

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
MARCH 17, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, March 17, 2008, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 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:** - None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, February 27, 2008 (1:30 P.M.)**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, February 27, 2008 (6:05 P.M.)**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes. as corrected:  
**Special Meeting, March 3, 2008**  
1<sup>st</sup> motion: Mr. Aberasturia recused himself.  
2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Mr. Aberasturia recused himself.  
Motion carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, March 3, 2008**  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Regular Meeting, March 3, 2008**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

- Mr. Aberasturia called for a moment of silence for the recent passing of Peter Kenny, former Director of Bilingual Education, retired as an assistant vice principal at East Hartford High School;
- Arts Festival will be held on March 26<sup>th</sup>, EHMS, beginning at 7:00 P.M.;
- Quest Brunch will be held at the Mt. Carmel Hall, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 A.M., \$25/per person, ticket orders should be placed with Pam Wentworth no later than April 4<sup>th</sup> ;
- Superintendent Marion H. Martinez will be holding Fireside Chats for parents and the community at large. Please contact the Superintendent's office if you wish to participate;
- People Empowering People – March 19<sup>th</sup> - a program for East Hartford parents. If interested, call Child Plan 291-1741. Classes are also available in Spanish.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

**Arianna Larson, Kelly Rivera**

- Bunny Breakfast was held March 15<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 parents and young children attended;
- "Middle Ground Luncheon" will be held March 20<sup>th</sup> to recognize students who normally would not get recognized;
- Student Council Meeting will be held March 19<sup>th</sup>;
- Senior Citizens Prom will be held April 23<sup>rd</sup>; theme will be "Black and Gold Affair";
- Mr. EHHS Contest will be held April 30<sup>th</sup>;
- Leadership Conference will be held March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> at Wesleyan University. Thirty students are expected to attend;
- Congratulations to Jazzappella and the cheerleaders;
- The Honor Society is showcasing their talents on March 28<sup>th</sup>;
- The student representatives showed a video of their recent trip to Costa Rica.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**BOARD OF EDUCATION APPRECIATION**

**(Elaina Brachman, Principal, Norris Elementary School,  
Coordinator of Recognition)  
(Building Principals)**

Board Members and staff enjoyed the dinner prepared by the culinary students. On behalf of East Hartford staff and students, Dr. Brachman, who coordinated the event, thanked the Board for their dedication. Board members thanked all principals and staff for the recognition shown to them this evening.

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**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

Mr. Wethje noted we have hired a tutor, para, playgroup facilitator and a technology specialist at FRC.

**Third Quarter Financial Analysis**

**(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

Mr. Mainuli reviewed the March Third Quarter Report – FY 2007-08 with the Board and cited several areas of concern. Listed below are specific Line Items Mr. Mainuli addressed:

**#1210 – Certified Subs Reg** – funds will be transferred into this account for special education services.

**#1220 – Non-Certified Subs** – funds will be transferred into this account.

**#1320 – Non-Cert OT & Extra** – We will be spending over \$100,000, primarily for overtime for Facilities due to snow removal as well Security Guard overtime for residency investigations.

**#5111 – Pupil Trans Reg.** – would like to add an additional 44 passenger bus that can be used to transport wheelchair bound students as well as transporting students for Inter-district Choice Program. It was noted this bus can also be used for field trips.

**#5201 and #5203 – Insurance Property & Insurance Student** – funds have already been transferred to the Town.

**#5610 – Tuition LEA's In-State** – shortfall will be offset by tuition revenues.

**#5630 – Tuition Private** – shortfall will be offset by tuition revenues. We estimate revenue from Woodland School to be approximately \$2.4 million.

**#6260 – Gasoline** – this account will be closely monitored. Mr. Damaschi asked how this account is being monitored. Mr. Costa noted by electronic cards. Mr. Mainuli noted gasoline could be as much as \$3.00 a gallon next year. Transfer of funds will be made to this account.

**#7500 – Building Improvements** – will require transfer of funds to this account. We are hoping to get money back from vendors for the asbestos abatement.

