

**PUBLIC HEARING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
CIBA Lecture Hall**

**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 18, 2006**

A Public Hearing was held on Monday, December 18, 2006 at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M. by Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

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

ABSENT Marcus Oladell, IV, Karen Howe

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

PUBLIC HEARING

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

1. Debra Gaudette – re: (1) suggested the Board should have provided a listing of what items they would be cutting; (2) re: Kelly Services contract – will they be using employees we have presently – will they do background checks – was this put out to bid – would it be more economical to employ someone one-half day; (3) questioned raises recently given to administrators;
2. Susan Skowronek - re: (1) we cannot afford 5% pay increases two years in a row; we are in a budget crisis; (2) places blame on Superintendent and Board members for not being accountable; (3) test scores have gone down year after year; (4) raise for Superintendent – gave the Superintendent 5% pay increase for the last two years in a row – requests that all Board members and the Superintendent resign - commends Mr. Aberasturia for being the only Board member voting against this raise;
3. Paul Roczynski – Republican Town Chairman – re: (1) giving a 17% pay increase to an employee; (2) cutting custodial positions; (3) what are we doing for education – asks that the Superintendent step down; commended Mr. Aberasturia;
4. Donald Pitkin, Member, Town Council – re: (1) is this is the same budget that will be presented to the Mayor – Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien stated the Board is meeting again before submission of the budget to the Mayor. Mr. Pitkin further stated if we were to vote on a budget today, it would be on last year's budget;

5. Karen O'Connell, President, EHEA – re: (1) teachers took zero percent increases, while the Board gave non-union Board employees raises; (2) re: grantwriter position – use the Town's grantwriter; (3) CAFE membership – we cannot afford this; (4) re: ESL – Board has not added anyone to that program – should have; (5) there is no technology for elementary students – they do not have access to computers; (6) need to start going your job – do some reflection.

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To adjourn the Public Hearing (6:30 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald