

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 17, 2007**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, December 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 Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes.

**PRESENT** Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Secretary Ram Aberasturia, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Robert Damaschi, Anita Morrison, Dorese Roberts

**ALSO PRESENT** Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent of Schools  
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources  
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel  
Al Costa, Director of Facilities  
Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources  
Kelly Rivera, Student Representative  
Arianna Larson, Student Representative

**ABSENT** Karen Howe, Marcus Oladell, IV

**Amendments to Agenda:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Regular Meeting, December 3, 2007, as corrected:**  
**Page 6:** re: remarks by Dorese Roberts...Board of Education is taking too long to hire someone. **Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated the Board of Education has contributed its half – Town Council has not approved their half.**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, December 6, 2007 (5:10 P.M.)**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, December 6, 2007 (7:00 P.M.)**  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, December 10, 2007**  
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

- SBM Foundation is accepting scholarship applications for 2008-09; interested parties can call or e-mail SBM Foundation;
- State Farm teamed with the Governor's Prevention Partnership and donated \$5,000 to be used for student support programs;
- Thank you to the EHMS students for the Holiday Store;

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

**Arianna Larson, Kelly Rivera**

- Pep Rally was a successful event – Seniors won.
- December 19<sup>th</sup> – students will be caroling;
- Student Council will be selling seat cushions - \$6 or \$12 as a fundraiser;
- December 21<sup>st</sup> – Staff Appreciation Breakfast will be held.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

Mr. Wethje reported a guidance counselor for EHMS was hired as were support staff personnel.

**Report on Creative Youth at Wesleyan University**

**(Emil Kopcha, Supervisor, Fine & Performing Arts)**

**(Rachel Fredette, EHHS (absent))**

**(Elizabeth Betancourt, EHHS)**

Mr. Kopcha gave a report on the Creative Youth Program held in the summer at Wesleyan University. It is a 5-6 week program where students from across the country audition for acceptance into the arts and creative writing program. School Business Partnership gave two grants this year to enable students to attend the program. Mr. Kopcha introduced Elizabeth Betancourt, EHHS student, who attended the program in the area of music.

**Budget Workshop Review (2008-09)**

Mr. Mainuli explained the ECS dollars formula to the public and then proceeded with the various programs.

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**Head Start Program – Nancy Moriarty**

**Grant Amount: Head Start Enhancement: \$1,172,714.00 received from State Department of Education**

**Grant Amount: Head Start Expansion: \$151,906 received from State Department of Education**

Ms. Moriarty noted 180 children are presently enrolled in the Head Start program. It is a very comprehensive program. Not only are children served, but the entire family. It was noted that the State has increased early childhood funding. Congress has yet to pass the substantial dollars that will be allocated to the various Head Start and Readiness programs.

Regarding the Readiness Program, there are 48 children participating at this time. We are at capacity.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes asked if we get the dollars can we accommodate additional children. Ms. Moriarty stated we are at capacity at Willowbrook and do not have the room for additional children. Dr. Martinez stated we are looking at space across the district.

**\* reflects a current services budget for FY 2008-09**

**226 – External Placements - Proposed \$2,130,542.00**

Ms. Lefkowitz noted the total cost of out-of-district students are partially offset by \$1.1 million in revenue received from tuitions at Woodland School. One new Occupational Therapist position (1.0 FTE) is included in the proposed budget. The caseloads for the Occupational Therapists are exorbitant. It is difficult for them to provide direct services due to report writing and doing evaluations.

**227 – Home Instruction - \* - Proposed \$65,292.00**

We currently have 12 students involved in this program,

**230 - Special Education - \* - Proposed \$9,290,437.00**

Included in this budget is (1) new Special Education teacher position (1.0 FTE) for Goodwin and O'Connell schools; (2) \$180,000 for a Special Education Summer School Program (formerly funded through the IDEA grant; (3) new Behavior Manager position (1.0 FTE) for Synergy

**260 – ESL - \* - Proposed \$807,763.00**

ECS dollars include additional funding for (3) new ESL/ELL teachers, three tutors and instruction materials. We have 500 students that have been identified as ESL learners.

**270 – Idea/Gifted - \* - Proposed \$210,846.00**

It was noted that Gifted is about 4% of the population. We hope to get closer to 5%.

**313 – Social Work Services - \* - Proposed \$464,735.00**

ECS dollars include additional funding for a new Social Worker position (1.0 FTE) for Woodland/Synergy schools.

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**320 – Guidance - \* - Proposed \$1,163,909.00**

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated students have expressed they do not have time to visit counselors. We will have to investigate this concern. Mr. Aberasturia suggested we look at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Sunset Ridge to have guidance counseling. Mr. Damaschi asked for a list of where our guidance counselors are located and further suggested contacting other districts for ratios of counselor to students. Dr. Martinez stated the department head for guidance would need to be here to accurately answer the scheduling concerns.

**325 – Research & Testing - \* - Proposed \$56,496.00**

**330 – Health Services - \* - Proposed \$939,302.00**

There is a new nurse position included (1.0 FTE) in the proposed budget for EHHS. Mr. Damaschi requested numbers regarding where nurses are located and their caseloads, etc.

**340 – Psychological Services - \* - Proposed \$914,357.00**

A new psychologist position for Silver Lane is included in the proposed budget. Ms. Lefkowitz noted we did not get the Safe Schools grant. Mr. Aberasturia stated all our schools have psychologists. Dr. Martinez stated psychologists should have time to work with classroom teachers and conduct small group therapy sessions. They have many assessments to complete. Mr. Damaschi asked for a listing of how many assessments have been done to date.

**350 – Speech/Language/Hearing - \* - Proposed \$821,510.00**

Ms. Lefkowitz noted current caseloads are approximately 55 students. This is a mandated service. A new Speech and Language teacher is included in the proposed budget.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports**

**Superintendent Martinez:**

- Dr. Martinez noted the Langford Extravaganza was phenomenal;
- Superintendent thanked Mr. Aberasturia, Ms. Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien and Mr. Damaschi for attending the first educational foundation meeting.

**Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes**

- Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes wished everyone Happy Holidays;
- We need to set the budget and get it to the Mayor by January 4<sup>th</sup>. We will probably be having a special meeting the first week in January.

**Special Committee Reports**

**Curriculum Committee** – meeting was held this evening. The Board will receive information on what transpired.

**East Hartford/Glastonbury Magnet School Building Committee – Hank Pawlowski, Jr.**  
– meeting will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 P.M.

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

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To approve two **Resignations:**

1. Kelly Foster, Assistant Secretary, effective 12/21/07;
2. Joseph Sikora, Director of Security, effective 12/28/07

Motion unanimously carried.

**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**To Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Agganis Arena, Boston, MA**  
**(Chuck Nystrom, Robotics Team Leader, EHHS)**

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve request for overnight travel 3/27/08 – 3/29/08 to Boston, MA for 25 students from EHHS to compete in the FIRST Robotics Boston Regional.

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Nystrom stated this is the first year a chaperone list was requested by the Board. It was also noted by Ms. Morrison that the field trip request form was incomplete.

The cost of the trip will be approximately \$6,000, at no cost to the Board. Grants have been received, and a fundraiser will be held.

**To Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Georgia Dome, Atlanta, GA**  
**(Chuck Nystrom, Robotics Team Leader, EHHS)**

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve request for overnight travel 4/15/08 – 4/20/08 to Atlanta, GA for 25 students from EHHS to compete in the FIRST Robotics World Championships.

Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve the 2008-2009 Board Business Calendar**  
**(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)**

**MOTION**

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve the 2008-2009 Board Business Calendar

Motion unanimously carried as amended.

**Amendment**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To remove election of officers from the November 17, 2008 business calendar.

Amendment unanimously carried.

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**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Dorese Roberts** attended the O'Connell School Holiday Musical – she congratulated the students who made Inter-El.

**Ram Aberasturia** thanked the Superintendent for conducting the first meeting regarding the School Foundation.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Robert Damaschi** to the Superintendent: why aren't all schools consistent with having holiday events. Dr. Martinez stated she will check on this concern. She did note that schools do not celebrate Halloween; however, they might have Harvest or Fall events.

**Ram Aberasturia** – re: (1) requests an Executive Session to follow up on pending litigation; (2) have we heard anything regarding bus transportation – students are being picked up late. Mr. Mainuli stated he will get answers from the bus company. Dr. Martinez stated if parents or guardians have any concerns regarding transportation, please call the Superintendent.

**Dorese Roberts** – re: requests orientation regarding budget books/process. Mr. Aberasturia, Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee, stated he would like to plan on having a presentation next year regarding the budget process.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** - None

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:10 P.M.) .

Motion unanimously carried.