

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17, 2007**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, September 17, 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, Hank Pawlowski, Jr.,
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
Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources
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 Cynthia Reik

Introduction and Swearing in of Student Representatives to the Board of Education

Kelly Rivera

Arianna Larson

Chairperson Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien administered the oath of office to Kelly Rivera and Arianna Larson and wished them well as they serve as Student Representatives to the Board of Education.

Recognition of CAPT Scholars

Merrill Bajana, EHHS
Serra Borawski, EHHS
Molly Callahan, EHHS
Kelly Geoghegan, EHHS
Julia Harris, EHHS
Zachary Kessler, CIBA

Arianna Larson, EHHS
Rachel Ouellette, CIBA
Amanda Townsend, EHHS
Nicole Wallace, EHHS
Ashley Wisnieski, EHHS
Ping Yang, CIBA

Dr. Martinez congratulated CAPT scholars who had scored in the advanced range. Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien stated they are accomplished role models. Each recipient received a gift certificate and a letter from State Department of Education Commissioner Mark McQuillan.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To approve the following Minutes:

Special Meeting, September 4, 2007, as corrected:

Page 4 (1) 3rd para. From bottom: Ms. Roberts prefers to address Ms. Larson as **Miss** Larson. Both are correct;

(2) Re: CMT Results – Ms. Roberts would like it noted that there was less of an increase in CMT scores in Grades 5-8;

Page 9: re: 2nd & 3rd Motions: Mr. Aberasturia voted “Nay” because neither contract went out to bid.

Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Invitation to attend 21st annual senior picnic on Tuesday, 9/18 at 12:00. Sponsored by Commission on Aging.
- Invitation to tour Cabella's on 9/20;
- Invitation to the EH Student/Business Partnership's annual meeting to be held 9/19, 7:30 at UTRC;

Ms. Howe stated she will return phone calls to people who have called her – she had been away.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

- Dress Code policy is on the school website; teachers and staff are enforcing the dress code;
- ID's policy is on website; administrators are checking daily to make sure students are wearing ID's;
- First meeting of Student Council was September 12th; approximately 200 students were present;
- Back to School Night is September 20th, 6:30-9:00 P.M.;
- Back to School Dance is September 21st, 7:00-10:00 P.M.
- Several Student Council members had a meeting with Mr. Ryan asking what the Student Council could do to make improvements within the school;
- Board members are invited to shadow a student who is on the executive board;

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Mary Alice Dwyer-Hughes, 37 Greene Terrace – (1) congratulated the CAPT scholars; (2) It's great to hear 200 students showed up for the first Student Council meeting; (3) re: non-bargaining unit votes – there are five members – disappointed that the Board extended the contract - suggests that such an item be placed on a regular agenda for discussion; also asked that the executive vote be placed in regular session.
2. Anita Morrison, 47 Woodbridge Ave. – re: extension of contract – this involves the entire Town – would have liked to see it as a Public Hearing – thought it was rushed through.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Mr. Wethje noted we have filled many of our positions that were available. Mr. Wethje also noted there are many negotiations going on with several unions. Regarding the non-bargaining unit contract, we negotiated a zero percent increase for July 2008.

Mr. Damaschi suggested that Mr. Wethje discuss the turnover report. Mr. Wethje noted it is the norm that is expected to be seen in a school district. Mr. Aberasturia suggested that we have a meeting to discuss this report in an Executive Session. Chairperson Mayranen-O'Brien suggested we could possibly do this jointly with our self-evaluation meeting.

Report on Teacher Retention

(Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources)

As mentioned above, Mr. Wethje noted that we are comparable to other districts with our turnover percentage. Approximately 8.9% left the district between September 1, 2006 and August 24, 2007. Mr. Wethje contacted neighboring districts and we are in line with their percentages.

Principals' CMT Presentations

(Elaina Brachman, Principal, Norris)

(Linda Iverson, Principal, Pitkin)

(Helene Marchese, Principal, Woodland)

Each principal gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation of celebrations at their respective schools.

Elaina Brachman, Principal, Norris School

Ms. Brachman stated they did make safe harbor this year. In writing, Norris met the AYP. This was attributed to all the strategies used school-wide. It was noted that intervention has improved with the extended school day resources. Focus areas will continue to be on data driven decision making, professional development and differentiated instructional strategies.

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Linda Iverson, Principal, Pitkin

Dr. Iverson stated Pitkin's goal was to close the achievement gap. We used Doug Reeves approach. We increased proficiency in all grades. We are moving closer to closing the gap. We did achieve AYP in reading and writing.

Helene Marchese, Principal, Woodland

Ms. Marchese stated they have many celebrations – comparing 2006 to 2007 CMT results, we have scored above proficiency in all areas; i.e., math, reading and writing. Staff implemented Marzano's Effective Teaching Strategies. Our focus areas continue to be data driven decision making, implementing effective teaching strategies and to continue with implementation of effective teaching strategies.

Status of Dress Policy Implementation

(Pietro Cerone, Principal, EHMS)

(Spencer Clapp, Assistant Principal, EHMS)

(Ed Orszulak, Assistant Principal, EHMS)

(Amy Watson, Assistant Principal, EHMS)

(Matt Ryan, Principal, EHHS)

(David DeCarli, Assistant Principal, EHHS)

(Michelle Marion, Assistant Principal, EHHS)

(Beverly Blount-Lawrence, Assistant Principal, EHHS)

(Nathan Quesnel, Assistant Principal, EHHS)

East Hartford Middle School Principal Pietro Cerone and his assistant principals gave an updated presentation to the Board on the status of adherence to the dress code. There were 25 violations with the dress code since school opened. All were first-time offenders. They were all minor in nature. Our administrators are doing an excellent job of enforcing the existing dress code.

East Hartford High School Principal Matt Ryan and his assistant principals updated the Board on the status of adherence to the dress code. Mr. Ryan noted compliance with the dress code has been very orderly. We are monitoring the students' attire to be sure that all are in compliance with the dress code. Mr. Aberasturia noted he was impressed with hearing these results and praised Mr. Ryan for doing a phenomenal job. Mr. Damaschi asked why there is no security guard at the entrance to EHHS at 7:15 A.M. He also commented that he believes there are many more violations of the dress code than reported. Mr. Damaschi will meet with Mr. Ryan at EHHS to observe the dress code.

Enrollment Report

(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)

Dr. Martinez stated as of September 13th, we have an enrollment of 7,493 students. Based upon enrollment, teachers have been added to the following schools and grades:

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Mayberry – Grade 3
Norris – Kindergarten Full Day
O’Connell – Grade 4
Pitkin – Kindergarten Full Day

Dr. Martinez stated Sunset Ridge is ok at this point. Ms. Yamamoto asked for a breakdown of “no shows”.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Superintendent’s Reports

Dr. Martinez:

- Regarding grant writer position – we have two excellent candidates;
- CIBA received the “Got Milk” 2007 Healthiest Student Bodies Award”

Chairperson Mayranen-O’Brien

- Regarding Board members who are not returning – suggests Ms. Yamamoto and Ms. Reik go into the community as Board Members emeritus; hopefully, we will be able to initiate such an idea;

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit – Prescille Yamamoto – meeting scheduled for October 9th, 5:00 P.M.;

Curriculum - Cynthia Reik – Ms. Reik was absent; no meeting has been scheduled;

Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – met last week – discussed the Willowbrook School parking lot;

Finance & Audit – Robert Damaschi – meeting scheduled for October 5th, 5:00 P.M.

Future Planning – Karen Howe – meeting that was scheduled has been postponed. We are waiting for updates regarding Willowbrook parking situation, Magnet School news, Dress Code, information on the task force that has been initiated.

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To add to this evening’s agenda, Item i, under New Business, to approve negotiations concerning pending claims and litigation re: Clapp vs. Board of Education.

Motion unanimously carried.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve One Retirement:

1. David Wing, Head Custodian, effective 9/14/07

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To approve Six Resignations:

1. Clarinda M. Allen, Sped/Para, effective 8/29/07
2. Leron Gittens, Behavior Manager, effective 8/23/07
3. Daniel R. Moleti, Teacher, effective 8/16/07
4. Keyon K. Smith, Behavior Manager, effective 9/5/07
5. Patrick M. Fahey, Behavior Manager, effective 9/5/07
6. Shirami Barcelo, Tutor, effective 8/3/07

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

**Approve Substitute Nursing Services – Ready Nurse and Maxim
(Jody Lefkowitz, Director, Pupil Personnel)**

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve contracts for Maxim and Ready Nurse agencies

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To **table** approval of above Motion.
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Pawlowski stated he would like additional information as to why we did not consider the lowest bidder.

**Approve Contract Agreement with Luddy & Associates
(Jody Lefkowitz, Director, Pupil Personnel)**

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve contract with Luddy & Associates for an inclusion specialist per mediation agreement.
Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted this is the second year of the contract.

**Approve CREC Contract for Brokered School Psychologist Services
(Jody Lefkowitz, Director, Pupil Personnel)**

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

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To approve CREC contract for brokered school psychologist services.

Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

This service is needed due to employee out of FMLA. Mr. Aberasturia noted he voted “nay” because this should go out to bid. Chairperson Mayranen-O’Brien suggested going out to bid and having a substitute in place prior to needing one.

Approve the Renewal Request for Service Agreement with New Hope Manor to provide on-site counseling services at EHHS

(Brian Reynolds, EHHS)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To approve renewal request for service agreement with New Hope Manor to provide on-site counseling services at EHHS.

Motion unanimously carried.

Approve the Primary Mental Health Program Grant

(Andrea Einhorn, Principal, Silver Lane)

(Lisa Beauchamp, Principal, Hockanum)

(Lesley Morgan-Thompson, Supervisor, Elementary Instruction)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Prescille Yamamoto

To approve the Primary Mental Health Program grant for 2007-09.

Motion unanimously carried.

It was requested that the “checklist” used by the new family outreach program when welcoming families to a new school be provided to the Board.

Approve Federal Head Start Grant

(Lesley Morgan-Thompson, Supervisor, Elementary Instruction)

(Nancy Moriarty, Supervisor, Willowbrook)

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve the annual grant application for the Federal Head Start Grant.

Motion unanimously carried.

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Ms. Yamamoto stated Ms. Moriarty has done an outstanding job in putting the grant application together. She has worked very diligently to ensure all information was included in this complex grant.

Approve Roof Replacement Project at Stevens School

(Al Costa, Director, Facilities)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
That the Board accept the Stevens School Building
Project as complete.
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Costa noted this is a “close out” that is required by the State Department of Education. He further noted the ED049 F form has already been submitted to the State.

Approve Request for Task Force Coordinator

(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve joint funding with the Town for the Youth Task
Force Coordinator position.
Motion carried. Nay: Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Robert Damaschi

It was noted the Task Force involves a community commitment by all four agencies: The Board of Education, Town, Police Department and Youth Services. This person will be a Town employee and will be evaluated by all four agencies. The position will be posted.

MOTION By Prescille Yamamoto
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve negotiations concerning pending claims
and litigation regarding Clapp vs. Board of Education.
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia, Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Early Childhood Programs - Prescille Yamamoto attended the Willowbrook Policy Committee meeting. The school is pleased with having a security officer on site during drop off and pick up times to alleviate parking lot congestion.

CREC – Karen Howe – first meeting of CREC Council is Wednesday, September 19th, 11:30-2:00. Mr. Pawlowski will attend.

Child Plan – Superintendent Martinez and Ram Aberasturia attended a Child Plan fundraiser. Mr. Aberasturia thanked Scott Haney for his involvement.

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Transportation – **Marcus Oladell** gave an update on First Student. He noted drivers do get compensated for training then they leave to go elsewhere for more money; as a result, there is a shortage of drivers. **Mr. Aberasturia** warned the Board not to advocate for raises for someone who is presently on the Board. **Ms. Roberts** noted (1) children getting on the bus at Bidwell St./Burnside Ave. should be checked for residency; (2) Langford School child was on the wrong bus.

Prescille Yamamoto noted those that are receiving grant dollars for their programs are doing an outstanding job.

Marcus Oladell attended an EHHS football game with his daughter – there was a large turnout with lots of community involvement.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Mary Alice Dwyer-Hughes – re: thanks for allowing the principals to come before the Board. She believes the Board should have asked for the individual school’s “wish list” – what do they need. She encourages the Board to speak publicly about their needs.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Karen Howe – re: (1) transportation issue – there are no sidewalks on Ridgewood Road; should pick up students in front of their homes – this is a safety issue; (2) concerned about substitute nurses contract – the lowest bid is not always the best.

Ram Aberasturia – (1) thanked students for being here in the audience this evening; (2) re: volunteering @ CIBA – Mr. Aberasturia stated a former employee of 38 years would like to volunteer in the school district - who should they contact in order to volunteer; (2) Suggests the Board and the Union leadership get together to address personnel conflicts.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Budget issues – Mr. Mainuli noted the budget is due to the Town Council by January 5th. A schedule of budget meetings will be provided to Board members shortly.
- Addition of teachers

MOTION

By Prescille Yamamoto

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (10:15 P.M.) .

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald