

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
APRIL 6, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, April 6, 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, 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
Kimberly Barrington, Student Representative
Rebecca Lacosse, Student Representative

ABSENT Bryan Hall – away on business

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes recognized and welcomed members of the Child Plan Committee - Parents Support Excellent Education Week.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, March 16, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, March 16, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes, as corrected:
Special Meeting, March 26, 2009 (5:07 P.M.)
Page 2 – should be **abstain** not obtained
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, March 26, 2009 (7:03 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- April 28 – Student Art Show, 6-8:00 P.M. or 4/29, 4/30, 5/1 and 5/2 at the Cultural Center;
- March 19 – Invention Convention Winners were announced. All first place winners will compete in the Connecticut Invention Convention at Gampel Pavilion on May 2nd. Second place winners will attend if the first place winner is not available to attend.
- Karen Howe thanked all who helped with the Summer Youth Festival.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

(Kimberly Barrington)

(Rebecca Lacosse)

- Beginning of fourth quarter;
- Report cards will be mailed on April 14;
- April 4th – annual Bunny Breakfast, hosted by the Student Council and Parks & Recreation Department, was held;
- April 29th – Senior Citizens Prom will be held – theme will be “Las Vegas”;
- May 1 – Jr. Prom will be held at Maneely’s;
- Winter Sports Night was held for athletes and their families;
- April 8th – EHHS hosts the annual Student / Faculty Game;
- First meeting of the National Honor Society was held today and the parent meeting will be held this evening

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Larry Dower, Ikon – re: copier bid - he noted the Town uses Ikon copiers; Ikon is also a State of CT contractor;
2. Karen O’Connell, President, EHEA – re: copier bid - requests Board not to approve bid this evening – stated the Board is not following bidding procedures.
3. Paul Rolla, CBS – present copier vendor – re: spoke of differences in vendors products - noted the district has saved money by being able to print their handbooks in-house; cost of .89 cents/page would remain in place.
4. Dan Price, A&A – re: copier bid – noted they look forward to working with the East Hartford Public Schools.

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5. Brenda (from Norris) Marge (from Goodwin) parents at two separate schools – re: non-renewal letters to teachers – class sizes will increase by cutting teachers; due to increase in class size, it will take time away from teachers being able to teach and be able to focus on children. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes explained to the parents the budget process and the non-renewal notice that is sent out by State law. She further stated we need the \$2 million back from the Town Council;
6. Jen Rosea – para and parent of child in school district – re: budget issues and school district’s improvement plan – (1)noted we came up with suggestions to the Board at the recent union meeting – talked about waste in paper, electricity, etc. Suggested using e-mail instead of making copies; (2) proposed closing of elementary schools at 6:00 P.M. would be taking away from custodians cleaning properly; also, many Parks & Recs activities are held at the schools in the evenings; (3) re:EHMS “looping” and getting rid of unified arts – parents should be involved in any changes that are being made – changes the climate by not notifying parents.
7. Steve Velarde, CBS – asked for clarification of the term of the copier contract -- Mr. Mainuli confirmed it is 48 months.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Review of 2008-09 Budget/Third Quarter Analysis

Paul Mainuli, Director, Business Services

Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel

Mr. Mainuli stated we still have a \$950,000 shortfall. We may be able to pick up an additional \$2 million from the Town that we received in contingency. If this happens, we may not have to cut our proposed budget.

Mr. Mainuli also noted the following:

- Certified Staff – may have savings of \$700,000;
- Other Payroll accounts – non-certified - may have savings;
- Legal Services – presently working on a settlement in Pupil Services resulting in an increase of \$100,000 in this account;
- We will cash out retirees by June 30th – savings of approximately \$600,000 in insurance/social security/Medicaid accounts;
- Repairs & Maintenance – slightly up in this account;
- Postage Savings – began bulk mailing pricing recently – we will be saving \$8,000 this current year;
- Utilities – re: CNG – we have a one-year agreement for \$2.38/gal. We have locked in pricing for fuel oil at \$1.65/gal. for next year. We continue to receive dollars from CL&P -- \$80,000 this year;
- Regarding Pupil Services – our revenue collections are holding – we expect \$2.5 million from Woodland School;

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- We are responsible to provide services to the homeless (The Homeless Act was explained by Ms. Lefkowitz) – transportation costs of \$65,000 have been paid this year to date.
- Ms. Lefkowitz noted for any State agency placed student, we can apply to the State for Excess Costs Grant reimbursement – approximately 75%-80%. **However**, those dollars are reimbursed to the Town.

Mr. Mainuli noted we will continue to update our payroll and purchase orders and keep everyone informed. The budget picture is not good. However, between Woodland School and the Stimulus Package, we may be able to close the gap.

Discussion regarding Federal Stimulus Package for 2009-10

Paul Mainuli, Director, Business Services

Mr. Mainuli noted Connecticut will receive \$3 billion in stimulus dollars. East Hartford will receive \$5.9 million that will be used to flat-fund ECS. All funds must be expended by June 2011.

Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove stated we were hoping ECS dollars would be flat funded and the other dollars would be additional. This is not the case. ECS funds will come out of federal funding.

Regarding Title I funding, we expect to receive \$1.7 million over a two-year period, of which 85% must be spent in the first year. We may be able to put funds toward new programs. We must first get in writing from the State that we can do this.

