

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
MARCH 16, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, March 16, 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, Anita Morrison, Marcus Oladell, IV, Bryan Hall, 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** - None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 25, 2009 (5:01 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 25, 2009 (6:00 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 25, 2009 (7:02 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, February 25, 2009 ( 8:09 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Regular Meeting, March 2, 2009  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, March 5, 2009 (5:05 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting, March 5, 2009 (6:06 P.M.)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

- 3/19 – Grade 6 Invention Convention, sponsored by School/Business Partnership and United Technologies Research Center – 9:00-11:00 A.M.;
- 3/25 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Inter-Elementary Honors Music and Arts Festival at EHMS, 7:00 P.M.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

**(Kimberly Barrington)**

**(Rebecca Lacosse)**

- EHHS Cheerleaders took first place for the fourth consecutive year;
- EHHS Band was quoted as being the best high school band in the St. Patrick's Day parade;
- Jazzapella – received Gold in the day show and came in third place in the night show;
- \$1,000 was raised for saving Darfur fundraiser
- Progress reports went out on Friday;
- State Conference for Student Council is this Friday and Saturday;
- CAPT Week for upper classmen – seminars were held – there was 100% participation;
- March 30<sup>th</sup> is McDonald's Night fundraiser;

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**BOARD OF EDUCATION APPRECIATION**

**(Lisa Beauchamp, Principal, Hockanum Elementary School,  
Coordinator of Recognition)**

**(Building Principals)**

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Ms. Beauchamp thanked the Board of Education for their support throughout the year. She introduced principals from each school, with respective students, to read a poem or letter to their Board representative. Each school provided Board members with “thank you” “goodies”.

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson/Interim Superintendent’s Reports**

**Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove**

- Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove thanked the Board for all they do for students, faculty members and the community at large;
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – Invention Convention will be held at Sunset Ridge School 9:00-11:00 A.M.;
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 P.M. – at Sunset Ridge – a presentation will be given on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade program for parents;
- Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove will be attending a meeting with all Superintendents and the State Department of Education regarding the economic revenues and stimulus plan;
- Parents – progress reports have been sent home.

**Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes**

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes noted the Mayor gave the Board of Education a \$79 million budget – the Town Council removed an additional \$2 million and placed it in a contingency fund leaving \$77 million. We are now asking the town’s people to accept a small tax increase to help offset this loss to the Board of Education. We will be meeting again in mid-April. Everything is uncertain at this time for the Board of Education. We will keep you updated.

**Special Committee Reports**

**Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes** – meeting scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 P.M., Board office;

**Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O’Brien** - meeting was held earlier this evening;

**Facilities – Robert Damaschi** –meeting scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 P.M., Board office;

**Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia** - meeting scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 5:30 P.M. at Board office;

**Future Planning – Karen Howe** –.meeting scheduled jointly with Policy & Audit on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 P.M., Board office.

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve three **Resignations:**

1. Lizette Grinaski, Registered Nurse, effective 3/31/09;

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2. Peter Genga, Custodian I, effective 3/20/09;
  3. Jeff Fournier, Principal, effective 6/30/09
- Motion unanimously carried.

**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**To Remove from Table and Approve 2009-2010 School Calendar  
(Dan Brodeur, Principal, Goodwin Elementary))**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To remove from table and approve 2009-2010 School  
Calendar  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Woodstock, CT  
(Bob Papetti, Sunset Ridge)**

**(Linda Boyle, Assistant Principal, Sunset Ridge)**  
**MOTION** By Marcus Oladell, IV  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To remove from table and approve request for overnight travel to  
Woodstock, CT to attend the Discovery Center Program.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Morrison requested additional information on the program's curriculum.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9120 - Officers  
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To remove from table and approve Bylaw 9120 - Officers  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9312 – Formulation, Adoption,  
Amendment of Bylaws**

**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**  
**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To remove from table and approve Bylaw 9312 – Formulation  
Adoption, Amendment of Bylaws  
Motion unanimously carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**To Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Winsted, CT  
(David Bocchichio, Synergy)**

**(John Karzar, Principal, Synergy)**  
**MOTION** By Marcus Oladell, IV

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Seconded by Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien  
To approve request for overnight travel to Winsted, CT for  
Synergy students to attend a leadership retreat.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Kent, CT**

**(Tyler Hoxley, EHHS)**

**MOTION**

By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve request for overnight travel to Kent, CT for 15 EHHS  
students, members of the Outdoor Club, to travel to High Bank Youth  
Group Camping Area.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Oladell suggested having students come before the Board and give a presentation on  
their overnight camping trip.

**To Approve Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teachers**

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

**MOTION**

By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Bryan Hall  
To approve non-renewal of non-tenured teachers, as presented in  
memorandum dated 3/16/09.  
Motion carried. Nay: Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes noted this is required by State law and also is due to  
budgetary reasons. Both the Chairperson and Ram Aberasturia suggested that the public talk  
to their legislators regarding the state of the economy and how it affects our schools and  
children.

**To Approve Non-Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank**

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

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve non-certified staff member's use of employee  
sick bank.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Karen Howe – CREC is meeting on Wednesday at 11:30 in Hartford.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**

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**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ram Aberasturia** – re: (1) thank you to Mayberry, EHHS and EHEA for the gifts this evening; (2) issue regarding an elementary child waiting for DCF to pick up child – Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove will look into issues involving this situation; (3) requested an update on the Task Force evaluation;

**Marcus Oladell, IV** – re: congratulated the Varsity Basketball Team, coach and entertainers;  
**Anita Morrison** – attended O’Brien PTO– discussed CMT testing and activities for after school programs – against closing schools at night.

**Bryan Hall** – re: (1) visited O’Brien School – attended Cat in the Hat program; (2) re: fiscal – we will work together as a team and ask the public to also work together with us. Urged public to reach out to local legislators.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

- Social Workers – how are we making services known to everyone;
- Guidance Department – how many students are going on to college;

**MOTION**

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:45 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald