

# **CORRECTED MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 18, 2006**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, December 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, Prescille Yamamoto, Dorese Roberts

**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

**ABSENT** Karen Howe, Marcus Oladell, IV

## **SPOTLIGHT AWARD – ROBERT CHAMBERLIN** **(Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Board of Education Chair)**

Mr. Chamberlin was the recipient of the Spotlight Award for his dedication to the students of East Hartford. He has served as a mentor for 8 ½ years, the last year as a volunteer. His efforts have been appreciated by so many students, faculty and administration.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting,  
November 27, 2006  
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting,  
December 2, 2006  
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting,  
December 4, 2006  
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

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**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting,  
December 7, 2006  
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts, Ram Aberasturia

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting,  
December 11, 2006 (4:02 P.M.)  
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting,  
December 11, 2006 ( 6:30 P.M.)  
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting,  
December 12, 2006  
Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

- Sunset Ridge is presenting a winter concert on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.;
- Memorandum from Linda Kauffmann to the Superintendent discussing the Public Library Partnership update, and thanking the library for their cooperation.
- Letter from Karen O'Connell, President, EHEA, regarding she will be attending the Safety Task Force meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.;
- Letter from Andrew Sime, sophomore at EHHS and a student on X-team, regarding Small Learning Communities and the benefits he has derived from the program. He hopes other students will become a part of the program.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

**Matthew Larson**

**Kelly Rivera**

- First home basketball game was held;
- Caroling by students will take place on December 20<sup>th</sup> at the convalescent homes throughout town;
- Update on non-violence in the schools program – student representatives noted suggestions of having buttons, t-shirts and assemblies to promote non-violence in the schools;

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- December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Staff breakfast will be served by the Student Council.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

Mr. Wethje noted we have hired one English teacher, two tutors and one paraprofessional.

**Teacher-in-Residence Program, State Department of Education  
(Desi Nesmith, Teacher)**

Mr. Nesmith presently works for the State Department of Education as a teacher in residence whose focus is primarily on helping to improve student achievement. He thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to work in East Hartford and stated he is very proud to be a teacher in the East Hartford Public Schools.

**Report on Districts Gifted and Talented Program  
(Tim Reid, EHHS)**

Mr. Reid gave a PowerPoint presentation noting the programs for the academically gifted students as well as those in the fine and performing arts areas. He noted in Grades 4-6, students are provided enrichment opportunities; Grades 7 & 8 at EHMS, students are clustered for instruction in English, social studies, math and science; Those students in Grades 9-12, take Advanced Placement and UConn Coop courses from a selection of ten courses. Currently, the program has 503 students. It has proven to be very successful in all grades. Ms. Roberts asked how we could promote the program to parents more effectively. Mr. Aberasturia commended Mr. Reid for a successful program. Ms. Yamamoto requested that slides presented this evening be made available to Board members.

**Principals' Connecticut Mastery Test Presentation – Langford Elementary School  
(Catherine Ciccomascolo, Principal, Langford)**

Ms. Ciccomascolo gave a PowerPoint presentation. She noted the overall improvement in CMT scores. Further, she noted writing has soared. Future focus areas are on implementing a Reader's Workshop, continuing with the Writer's Workshop and focusing on the Academic Achievement through Data Driven Decision Making. We need to focus on reading also.

**Review of Carl Perkins Grant  
(Michelle Hacker, Department Head)**

Ms. Hacker, Grant Administrator for the Carl D. Perkins grant, provided the Board with the grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education for the Carl D. Perkins Vocational & Technical Education Act. She noted we were awarded a grant for the period of 7/1/06-6/30/07 in the amount of \$129,271. Ms. Hacker noted the dollars received will help us to stay current with technology. The bulk of the dollars will be used on equipment and staff.

**Report on Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding  
(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)**

Dr. Martinez asked that the Board consider participating in the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education. She noted the Town Council joined last October at a cost of \$5,000 for

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their share. Mr. Aberasturia suggested we work collaboratively with the Town Council; our Board can then pass a Resolution.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Superintendent Marion H. Martinez**

- Regarding the School/Business Partnership: United Technologies has supported many programs in the district; i.e., Academy of Finance, Robotics, math tutor at EHHS and a host of others through the School/Business Partnership;
- Grades 4 and 5 at Silver Lane School are participating in a new sports program;
- Dr. Martinez thanked Mr. Roczynski for agreeing to meet with her so correct information can be shared.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Policy & Audit – Prescille Yamamoto** – meeting scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 P.M.

