

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
JANUARY 7, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, January 7, 2008, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes.

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

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

ABSENT Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Amendments to Agenda: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, December 11, 2007 (5:15 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, December 11, 2007 (6:40 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Karen Howe
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, December 17, 2007
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Karen Howe
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, December 17, 2007
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, December 18, 2007(5:06 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, December 18, 2007 (6:10 P.M.)
Motion carried. Abstain: Ram Aberasturia (due to prior knowledge
of the incident)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, December 27, 2007
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Thank you to the Rotary Club for donating dictionaries to all third graders in the district;
- January 25, 2008 – fundraiser event, 7:00 P.M., at Two Rivers Middle Magnet School
cost: \$7 for adults, \$6 for children;
- February 2, 2008 – CAFE breakfast 8-9:30;
- EHHS Youth Employment and Learning Program helped to feed five needy families.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Arianna Larson, Kelly Rivera

- All students just returned from Winter Break;
- Luncheon for “New Staff” to be held January 24th at EHHS;
- Winter Semi-formal will be held; theme is “Black/Gold Affair”; tickets go on sale next
week;
- January 22nd – Exams begin.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Mr. Wethje noted we have hired 2 elementary teachers; FRC Child Associate; one Special Education para for Hockanum School; one nurse for St. Rose and one replacement nurse for Langford School (this is not a new position); one tutor for Hockanum School.

Ms. Morrison has asked for the job description for the FRC Child Associate position.

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Superintendent's Goals 2007-08

(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)

Dr. Martinez stated her goals are the same as the last three years:

Goal 1 – Improve academic achievement for all students in a positive learning environment that is conducive to learning; In response to a question regarding continuing to offer training, Dr. Martinez noted training is offered to us by the State Department of Education to teachers and Department Heads. This is an extension of initiatives. Some are held out of the district while others are held in house. In response to a question regarding state-wide Data Fair, Dr. Martinez noted a number of our schools participated last year and will again this year. We also have a district data fair.

Goal 2 – Strengthen relationships with parents, community groups, and the community at large. Regarding the “Fireside Chats”, Dr. Martinez hopes to expand this program. She noted she will be sending out notices and offering to meet parents in their homes. She will be putting these notices in the school newspapers. Ms. Mayranen-O’Brien suggested we contact the Gazette and have it noted in that newspaper as well. Dr. Martinez asked if anyone is interested in hosting a “Fireside Chat” with the Superintendent, to please call the Superintendent’s office. Board members are invited to attend

Dr. Martinez noted she will be making additions to these goals and report back to the Board in April.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent Martinez:

- Dr. Martinez wished everyone a Happy New Year;
- Ms. Rachel Buck and Ms. Pyra Shaw from CIBA received notification from the Ronald McDonald House that if they raise \$1,000 by March 31st for the PanCan Walk, they will match the amount.
-

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- We have set a budget and it has been forwarded to the Mayor and Town Council by the deadline date of January 5, 2008. This is just the beginning of the process. We have no idea what the East Hartford Board of Education will receive from the State. We will revisit the budget the end of May and beginning of June. Thank you to the Board and Administration.

Special Committee Reports

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - meeting scheduled for January 10th, 6:00 P.M.

Future Planning – Karen Howe – meeting scheduled for January 17th, 6:00 P.M. – will address dress code

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PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve three **Resignations:**

1. Stephanie L. Lockhart, Title I Tutor, effective 12/21/07;
2. Victoria DeJesus, Priority Tutor, effective 12/4/07;
3. Heidi Chromik, SpecEd Para, effective 1/4/08.

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

To Approve Increase from .4 FTE Itinerant Music Teacher to .5 FTE

(Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources)

(Emil Kopcha, Supervisor, Fine & Performing Arts)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve increase from .4 FTE Itinerant Music Teacher to
.5 FTE

Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted this position will now include benefits. Also, it will be grant funded through the end of this year.

To Approve Increase from .6 FTE Itinerant Art Teacher to .7 FTE

(Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources)

(Emil Kopcha, Supervisor, Fine & Performing Arts)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve increase from .6 FTE Itinerant Art Teacher to
.7 FTE

Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve Request of Non-Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank

(Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve request of non-certified staff member's use of
employee sick bank.

Motion unanimously carried.

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REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Ram Aberasturia attended a Positive Behavior Support Program at Sunset Ridge School prior to the Winter Break. The program was phenomenal. He encouraged Board members to attend next year.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Anita Morrison – re: (1) visited Synergy – concerned they do not have a library – they use the EHHS library. Would like to make it a priority to try and strengthen the library. Suggests reaching out to the community; will be attending the CABA workshop and the principal of Synergy may attend with Ms. Morrison; Percentage of students who attend Synergy, finish there. Ms. Morrison would like to see them returned to the high school.

Robert Damaschi to Dr. Martinez – re: Cambridge Report – Dr. Martinez stated when we receive the results of the Cambridge Report; we will incorporate recommendations into our School Improvement Plan and District Plan.

Karen Howe – (1) status of security director; (2) status of Youth Task Force; (3) we have a need for a workshop for Board members – suggests having someone come in and clearly define Board members' roles; (4) re: process used this year for budget deliberations – does not think it was particularly organized. Hope we do a better job next year – should schedule meetings far in advance – taxpayers and students deserve more. Also, Administrators need to be present to answer questions.

Dorese Roberts – re: (1) Youth Task Force – this should be a priority; (2) re: suggestion to have someone come in to clearly define Board members' roles – this was covered in the orientation for Board members. Ms. Howe responded stating it is important to come together collectively to discuss responsibilities; (3) noted that Adam Talbot campaigned for John Edwards.

Ram Aberasturia – commends Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes for the budget process. It was done and in on time. Every question Board members had were addressed. Also commends the Board.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Ram Aberasturia - would like to have a presentation by the high school on the athletic program. He would like a full time athletic director – we should have a very strong athletic program.

Marcus Oladell, IV –(1) would like to have a representative from First Student come in and discuss the process used; (2) would like a follow up on Andrea Burke, student who traveled to Antarctica. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes will look into this request.

Dorese Roberts – would like to have Susan Eaton, Research Director, Institute for Race & Justice to make a presentation to the Board;

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MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To recess to Executive Session (8:00 P.M.) .
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 8:08 P.M.

MOTION By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien
Seconded By Karen Howe
To approve the 2007-2011 Nurses Collective Bargaining Agreement.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien
Seconded By Karen Howe
To deny a leave of absence request for Maria Talcott, a certified teacher,
from August 2008 – December 31, 2008.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded By Marcus Oladell
To approve a leave of absence request for Merry Oliver, a
paraprofessional, for up to three months (March 31, 2008).
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Karen Howe
Seconded By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien
To approve a Memorandum of Agreement with Local 1933 concerning
the assignment of overtime and use of temporary substitute custodians.
Motion carried. Nay: Dorese Roberts, Robert Damaschi
Note: Ram Aberasturia was not part of this discussion
Withdrawn: Ram Aberasturia

MOTION By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien
Seconded By Dorese Roberts
To adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 8:46 P.M.
Motion unanimously carried

Recorded by:
Christopher Wethje