Regarding IDEA Part B funding, we expect over \$2 million that must be used for excess cost for special education and related services.

Mr. Mainuli stated we are working closely with the State to get everything in writing and get approvals before using funds. If funds are not being used in accordance with guidelines, we may be responsible to return the dollars. The government may come in at any time to make sure funds are being accounted for. Also, we must show on a quarterly basis student improvement is taking place, as well as dollars are being properly used.

Mr. Mainuli noted the Business Services Department is going to add another level of accounting to track dollars separately.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Interim Superintendent's Reports

Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove

- Letter received from Hartford Symphony Orchestra re: Goodwin School – they performed on March 20th and commended the students and staff on their behavior and thoughtful questions. Kudos to Emil Kopcha who continues to bring programs such as this into our district;

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- Thanks to Mr. Kopcha, we have received an award from the Connecticut Humanities Council "Picturing America". We will receive 40 reproductions of American art to be used in classrooms;
- Thanks to Principal Cerone at Norris School who provided pictures of Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove wearing a Cat in the Hat hat while reading to kindergarten students on "Reading Across America" day;
- Junior Achievement will bring Pratt & Whitney volunteers to Hockanum School, April 9th 10-2:30 P.M. to teach a day long program at each grade level;
- Reminder: Quest Brunch will be held on Sunday April 19th – responses are due tomorrow.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- Tomorrow is the Town Council meeting – Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated she will ask the Town Council for our \$2 million back. We are now seeing progress in the school district – we do not want to go backwards.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – meeting scheduled for April 15th, 6:00 P.M.

Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien - meeting scheduled for April 20th;

Facilities – Robert Damaschi –meeting scheduled for April 13th, 5:30 P.M.

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - special meeting scheduled for April 14th, 5:30 P.M. and regular Finance & Audit meeting on May 6th, 5:30 P.M.

Future Planning – Karen Howe - no meeting scheduled

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve four **Resignations:**

1. Kathryn Patla, Science Teacher, effective 6/30/09
2. Stefanie Dubose, Sped/Para, effective 4/17/09
3. Sharon Wakefield, Sped/Para, effective 3/17/09
4. Carmen Birdsong, Sped/Para, effective 3/24/09

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4131.6 – Professional Administrative Dues (Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To remove from table and approve Policy 4131.6 – Professional Administrative Dues

Motion unanimously carried.

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

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

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To remove from table and approve Policy 6162.51 - Surveys of Students (Student Privacy)
Motion unanimously carried

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 9311 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment, Deletion of Policies

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

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To remove from table and approve Policy 9311 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment, Deletion of Policies
Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

To Approve 2009 Graduation Dates:

CIBA – June 17, 2009

Synergy – June 18, 2009

EHHS – June 19, 2009

(Debbie A. Kaprove, Interim Superintendent)

MOTION By Karen Howe
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the following 2009 graduation dates:
CIBA – June 17, 2009
Synergy – June 18, 2009
EHHS – June 20, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve Site for EHHS 2009 Graduation

(Nate Quesnel, Vice Principal, EHHS)

(Michelle Marion, Vice Principal, EHHS)

(Yesinia Hernandez)

(Liz Saunders)

(Darlene Bryant)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve site for EHHS 2009 Graduation to be held at First Cathedral Church, Bloomfield, CT on Saturday, June 20, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

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To Approve Copier Bid

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To send the copier bid back to Finance & Audit Committee
Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve Food Service Bid

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve food service bid and award to Sodexo.
Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve Certified Staff Member's Use of Sick Bank

(Christopher Wethje, Director, Human Resources)

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

To Approve Capital Improvement Plan – FY 2009-10

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve Capital Improvement Plan – FY 2009-10
Motion unanimously carried.

To Table for First Read Policy 5131.911 – Bullying

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

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To **table** for first read Policy 5131.911 – Bullying
Motion unanimously carried.

To Table for First Read Policy 6141.323 – Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering

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

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To **table** for first read Policy 6141.323 – Internet Acceptable
Use: Filtering
Motion unanimously carried.

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REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Dorese Roberts – (1) attended Inter-El Program; (2) attended Sunset Ridge “Idol” program; (3) attended O’Connell 2nd annual Storyteller program – the Benchmark program is working well; (4) Silver Lane School – was not happy with greeting she received at Silver Lane School; fire drill was not done well.

Marcus Oladell, IV – Attended Inter-El Program – it was phenomenal.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ram Aberasturia – re: graduation on June 20th – hopes all teachers will attend graduation.

Dorese Roberts – re: (1) status of uniforms; (2) copier bid – Ram stated meeting will be held on April 14th to address this.

Marcus Oladell, IV (1) to Mr. Mainuli – re: BusRadio – Mr. Mainuli noted this is a program that was discussed at the last Finance & Audit Committee meeting. It is of no cost to the school district. Revenue comes from advertising. We are waiting to hear back from First Student if they are interested in pursuing this program; (2) applauds the Human Rights Club; (3) would like update on unified arts re: funding.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – to Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove – asked for clarification of what parent stated was “elimination” of unified arts and looping.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- April 16th - Sunset Ridge is having a program on unified arts.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:50 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.