

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 7, 2006**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 7, 2006, at Langford Elementary School, 61 Alps Drive, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

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

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Linda Kauffmann, Supervisor of Elementary Education
Marcia Huddy, Supervisor of Secondary Education
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Services (present for the first part of the meeting)

SPECIAL MEETING FOR BUDGETARY PURPOSES WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Dr. Martinez stated the Superintendent's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007-2008 is \$82,243,210, representing an increase of 5.92%. This is a \$4.5 million increase over the current year budget. Dr. Martinez highlighted the budget increases:

- First year payment toward a lease financing program to acquire new computers for the art labs at EHHS and EHMS, as well as a student information system and a PBX phone system for EHHS;
- Full cost for Special Education out-of-district tuitions at a cost of \$1.3 million, or 1.71 percent increase to the budget request;
- Proposed funding for Kelly Services to provide substitute teachers on a daily basis at a cost of \$744,425;
- Comprehensive redistricting program at a cost of \$70,000.

Dr. Martinez noted:

- There are no new initiatives in this budget;
- The budget supports smaller learning communities;
- We will be looking closely at class enrollment figures;
- Dr. Martinez thanked the Board for approving the 6th grade position for Sunset Ridge
- Fuel prices are expected to remain constant;
- Budget also includes funding for textbooks for \$375,000;
- There is a 5% increase in transportation;
- Transportation for Special Education -- \$50,000 increase;
- Budget includes \$60,000 in legal services for contract negotiations;

Dr. Martinez stated the budget must be submitted to the Mayor by January 5, 2007.

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Dr. Martinez thanked the parents who have come to the Budget Meeting this evening, as well as Principal Cathy Ciccomascolo. She also welcomed Marcia Huddy to the district in her capacity as Supervisor of Secondary Curriculum.

Chairperson Hilde-Mayranen O'Brien and Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services presented the following program detail report review, by object (dollar amounts listed are the Superintendent's Proposed Request for FY 2007-2008):

101 – Instruction - \$10,767,123 – Re: textbooks – it was noted math textbooks were purchased for Grades K-2; we now need to do grades 3-5. Re: FTE 07-08 for Grade 6, Mr. Mainuli will re-check the figure of 23.00 FTE's.

102 – Art - \$1,317,475 – There are no recommended changes; Ms. Yamamoto (1) requested an update on EHMS re: computers in the art labs; (2) re: faculty – will there be a need for additional staff at EHHS for the art department. It was noted staff currently consists of 3.2 in music and 3.4 in art. Dr. Martinez praised Emil Kopcha for his outstanding performance in general, but especially in curricula areas.

103 – Business Education - \$457,400 – Mr. Mainuli noted he would like a part-time tech person added.]

105 – English - \$2,354,456 – It was noted this amount includes the new position of reading consultant; Mr. Mainuli noted the Dues and Fees \$4,300.00 is for professional conferences and training. Mr. Aberasturia requested detailed information on this line item.

106 – World Languages - \$1,033,808 – Mr. Mainuli noted the World Language Lab was completed this past year.

108 – Physical Education/Health - \$2,408,508 – the following was noted: ROPES Program is currently being funded by the Rotary Club – Mr. Aberasturia would like us to fund this program. Mr. Mainuli noted we could use the Science Center Penny War funds amounting to \$21,000. Mr. Aberasturia requested detailed information on #5802 Conferences. Dr. Martinez noted she would like to get additional library books/periodicals for the elementary grades. She stated the PE/Health Program will bring forth their curricula in late Spring. Mr. Mainuli noted #7312 – New Equipment could be funded by the gate receipts account.

109 – Home Economics - \$260,625 – There are no significant changes.

110 – Technology Education - \$614,237 – There are no significant changes.

111 – Mathematics - \$1,879,422 – There are no significant changes. Mr. Mainuli noted textbooks for elementary are in Program 101 – Instructional.

112 – Music - \$1,744,626 – It was noted the elementary level musical equipment continues to be needed. SBM has been very generous. Mr. Aberasturia asked for details of the #8100 Dues and Fees account.

