

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, February 4, 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, Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

**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

**Amendments to Agenda:**

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To add to this evening's agenda under New Business (e)  
To refer to Policy & Audit Committee Policies 4111 and 4211.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, January 22, 2008 (6:32 P.M.)**  
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Regular Meeting, January 22, 2008 (7:00 P.M.)**  
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, January 24, 2008**  
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

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**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

- May 17<sup>th</sup> – Third Annual Abelon Memorial PanCAN Walk will be held;
- Thank you from Karen O’Connell for flowers received in honor of her recently deceased father;
- February 6<sup>th</sup> – Liz Murray, whose life story is based on the movie “Homeless to Harvard” will be speaking to the Junior and Senior classes at EHHS at 1:00 P.M.;
- 12-part TV series on “Work, Learn and Live” can be seen on PBS or work.learn.live.com discusses how Connecticut’s achievement gap affects our future workforce;
- February 27<sup>th</sup>, Sunset Ridge School, 8:45-10:30, Room 102 – Annual Grade 6 IDEA Program

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

**Arianna Larson, Kelly Rivera**

- Second Semester has begun – mid-terms are over;
- Student of the month breakfast with Mr. Ryan will be held;
- First winter formal dance was held (a fire drill took place during the dance);
- Leadership Conference will be held at Wesleyan – motivational speakers will present;
- Bunny Breakfast will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup>;
- Cabaret was a success – Arianna performed; Ms. Mayranen-O’Brien and Ms. Morrison attended the performance and noted it was superb.

Both student representatives will not be present at the next Board meeting. They will be returning from Costa Rica.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

Mr. Wethje noted we have hired a one-on-one behavior manager at Woodland School.

**Presentation on Cambridge Report**

**(Deborah Richards, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Accountability, Compliance and Monitoring)**

**(Patrick Proctor, External Consultant for Connecticut, State Department of Education)**  
**(Heather Levitt Doucette, Bureau of Accountability, Compliance and Monitoring)**

Ms. Richards presented the district report by explaining that East Hartford Public Schools is not a failing district, but have challenges in meeting the needs of a diverse population. This is not a quick fix where all issues can be addressed with immediate improvement. She highlighted the successes currently documented and stressed the importance of celebrating them.

The report cited improvement is needed in the following areas:

- Distribute leadership more widely;
- Strengthen communication between the district and schools so principals and teachers have opportunities to place more emphasis on professional development strategies and curriculum initiatives;

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- Review organizational structures to increase leadership capacity, especially in elementary schools;
- Strengthen professional development to raise achievement in reading;
- Implement more rigorous evaluation strategies that focus on measuring the impact of additional resources and interventions to improve children's learning;
- Board of Education needs to be more effective in discharging its public duties.

On the positive side, Ms. Richards noted we have already begun doing many of the suggestions. She praised Dr. Martinez for data team and curricula development. She stated we are well on the way to improvement. Other areas that we are doing well:

- Teachers and principals believe we are moving in the right direction;
- District Improvement Plan effectively guides and informs strategies. Principals see a direct link between the District Improvement Plan and their own School Improvement Plans;
- Implementation of the Positive Behavior Support program;
- Increased professional development hours along with common planning times.

Mr. Proctor talked about implementation of improvement measures. He stated this is a partnership. He stated they are here to build on what you are already doing. Further, he noted a review of the District Improvement Plan should be a priority in order to move forward. Regarding a timeframe to comply with all of the findings, Mr. Proctor noted this will take place over a fair period of time. He noted the State will provide on-going support to us. ECS dollars will help. The State will advocate for us in securing dollars. It was also noted that O'Brien Elementary School was selected to be part of a demonstration initiative. They will receive additional resources to assist with improvements.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes noted the report will be on line. Copies will also be available at libraries and the administrative office.

**Informational Report on The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT)**  
**(Elliot Ginsberg, President and CEO)**

**(Sue Palisano, Director, Education Initiative)**

Mr. Ginsberg and Ms. Palisano gave a presentation on a program that supports science, technology, engineering and math. This is a catalyst program funded by the State Department of Education and CREC. It is a model science program. Professional development is provided. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated this is an exciting opportunity and hopefully we can partner with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology.

**Report on Connecticut State Space Grant Consortium – NASA-PLAN Teachers Academy**

**(Melissa Gavarrino, Department Head, Science)**

Ms. Gavarrino gave a presentation on the opportunities provided by the Connecticut Space Grant Consortium which include workshops being offered to students to enrich their science background. All participants receive a stipend and the district will be reimbursed for the cost of substitutes for the two school-year meetings.

Mr. Nystrom also presented to the Board a paper on the scientific background of various kinds of hair that can be used in either Physics or Anatomy classes.

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**Presentation on the Status of Reading District-wide**

**(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)**

**(Lesley Morgan-Thompson, Supervisor, Elementary Instruction)**

**(Amy Radikas, Connecticut State Department of Education)**

Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove noted the district's goal is to identify appropriate reading materials and programs to provide uniform access in all elementary schools.

Background information was given on the various reading programs. Ms. Amy Radikas, Connecticut State Department of Education, gave history on the Early Reading Success grant program intended to improve reading skills in Grades K-3. Grants funds were provided to our district to implement various initiatives.

**Presentation on High School Guidance Department**

**(Frank Staples, Department Head, Guidance, EHHS)**

**(Matt Ryan, Principal, EHHS)**

Mr. Staples gave an overview presentation on the guidance personnel in various schools supporting the students and parents. Many choices are presented to students and counseling is provided on an ongoing basis.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports**

**Superintendent Martinez:**

- Dr. Martinez noted there will be voting at six of our elementary schools;
- CCAP will be visiting in March;
- Dr. Martinez was invited to sit in on a panel at the Second Literacy Awareness Conference in March at Central Connecticut State University.

**Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes** – no comments

**Special Committee Reports**

**Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia** - meeting scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 P.M.

**Future Planning – Karen Howe** – no meeting scheduled.

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

**Policy & Audit - Hank Pawlowski, Jr.** – no meeting scheduled.

**Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien** – no meeting scheduled.

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION**

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve seven **Resignations:**

1. Sara Marzouk, Title I tutor, effective 1/18/08
2. Linda Tobey, Head Start teacher, effective 6/30/08;
3. Shawntae Haskins, FRC Child Associate, effective 1/13/08;
4. Joseph Tarpinian, Health/PE Teacher, effective 2/8/08;
5. Sherry L. Fortin, SPED/Para, effective 1/25/08;
6. Lisa L. Staton, Media/Para, effective 1/28/08;

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7. Devon D. Thomas, Behavior Manager, effective 1/28/08.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

(Ms. Maryranen-O'Brien left meeting at 10:36 P.M.)  
(Mr. Damaschi left meeting at 10:45 P.M.)

**NEW BUSINESS**

**To Approve 2008-2009 School Calendar**  
**(Pauline Fusco, Principal, Sunset Ridge)**

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve 2008-2009 School Calendar

**Amendment** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To correct the end date of school to be June 16, 2009.  
Motion unanimously carried, as amended.

**To Approve the Department of Social Services Block Grant**  
**(Brian Reynolds, Director, Student Assistance Center)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To approve Department of Social Services Block Grant for  
October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve Request for Student Trip to Paris, Barcelona and Madrid in 2009**  
**(John Bacon, EHHS)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve request for student trip to Paris, Barcelona and Madrid  
on February 13-22, 2009  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve Memorandum of Agreement between EHEA and EHBOE**  
**(Christopher Wethje, Director, Human Resources)**  
**(Jody Lefkowitz, Director, Pupil Personnel Services)**

**MOTION** By Marcus Oladell, IV  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve Memorandum of Agreement between EHEA and  
EHBOE to allow two certified staff, Constance King and  
Kathy Przywara to work additional hours at their per diem salary.  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**To Refer to Policy & Audit Committee Policies 4111 and 4211**

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To refer to Policy & Audit Policies 4111 and 4211 to  
discuss at their next meeting.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- **Ram Aberasturia** attended two basketball games and a swim meet;
- **Dorese Roberts** visited EHMS

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ram Aberasturia** (1) suggested that Board members report to Mr. Mainuli's office for Board photographs; (2) thanked Dr. Martinez for full day Kindergarten; (3) suggests someone with an 092 should be overseeing the reading program;

**Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes** – (1) when school reports come from the Connecticut State Department of Education, please make copies available to Board members; (2) wrote a letter to the State delegation re: initiatives. **Anita Morrison** suggested adding reasons for asking for additional funding.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** - None

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (11:10 P.M.) .  
Motion unanimously carried.