**Curriculum – Cynthia Reik** – meeting scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 P.M

**Facilities –Hank Pawlowski, Jr.** – no meeting has been scheduled.

**Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi** – meeting scheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 P.M.

**Future Planning – Karen Howe** – Task Force on Youth Violence meeting scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M. at EHHS Media Center.

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Karen Howe

To approve the following two **Retirements:**

1. Albert Juliano, Psychologist, effective 6/29/06;
2. Benjamin Cortese, Teacher, effective 6/29/06;

To approve the following **Resignation:**

1. Katie Riccobon, Teacher, effective 11/29/06.

Motion unanimously carried.

**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Baltimore, MD**

**(Paul Apostalon, Student Council Advisor)**

**(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)**

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve request for overnight travel to Baltimore, MD, March 1-4, 2007.

Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted there will be no cost to the Board.

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**Approve Revised 2006-2007 East Hartford Board of Education Subcommittees  
(Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Board Chair)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve revised 2006-2007 East Hartford Board of  
Education Subcommittees  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve Agreement with Margaret Kardos – Assistive Technology Consultant for  
Special Education**

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

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To approve agreement with Margaret Kardos –  
Assistive Technology Consultant for Special Education, \$5,000.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Dr. Martinez stated we are mandated to provide supplemental aids and services to meet needs for each child.

**Approve the 2007-2008 Board of Education Business Calendar  
(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve the 2007-2008 Board of Education Business  
Calendar

**Amendment**

By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To include the following changes:  
1. November 19 – Add: **Election of Officers**  
2. November 19 – Delete: **Adoption of Board Committees**  
3. December 3 – Add: **Board of Education Photograph**  
Add: **Adoption of Board Committees**  
Motion unanimously carried, as amended.

**To Table for First Read Policy 1110.1 – Communications with the Public  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To table for first read Policy 1110.1 – Communications  
with the Public  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**To Table for First Read Policy 3516.33 – Do Not Resuscitate Order  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To table for first read Policy 3516.33 – Do Not  
Resuscitate Order  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 4111/4211 – Recruitment and Selection  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To table for First read Policy 4111/4211 –Recruitment and  
Selection  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 4111.1/4211.1 – Affirmative Action: Recruitment and Selection**

**(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**  
**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To table for first read Policy 4111.1/4211.1 - Affirmative Action:  
Recruitment and Selection  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 4112.5/4212.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To table for first read Policy 4112.5/4212.5 Security Check/  
Fingerprinting  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 5141.3 – Health Assessments and Immunizations  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To table for first read Policy 5141.3 – Health Assessments and  
Immunizations  
Motion unanimously carried.

**INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS**

**Representative Reports:**

**-Prescille Yamamoto and Cynthia Reik** (1) attended a pre-concert performance today at the EHMS; (2) visited Pitkin School and saw their Holiday Bazaar; also visited EH/Glastonbury

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Magnet School and O'Connell School. **Dorese Roberts** thanked Prescille and Cynthia for going to her school.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ram Aberasturia** – re: (1) received a call from a parent regarding the absenteeism report – how is it done – monthly, weekly? Dr. Martinez asked that the parent be referred to her; (2) received a call from a parent regarding child waiting for a bus for an extended period of time - Dr. Martinez asked that the parent contact her; (3) did we go out to bid for Kelly Services. **Dorese Roberts** – re: suggests that the policies referred to at Board meetings be read to the public – Mr. Aberasturia agrees that we should provide a brief summary. Ms. Yamamoto stated each school has the policies. Prescille commended the superintendent for bringing policies to the Administrative Council.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** - None

**PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To recess to Executive Session ( 8:55 P.M.) to address the following:

1. Discussion with possible action regarding employee's request For leave;
2. Discussion with possible action regarding request for leave of absence for a para.

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:  
Donna Fitzgerald

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:11 P.M.

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To approve a Union leave request for employee of the Teachers Union

Motion carried.

Absent: Karen Howe, Marcus Oladell, Dorese Roberts

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To approve Leave of Absence request without pay for para

Motion unanimously carried

Absent: Karen Howe, Marcus Oladell, Dorese Roberts

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**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 9:14 P.M.  
Motion unanimously carried.  
Absent: Karen Howe, Marcus Oladell, Dorese Roberts

Recorded by:  
Christopher Wethje