

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 2, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, February 2, 2009, 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, Robert Damaschi, Dorese Roberts, Karen Howe, Marcus Oladell, IV, 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

**ABSENT** Anita Morrison

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
Under New Business (a) add to this evening's agenda appointment of Superintendent.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, January 13, 2009  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, January 14, 2009 (5:15 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, January 14, 2009 (6:28 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, January 14, 2009 (7:12 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, January 14, 2009 (7:28 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, January 20, 2009 (6:02 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Regular Meeting, January 20, 2009  
Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

- The following seven EHHS students had their artwork recognized at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Scholastic Art Awards competition at the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford: Julia Sisson, Ishaira Nieto Rosas, Cory June Vigants, Sierra Collazo, Leslie Nguyen, Austin Pouliot and Tasha Willingham.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

**(Kimberly Barrington and Rebecca Lacosse)**

- Students are beginning third quarter classes;
- Report cards will be sent home to parents next week;
- 2/6 – PRIDE Night at EHHS – students will enjoy food and a dance party to celebrate positive things that students accomplish at EHHS;
- Winter Sports are in full swing;
- CAPT testing has begun;
- During CAPT week, all upper classmen will be able to attend seminars geared toward careers and colleges;
- Re: attendance – students are doing a much better job attending school and making academics a priority.
- 3/20-3/21 - Student Council States Conference – at Wesleyan;

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- 2/24 – 7-9 P.M. at EHHS – 8<sup>th</sup> grade orientation;
- 2/11 – Student Council Executive Board hosting a luncheon for select students in appreciation for what they do for our school.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes noted there was a suggestion to have report cards walked home with students and asked the Student Representatives their thoughts on this idea. They stated it is probably a good idea to have report cards mailed for Freshmen and Sophomores but believes upperclassmen should have their report cards to take home.

Mr. Oladell asked if the Student Representatives had any thoughts on recycling. They stated there are recycling receptacles in each classroom. Mr. Oladell asked if we still have a student shadowing program. It was noted we do have this program.

Mr. Damaschi asked how long recycling has been going on – it was noted it has been ongoing for a long period of time.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Ginny Lynch, head of Paraprofessionals – re: (1) recycling – are teachers recycling catalogs and other materials; (2) re: 2/23 meeting with Mayor and Board Chair – we were assured it was the last resort to have any layoffs. Union leaders asked for a meeting to go over the budget. We were asked what we could do other than face layoffs. Several ideas were suggested; i.e., recycling, electricity. There was no promise of any contingencies – where is the togetherness.
2. Peter Dombrowski, Security Guard - regarding questions posed to the Board at the last budget meeting by the PTO president – we expected answers. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes read the questions and answers to those questions;
3. Rebecca Lacosse, Student Representative to the Board – re: Security Guards – they are very important and needed – requested that the position requested be reinstated.

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

**Report on Second Quarter Analysis**  
**(Paul Mainuli, Director, Business Services)**

Mr. Mainuli reiterated the budget is frozen except for health and safety issues, should they arise. He reviewed the second quarter report and made reference to the following:

- There could be a fund balance at year end from anticipated revenue from Woodland School, Medicaid and Other Nexus billing;
- Re: Staff Retirement Account – 17 teachers will be retiring by year end;
- Re: Kelly Services – we are within our budget of \$745,000; Mr. Damaschi asked who is monitoring the Substitute teachers from Kelly. Mr. Wethje noted we have a mechanism in place for administrators to use. If there are any problems with substitutes, it should be brought to the attention of Mr. Wethje;
- Re: We have savings in the fuel oil account;

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- We have saved \$80,000 from the No-load program from CL&P;
- We have received \$90,000 from the State for energy assistance;
- Re: Out of District Tuition account – we have expenditures of \$2.9 million and expected revenue of \$3.2 million.

**Discussion of Board Goals**

**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Board Chair)**

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes reviewed the following Board Goals:

1. The East Hartford Board of Education shall continue to be respectful at board meetings;
2. The East Hartford Board of Education shall support initiatives towards improving climate in the schools by appropriate use of data;
3. The East Hartford Board of Education shall continue to seek resources to provide quality after-school programs;
4. The East Hartford Board of Education shall strive to engage parents and guardians as part of the education process;
5. The East Hartford Board of Education shall recognize the importance of helping every child become a participating member of the school community by providing learning opportunities beyond the basic skills.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes suggested another meeting be scheduled to review the above-stated goals or to revise/add to them.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson/Interim Superintendent's Reports**

**Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove**

- February 12th - Hockanum School will present a President's Day program.
- EHHS has received a Health Department Award – congratulations to Sodexo.

**Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes:**

- If we receive the Safe Schools grant, we may be able to have two part-time attendance assistants;
- We will have a solution soon to returning the Security Guard presently at Willowbrook School back to EHHS;
- Regarding the budget, Mrs. Lynch is correct – we do not know what we will be receiving from the State or Federal government; however, we have to have our budget to the Mayor – the Mayor needs it by February 23<sup>rd</sup>, per Charter.

**Special Committee Reports**

**Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes** – no meeting has been scheduled;

**Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien** - meeting scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 P.M.

**Facilities – Robert Damaschi** – no meeting has been scheduled;

**Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia** - meeting scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 P.M.

**Future Planning – Karen Howe** – no meeting has been scheduled.

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**PERSONNEL** - None

**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4118.22 – Code of Ethics**

**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Board Chair)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To remove from table and approve Policy 4118.22 –  
Code of Ethics  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4131.6 – Professional Administrative Dues**

**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Board Chair)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To **table** Policy 4131.6 – Professional Administrative Dues  
Motion unanimously carried.

Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove will provide a listing of membership costs for each organization.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 6162.51 – Surveys of Students (Student Privacy)**

**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Board Chair)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To **table** Policy 6162.51 – Surveys of Students (Student Privacy)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 6200 – Adult and Continuing Education**

**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Board Chair)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To remove from table and approve Policy 6200 – Adult and  
Continuing Education  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 7112 – Enrollment Projections**

**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Board Chair)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To remove from table and approve Policy 7112 – Enrollment

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Projections  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9121 - Chairperson  
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Board Chair)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To remove from table and approve Bylaw 9121 – Chairperson  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9123 – Secretary to the Board  
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Board Chair)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To remove from table and approve Bylaw 9123  
Motion unanimously carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Appointment of Superintendent**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To appoint Mark Zito as the Superintendent of the  
East Hartford Public Schools  
Motion carried. Nay: Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

**Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT  
(Paul Apostalon, EHHS)**

**MOTION** By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve request of EHHS and CIBA students for overnight travel  
to Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, March 20-21, 2009.  
Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted there is zero cost to the district.

**Approve Final Reconciliation and Acceptance of State Project #043-0223MAG,  
Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy (CIBA) Building Construction, State  
Form EDO49F**

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

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To approve Final Reconciliation and Acceptance of State Project  
#043-0223MAG, CIBA Building Construction, State Form EDO49F

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Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve Final Reconciliation and Acceptance of State Project #043-0225A, East Hartford High Courtyard Expansion and Renovations, State Form ED049F**

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

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve Final Reconciliation and Acceptance of State Project #043-0225A, East Hartford High Courtyard Expansion and Renovations, State Form ED049F

Motion unanimously carried.

**Approve Final Reconciliation and Acceptance of State Project #043-0232, East Hartford High Exterior Window Walls, State Form ED049F**

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

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve Final Reconciliation and Acceptance of State Project #043-0232, East Hartford High Exterior Walls, State Form ED049F

Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve School Improvement Plans**

**(Debbie Kaprove, Interim Superintendent)**

**MOTION**

By Karen Howe

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve School Improvement Plans

Motion unanimously carried.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes commended all involved administrators for a thorough report on the School Improvement Plans. It was noted the School Improvement Plans will be continuously monitored . A survey will be sent out to parents and results will be sent to the Board and community at large.

**To Table for First Read Bylaw 9120 – Officers**

**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit)**

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To **table** for first read Bylaw 9120 – Officers

Motion unanimously carried.

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**To Table for First Read Bylaw 9311 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment, Deletion of Policies**

**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To **table** for first read Bylaw 9311 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment, Deletion of Policies, as amended: Page 1, last Paragraph – delete ...again for a first **or second** read...  
Motion unanimously carried, as amended.

**To Table for First Read Bylaw 9312 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Bylaws**

**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To table for first read Bylaw 9312 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Bylaws  
Motion unanimously carried.

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS** - None

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

**Ram Aberasturia** – requested status report on Student Information System;

**Karen Howe** – requested update on Youth Task Force Coordinator – Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated there is a meeting scheduled for next week at the Mayor’s office. Mr. Aberasturia asked what are we doing regarding collaborating with the Town regarding family services. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated this will be addressed when the meeting with the Mayor takes place next week regarding the Youth Task Force Coordinator.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:25 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.