

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
APRIL 20, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, April 20, 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  
Al Costa, Director of Facilities  
Kimberly Barrington, Student Representative  
Rebecca Lacosse, Student Representative

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Robert Damaschi  
To amend this evening's agenda to include the following under Consent Calendar: e, f, g, j, k, l, m, o, p and q  
Motion unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Karen Howe  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, March 31, 2009**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Anita Morrison  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, March 31, 2009**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, March 31, 2009**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Anita Morrison  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, March 31, 2009**  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**MOTION** By Anita Morrison  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, April 2, 2009**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Anita Morrison  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Special Meeting, April 2, 2009**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Regular Meeting, April 6, 2009**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

At this time, Ram Aberasturia asked for a moment of silence for Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes' mother, Mrs. Dwyer, who passed away recently.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

**(Kimberly Barrington)**

**(Rebecca Lacosse)**

- 4/20-4/24 -Spring Vacation;
- 4/29 – Senior Citizens Prom – theme is “A Night in Vegas”; the Board has been invited to attend;
- 5/1 – Junior Prom – theme is “A Night in the Orient”

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Jennifer Garcia – re: (1) EHMS changes that will be taking place in the next school year – very disappointed in changes, and PTO is not happy either, especially with discontinuing looping and unified arts program; (2) re: student agendas – believes purchasing agendas would be a waste of dollars – parents should be held accountable; (3) re: installation of two air conditioning units at EHMS – where did the dollars come from.
2. Leslie Webber, PTO President, Mayberry School – re: (1) teachers that received notices of non-renewal – hope we can find dollars to keep them; Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated it is not pleasant to lose any teacher; we are not done with budget yet. (2) re: building closings at elementary schools at 6:30 P.M. – this will be a hardship. Please reconsider.

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson/Interim Superintendent's Reports**

**Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove**

- Happy to see Student Representatives here this evening;
- Reminder – Art show is opening at the Cultural Center 4/28 6-8:00 P.M. The show will be open 4/29-5/1 from 9-4 P.M. and Saturday, 5/2 12-4:00 P.M. Our students are doing wonderful things;
- Re: Synergy Students – article Climbing for Success – students are mentoring at EHMS and helped with the ROPES Program. Thank you to all the students for their involvement;
- Re: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Grant – we hope to secure another grant;
- EHHS Ballroom Dance Team competition – dollars are covered by the Dance Group;
- Mock Trial competition is coming up for students;
- Thank you to the board for the opportunity to work with you – this is my last official Board meeting during which I will be sitting at the table as Interim Superintendent.

**Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes**

- Thanked Debbie Kaprove for her assistance to the Board as Interim Superintendent. She further stated she has been a valuable mentor for the Chairperson. She was glad to have her sit with the Board. She stated she also looks forward to working with the new Superintendent.

**Special Committee Reports**

**Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes** – meeting scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>;

**Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien** - met earlier; Adult Education graduation scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 P.M.

**Facilities – Robert Damaschi** –meeting scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.

**Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia** - meeting scheduled for May 6, 2009, 5:30 P.M.

**Future Planning – Karen Howe** – no meeting scheduled

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve one **Retirement:**  
Roger L. Absher, Custodian I, effective 5/1/2009  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION**

By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To approve two **Resignations:**  
1. Angela J. Berry, Behavior Manager, effective 4/17/09;  
2. June Tavano, Para/Sped, effective 6/30/09  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve the following to table for first read on consent calendar:

**To Table for First Read Policy 4000.1 – Title IX;**

**To Table for First Read Policy 4118.6/4218.6 – Cellular Telephones/District Used  
Communication Devices;**

**To Table for First Read Policy 4118.11/4218.11 –Non-Discrimination;**

**To Table for First Read Policy 4140.2/4240.2 – Compensation and Related Benefits for  
Non-Bargaining Unit Employees (excluding Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent,  
Certified Public Accountant, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Human  
Resources Manager, Executive Secretary to the Director of Human Resources,  
Purchasing Agent, and Directors);**

**To Table for First Read Policy 4151.9/4241.9 – Military Leave 4152.4/4252.4;**

**To Table for First Read Policy 4217.41 – Just Cause;**

**To Table for First Read Policy 6111 – School Calendar;**

**To Table for First Read Policy 6161.2 – Damaged or Lost Educational Materials;**

**To Table for First Read Policy 6162.6 – Use of Copying Devices;**

**To Table for First Read Policy 7551 – Naming Facilities**

Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve School Readiness Grant**

(Nancy Moriarty, Supervisor)

(Lisa Beauchamp, Principal, Hockanum)

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve renewal of School Readiness Grant for Willowbrook  
and Hockanum Schools.

Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve State Head Start Grant**

(Nancy Moriarty, Supervisor)

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Karen Howe

To approve renewal grant application for State Head Start funding

Motion unanimously carried.

**To Approve Student Planning/Agenda Books**

(Debbie Kaprove, Interim Superintendent)

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve Student Planning/Agenda books

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**Amendment** By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To approve Student Planning/Agenda books  
for grades 3-6 and award to School Data Books  
Motion carried as amended. **Nay:** Robert Damaschi

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

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

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To approve request for three non-certified staff members' use of  
employee sick bank  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 4132 – Publication and Creation of Materials**  
**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To **table** for first read 4132 – Publication and Creation of  
Materials  
Motion carried. **Nay:** Robert Damaschi

**To Table for First Read Policy 4138/4238 – Non-School Employment**  
**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To **table** for first read 4138/4238 – Non School Employment  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 6114.6 – Emergency Closings**  
**(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Karen Howe  
To **table** for first read Policy 6114.6 – Emergency Closings

**Amendment** By Robert Damaschi  
Seconded by Anita Morrison  
To send this Policy back to Policy & Audit for language changes.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Dorese Roberts** – visited Sunset Ridge School on April 16<sup>th</sup> for the unified arts presentation (Ms. Roberts won raffle!)

**Karen Howe** – (1) attended the Willowbrook Policy Committee – this is a very effective committee for parents. Kudos to Nancy Moriarty and staff for all they do. Regarding space at Willowbrook, we are maxed out. (2) **CREC** – attended meeting – stimulus packages were

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discussed. It was stated we must be able to prove that we can meet requirements. We are presently behind in being able to meet budget.

**Marcus Oladell, IV.** – (1) visited Hockanum School and observed the fifth grade Junior Achievement Program; (2) re: would be in favor of changes not at the expense of students losing unified arts;

**Anita Morrison** – shadowed students, security and secretaries at EHHS – visited the lunch room – it was a terrific day.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Jennifer Garcia – re: student agendas – suggests having parents sign the agendas for homework assignments.

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ram Aberasturia** – (1) changes at EHMS – looping; (2) thanked parents for coming to the Board meeting this evening;

**Karen Howe** - commented she also has concerns re: looping – hopes we can come to a conclusion quickly.

**Robert Damaschi** – re: status of dress. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated at the last Policy & Audit Committee and Future Planning Committee it was decided to come back to Policy & Audit and not consider uniform dress code – Board has no dollars to help parents pay for uniforms. We must enforce present dress code at EHHS and EHMS. This will come back to Policy & Audit Committee for suggestions on strengthening enforcement of existing dress code.

**Dorese Roberts** – (1) regarding dress code uniform issue – doesn't understand why parents cannot afford the dollars – can the School/Business Partnership help – Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated the School/Business Partnership has been cut from the budget. (2) re: looping – you have to deal with change and different types of people.

**Ram Aberasturia** – re: uniforms – we must focus on how we can save dollars – this is wasted energy at this time.

**Marcus Oladell, IV** – re: looping – are we being forced by NCLB. Debbie Kaprove stated we are required to make some structural changes – there are reasons why we are investigating this. No recommendations or specific changes are being made at this time. It is an on-going process – it has gone through many different changes and examples.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

**Ram Aberasturia** – re: advertising on billboards at ballgames – we could garner extra dollars.

**Marcus Oladell, IV** – requests report on expulsions –this year vs. last year.

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Karen Howe

To recess to Executive Session (8:10 P.M.)

to discuss with possible action regarding Interim Superintendent's Contract

Motion unanimously carried.

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Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 8:17 P.M.

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To amend the Interim Superintendent's contract extending the duration  
through May 1, 2009.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Ram Aberasturia  
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV  
To adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 8:18 P.M.  
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:  
Christopher Wethje