

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
JULY 2, 2007**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, July 2, 2007, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:04 P.M. by Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

PRESENT Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Robert Damaschi, Ram Aberasturia, Prescille Yamamoto, Marcus Oladell, IV, Dorese Roberts, Cynthia Reik

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources

ABSENT Karen Howe, Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To adjourn to Executive Session 5:07 P.M. for discussion regarding leave of absence request for a custodian; discussion regarding attorney/client privileged communication concerning Conflict of Interest waiver; and to conduct interviews for East Hartford Middle School Assistant Principal candidates.
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Christopher Wethje

The Special Board meeting reconvened at 6:57 P.M.

PRESENT Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Robert Damaschi, Ram Aberasturia, Prescille Yamamoto, Marcus Oladell, IV, Dorese Roberts, Cynthia Reik

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent of Schools
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources

ABSENT Hank Pawlowski, Karen Howe

MOTION By Cynthia Reik
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve a leave of absence for Frank Randall, custodian.
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To deny a Conflict of Interest Waiver for Shipman & Goodwin
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Marcus Oladell
To appoint Amy Watson as Assistant Principal of East Hartford
Middle School at Step 1 of the salary schedule.
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien thanked everyone for their tremendous support in the recent death of her stepson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of
June 11, 2007 (3:40 P.M.)
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of
June 11, 2007 (4:40 P.M.)
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of
June 15, 2007
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of
June 18, 2007, as corrected:
Page 1: - remove names of Student Representatives as being
in attendance;
Page 2: - 1st Motion: ...leave of absence for Amy Tougas.

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- Page 2: under Public Participation – add No. 2:
Comments by Ram Aberasturia: That it was unfortunate we lost Ms. Smith as a result of administration’s lack of support. Furthermore, we should heed Ms. Smith’s words of warning that after school programs are essential in serving the academic needs of our students. If we are to be successful in addressing the academic needs of our students the Board must have a paradigm shift and realize that not only is academics important, but just as important if not more so, our students need such after school programs to address their needs.
- Page 3: middle of page: Mr. Aberasturia stated the “C” rule should be abolished. Add: It gives our students other avenues to make connections within our schools. Then by participating in after school programs or if you will smaller learning communities they become stakeholders within our schools and as such their grades will improve.
- Page 9: under Representative Reports: Ram Aberasturia attended Norris and Mayberry schools and Mr. Aberasturia gave them a pizza party as a thank you for Board Appreciation Day.
- Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of
June 20, 2007
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Thank you from Jim Hart, Social Studies teacher, for the recent retirement reception.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

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Report on Goodwin College Use of EHMS Parking Lot

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

(Todd Andrews, Director of Institutional Advancement)

Discussion took place regarding use of the EHMS parking lot as a vehicle for overflow parking for those attending Goodwin College. Also discussed was the offer of Goodwin College providing four individual \$2,500 scholarships to any graduating EHHS students to be used towards any program at Goodwin College. Board members had several questions, some of which follow:

- would give cash instead of scholarships;
- would they increase the scholarships to \$3,000 each;
- will there be security in the parking lot;
- who determines which students receive the scholarships;

Mr. Andrews will bring these questions back to his Board. This issue will be brought back to the Facilities Committee.

Report on State Board of Education – A Superior Education, Five-Year Comprehensive Plan for Education 2006-2011

(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)

Dr. Martinez reviewed with the Board the Five-Year Comprehensive Plan for Education provided by the Connecticut State Board of Education. She reviewed in depth three priority areas: (1) high-quality preschool education for all students; Dr. Martinez stated preschool is the foundation for success. Lack of access to quality preschool programs is a major concern.

(2) High academic achievement of all students in reading writing, mathematics and science; Dr. Martinez stated we must continue to offer extended opportunities to students beyond the regular school day. Connecticut Accountability for Learning Initiative will be expanded, and support for districts identified in Year 3 as “in need of improvement” will receive additional support.

(3) High school reform; we must ensure that all students graduate from high school. We must prepare our students by increasing graduation requirements and also prepare students for either continuing education and/or working. We must develop and implement standards-based curriculums. Dr. Martinez further stated all students must have a personal identification plan; i.e., career development, course work. She stressed the importance of mentoring our teachers. It was noted that many of the suggestions in the report are already being done in our district.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Superintendent’s Reports

Chairperson Mayranen-O’Brien:

- Most Superintendent evaluations have been received. We need to set up a meeting;
- Regarding self-evaluation – we should have more of self-evaluation meetings to increase effectiveness;

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- We now have a preliminary budget – we need to set up a meeting.

Dr. Martinez

- Last Tuesday, the Board was honored at the YMCA annual meeting; Dr. Martinez received a plaque for the Board for outstanding service to the community;
- Received an e-mail from Manchester Community College and Great Path Academy. They have received approval to begin construction of the new Great Path facility;
- Dr. Martinez referred to “The Priority Exchange” newsletter, put out by the Connecticut Department of Education. Ms. Yamamoto, Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O’Brien, Ms. Reik and Town Council member Ms. Mary Alice Dwyer attended a conference on “Closing the Achievement Gap: You Can Make it Happen”. Dr. Martinez noted the Board plays an important role in closing the achievement gap;
- We have been working on a plan to monitor the strategic plan.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit, Prescille Yamamoto – meeting scheduled for July 23rd, 5:00 P.M.;

Curriculum – Cynthia Reik – meeting scheduled for July 16th;

Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – meeting to be scheduled;

Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi – meeting scheduled for July 11th, 7:00 P.M.

Future Planning – Dr. Martinez stated there was a meeting last week to plan for the October 18th Community forum for Positive Change.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve Six (6) Resignations:

1. Nicholas D. Pignatore, Para, effective 6/25/07;
2. Margaret A. Kahn, Physical Therapist, effective 6/29/07;
3. Julia M. Holmes, Tutor, effective 6/29/07;
4. Jessica L. LaCasse, teacher, effective 6/29/07
5. Travis Meyer, teacher, effective 6/29/07;
6. Sheri Labowski, teacher, effective 6/29/07

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To place Item f, “Remove from table and approve Policy 1312 – Public Complaints” under New Business to Table for First Read
Motion unanimously carried.

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**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 0050 – Code of Ethics
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To remove from table and approve Policy 0050 –
Code of Ethics
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi, Ram Aberasturia

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 0100 – Mission Statement
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To remove from table and approve Policy 0100 –
Mission Statement
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 0521.2 – Commitment to Religious
Neutrality (Prayer in Schools)**

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To remove from table and approve Policy 0521.2 –
Commitment to Religious Neutrality (Prayer in Schools)
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1112.5 – Media Access to Students
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To remove from table and approve Policy 1112.5 – Media
Access to Students
Motion unanimously approved.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1212 – School Volunteers
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To remove from table and approve Policy 1212
School Volunteers
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1331 – Smoking/Tobacco Products in
School Facilities**

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto

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Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To remove from table and approve Policy 1331 – Smoking/
Tobacco Products in School Facilities
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 2000.1 – Board-Superintendent
Relationship**

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To remove from table and approve Policy 2000.1 – Board-
Superintendent Relationship
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia, Robert Damaschi,
Dorese Roberts

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 2210 – Administrative Leeway in
Absence of Board Policy**

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To remove from table and approve Policy 2210 – Administrative
Leeway in Absence
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 2400 – Evaluation of Administrative
Personnel**

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To remove from table and approve Policy 2400 – Evaluation of
Administrative Personnel
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3231 – Medicaid Reimbursement for
Special Education Students**

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto
To remove from table and approve Policy 3231 – Medicaid
Reimbursement for Special Education Students
Motion unanimously carried.

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To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3541.44 – Use of Privately Owned Vehicles on School Business

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To remove from table and approve Policy 3541.44 – Use of Privately Owned Vehicles on School Business

Motion defeated. Aye: Prescille Yamamoto, Cynthia Reik, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

Nay: Robert Damaschi, Ram Aberasturia, Dorese Roberts, Marcus Oladell IV

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To refer back to Policy & Audit

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Mainuli noted other districts do not allow coaches or other non-parental adults to transport students. Discussion took place regarding adding to Policy that the Police Department will be called if a child has no way of getting home. Ms. Yamamoto commented this will be considered to be placed in the Regulation.

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4118.13/4218.13- Conflict of Interest

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To remove from table and approve Policy 4118.13/4218.13 – Conflict of Interest

Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4155/4255 – Employee as Holder of Elective Office

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To remove from table and approve Policy 4155/4255 – Employee as Holder of Elective Office

Motion unanimously carried.

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 5131.21 – Threats of Violence by Students

(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Cynthia Reik

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To remove from table and approve Policy 5131.21 – Threats of Violence by Students
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi, Dorese Roberts,
Ram Aberasturia

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion with Possible Action on Student Dress Code – Kindergarten through Grade 12

(Karen Howe, Chair, Future Planning)

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To table approval of Student Dress Code – K-12
Motion defeated. Nay: Prescille Yamamoto, Cynthia Reik

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell
To approve Student Dress Code – Kindergarten through Grade 12
Motion carried. Aye: Robert Damaschi, Marcus Oladell,
Ram Aberasturia, Dorese Roberts
Nay: Prescille Yamamoto, Cynthia Reik

Ms. Yamamoto stated she objects to having acted on this agenda item this evening.
Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated this information needs to get out to the parents.

To Table for First Read Policy 7115 – Developing Educational Specifications
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To table for first read Policy 7115 – Developing Educational Specifications
Motion unanimously carried.

To Table for First Read Policy 7221 – Construction of Physical Facilities
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To table for first read Policy 7221 – Construction of Physical Facilities
Motion unanimously carried.

To Table for First Read Policy 7230.2 – Indoor Air Quality
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto

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Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To table for first read Policy 7230.2 – Indoor Air Quality
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Delete Bylaw 9125 - Treasurer
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia
To delete Bylaw 9125 – Treasurer
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

**To Table for First Read Policy 1312 – Public Complaints
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Cynthia Reik
To table for first read Policy 1312 – Public Complaints
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

INTERNAL BOARD BUSINESS

Representative Reports

Prescille Yamamoto noted she was invited to attend a meeting of the East Hartford Exchange Club in which Paul Maynard was honored.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Prescille Yamamoto – re: (1) update on salary discrepancy of administrators in the two Family Resource Centers. Dr. Martinez stated there should be one job description. Ms. Elmore has now expressed a desire in a teaching position; (2) to Mr. Mainuli – re: computer workshop – this will be placed on a future agenda; (3) re: Nike Outdoor Nationals in North Carolina:

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Marcus Oladell IV
To forward to Policy & Audit to review policy on overnight travel.
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

Cynthia Reik – re: (1) Safe Schools Grant – disapproves of the title and finds the grant appalling as written; how many students actually graduated; (2) would like Guidance to have a presence in the Middle School. Dr. Martinez stated when we get the new student information system up and running, data will be more readily accessible.

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Dorese Roberts – re: when will e-School Plus be implemented. Dr. Martinez stated it will be implemented to some degree shortly, but not fully implemented.

Ram Aberasturia – re: (1) how many students were expelled while in after school programs, prior to their expulsion. Dr. Martinez stated 42 were expelled in total; (2) when people have a negative opinion or voted against a motion, they should not be asked “why”. At this time, Mr. Wethje announced that Amy Watson will be the new East Hartford Middle School principal. Amy is presently a teacher in the district at Mayberry School.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Computer Workshop

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded Dorese Roberts
To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board
(9:00 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald