

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
JANUARY 5, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, January 5, 2009, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:13 P.M. by Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes.

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

**ALSO PRESENT** Debbie Kaprove, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources  
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel  
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services  
Al Costa, Director of Facilities  
Kimberly Barrington, Student Representative  
Rebecca Lacosse, Student Representative

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To place on this evening's agenda under New Business (g) to appoint the full Board as a Search Committee for Superintendent.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, December 15, 2008 (6:15 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, December 15, 2008 (6:32 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Regular Meeting, December 15, 2008, as corrected:  
Page 4 – under Principals' CMT Presentations – Mayberry School:  
**Ram Aberasturia asked if there was anything needed from the Board for the upcoming school year.**  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, December 16, 2008 (5:06 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, December 16, 2008 (6:10 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, December 16, 2008 (7:06 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

- As a reminder, EHHS seniors can apply for scholarships made available from the SBC Charitable Foundation, Inc., for the 2009-10 academic year. Applications are available at [www.sbmfoundation.org](http://www.sbmfoundation.org) or by calling (860) 533-1067;
- It was noted the Board and Town of East Hartford believe the new energy saving initiatives could pay off \$6 million over the next 12 years.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

**Kim Barrington and Rebecca Lacosse**

- Recently held a staff luncheon for the new staff members; donations were made from Dunkin' Donuts;
- Student Council will be selling seat cushions at the basketball program on Friday.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Jennifer Garcia, 79 Francis Street – (PTO member and para at EHMS) re: (1) uniforms and dress code: not in favor of uniforms for the elementary level students – suggests addressing specific issues with present dress code; i.e., pant sizes – not appropriate if they are below the hip; or shirts for girls – not appropriate if lower than collarbone; also suggested that parents should be called; (2) very pleased with the presentation given by Ms. Correa, Principal at Mayberry at the December 15, 2008 board meeting.

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

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**Report on Student Activity Center**

**(Brian Reynolds, East Hartford High School)**

Mr. Reynolds reviewed the Mission Statement of the Student Assistance Center (S.A.C.) and the offerings of S.A.C. He noted funding is provided by a State grant and is renewed every two years. Additional funding is provided by a Priority School District grant. The Board of Education provides supplies for activities included in the program. The creation of Career Beginnings Program is a consortium of colleges in the area that helps students apply to colleges. It offers workshops and mentoring. Referrals come from teachers, principals, administration and students. The State has purchased furniture for this program and Linda Chamberlain offers assistance. S.A.C. groups go to elementary schools to talk about drugs, alcohol and conflict resolution. Overall, approximately one thousand children are served each year. It was also noted that the Youth Task Force is involved in the program.

**CMT Presentation Sunset Ridge**

**(Dr. Pauline Fusco, Principal, Sunset Ridge)**

**(Linda Boyle, Assistant Principal)**

**(Eric Weingarten, Teacher, Sunset Ridge)**

Dr. Fusco presented the 2007-08 CMT results for Sunset Ridge 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. She noted increased percentages in growth in all areas. It was further noted that busing has been a plus for after school programs and assistance. Also, all folders are available from day one so teachers know what the needs of each child are. A Blue Ribbon grant allowed major technology provided to the school. Dr. Fusco stated all towns will be required to do math assessments using on-line testing in the future.

Mr. Aberasturia had concerns with what we do with children that have not met expectations on pacing guides. A report will be provided. He also asked what Dr. Fusco would like from the Board. Dr. Fusco stated she is concerned with cutbacks. She is in need of a media para, as the school has 500 students.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson/Interim Superintendent's Reports**

**Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove**

- A Martin Luther King Day Celebration will be held at Pitkin Elementary School at 9:30 A.M. on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Board members are invited;
- East Hartford High School will be featured on Channel 3 for "Cool Schools" program on January 16<sup>th</sup> ;

**Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes:**

- Superintendent's search will begin this weekend;
- The Board will keep everyone informed on the status of the budget.

