

**SPECIAL MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 2, 2008**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 2, 2008 at the Administration Building, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:25 P.M. by Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes.

**PRESENT** Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Secretary Ram Aberasturia, Robert Damaschi, Anita Morrison, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Karen Howe, Dorese Roberts, Marcus Oladell, IV

**ALSO PRESENT** Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services

**ABSENT** Hank Pawlowski, Jr.,

**SPECIAL MEETING for Budgetary Purposes with Possible Action**

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes referred to Mr. Mainuli to address Board members' questions from the December 20, 2007 budget workshop.

Mr. Mainuli responded to the following:

**1. What is the percentage of contractual costs for FY 2008-09?**

The overall cost for salary and step is approximately three percent increase. Monies are set aside for those employee groups that do not have contracts.

**2. What early reading programs are there? How long have they been implemented? What isn't working with the existing programs?**

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated she would like to have a separate agenda item to discuss the various reading programs to be sure that they are working. It was noted that \$50,000 has been set aside for professional development for certified staff for literacy programs. Mr. Damaschi would like to know what was spent from each school for early reading programs. Ms. Morrison asked when we might expect to receive the Cambridge evaluation. It was noted that a discussion of this item will be placed on a Board agenda in February.

**3. Are any new positions already figured into the 1110 certified staff account?**

Funding for all new certified staff positions is included in the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for FY 2008-09.

**4. Please provide a breakdown of the case loads for the nurses at EHHS. Can nurse interns from area colleges be recruited to assist with administrative work?**

Mr. Mainuli provided a sampling of RN calls for a particular week. This information was given to him from Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel. A new nurse position for the high school will be left in the budget. Ms. Howe suggested the school district investigate the use of a Medical Assistant or a Medical Technician to assist the nurses at the high school. It was noted the nurse to student ratio currently exceeds the State of CT guidelines for nurses and the Association of School Nurses of CT. The Board's consensus was to leave the new nurse position at EHHS in the proposed budget for FY 2008-09.

**5. Provide a detailed explanation addressing the need for a new Guidance Counselor position at EHHS.**

Ms. Howe suggested we must first look at what duties are being performed by staff in the Guidance Office. She asked Mr. Mainuli to provide a breakdown of who is doing what. This request for additional guidance counselor was eliminated from the proposed budget for FY 2008-09.

**6. How much funding has School Business Partnership brought into the school district over the past ten years? Is there a need for a full time staff person?**

There is \$15,187.95 that will be added to the School Business Partnership account for FY 2007-08. Overall, School Business Partnership raises approximately \$57,000 per year to support various programs. Mr. Damaschi asked for a breakdown of the budget expenses for the Academy of Finance. The coordinator position for the School Business Partnership will be left as a part-time position in the proposed budget for FY 2008-09.

**7. Has enough money been budgeted for the Open Choice CREC tuition next year? How many students attend magnet schools out of district? Do we provide transportation?**

Mr. Mainuli stated that state mandated Open Choice program may require additional funding next fiscal year. In addition, CREC is proposing a tuition increase for all its' magnet schools that may increase costs by \$300,000 based on current student enrollment data. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated legislators should be made aware of the financial impact the Open Choice program is having on our school district.

**8. Where is the \$40,000 for the Youth Task Force Coordinator in the budget?**  
Funding for this position will be covered in the Priority School Grant.

**9. What is the separate line item for the Sunset Ridge School late buses?**

The late buses for Sunset Ridge School will provide transportation for students who must remain after school to complete homework and classroom assignments and provide additional academic support to students in the basic and below basic categories on the CMT's. Mr. Damaschi requested further information on their after school program as well as their bussing needs. He also would like to know if teachers will be getting paid for remaining at the school for this after school program. It was further noted that there is no new after school program for detention at this time at Sunset Ridge School.

**10. What courses will be taught by the new Math and Science Teachers at EHHS? How many students will be in each class? What is the impact on general education students?**

The Board's consensus is to keep the two new teaching positions in the proposed budget for FY 2008-09. Ms. Mayranen-O'Brien stated we should have someone here who knows curriculum – like the Superintendent.

**11. Why add another secretary position at Mayberry School? Will you consider a general para position?**

Mayberry currently shares a secretary with O'Brien School. The clerical support needs at both schools warrant a full time position. This request will remain in the proposed budget for FY 2008-09.

**12. What are the duties of the general paras requested for office work at EHMS?**

Duties of the paras were listed. The Board agreed not to fund the two new Para positions at the middle school in the proposed budget for FY 2008-09. The Board agreed to review this request at the time the final budget is set for the school district.

(Ms. Mayranen-O'Brien left meeting at 8:05 P.M.)

**13. What are the duties of the para media at Sunset Ridge School? How many media staff does Sunset Ridge School have now?**

This position will remain in the budget.

**14. What is Project Lead the Way? What course will be offered by the new Tech. Ed. Position?**

This request for a new position will be removed from the proposed budget request for FY 2008-09.

**15. Request for Family Consumer Science Teacher (1.0 FTE)**

This request for a new position will be removed from the proposed budget request for FY 2008-09.

Regarding Excess Cost revenues received from the state for special education out-placed students, Mr. Mainuli noted that based on our current projected expenses for out-placed students, the town may receive additional revenues amounting to between \$400,000-\$600,000.

After the budget reductions this evening, by consensus of Board members, the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2008-09 was reduced from a 4.97% to a 4.5% increase over the current year budget.

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board (8:20 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.