

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
MAY 5, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, May 5, 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

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

ABSENT Marcus Oladell, IV, Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Amendments to Agenda:

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To table approval and remove from this evening's agenda under New Business, Item d – Copier Agreement - and refer back to Finance & Audit Committee for further information
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, April 10, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, April 22, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, April 22, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, April 22, 2008
Motion carried. Mr. Aberasturia recused himself.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, April 22, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- 5/17 – 3rd Annual Abelon Memorial PanCAN Walk, in memory of Michael Abelon, science educator at EHHS and co-founder of CIBA;
- 5/8 – Honors & Awards Ceremony at EHHS, 7:00 P.M.;
- 5/14 – Legislative Wrap-up at LOB, 8:30-12:00 noon;
- 5/27 – Exchange Club honors top 20 high school students – dinner at Marco Polo Restaurant, 6:30 P.M.;
- 7/8 - East Hartford Emergency Team will hold their Host Town Drill practice session at EHHS;
- 5/27-5/29 – Karen Howe noted auditions will be held for the Summer Youth Festival at Sunset Ridge School, 6:30 P.M. – children, teens, adults are all invited to audition;
- Hilde Mayranen-O’Brien gave Superintendent Martinez an article to be distributed to all Board members: “Groton Yardstick – Alternative Method of Measuring Students Success”

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Kelly Rivera and Arianna Larson

- Senior Citizens Prom was a huge success;
- Mr. EHHS – it was the best show in years. Thank you to Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes for judging the contest.
- AP testing has begun – good luck to all.
- Junior Prom will be held this Friday.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Update on Sodexo Food Service

((Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

(Marci Noguera, Sodexo)

(Jolyn Hart, Dietician)

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A PowerPoint presentation was given highlighting the program's success. A few of the highlights follow:

- EHHS breakfast program has increased 38 percent;
- Nutrition and wellness program is readily available to all;
- Grab 'n' Go program has increased by 25 percent at EHHS and EHMS;
- The Backpackers program provided 38 backpacks for students in need;
- Introduced the "fizzy fruit" concept.

Mr. Aberasturia asked what attributed to the increase of 38 percent in the breakfast program. Ms. Noguera stated it was marketing. Ms. Howe asked if nutritional counseling is available. It was noted it is. Counseling is also provided to nurses in all schools. Ms. Hart stated she is available to provide nutritional counseling to all schools. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes asked if we should expect to see an increase in the cost of foods. Ms. Noguera stated she does not foresee an increase at this time.

Informational Report on Classroom Walkthroughs and Site Education Team (SET)

(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

(Lesley Morgan-Thompson, Supervisor, Elementary)

(Marcia Huddy, Supervisor, Secondary)

A PowerPoint presentation was given highlighting the Classroom Walkthroughs. A 4-7 minute classroom visit is done collecting learning data during these visits. It is a means to promote meaningful discussions about improving teaching and learning. It is not an evaluation instrument. It is a method to identify trends of instructional practices.

Focus areas are on curriculum, instruction, the learner, classroom environment and needs of all learners.

Update on National Robotics Championship Trip to Atlanta and Boston

(Chuck Nystrom, Robotics Team Leader, EHHS)

(Jeff Rodriguez, senior at CCSU)

Mr. Nystrom noted our team was recognized for the design of a CAD program called "Solidworks" that allowed us to model and make a gripper and arm that would handle the tubes involved in the game. Mr. Nystrom was proud to introduce Mr. Rodriguez who showed a video of a prosthetic arm he made that allowed a student who was born without a right forearm, wrist and hand to control joysticks that drive the robot base.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent Martinez:

This week we are celebrating teachers/staff appreciation. The Board is providing breakfast to all schools on Friday and presenting a token of appreciation. Thanks to all.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes echoed the Superintendent's words regarding this celebration week;

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- Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes will be attending the Town Council meeting asking for approval of a Resolution for technology in our elementary classrooms.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit - Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – Mr. Aberasturia noted a meeting is scheduled for May 21st but it may be rescheduled.

Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O’Brien – no meeting has been scheduled.

Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – meeting scheduled for May 8th, 6:00 P.M.

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - meeting scheduled for May 7th; 5:00 P.M.

Future Planning – Karen Howe – meeting scheduled for May 6, 5:30 P.M. Ms. Howe urged Board members to attend and bring information regarding the dress code from the schools they represent.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve one **Retirement:**

1. Joan Freidman, Teacher, effective 6/30/08

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve four **Resignations:**

1. Laura Hickson, IRT, effective 6/30/08;

2. Annamaria Stillman, Teacher, effective 6/30/08;

3. Nancy S. Marino, tutor, effective 5/9/08;

4. Emanuel Cavaliere, Behavior Manager, effective 4/28/08.

Motion unanimously carried.

Dr. Martinez congratulated Laura Hickson on being named principal of an elementary school in South Windsor.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

To Approve Contract Renewal with Sodexo Food Services

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

(Ms. Marci Nogueira, General Manager, Sodexo)

MOTION

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve contract renewal with Sodexo Food Services commencing July 1, 2008 and continuing until June 30, 2009.

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Aberasturia commented “I’m afraid they’re just trying to exploit our children, selling them a product that ultimately doesn’t give them nutritional benefits.”

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To Approve Healthy Food Certification

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

(Ms. Marci Nogueira, General Manager, Sodexo)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve Healthy Food Certification
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Mainuli noted the Board of Education has received approximately \$156,000 in additional school lunch revenues through our participation in this program.

To Approve Willowbrook/Hockanum Readiness and Child Day Care Grant Application

(Nancy Moriarty, Supervisor, Willowbrook)

(Lisa Beauchamp, Principal, Hockanum)

MOTION By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve Willowbrook/Hockanum Readiness and Child Day
Care Grant Application for the 2008-2009 school year.
Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Nancy Moriarty, Supervisor, Willowbrook School, noted the only difference in the Willowbrook/Hockanum Readiness programs is that the program has been increased by one hour.

To Approve Selection of Vendor for Bid #1602-08; Classroom Furniture

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve selection of vendors for Bid #1602-08 –
Classroom Furniture
Motion unanimously carried.

The Superintendent suggested we do not spend anything further other than what has been encumbered. It was also noted that funding from the State will be very tight. We will not be getting funding for the Early Reading Success grant from the State.

To approve Appropriation Transfers FY 2007-2008

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve appropriation transfers FY 2007-2008 to complete
security improvements at EHMS.
Motion unanimously carried.

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**To Approve Funding for EHMS Boy's Baseball Team Program
(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)**

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve funding for EHMS Boy's Baseball
Team Program
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Aberasturia suggested that the two students who suggested having the baseball team, be invited to come before the Board to be acknowledged for their efforts.

**To Approve Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank
(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)**

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve certified staff member's use of employee
sick bank
Motion unanimously carried.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- **Karen Howe** – CREC annual meeting will be held May 21st. Due to the retirement dinner scheduled, East Hartford will not be represented;
- **Dorese Roberts** – visited O'Connell School on the day a storyteller was presenting to the students.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ram Aberasturia – re: (1) have Board members' pictures been placed in all schools. Mr. Mainuli noted Ken Sayers is working on it – the pictures need to be formatted; (2) requested that teachers have ID's at Mayberry School. The Superintendent stated that all staff members have badges.

Robert Damaschi – re: status of girls softball field at EHHS. Mr. Costa stated we have an agreement with the Parks & Recreation Department that they would prep the field. He will investigate this.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS - None

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:00 P.M.) .
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald