

**SPECIAL MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 11, 2009**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at the Board of Education Administrative Offices, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

**PRESENT** Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Dorese Roberts,  
Robert Damaschi, Anita Morrison, Karen Howe,  
Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien , Marcus Oladell, IV

**ALSO PRESENT** Debbie Kaprove, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources  
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel  
Al Costa, Director of Facilities  
Joanne Zatarain, CPA, Business Services  
Donna Tyrrell, Manager/Accounting, Business Services

**ABSENT** Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services  
Ram Aberasturia (out of State - away on business)

**SPECIAL MEETING FOR BUDGETARY PURPOSES**

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated we are still short by \$1.2 million. We are hoping revenues will amount to this, as well as carry over funds; hoping also for ECS funding, if the legislature approves.

A review of each cut was discussed which included year end balances, Kelly Services, the Benchmark program, lease payment for technology, the reduction of bus expenses due to a reduction of buses, elimination of Saturday detention, postage, and the salary for the superintendent. In addition, a number of items proposed by the administrator's and teacher's unions were reviewed and discussed as an overall effect on the budget reductions.

A list was prepared from information received by building administrators as well as Central Office administration proposing elimination of many positions, if necessary, amounting to \$1.2 million. Commentary follows on several of these proposals:

- Eleven elementary teachers (after 4 retirements);
- One English position (after two retirements);
- Two math positions (after one retirement)
- Three science positions;
- Two point six (2.6) social studies positions;
- Cuts in Art (.6 after two retirements), Music (three) and PE (zero after three retirements) – Mr. Wethje stated he is not sure where cuts would come from;

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- One full time Literacy Teacher
- One full time elementary Assistant Principal;
- One full time foreign language position (after 2 retirements) – would have to hire one teacher;
- IT positions - .5 FTE CIBA Tech and one FTE Help Desk – both are currently vacant;
- One full time secretary Instructional Services – Central Office;
- One full time Assistant Secretary – Supt./HR – Central Office;
- One full time Dept. Head Secretary - EHHS
- .5 Secretary – Guidance;
- One full time assistant secretary, Nurses Office/SSR Shared Position- Sunset Ridge;
- One full time security guard – currently vacant;
- From Facilities - eliminate six – FTE Custodial positions; one FTE Electrician, one FTE Plumber and one FTE Warehouse Operator; Mr. Costa noted we may have to close some buildings at night, or overlap custodial shifts.
- EGEMS HC II – it was noted CREC could do this for less;
- One FTE Behavior Manager – currently vacant – Woodland;
- Three FTE Sped Paras;
- Coordinator School Business Partnership (.6 position);
- Grant Writer Position – **this will be left in budget.**

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes requested a list of (1) all after school programs; (2) list of sports and clubs – how many students are in these programs.

Ms. Mayranen-O'Brien distributed a letter received from a concerned taxpayer regarding suggested cuts to Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove. She will respond.

Regarding closing of some schools during evening hours, Ms. Howe suggested working with the Town and Parks & Recreation Program regarding shared services. Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove stated we presently open our building for Town agencies and Parks & Recreation. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated consideration could be given to have residents use the Administration Building 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room for meetings, etc. Ms. Howe suggested that the Cultural Center could be used for activities/meetings.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes suggested the EHMS pool could be closed in the evening.

Discussion took place regarding the role of literacy coordinators as well as the language arts coordinator. Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove explained the roles of these positions.

A question was asked if there is anything in the district that could be contracted out that is not contracted out already and what would the savings be.

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Mr. Oladell asked what is being done at the State and Federal levels to address the teachers' morale at this time. Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove stated State and Federal people have been supporting education and they go to Washington and meet with legislators. Many teachers all over are losing positions.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes asked that a letter be sent to the Presidents of five unions (other unions are in negotiations) asking for a freeze on step increases since we are short \$1.2 million. This would be just to freeze step increases for one year. COLA would still remain. Mr. Wethje will call the Unions tomorrow to begin the process.

The following Budget meetings have been scheduled:

Wednesday, February 18, 5:30 P.M., Administration Building

Tuesday, February 24, 5:30 P.M., Administration Building

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To adjourn the Special Meeting ( 7:35 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald