

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
APRIL 7, 2008**

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

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Arianna Larson, Student Representative

ABSENT Marcus Oladell, IV

Amendments to Agenda:

Amend agenda to include the following (under New Business i, j, k):

- **Approve increased security at EHMS;**
- **Discussion with possible action re: Local 818 Council #4 3-year contract 7/1/07-6/30/2010;**
- **Approve open workers compensation claim settlement on terminated employee - final**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, March 10, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, March 12, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Karen Howe

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To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, March 17, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes, as corrected:
Regular Meeting, March 17, 2008
Page 5: 1st Motion... **To refer back to Policy & Audit** the...
Page 8: bottom of page, last line...if we had a full time
Athletic director
Page 9: end of 2nd sentence add: **that could generate funds for
the district.**
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, March 18, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

Karen Howe gave a tribute to Don Hallquist, former Supervisor of Fine & Performing Arts and also Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services. He also founded the Summer Youth Festival. Ms. Howe asked for a moment of silence in memory of Don Hallquist.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- April 8th – CABE roundtable discussion “Life After a Cambridge Assessment” – 6:00-8:30 P.M., Four Points Sheraton, Meriden;
- April 8th – State of CT General Assembly, Commission on Children roundtable Discussion re: youth and violence 10-12 noon, at LOB, Room 1-C;
- April 11th, 11:00 A.M. – Press Conference for Project Opening Doors, at EHHS;
- April 13th Annual Quest Brunch sponsored by the Lions Club – 11:00 A.M, at Mt. Carmel Hall, Roberts Street;
- April 24th, 4:00-5:30 P.M. – 15th annual School/Business Partnership Recognition Reception at Veterans Memorial Clubhouse;
- April 29th, 6:00-8:00 P.M., annual East Hartford Public Schools Town-Wide Student Art Show reception, at the Cultural Center; show hours: 4/30 – 10-3:00 P.M.; 5/1 – 10-3:00 P.M. and 6-8:00 P.M.; 5/2 10-3:00 P.M., 5/3 Noon-4:00 P.M.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Arianna Larson

- March 28-29 – 30 students attended the State conference RSVP Program raising students voice and participation;
- April 23 – Senior Citizens Prom will be held;
- April 30 – 7:00 – Mr. EHHS competition will be held;

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- Student Council Project – a blank wall in the cafeteria will be used to place students names on various colleges of acceptances;
- The EHHS orchestra, band and chorus will be performing at Disney World.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Mr. and Mrs. Ron Smith – came to honor Pietro Cerone, Principal, EHMS, for all that he is doing for the students; they also honored Dr. Martinez, Board Chairperson, Board Members and teachers. They felt it was time to honor all for what they do on a daily basis for our children.
2. Darlene Walsh – worked in the East Hartford Public School system for 20 years – re: concerns with quality of air at Goodwin School – recommended that something be done to help health problems as a result of Goodwin School.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Dialogue with the Commissioner of Education – Dr. Mark K. McQuillan

Dr. Mark McQuillan, Commissioner of Education, State of Connecticut, spoke at the Board meeting and delivered a powerful message. He noted we are in a very serious state; with very serious issues to address. He noted there are large achievement gaps in the country. He stated to our credit, we have begun to address this issue. He stated we have come together to turn around the student achievement gap and offered the support of the State Department of Education to do it.

Dr. McQuillan noted we must do things differently. We must work together. We owe it to students who are going into highly competitive environments. However, we still have a responsibility to do all that we can. He urged the Board to work with him and to do the work smarter and faster.

Board members asked what issues we should focus on. Dr. McQuillan stated: (1) unify administrative team data driven data; (2) curriculum reform and (3) having a good professional development plan.

As a result of the Cambridge Report, Dr. McQuillan noted leadership and communication must improve to raise student achievement, especially among minority groups. He hopes the school board can be more united. He also noted we need to reach out more to students and parents. He urged that we empower the PTAs and use technologies. He urged that more emphasis be placed on staff development and further noted we have already begun that in East Hartford. In conclusion, he stated we must hold people to high expectations – accountability is key.

Dr. Martinez thanked Dr. McQuillan and the State Department of Education for their support.

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Importance of Recycling

(Mayor, Melody A. Currey)

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

Mayor Currey stressed the importance of recycling in our schools. She noted for every item put in an orange recycling bin, we will receive ten dollars back per ton. She asked that the Board continue doing the good job they are presently doing and to do more, if possible. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes suggested “recycle captains” in each of the schools. Dr. Martinez suggested having contests in all schools regarding recycling. Mr. Costa noted he will explore all options and look for new initiatives.

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Mr. Wethje noted we have hired two teachers – Grade 1 teacher and Physical Education teacher, a custodian .5 at Willowbrook and five tutors.

Recognition of EHHS students who participated in the Yale University Mock Trial Competition

(Todd Szwed, EHHS)

(Dan Pichette, EHHS)

(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

Thirteen students competed in the Yale University Mock Trial competition. This year, Elizabeth Montgomery was recognized for outstanding witness. Both Todd Szwed and Dan Pichette introduced Elizabeth. The Board presented her with a gift. Others that were honored in the past follow:

Stephanie Alicea

Merrill Bajana

Molly Callahan, Yale Mock Trial Outstanding Witness, 2006

Fabio Colon

Isaias Garibaldo

Amber Jackson

Jill Kelly

Michael Kurker, Yale Mock Trial Outstanding Witness, 2007

Elizabeth Montgomery, Yale Mock Trial Outstanding Witness, 2008

Grace Ngobeni

Munique Reid

Dylan Thomas

Nicole Wallace, Yale Mock Trial Outstanding Attorney, 2007

**Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education Conference (CAACE)
Recognition**

Jacqueline Holmes, Student Award Winner

Ruth Macijauskas, Adult Educator of the Year

(Patricia Perrone, Coordinator Adult Education)

Jacqueline Holmes was the recipient of the Student Award Winner and Ruth Macijauskas the recipient of the Adult Educator of the Year. Ms. Patricia Perrone introduced both to the Board and congratulated them on their outstanding achievements.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent Martinez:

- Thanked all the Board members who are going to the CABE dinner tomorrow evening;
- Pleased that Mary Ann Cavanaugh co-presented on Project Opening Doors;
- The Superintendent was pleased to announce a Safe Driver Award to Tom Gilbert, Board mail carrier;
- Congratulations to CIBA English teacher, Ryan Campbell, who has been selected to participate in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. He will travel to Japan in June. The Superintendent stated she would like to invite him to a Board meeting upon his return.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- Reminded Board members that we are meeting on Wednesday, 6:00 P.M. to set the budget;
- Thursday, Nick Caruso (CABE) will be working with the Board on the Strategic Plan to set goals.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit - Hank Pawlowski, Jr. –meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 4/16, 6:30 P.M.

Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien –meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 22nd;

Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr. –meeting scheduled for April 14th, 6:30 P.M.

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - committee met last week; next meeting scheduled for May 7th.

Future Planning – Karen Howe – meeting will be scheduled in near future to discuss PTO issues; i.e., dress code.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To approve three **Resignations:**

1. Rachel Klein, Teacher, effective 6/30/08;
2. Polly Chamberlain, Education Manager, effective 3/20/08;
3. Casey P. Fitzgerald, Head Custodian, effective 4/11/08.

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

To Remove from Table and Approve Willowbrook Internal Dispute Resolution Policy (Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To remove from table and approve Willowbrook Internal Dispute Resolution Policy.

Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

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**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1330 – Use of School Facilities
(Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To remove from table and approve Policy 1330 – Use of
School Facilities
Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

To Approve 2008 Graduation Dates:

CIBA – June 13, 2008

Synergy – June 16, 2008

EHHS – June 17, 2008

(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve 2008 Graduation Dates:
CIBA – June 13, 2008 @ EHMS
Synergy – June 16, 2008 @ EHMS
EHHS – June 17, 2008 @ University of Hartford
Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent Martinez noted the last day of school will be June 18, 2008.

To Approve Capital Improvement Plan – FY 2008

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Karen Howe
To approve Capital Improvement Plan - FY 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes suggested that we investigate using solar panels on roofs for energy conservation.

To Approve Cost Proposal #1598-08 T & M Contract Seasonal Pool Repairs

(Al Costa, Director, Facilities)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Karen Howe
To approve Cost Proposal #1598-08 T & M Contract
Seasonal Pool Repairs
Motion unanimously carried.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated we should always try to use shared services, whenever possible. Mr. Costa stated, in this particular case, it was not feasible.

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To Approve Cost Proposal #1596-08 Lawn Service Program

(Al Costa, Director, Facilities)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve Cost Proposal #1596-08 Lawn Service Program
and award to TruGreen Lawn Care – Total cost for EHHS and
EHMS \$4,408.
Motion unanimously carried.

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

(Christopher Wethje, Director, 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 Approve Request of Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank

(Christopher Wethje, Director, Human Resources)

MOTION By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve request of certified staff member's use of
Employee Sick Bank
Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve Bid #1601-08 Wan/Lan Technology Equipment

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve Bid #1601-08 Wan/Lan Technology
Equipment and award to MDSI, Inc., at a cost of
\$87,960.00
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve Request for Bid Waiver – Follett Software Company – Destiny Resource
Management Solution**

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve request for bid waiver – Follett Software Company –
Destiny Resource Management Solution
Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent Martinez stated this is a system to do inventory tracking for school libraries.

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To Approve Increased Security at EHMS

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve increased security at EHMS
Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion with Possible Action re: Local 818 Council #4 3-Year Contract 7/1/07-6/30/2010

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Robert Damaschi
To approve 3-year contract 7/1/07-6/30/2010 with Local 818
Council #4
Motion carried. Mr. Aberasturia recused himself.

To Approve Open Workers Compensation Claim Settlement on Terminated Employee – Final

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve workers compensation claim settlement on
terminated employee.
Motion unanimously carried.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Dorese Roberts** and Superintendent Martinez (1) attended the Inter-El Music concert; (2) Ms. Roberts thanked all students for their cards for the Board of Education appreciation night;
- **Ram Aberasturia** (1) attended the Town Council meeting in which the Town did their part to approve the Task Force Coordinator; thanked the children for their cards for the Board of Education appreciation night; (3) Mr. Aberasturia will be visiting Mayberry, Sunset Ridge and East Hartford High schools.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

- **Dorese Roberts** re: the e-School Plus program – are all schools using this program. Superintendent Martinez stated many of the schools are using portions of the program at this time.
- **Karen Howe** re: (1) re: Superintendent’s evaluation process – still waiting for them to be returned; (2) re: an Executive Session was requested by a staff person and denied by the Board – would like an explanation in writing – how is this determined for Executive Sessions, etc.
- **Ram Aberasturia** re: suggested having one student from EHMS come to Board meetings.

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- **Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes** re: (1) review process on how to let the public know what policies we are talking are about when they are being presented by the Board. Further, she suggested scanning the policies and putting them on line. Mr. Pawlowski stated we will discuss options at a Policy & Audit Committee meeting.
- **Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien** – re: suggests having a recycling bin in the CBIA Lecture Hall.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS - None

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:26 P.M.) .

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald