

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
AUGUST 6, 2007**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, August 6, 2007, 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 Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

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

**ALSO PRESENT** Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent of Schools  
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel  
Al Costa, Director of Facilities

**ABSENT** Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Cynthia Reik

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, July 2, 2007, as corrected:  
Page 9 – under New Business – seconded Motion  
made by **Robert Damaschi**, seconded by **Marcus Oladell, IV**  
Page 11 – comments by Ram Aberasturia (1) **how many students  
were involved in after school programs, prior to their  
expulsion;** (2)...voted **against**.....  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, July 11, 2007  
Motion carried. Abstain: Prescille Yamamoto

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes, as corrected:  
Special Meeting, July 18, 2007 – **Mr. Aberasturia voted Nay  
regarding renewal of Superintendent's contract**  
Motion carried. Abstain: Prescille Yamamoto

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

- correspondence from MCC re: invitation to Great Path Academy groundbreaking October 5<sup>th</sup> of Great Path Academy;

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
AUGUST 6, 2007**

- e-mail from Nancy Moriarty to Mindy D'Andrea to Superintendent re: additional slots available for Readiness Program. Superintendent will follow through with this information;
- correspondence from CABE inviting us to apply for a grant to hold a Conversation About Education in the community for the 2007-08 school year;
- Invitation from CABE re: CABE convention November 16-17, 2007 at the Mystic Marriott Hotel, Groton, CT; Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated this invitation has also been forwarded to both the Democratic and Republican parties;
- Note from Elvia Rodick thanking Board for the Recognition Dinner recently held at the Marco Polo Restaurant;
- Note from Betsy Millstein – offered constructive criticism - took issue with a Board member asking Board members why they voted a “yes” or “no” vote.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS** - None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Adam Talbot student – re: in favor of proposed dress code being rescinded;
2. Leo Forte, East Hartford resident – his children attend East Hartford schools – re: (1) was impressed with the students at the last meeting; (2) re: dress code – he would like the previous dress code enforced; (3) should be spending time on streamlining the budget;
3. Mary Alice Dwyer-Hughes – re: (1) Mastery Test scores – very disheartening; suggests Board contact other school districts to see what is being done in their schools; (2) re: Strategic Plan for 2006-07 – is it the same for 2007-08. If different – how. Suggests a public presentation be done; (3) re: District Improvement Plan – when will the next Plan be done. Suggests a public presentation be done; communication is key; (4) re: Administrative Council – suggests having a Board member on the Administrative Council; (5) re: Data Driven Performance – how soon after data is collected is it shared with teachers; (6) re: District Plan for 2006-08 – would like a public presentation on the way parents can become involved; (7) suggests a presentation be given on student resource centers; (8) re: Board's web site – links for course registration and links for community happenings are incorrect – should be checked out; (9) should ask every student to give some community service as part of graduation requirement; i.e., tutor other grades, etc.

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

**Update on Goodwin College Use of EHMS Parking Lot**

**(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)**

**(Todd Andrews, Director of Institutional Advancement)**

**(Mark Scheinberg, President, Goodwin College)**

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
AUGUST 6, 2007**

Mr. Scheinberg was present to discuss concerns raised by Board members at a previous meeting regarding their request to use a portion of the EHMS parking lot for one year. No action was taken at this time.

**Report on Technology Interface with Curriculum**

**(Guy Collins, Supervisor, Information Systems)**

**(Ken Sayers, Network Administrator)**

Mr. Collins gave a detailed informational report focusing on technology infrastructure, computer labs and equipment and staffing in the district.

Mr. Collins noted they are in the process of upgrading to a fiber connection between the Board office to the High School, Middle School and Sunset Ridge. He further noted there are approximately 1,800 computers throughout the district.

Regarding staffing, there are presently eight computer technicians, and one part time staff person. He noted the approval for additional staffing would be welcomed.

Mr. Aberasturia noted the Board should have a schedule for technology and acquiring textbooks in place. Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien agreed that a 5-year rotational plan is needed. The plan would allow us to be more equitable in the schools with technology.

Dr. Martinez stated the Board has discussed technology for elementary schools for the past two years. We could not do anything until the fiber connection was in place. We will need 350 computers for Kindergarten classes. Dr. Martinez also noted technology is the best way to provide remedial instruction to students.

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated technology is wonderful, but teachers are needed. Computers are not a substitute for teachers.

**Report on Implementation of e-School Plus**

**(Guy Collins, Supervisor, Information Systems)**

Mr. Collins presented a summary report of the status of the e-School/IEP Plus implementation. He noted all software has been installed. A training schedule has been put in place and training will begin in October. Ms. Lefkowitz noted the e-School/IEP Plus uses all the State required forms. It will help us to monitor more effectively.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports**

**Dr. Martinez:**

In response to many issues raised by Mary Alice Dwyer, Superintendent Martinez stated she attended a meeting with the Commissioner of Education and other Superintendents on July

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
AUGUST 6, 2007**

27<sup>th</sup> to discuss CMT results. Considerable progress has been made but we have not completed disaggregating scores. Dr. Martinez also stated we must sustain focus on our initiatives. We are 2 ½ years into this process. We will see results in due time.

Regarding data – every school has a school data team and grade level teams. E-School Plus will allow us to disaggregate more efficiently and thus spend more time on analyzing results.

**Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien**

Regarding East Hartford/Glastonbury Elementary Magnet School – we will learn of what progress has been made tomorrow evening.

**Special Committee Reports**

**Policy & Audit – Prescille Yamamoto** – meeting scheduled for 8/28/07, 5:00 P.M.;

**Curriculum - Cynthia Reik** - No meeting has been scheduled.

**Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr.** – No meeting has been scheduled.

**Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi** – meeting was held on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Next meeting scheduled for September 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 P.M.

**Future Planning – Karen Howe** – No meeting has been scheduled. Ms. Howe noted several elementary principals came to a meeting two weeks ago to discuss the dress code. It was made very clear that emphasis needs to be placed on enforcement of the dress code.

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated the students have been very instrumental in contributing to the success of the dress code. She would like the students to continue to give their input to the Board.

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To approve Seventeen (17) Resignations:

1. Melissa M. Smith, Teacher, effective 6/29/07;
2. Jennifer A. Garlinski, Teacher, effective 6/25/07;
3. Amy E. Zima, Teacher, effective 8/26/07;
4. Janice Caines, Custodian, effective 7/9/07;
5. Elizabeth Brinley, Para, effective 7/10/07;
6. Jan E. Broidis, Teacher, effective 8/24/07;
7. Lois Sherry, Teacher, effective 8/10/07;
8. Christopher J. Mientus, Teacher, effective 7/16/07;
9. Christine E. Person, Teacher, effective 7/13/07;
10. Wendy A. Hille, Teacher, effective 7/17/07;
11. Noel K. Devine, Teacher, effective 7/20/07;
12. Alexandria Lazzari, Teacher, effective 7/20/07;
13. Jacqueline Davis, Para, effective 7/16/07;
14. Diana C. Gascon, Teacher, effective 7/24/07;

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
AUGUST 6, 2007**

15. Geoffrey C. Sinatro, Teacher, effective 7/26/07;
  16. Kelly L. Villano, Teacher, effective 8/4/07;
  17. Shari A. Gill, Teacher, effective 7/31/07.
- Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Oladell stated the district will certainly miss not having Mr. Christopher Mientus in our district. He has proven to be an outstanding teacher. We wish him well.

Mr. Aberasturia was concerned with the number of resignations. He noted we should look at the issue of resignations. He would like to see a plan put together on how we are going to handle this issue. Dr. Martinez noted she has a meeting on Thursday with the Commissioner of Education to discuss our District Improvement Plan and initiatives. Dr. Martinez further noted, other districts are experiencing many of the same challenges.

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien noted that she has heard one teacher mention the lack of respect by students has also caused resignations.

**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Vote to Rescind the Dress Code approved on July 2, 2007 and Reinstate Policy 5132  
(Karen Howe, Chair, Future Planning Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To **rescind** action taken at the July 2, 2007  
Board Meeting regarding the dress code .  
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To add to this evening's agenda discussion of  
Policy 5132 under New Business, Item j.  
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

Mr. Damaschi asked what the consequences will be if students do not adhere to the present dress code. Ms. Yamamoto responded there are consequences listed in Regulation 5132, (a through c) on Page 3.

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1312 – Public Complaints  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To remove from table and approve Policy 1312 –

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
AUGUST 6, 2007**

Public Complaints

Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi, Ram Aberasturia

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 7115 – Developing Educational Specifications  
(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Karen Howe

To remove from table and approve Policy 7115 – Developing Educational Specifications

Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi, Dorese Roberts

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 7221 – Construction of Physical Facilities/Selection of Site**

**(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To **table** Policy 7221 – Construction of Physical Facilities/Selection of Site until next Regular Board Meeting.

Motion unanimously carried.

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 7230.2 – Indoor Air Quality**(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To remove from table and approve Policy 7230.2 – Indoor Air Quality

Motion unanimously carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approve the Young Parents Program Grant**

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

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve the Young Parents Program Grant

Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve Health Benefits for OT/PT**

**(Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel)**

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
AUGUST 6, 2007**

To approve health benefits for OT/PT working  
.5 FTE or more.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Discuss with Possible Action Intermittent Leave of Absence Request for Certified Staff  
Member to serve as CEA Secretary**

**(Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To approve intermittent leave of absence request for  
certified staff person to serve as CEA Secretary  
Motion unanimously carried, as amended.

**Amendment** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To approve intermittent leave of absence request  
With the understanding that Ms. Prevost will continue  
To service the East Hartford Board for two years.  
Amendment unanimously carried.

**Delete Policy 7113.1 – Closing of Buildings**  
**(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To delete Policy 7113.1 – Closing of Buildings  
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

**Table for First Read Policy 3451 – Petty Cash Funds**  
**(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To **table** for first read Policy 3451 – Petty Cash Funds  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve or Table for First Read Policy 5113 – Attendance and Excuses**  
**(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To **table** Policy 5113 – Attendance and Excuses  
Motion carried. Nay: Prescille Yamamoto

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
AUGUST 6, 2007**

**Approve or Table for First Read Policy 5131.81 – Electronic Devices – Use of Beepers and Cellular Telephones**

**(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To **approve** Policy 5131.81 – Electronic Devices –  
Use of Beepers and Cellular Telephones  
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

**Approve or Table for First Read Policy 6154 – Homework**

**(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To **table** Policy 6154 – Homework  
Motion carried. Nay: Prescille Yamamoto

**Approve or Table for First Read Policy 6172.4 – Title 1 Parent Involvement**

**(Prescille Yamamoto, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To **table** Policy 6172.4 – Title 1 Parent Involvement  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Student Dress Code Grades K-12**

**MOTION** By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To Refer Policy 5132 – Student Dress Code to the  
Policy & Audit Committee requesting they work  
with the Future Planning Committee, students and  
the community to do an in-depth study on a future  
dress code.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien asked those Board members that go to their particular schools to report back to the Board to share their thoughts on how well the former dress code is being enforced. We have a dress code and we must work together with parents and students to be sure it will be enforced.

It was noted once again that Superintendent Martinez met with principals and has directed all principals to ensure the dress code is being fully enforced.



**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
AUGUST 6, 2007**

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Early Childhood Programs** – Ms. Yamamoto noted she will be attending a Policy Committee meeting at Willowbrook School to discuss policy issues;

Dr. Martinez and Mr. Costa will be meeting with Nancy Moriarty at Willowbrook School on Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss parking issues at the school.

**Transportation** – Mr. Oladell noted all routes are in place for the beginning of the school year.

Mr. Aberasturia attended a conference on “National Program Addressing Civic Engagement which is curriculum based.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Adam Talbot – re: dress code – thanked the Board for actions taken this evening. He also noted the student body is looking forward to working with the Board on any future dress code issues.

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Prescille Yamamoto** – re: status on grantwriter. Dr. Martinez noted she has applications on her desk. She and Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove will be reviewing all applications received.

**Marcus Oladell, IV** – re: Fine Arts and Music Program – a great program was offered for the summer at a cost of \$20 for four weeks.

**Ram Aberasturia** – re: (1) would like to commend Cheryl Prevost for signing off on the agreement regarding her leave; (2) re: memo from Ms. Lefkowitz re: expulsion rate – his request was misinterpreted; (3) re: hope we can get computers – looking forward to a 5-year Plan; (4) re: suggests drafting a plan to retain teachers.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Five-Year Plan re: Computers
- Report on how technology is integrated into Curriculum

**MOTION**

By Prescille Yamamoto  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (10:20 P.M.) .  
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:  
Donna Fitzgerald