**Special Committee Reports**

**Policy & Audit - Hank Pawlowski, Jr.** – meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup>;

**Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien** – meeting is scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup>

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**Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr.** – meeting is scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 P.M.  
**Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia** – meeting scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 P.M.  
**Future Planning – Karen Howe** – no meeting has been scheduled

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION**

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve one **Resignation:**  
1. Katie E. Tanguay, Title 1 Tutor, effective 12/10/08  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To approve seven **Retirements:**  
1. John J. Vestali, English Teacher, effective 6/30/09;  
2. Maryann Ciganik, Gr. 5 Teacher, effective 6/30/09;  
3. Deborah Hartney, Foreign Language Teacher, effective 6/30/09;  
4. Denis Robinson, Foreign Language Teacher, effective 6/30/09;  
5. Irene Krasij, Art Teacher, effective 6/30/09;  
6. Carol Enes, Gr. 2 Teacher, effective 6/30/09;  
7. Diane Piper, Gr. 1 Teacher, effective 6/30/09  
Motion unanimously carried.

**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**To Approve Request for Overnight Travel to New York, NY**  
**(Laura White, EHHS)**

**MOTION**

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve overnight travel to New York, NY, 3/26/09-3/28/09  
For 110 students of the Fine Arts Department, members of the band,  
choir and orchestra, to perform in a series of musical workshops and  
master classes.  
Motion carried.           **Nay:** Robert Damaschi

**To Approve Curriculum/Course Pilot Proposal – Critical Viewing – Foreign**  
**Films, EHHS**

**(Debbie Kaprove, Interim Superintendent)**

**MOTION**

By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve curriculum/course pilot proposal – Critical  
Viewing – Foreign Films, EHHS  
**Motion carried as amended.** **Aye:** Marcus Oladell, IV,  
Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien,  
Dorese Roberts, Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

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**Nay:** Ram Aberasturia, Anita Morrison, Karen Howe, Robert Damaschi

**Motion carried, as amended.**

**Amendment**

By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To approve curriculum/course pilot proposal – Critical Viewing - Foreign Films, EHHS, **pending availability of funding.**  
**Amendment unanimously carried.**

**To Approve Curriculum/Course Pilot Proposal – Spanish for Native Speakers, EHHS**  
**(Debbie Kaprove, Interim Superintendent)**

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve curriculum/course pilot proposal – Spanish for Native Speakers, EHHS, pending availability of funding.  
Motion **defeated.** **Aye:** Marcus Oladell, IV, Dorese Roberts, Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien  
**Nay:** Anita Morrison, Robert Damaschi, Karen Howe, Ram Aberasturia, Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

**To Approve Curriculum/Course Pilot Proposal – Exploratory Spanish and French for 9<sup>th</sup> Graders**  
**(Debbie Kaprove, Interim Superintendent)**

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve curriculum/course pilot proposal – Exploratory Spanish And French for 9<sup>th</sup> Graders, pending availability of funding.  
Motion **defeated.** **Aye:** Hank Pawlowski, Jr. Marcus Oladell, IV, Dorese Roberts, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

**Nay:** Ram Aberasturia, Anita Morrison, Karen Howe, Robert Damaschi, Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

**To Approve Curriculum/Course Pilot Proposal – Band for Beginners**  
**(Debbie Kaprove, Interim Superintendent)**

**MOTION** By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve curriculum/course pilot proposal – Band for Beginners, pending availability of funding.  
Motion carried. **Nay:** Ram Aberasturia, Robert Damaschi

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**To Approve Authorized Signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs**

**(Paul Mainuli, Director, Business Services)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.  
To approve authorized signers of the ED-099 Agreement for  
Child Nutrition Programs  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Approval to Appoint full Board as Search Committee for Superintendent**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To designate the Board of Education as a search committee  
for a new Superintendent.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS** - None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien** – re: Interim Superintendent – asked that the entire Board be given a copy of letter praising the efforts of the present Interim Superintendent.

**Dorese Roberts** – re: (1) status of uniforms – Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated Future Planning should be having a meeting to answer questions; (2) all presenters should have been here to answer questions on new course offerings.

**Ram Aberasturia** – re: pacing guides – are we giving teachers more autonomy. Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove stated she will provide a report on this subject.

**Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes** – to Paul Mainuli – asked if staff positions might be able to be funded through a grant. Mr. Mainuli stated Finance & Audit is meeting on Wednesday and will discuss what we need to do between now and the remainder of the fiscal year. We will look at all accounts.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** - None

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To recess to Executive Session (9:00 P.M.)  
for discussion with possible action on pending claims  
and litigation.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald  
The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:25 P.M.

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**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To approve the full and final stipulation to Anna Urrutia for her  
workers' compensation claims.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 9:27 P.M.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:  
Ram Aberasturia