113 – Science - \$2,160,495 - Re: #4300 – Repairs & Maintenance – disposal expenses are included in this line, as well as chemicals for the labs. #5111 – Pupil Transportation provides transportation to programs, i.e., Marine Biology, etc. Mr. Aberasturia asked if the purchase of textbooks could wait another year – Dr. Martinez reminded the Board of Education that students will be taking a science component on the CMT in 2008.

115 – Social Studies - \$1,986,836 – Re: #5111 – Pupil Transportation – provides transportation for the Civics Program; Re: 6410 – Textbooks – the amount is for replacement of text. Mr. Damaschi asked for a breakdown of #8100 – Dues and Fees.

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117 – Cooperative Technology - \$497,689 - #5114 – Pupil Transportation Vo-Tech – this is the Glastonbury Vo Tech school program. Ms. Yamamoto requested information on how many students attend this program. Mr. Mainuli stated this budget includes the 5% increase in the bus contracts .

118 – Student Activities - \$657,188 – Mr. Damaschi requested a breakdown of each sport and associated dollars. Dr. Martinez asked if we could use gate receipts to pay for coaches.

119 – Magnet Schools - \$817,665 – Mr. Damaschi noted Two Rivers is looking for a \$125/student increase. Mr. Mainuli stated the oil amount is being paid for out of EHHS budget; Pupil Trans Regular has increased due to new bus contracts.

120 – Early Childhood Education - \$202,485 – This is a mandated program. Ms. Yamamoto would like an update from Mr. Sikora re: electronic door locks at Willowbrook School.

121 – Kindergarten - \$1,064,095 – Mr. Mainuli noted we have added one additional class as well as three Kindergarten teachers in the current year that are carried forward in the proposed budget. We have moved teachers out of the Priority Grant into the regular budget.

122 – Reading - \$1,355,492 – No anticipated changes. Dr. Martinez noted we use grant dollars first for materials.

129 – Alternative Education - \$531,500 – No anticipated changes. Ms. Reik requested information on staff working as babysitters.

130 – Adult Education - \$100,000 – Re: 5900 – Misc. Purchase Services - \$3,900 is to be used for staffing babysitters. Mr. Mainuli stated this gives us leverage to get additional reimbursement dollars from the State.

140 – Summer School - \$130,196 – Mr. Mainuli stated we need to revisit tuition fees for out of town students. Ms. Reik asked how many are East Hartford students.

400 – Substitute Teachers - \$844,425 – Mr. Mainuli would like to expand the program to all grades next year. Mr. Aberasturia stated he is not in favor of having Kelly Services. Dr. Martinez stated Kelly has a 90% fill rate. During discussion of substitute teachers in various schools, Ms. Yamamoto noted she would like Langford School to give a presentation on teaming amongst the teachers, since it seems to working very favorably at Langford School.

402 – Paraprofessionals - \$542,262 – No anticipated changes.

411 – Program Development - \$190,969 – No anticipated changes.

412 – Instructional Support – \$235,646 - Mr. Mainuli noted funding has been set aside for contractual changes.

420 – Media Services - \$381,664 – Mr. Aberasturia asked if the purchase of library books and periodicals could wait until next year. Discussion took place regarding having book stores donate books; also, the PTO's could use this as a fundraiser. Ms. Yamamoto suggested advertising the schools' book fair dates on Channel 5.

421 – Educational Technology - \$78,647 – Ms. Yamamoto requested a list of (1) how many labs do we have in the district; (2) re: art and music – how many days do we experience off-line problems. Mr. Aberasturia would like a wish list from Technology – but not for this budget year.

The next Budget Workshop will be held on Monday, December 11th, 5:00-6:30 at Sunset Ridge School.

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MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To recess to Executive Session to discuss First Assistant
Principal position with Possible Action (7:25 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald

The Special Board meeting reconvened at 7:50 P.M.

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To hire Matthew Ryan as First Assistant Principal at
East Hartford High School, First Step
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

MOTION By Cynthia Reik
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To adjourn the Special Board meeting at 8:10 P.M.
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Marion Martinez