**#8960 – Medicaid Revenue, #8940 – E-Rate Revenue, #8950 – Special Education Tuition** – these accounts will be receiving revenue.

**Update on Synergy Program Elementary Schools)**

**(John Karzar, Principal, Synergy)**

Mr. Karzar presented to the Board an update on three programs offered at Synergy: LIFE – Credit Recovery Program, Structured Learning Program and Synergy Elective Program. The LIFE program is offered daily from 7:30-9:30 A.M. The Structured Learning Program is offered daily from 9:30-1:30 P.M. The goal of this program is for students to control their behavior and be able to enter the Synergy Elective Program or return to EHHS.

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Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes asked if students have the opportunity to participate in EHHS sports. Mr. Karzar noted students do have that opportunity.

Dr. Martinez stated the intent of the program is to get students engaged and reconnect. The ultimate goal is to return to EHHS. In response to Board members questions, she further noted statistics will be provided to the Board.

Mr. Karzar stated Synergy is having a college educational fair on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports**

**Superintendent Martinez:**

- Dr. Martinez thanked Board members for the time they devote to the children of East Hartford;
- Congratulations to the former Mrs. Testa – She is now Dr. Testa;
- Early Reading Success program had \$739,000 restored, but could be cut by government's budget.
- A second Foundation meeting was held last week. Mr. Aberasturia attended. The Mission Statement was approved;
- Invoices were set out to parents who we found were not living in East Hartford;
- Dr. Martinez attended the State Board Ad Hoc Committee meeting with Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer and Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove;
- Dr. Martinez and Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove were invited to participate in a conference with a team from the Connecticut State Department of Education staff to participate in a regional conference to bring together state and district leaders to engage in dialogue and problem solving toward building statewide systems of support to improve teaching and learning.

**Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes**

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes thanked Board members, the Superintendent, teachers and all staff for their devotion to the children of East Hartford.

**Special Committee Reports**

**Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia** - meeting scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:00 P.M.

**Future Planning – Karen Howe** – no meeting scheduled at this time.

**Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr.** –no meeting scheduled at this time.

**Policy & Audit - Hank Pawlowski, Jr.** –meeting scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien** –meeting scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION**

By Marcus Oladell, IV

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve three **Resignations:**

1. Mindy S. Goldberg, Sped/Teacher, effective 6/30/08;
2. Mark Simmons, School/Agency Liaison, effective 3/7/08;
3. Alexis Salaman, Priority Tutor, effective 3/7/08.

Motion unanimously carried.

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**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To table the following policies and/or bylaws:

**To Table for First Read Policy 4140.2/4240.2 – Compensation and Related Benefits for Non-Bargaining Unit Employees**

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

**To Table for First Read Policy 5145.11 – Police in Schools**

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

**To Table for First Read Bylaw 9311 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment, Deletion of Policies**

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

**To Table for First Read Bylaw 9312 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Bylaws**

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

Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve Project Opening Doors at EHHS**

**(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)**

**(Dr. Cam Vautour, President, Project Opening Doors)**

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To Approve Project Opening Doors at EHHS

Motion unanimously carried.

Dr. Cam Vautour, President, Project Opening Doors, made a PowerPoint presentation. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated she is very supportive of this program. The program is one that pre-AP and AP students have the opportunity to excel in Math, Science and English and to increase college readiness. The program is funded by the National Math & Science Initiative, Inc. East Hartford was selected as one of the schools to receive a 5-year commitment. The first year financial commitment (2008-09) is \$82,490. Professional development will be provided as well as resources of books, equipment and supplies. The financial commitment will quadruple by 2012. Mr. Oladell stated he was disappointed that “History” was not included in the Project.

**To Approve Selection of Vendor for Bid #1599-08 – Desktop and Laptop Computers**

**(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Karen Howe

To Approve Vendor for Bid #1599-08 Desktop and Laptop Computers

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and award to Dell Marketing Group to provide both desktop and laptop computers, as specified in bid.  
Motion unanimously carried.

This was previously approved by Finance & Audit Committee.

**To Approve Third Quarter Appropriation Transfers FY 2007-08**

**(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded Anita Morrison  
To Approve Third Quarter Appropriation Transfers FY 2007-08 as provided in memorandum dated 3/11/08, amounting to \$546,360.  
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

**To Approve 403(b) Services Agreement for a Third Party Administrator for the Participating Providers with ING Life Insurance and Annuity Company**

**(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To Approve 403(b) Services Agreement for a Third Party Administrator for the Participating Providers with ING Life Insurance and Annuity Company  
Motion unanimously carried.

This was previously approved by the Finance & Audit Committee. Mr. Damaschi asked Mr. Mainuli how many teachers and staff are involved. That information will be provided. Dr. Martinez stated if any teachers or staff have concerns or questions regarding this agreement, they may call Mr. Mainuli, Mr. Wethje, or the Superintendent.

**To Approve Request of Non-Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank**  
**(Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To Approve Request of Non-Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 1325 – Advertising and Promotion**  
**(Hank Pawlowski, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To Table for First Read Policy 1325 – Advertising and Promotion  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**To Table for First Read Policy 3323 – Soliciting Prices**

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

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To Table for First Read Policy 3323 – Soliciting Prices  
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

**To Table for First Read Policy 3325.1 – Maintenance and Control of Materials**

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

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To Table for First Read Policy 3325.1 – Maintenance and  
Control of Materials  
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Damaschi asked what controls are in place. Mr. Mainuli stated IT keeps records and items are tagged. Also, there is an actual sign off procedure.

**To Table for First Read Policy 3440 - Inventories**

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

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To Table for First Read Policy 3440 – Inventories  
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

Mr. Damaschi asked what controls are in place for inventory. Mr. Costa stated a bar code system will be completed by summer.

**To Table for First Read Policy 3541.23 – Transportation - Bus Contractor**

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

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To Table for First Read Policy 3541.23 – Transportation –  
Bus Contractor  
Motion carried. Abstain: Marcus Oladell, IV

**To Table for First Read Policy 4111/4211 – Recruitment and Selection**

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

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To Table for First Read Policy 4111/4211 – Recruitment and  
Selection  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**To Table for First Read Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personal Leaves  
(Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To Table for First Read Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personal Leaves  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 4212.42 – Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus  
Drivers**

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

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To Table for First Read Policy 4212.42 – Drug and Alcohol Testing  
For School Bus Drivers  
Motion carried. Abstain: Marcus Oladell, IV

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Ram Aberasturia - (1)** attended Mayberry School PTO meeting March 13<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen parents attended. The following concerns were expressed: (a) would like to have teachers have ID's in elementary schools; (b) would like to have visible badges for visitors;(c) would like more police presence from 8:30-8:45 A.M and 3:15-3:30 P.M. Other concerns were after school activities, additional computers – 15 parents were in favor of a school uniforms; **(2)** Peter Kenny was a tremendous individual and will be sadly missed.

**Dorese Roberts – (1)** attended Silver Lane PTO – parents are in favor of uniforms and also suggested teachers wear uniforms; 5<sup>th</sup> graders went to the Pequot Museum; Senator LeBeau has arranged for students to attend an art exhibit at the Capitol; a parent expressed concern regarding a bullying situation. Dr. Martinez will follow up with Mrs. Einhorn.

**Anita Morrison – (1)** went to O'Brien School PTO – discussed dress code/ A survey is being sent to parents; **(2)** went to Norris PTO – need to move forward with uniforms.

**Karen Howe, Chairman, Future Planning Committee**, stated at this point we will not do anything in haste. This will not be ready for September.

**Marcus Oladell, IV** – attended State basketball tournament.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ram Aberasturia - (1)** concerned with safety issue regarding the baseball field – there are many weeds - a game will be played on Saturday; thanked Matt Ryan for connecting with EHHS – could do more if we had a full time Athletic director; **(2)** re: dinner that we had today – suggests we incorporate an industrial kitchen for that program – which could also be



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used for other functions and possibly outside groups that could generate funds for the district.  
**Marcus Oladell, IV** – thanked Mr. Wethje for information provided to him regarding bus trips.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** - None

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board ( 9:50 P.M.) .  
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald