

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
MARCH 3, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, March 3, 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.(arrived 7:30 P.M.)

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: - none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, January 28, 2008
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, January 31, 2008
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, February 4, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, February 4, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

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- MOTION** By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, February 5, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, February 6, 2008
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts
- MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, February 11, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, February 13, 2008 (1:00 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, February 13, 2008 (5:14 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Mr. Aberasturia thanked Sunset Ridge for holding a food drive and Anita Morrison for giving food to the Back Pack Program at Synergy;
- Mr. Aberasturia – re: the recent recall on “beef” – he noted our schools are safe;
- May 21st – Annual Board Recognition Dinner will be held at the Marco Polo Restaurant honoring retirees and all those that have been with the district for 25 years or more;
- March 28th – Anna Norris School will be having readers in classrooms. If interested, please call 622-5740;
- March 17th – Curriculum Committee meeting will be moved to March 31st, due to Taste of Ireland event at EHHS.

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STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Arianna Larson, Kelly Rivera

- CAPT testing will take place all this week;
- State leadership Conference will be held March 28-29; Thirty-one students will be attending;
- Annual Bunny Breakfast will be held March 15th;
- April 30th – 7:00 P.M. Annual Mr. EHHS contestants have been chosen. Nine boys are competing;
- Kelly and Arianna will give a presentation to the Board on their recent Costa Rica Trip at the March 17th Regular Board Meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Ginny Lynch, 77 Chapel Street – re: retirement dinner – she noted **all** employees that are retirees are invited.
2. Manuel Rivera, 26 Greene Terrace – re: requests that a program be offered for GED for Spanish-speaking people.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Mr. Wethje noted we have hired a new Readiness teacher at Willowbrook .5 position; we have also hired an FRC Child Associate at Silver Lane. A job description will be forwarded to Board members. Several paras and tutors have also been hired.

Mr. Wethje noted he will represent East Hartford at the Annual Minority Recruiting Fair on March 15th at Two Rivers Magnet School, sponsored by CREC.

Report on Residency

(Mark Simmons, Residency Officer)

(Jody Lefkowitz, Director, Pupil Personnel Services)

Mr. Simmons noted 709 residency contacts were made; 53 have been disenrolled. He noted the new “SmartMail” has been very helpful in tracking residencies. Dr. Martinez noted it is critical that residency checks are conducted as it costs the district dollars to educate those not living in East Hartford. She further noted we have no problem educating the students of East Hartford, but we don’t have the funds to educate the world. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes noted we take this issue very seriously. Ms. Lefkowitz noted we are obligated to educate homeless students.

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Cambridge School Reports (East Hartford High School, Langford, O'Brien and Silver Lane Elementary Schools)

(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)

(Patrick Proctor, External Consultant for Connecticut, State Department of Education)

(Marie Glowski, Consultant, Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction Connecticut State Department of Education)

Dr. Martinez presented to the Board a review of the reports done by Cambridge Associates. She noted all the reports are posted on the website with attachments citing areas needing improvement. Dr. Martinez further noted the report, state what each school does well, and areas needing improvement have been identified.

Dr. Martinez noted we need to focus on strategies, implement computers, continue to provide staff development, provide programs for students who do not respond to alternate reading programs. Critical across the board was the lack of books; classroom libraries, and library selections. Dr. Martinez also noted assessments are ongoing, but what matters more are what the data teams are doing in terms of reviewing assessment results.

Chairperson Mary Alice Hughes Dwyer stated we have not focused on pushing our students to achieve.

The issue of coverage for principals was discussed. Dr. Martinez stated we will be looking at equitable distribution of resources. She further noted there is equitable distribution of bilingual and ESL services. Also of importance, Dr. Martinez stated we need to continue to reach out to parents.

Dr. Martinez stated the reports were done in October. If they were done today, a marked improvement would be noted. Dr. Martinez thanked the principals and staff for facing the challenge in a very positive way. Both Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes and Dr. Martinez noted they think the review was a good thing and we will benefit from it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent Martinez:

- Mayor Currey, Dr. Martinez and Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes presented testimony before the State Education Committee for Early Childhood Intervention last Friday in support of additional funding;
- Sympathy is extended to the DeAngelis family for its recent loss. Mr. DeAngelis was a retired maintenance supervisor and will be sadly missed.

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Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- Dr. Martinez and staff did a phenomenal job before the State Education Committee for Early Reading Intervention. Mr. Pawlowski also commended Dr. Martinez.

Special Committee Reports

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - meeting scheduled for March 5th, 5:00 P.M.

Future Planning – Karen Howe – no meeting scheduled.

Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr. –meeting scheduled for March 10th;

Policy & Audit - Hank Pawlowski, Jr. –meeting scheduled for March 19th;

Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O’Brien –meeting scheduled for March 31st.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To approve four **Resignations:**

1. Kristen Rogers, Gr. 1 Teacher, effective 2/5/08
2. Heather L. Wilding, Parent Educator, effective 2/29/08
3. Sean H. Saler, Priority Tutor, effective 2/22/08
4. Shawna Anderson-Martin, Sped/Para, effective 2/15/08;

To approve one **Retirement:**

1. Ronald E. Zoppa, Head Custodian, effective 3/24/08

Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted that we do conduct exit interviews.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

To Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Woodstock, CT

(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

(Dr. Pauline Fusco, Principal, Sunset Ridge)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve request for overnight travel to Woodstock, CT

To attend the Discovery Center Program at Camp Woodstock,CT

(April 7-April 9, 2008)

Motion unanimously carried.

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**To Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Hartford, CT
(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)
(Emil Kopcha, Supervisor, Fine & Performing Arts)**

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve request for overnight travel to Hartford, CT to attend three days of rehearsals from April 3-5, 2008 at the Hartford Convention Center for one student who qualified for the All State Music Festival.
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve Memorandum of Agreement Between EHEA and EHBOE
(Christopher Wethje, Director, Human Resources)**

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve Memorandum of Agreement between EHEA and EHBOE for a \$1,000 stipend for the CIBA Yearbook Advisor.
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve Bid #1590-08 – Window Wall Renovation Project – EHHS
(Al Costa, Director, Facilities)**

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve Bid #1590-08 – Window Wall Renovation Project – EHHS and award to Accurate Door and Window LLC for \$659,000.
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Costa noted this was approved by the Facilities Committee on February 26, 2008. Central Registration will remain in the building when construction takes place. Otherwise, the school will be closed during construction. Construction will be completed by the end of summer.

**To Approve Bid #1592-08 – Custodial Equipment
(Al Costa, Director, Facilities)**

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve Bid #1592-08 – Custodial Equipment and award to K&S Distributors, East Hartford, as the lowest bidder for \$24,036.
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Costa noted this was approved by the Facilities Committee on February 26, 2008.

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To Approve Bid #1597-08 – Professional Design Services – School Based Health Center, O’Brien Elementary School

(Al Costa, Director, Facilities)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve Bid #1597-08 – Professional Design Services – School Based Health Center and award to Natale and Stoutenberg Architects, contingent upon formal grant award from the State, expected in March, 2008.

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Costa noted this was approved by the Facilities Committee on February 26, 2008.

To Table for First Read Willowbrook Internal Dispute Resolution Policy

(Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Karen Howe
To table for first read Willowbrook Internal Dispute Resolution Policy.

Motion unanimously carried.

To Delete Policy 1111.2 – Advertising

(Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To **delete** Policy 1111.2 – Advertising
Motion unanimously carried.

To Table for First Read Policy 1330 – Use of School Facilities

(Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To table for first read Policy 1330 – Use of School Facilities
Motion unanimously carried.

To Delete Bylaw 9271 – Code of Ethics

(Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To **delete** Policy 9271 – Code of Ethics
Motion **defeated**. **Aye:** Hank Pawlowski, Jr. Marcus Oladell, IV,
Ram Aberasturia

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Nay: Karen Howe, Dorese Roberts, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Anita Morrison, Robert Damaschi.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated this should go back to the Policy & Audit Committee. The Chairperson further suggested that all those who opposed this motion should make every effort to be at the Policy & Audit Committee meeting when this topic will be discussed.

To Approve Non-Renewal of Non -Tenured Teachers

(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)

(Christopher Wethje, Director, Human Resources)

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve non-renewal of two non-tenured teachers in memorandum date February 25, 2008 due to loss of position to another teacher.

Motion unanimously carried.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Dorese Roberts** (1) attended EHHS to hear "Homeless in Harvard"; (2) visited Silver Lane School – March 15th a black history program was presented; Dr. Seuss program was held where parents read to children; a speaker came to Silver Lane to discuss tax preparation; (2) visited O'Connell School where they were celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday; visited a ELL class at O'Connell School;
- **Ram Aberasturia** - (1) attended EHHS to hear "Homeless in Harvard";

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. **Ginny Lynch, 77 Chapel Street** – re: noted how hard tutors and paras work to help children to succeed; suggests putting additional dollars into replacement of books.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Marcus Oladell, IV – re: tomorrow night the varsity basketball team is in a tournament – good luck to them;

Ram Aberasturia – re: (1) hoping we can have a full time athletic director; (2) re: Cambridge Reports – we will be looking at job descriptions; (3) we should wait to be recognized by the Board Chair before speaking; (4) should have discussion regarding restoration of four report cards yearly; (5) requests a meeting to discuss transportation issue;

Anita Morrison – re: (1) attended a workshop on Reform of Secondary Schools. Would like to see if we could bridge the gap of trying to work with programs after school;

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – re: we have a date for Nick Caruso on April 10th regarding setting goals;

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TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- **Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien** – asks that we look at the District Improvement Plan before setting goals on April 10th;
- **Marcus Oladell, IV** – re: (1) walk through presentations; (2) spoke with principal at Hockanum re: the Follett Program. Dr. Martinez stated she hopes this program can be funded.
- **Karen Howe** - re: discuss tool for Superintendent's evaluation;

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:50 P.M.) .
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald