

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
MARCH 2, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, March 2, 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, Karen Howe, Anita Morrison, Marcus Oladell, IV, Bryan Hall

**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

**ABSENT** Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To add to this evening's agenda under B. 1. Personnel, item b. an additional resignation and under 3. New Business, remove item j. Non Renewal of Non Tenured Teacher Due to Performance  
Motion unanimously carried.

**DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF  
INDIVIDUAL TO FILL VACANT BOARD OF EDUCATION POSITION**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To place in nomination the name of Bryan Hall  
to fill the vacancy on the East Hartford Board of Education.  
Motion unanimously carried.

East Hartford Town Clerk, Sharon Miller, administered the oath of office to Mr. Hall.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

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- MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, January 27, 2009 (5:12 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, January 27, 2009 (6:10 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, January 29, 2009, as corrected:  
Page 2 – under discussion ...and other **NCLB**  
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Anita Morrison  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 2, 2009 (6:00 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 2, 2009 (7:00 P.M.), as corrected:  
Page 4: under Special Committee Reports: Policy & Audit –  
**Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes**  
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 3, 2009 (5:14 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 3, 2009 (6:32 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 3, 2009 (7:25 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Anita Morrison  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 3, 2009 (8:11 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 10, 2009  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Anita Morrison  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 11, 2009  
Motion carried. Abstain: Ram Aberasturia

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 18, 2009  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 24, 2009, as corrected:  
Page 3: 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph: ...budget cuts – ...**delete** “**this**” will...  
Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

- Berkeley College President Dario Cortez announced that Cassandra Flores of East Hartford High School was selected to receive the Merit Scholarship award for academic accomplishments to attend Berkeley College;
- CIBA was named a Magnet School of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America. This is the second time CIBA has received this award.

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- Mr. Aberasturia noted there are several organizations and programs that are offering scholarships to high school seniors. Many have deadlines for applying. If interested, contact your guidance counselor at EHHS.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

**(Kimberly Barrington)**

- CAPT testing begins this week for Sophomores;
- March 6 – Juniors and Seniors will be attending seminars on life after high school;
- March 6 – College Fair is being held;
- March 20-21 – 25 Student Council students will be attending the C.A.S.C. State Conference at Wesleyan University; students will be attending leadership workshops;
- Cabaret was held last Saturday evening. The performance was outstanding;

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

**Pacing Guides**

**(Dr. Lesley Morgan-Thompson, Supervisor, Elementary Instruction)**

Dr. Morgan-Thompson gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on pacing guides. She gave a thorough explanation of what pacing guides are and the benefits of using them in the classroom. She noted the Connecticut Curriculum Development Guide encourages and expects districts to address pacing in curriculum documents.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes requested a breakdown of elementary schools – what subjects are they learning – what is a typical day – is there consistency in all schools.

**Update on Youth Task Force**

**(Marc Bassos, Youth Services Coordinator)**

**(Cephus Nolan, Youth Services Director)**

**(Dr. Vivian Carlson, St. Joseph's College)**

Mr. Bassos has been the Youth Services Coordinator for eight months. He has been developing working relationships with schools and administration, the police department and DCF. He has also spent time in Parks & Recreation collecting data.

Dr. Carlson is compiling information to see how well we are meeting the needs of children compared to the national norms. Her work with the Task Force is pro bono.

Mr. Aberasturia stated it is urgent for Mr. Bassos to get to know the families. Ms. Morrison stated time is of the essence. Mr. Hall suggested Mr. Bassos involve the police in programs that will interact with the youth; i.e., sporting events, such as basketball.

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Mr. Bassos referred to a survey that was sent out. Board members asked that a copy of the survey be made available to the Board.

**Status of Student Information System**

**(Guy Collins, Supervisor, Information Technology)**

**(Aron Fagan, Information Technology)**

Mr. Collins gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the Student Information System. Training for eSchoolPlus was first implemented in October 2007. 410 hours of onsite training will have been provided by the end of 2009. The implementation of eSchoolPlus has been a phenomenal program. IT Department should be commended for working so diligently to have all in place in a timely manner.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson/Interim Superintendent's Reports**

**Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove**

- March 5<sup>th</sup> – NEA/CEA will be sponsoring a “Read Across America” Program at O’Brien School from 9:30-10:30; representatives will read to students and the Cat-a-Van will bring the Cat in the Hat; each student, K-2 will receive a copy of the *Cat in the Hat* book.

**Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes:**

- Attended Cabaret Saturday evening. Thank you to Emil Kopcha and all involved for a wonderful performance;
- Welcome to our newest Board Member Bryan Hall;
- Regarding stimulus package – there was a presentation at the State Capitol. It was noted dollars will be used to not supplant programs.

**Special Committee Reports**

**Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes** – meeting scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>;

**Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O’Brien** - meeting scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>;

**Facilities – Robert Damaschi** – no meeting scheduled at this time;

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

**Future Planning – Karen Howe** –.no meeting scheduled at this time.

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve one **Retirement**  
1. Jane Mount, Instructional Para, effective 2/13/09;  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve five **Resignations**

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1. Sally Benoit, LPN, effective 6/30/09;
  2. Michael Litke, Principal, effective 3/20/09;
  3. Laurie Gypson, Science Teacher, effective 6/30/09;
  4. Jody Lefkowitz, Director, Pupil Personnel, effective 6/30/09;
  5. Jennifer West, Teacher, effective 6/30/09;
- Motion unanimously carried.

**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**To Table for First Read Policy 6162.51 – Surveys of Students (Student Privacy)  
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Karen Howe  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To table for first read Policy 6162.51 – Surveys of Students  
(Student Privacy)  
Motion unanimously carried.

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

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

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To table for first read Policy 9311 – Formulation, Adoption,  
Amendment, Deletion of Policies  
Motion unanimously carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**To Approve 2009-2010 School Calendar**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To **table** approval of the 2009-2010 School Calendar  
Motion unanimously carried.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes questioned if the proposed calendar were approved and concessions were agreed upon with unions, would the calendar have to be revised. Mr. Wethje stated it would be. Also, Mr. Hall noted there are no Jewish holidays scheduled on the calendar. Mr. Wethje stated a person is allowed to take time off to celebrate a religious holiday. The President's Day designation was erroneously omitted from the February calendar.

**To Approve Change in Status of Art Studio/Portfolio Class to Become AP Art Studio/Portfolio Class**

**(Emil Kopcha, Department Head, Fine Arts)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

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To approve change in status of Art Studio/Portfolio Class to become AP Art Studio/Portfolio Class  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve Change in Status of Music Theory Class to Become AP Music Theory Class  
(Emil Kopcha, Department Head, Fine Arts)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve change in status of Music Theory Class to become AP Music Theory Class  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Hartford, CT  
(Emil Kopcha, Department Head, Fine Arts)**

**MOTION** By Anita Morrison  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To approve request for overnight travel to Hartford, CT for rehearsals for the All State Music Festival on April 2-4, 2009  
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Kopcha thanked the Board for its support of this program. He also mentioned the Inter-El Festival will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.

**To Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Woodstock, CT  
(Dr. Pauline Fusco, Principal, Sunset Ridge School)**

**MOTION** By Anita Morrison  
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia  
To **table** approval of the request for overnight travel to Woodstock, CT on April 27-May 1, 2009 for students to attend the Discovery Center Program at Camp Woodstock.  
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

Dr. Fusco will be asked to attend the next Board meeting to be available for any questions regarding this request.

**To Approve Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank  
(Christopher Wethje, Director, Human Resources)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve certified staff member's use of employee sick bank  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**To Approve Three Year Contract for First Student for the Student Transportation Contract**

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

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Bryan Hall  
To approve three year contract for First Student for student transportation contract  
Motion carried. Abstain: Marcus Oladell, IV

**To Approve Three Year Contract for ACCESS Transportation for the Out of Town Student Transportation Contract**

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

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve three year contract for ACCESS Transportation for the Out of Town student transportation contract  
Motion carried. Abstain: Marcus Oladell, IV

**To Approve Non Renewal of Non Tenured Teachers Due to Loss of Position**

**(Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve non renewal of non tenured teachers due to loss of position to another teacher, as presented in memo dated March 2, 2009.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 4131.6 – Professional Administrative Dues**

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

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To table for First Read Policy 4131.6 – Professional Administrative Dues  
Motion unanimously carried.

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS** - None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes** – re: if people would like to volunteer – who should they contact. Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove stated they can call her or go on our Web site.

**Ram Aberasturia** – re: who will be responsible for the Youth Task Force evaluation.

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**Karen Howe** – re: the dress code – asked Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes to place this item on a Policy & Audit Committee agenda.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** - None

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:50 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald