the 100th anniversary of CABA. A celebration will be held on November 17 and 18 at the Connecticut Convention Center. Dr. Martinez encouraged all Board members to attend;
- Last Thursday, Dr. Martinez received the SRO agreement. It will be on the Town Council's agenda tomorrow. Commander Kenary will be supervising the program.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy & Audit – Cynthia Reik for Prescille Yamamoto – meeting scheduled for November 14th, 5:00 P.M.

Curriculum – Cynthia Reik – meeting scheduled for October 23rd, 6:00 P.M.

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Facilities–Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – meeting scheduled for October 25th, 6:30 P.M. to discuss window walls and energy conservation.

East Hartford/Glastonbury Magnet School Building Committee – Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
- meetings have been scheduled for the end of this month. We will be bringing a detailed report to the Board at the next meeting.

Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi – meeting scheduled for November 1st

Future Planning – Karen Howe – meeting scheduled for November 13th, 7:00 to discuss Task Force on Violence. Discussion will focus on its purpose, mission and makeup of the Task Force. Mr. Sikora and Commander Kenary will be present.

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To add the following to this evening's agenda:

1. Action on Candidate for EHMS;
2. Action on Candidate for EHHS

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To name Pietro Cerone as interim principal at East Hartford Middle School.

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To name Kevin Miller as principal at East Hartford High School in January.

Motion unanimously carried.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To approve the following two Retirements:

1. Eugene Brokowski, Teacher, effective 6/30/07;
2. Gerald Botticello, Custodian, effective 1/16/07;

To approve the following two Terminations:

1. Genella Milner, Para, effective 9/29/06;
2. Michael Rivera, Priority Tutor, effective 10/06/06;

To approve the following four Resignations:

1. Dipa Patel, Tutor, effective 10/13/06;
2. Claudia Ahern, Para, effective 10/11/06;
3. William Thompson, Priority Tutor, effective 10/20/06;
4. Gilda Arienzale, Para, effective 10/13/06.

Motion unanimously carried.

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OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve the Request for Overnight Travel to Washington, DC

(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the request for overnight travel to
Washington, DC
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

Discussion with Possible Action - Thanksgiving Game/Rentschler Field

(Maureen Rodgers, Athletic Director, EHHS)

(Craig Jordan, Principal, EHHS)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve holding the 2006 East Hartford/Manchester Thanksgiving
Day football game at Rentschler Field.
Motion carried. Nay: Cynthia Reik, Robert Damaschi

Mr. Jordan was present for discussion. He stated we have approximately \$20,000. This money came from sponsors in the community. He noted the event will cost approximately \$17,000. We have \$23,000. We will have a balance of approximately \$5,600. Mr. Jordan stated we could, in fact, run this event every other year without having to do fundraising until the year 2008 and 2010. We would plan on using the same price structure as in the past -- \$5 per student tickets and \$5 parking. Gate receipts could be used for all sports. Mr. Mainuli stated it is the Board's discretion as to how to use the dollars.

Mr. Damaschi stated we could be doing other things with our money. He is opposed to holding the event at Rentschler Field.

Mr. Aberasturia stated this is an opportunity to showcase our students and their talents.

Approve 2006-2007 Consolidated Grant

(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

MOTION By Hank Damaschi
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve the 2006-2007 Consolidated Grant
Motion unanimously carried.

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**Approve Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Position
(Jody Lefkowitz, Director, Pupil Personnel)**

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) position to
Provide health care support for medically fragile students.
Motion unanimously carried.

**Table Policy 5123 – Students/Promotion/Acceleration/Retention for First Read
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To **table** for first read Policy 5123 – Students/Promotion/
Acceleration/Retention
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By **Hank Pawlowski, Jr.**
Seconded by **Robert Damaschi**
To **table** the following policies:

**Table Policy 5131.6 – Students/Drugs, Tobacco and Alcohol for First Read
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**Table Policy 5131.911 – Students/Hazing for First Read
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**Table Policy 5141/4118.234 – Students/Personnel – Certified/Psychotropic Drug Use for
First Read
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**Table Policy 5141.4 – Students/Reports of Suspected Abuse and/or Neglect of Children
and Mentally Retarded Persons Over the Age of Eighteen for First Read
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**Table Policy 5144.1 – Students/Discipline/Punishment/Use of Physical Force for First
Read
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**Table Policy 6142.101 – Instructions/Student Nutrition and Physical Activity for First
Read**

Motion unanimously carried.

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INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS

Representative Reports:

- **Mr. Aberasturia** – noted the EHHS soccer team is doing very well;
- **Ms. Roberts** – visited O’Connell School – they have opened up an after school program every Wednesday
- **Ms. Howe** – (1) CREC meeting will be held this Wednesday; (2) Woodland School should be commended for handling the numerous problems this past week.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Denise Mitchell – re: an e-mail she sent to the Board. She stated, as a parent she is appalled at the actions of Board members – she stressed it is imperative that Board members respect one another; guidelines should be followed as to what should be addressed in Executive Session; also the Board should be proactive – re: goals for CMT testing – do not put too many goals in place for administrators.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS - None

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Cynthia Reik

To adjourn to Executive Session (9:47 P.M.) to discuss the following:

1. Discussion of EHMS Principal Search with possible action
2. Discussion with possible action on proposed salary increases

For non-bargaining unit personnel

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald

The Special Board meeting reconvened at 10:32 P.M.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell IV

To approve the proposed 2006-2007 salary increases for non-bargaining unit personnel, as revised, retroactive to July 1, 2006, including a salary increase to the Director of Facilities in exchange for his giving up his entitlement to a sick leave payout upon retirement, and extending the option to Behavior Managers to purchase health insurance at 100% of the group rate, and the raises to the pay rates for behavior managers and tutors are to come from the Board’s budget.

Motion carried.

Abstain: Ram, Aberasturia

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MOTION

By Cynthia Reik
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To adjourn the Special Board meeting (10:34 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Christopher Wethje