

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
MAY 18, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, May 18, 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 Mark Zito, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Joanne Zatarain, CPA, Business Services
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 Bryan Hall
To add to this evening's agenda (1) under Old and Unfinished Business, Consent Calendar for **Items b through d** and **f through m** and (2) under New Business **Item h ...for discussion** and approval...
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Karen Howe
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Joint Meeting of the Town Council and Board of Education, April 23, 2009 (7:12 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Morrison stated she was disappointed in the recording of the Minutes of this meeting as there was discussion that was eliminated in the Minutes.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, April 30, 2009 (5:08 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, May 4, 2009, as corrected:
Page 3: 2nd paragraph: ...copy of The Cat in a **Hat** book.;
Page 5: under Questions/Concerns by Board Members under
Ram Aberasturia – Item No. 2 were **comments made by
Anita Morrison.**
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

- June 5th – Senior Prom will be held Theme is “Diamonds are Forever”;
- May 27th – Senior Picnic at High Meadows;
- June 20th – Graduation – First Cathedral Church in Bloomfield – 1:00-3:00 P.M.
Seniors are to be there at 11:30. Each student will receive four tickets;
- June 3rd – 7:00 P.M. National Honor Society Inductions will be held at the Cultural Center – 2009-10 officers will be announced;
- May 6th – Spring Instrumental Concert was held at EHHS;
- June 4th – Second Annual MS Walk will be held, hosted by EHHS;
- May 28th – Choral groups will be hosting the Pops Concert – *Mamma Mia* will be part of the program;
- *23 days remaining ‘til summer vacation!*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Dan Price – A&A Office Systems - thanked the Board for their time and effort put into consideration for a vendor for copiers. He stated the process has been flawed and asks that the Motion be reconsidered.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Update on CIB Magnet School Award

(Art Arpin, Principal, CIBA)

Mr. Arpin noted CIBA has been selected for a Magnet Schools of America Merit Award as a Magnet School of Excellence. An awards luncheon was held on April 28th. CIBA was one of 53 named eligible for another level of award – it was named the top secondary Magnet School in the country.

Report on Continuation of Program Improvement Project (PIP) Grant FY 2009-10

(Pat Perrone, Coordinator, Adult Education)

Ms. Perrone noted East Hartford was awarded a PIP grant of \$85,000 for FY 2009-10. The continuation of this grant of a second year allows the program to include a third high school

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completion program – the National External Diploma Program (NEDP) and to offer Transitions to College and Careers program for Credit Diploma, GED and ESL students.

**Update on National Robotics Championship Trip to Atlanta
(Chuck Nystrom, Robotics Team Leader, EHHS)**

Mr. Nystrom reported the Robotics Team made it to the semi-finals. CPTV notified him the team has been selected to be one of four teams to be on our own CTSN (Connecticut High School Sports Network) Channel 185, which will air several times in the future. Also, the Connecticut Science Center will have a display of the robotics. Hopefully, we are moving on to being self-funded. We have had a very successful year. Mr. Oladell asked if the Robotics Team was featured on the Cool Schools Friday. Mr. Nystrom stated it was decided by the channel not to feature East Hartford.

**Update on Fenn Team at EHMS
(Dr. Edward Orszulak, Assistant Principal, EHMS)
(Marcia Huddy, Supervisor, Secondary Education)**

The goal of the Fenn Team Pilot Program at EHMS is a transition from the Success Program. The goal of the program is to provide teachers with strategies and implementation of those strategies to help children to re-integrate into a general education setting.

Mr. Oladell asked if there was enough staff to move forward. Ms. Huddy stated we will need professional development. In the new schedule, two days have been allotted for mentoring. It is hoped that this will help in raising scores in achievement levels. Flexible grouping will allow students to get what they need. Mr. Oladell further asked is looping will continue. Mr. Huddy stated looping cannot continue for next year. Superintendent Zito stated Debbie Kaprove and Marcia Huddy have put much time into this. The schedule is driven to raise literacy; there is no reason in year two that we could go back to looping.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Interim Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent Mark Zito

- Congratulations to Dr. Leslie-Morgan Thompson on her new appointment as principal of O'Brien School;
- May 7 – Career Day was held – thank you to Penny Brice, School Business Partnership, for coordinating the event;
- Attended EHHS concert – The Superintendent complimented Emil Kopcha and the students for an outstanding performance;
- Last week was Staff Appreciation Week. The Superintendent visited many schools as well as the Facilities Department; he saw many talented staff and students;
- May 11th – met with EHMS staff – held a Focus Group;
- May 14th – attended Spring Concert at Sunset Ridge School – excellent performance
- Mr. Brian Reynolds, EHHS, was recognized for his involvement and coordination for the Handicapped bowling that won an award. An awards ceremony will be held at the State Capital on June 11th, 9:30 A.M.

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Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- Also offered congratulations to Dr. Leslie-Morgan Thompson and her new appointment as principal of O'Brien School.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – meeting scheduled for May 20th, 6:00 P.M.;

Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien - no meeting scheduled;

Facilities – Robert Damaschi –meeting scheduled for May 19th, 5:30 P.M.;

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - meeting scheduled for June 3rd, 5:30 P.M.

Future Planning – Karen Howe – no meeting scheduled.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve two **Resignations:**

James C. Hart, Jr., Social Studies teacher, effective 6/19/09;

Edwin Soto, Security, effective 5/15/09;

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

To Remove from Table and Approve Copier Bid

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

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To remove from table and approve four-year agreement

for the copier bid and award to Connecticut Business

Systems of Newington (CBS).

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Karen Howe

**To remove from table and approve the following policies
from the Consent Calendar:**

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4000.1 – Title IX

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4118.6/4218.6 – Cellular
Telephones/District Used Communication Devices**

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4118.11/4218.11 – Non-discrimination

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4138/4238 – Non-School Employment
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

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To Remove from Table and Approve 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 Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4151.9/4241.9 – Military Leave 4152.4/4252.4

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4217.41 – Just Cause

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 6111 – School Calendar

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 6161.2 – Damaged or Lost Educational Materials

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 6162.6 – Use of Copying Devices

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 7551 – Naming Facilities

Motion unanimously carried.

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4132 – Publication and Creation of Materials

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

MOTION

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To remove from table and approve Policy 4132 – Publication and Creation of Materials

Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia

Mr. Aberasturia stated we have creative teachers and staff, and denial of this policy would minimize their creativity.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to First Congregational Church in East Hartford

(Robert Spiller, Guidance, CIBA)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve request for overnight travel to First Congregational Church in East Hartford

Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Morrison suggested to Mr. Spiller that he may want to look into the CERT program for next year.

To Approve Increase in School Meal Prices for Sodexo – School Food Services
(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve price increase of \$.25 for breakfast and lunch programs at the elementary, middle and high schools. Sunset Ridge will increase by \$.50 for the lunch program.
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Mainuli stated the increases are necessary to allow the food service program to be self-funded.

To Approve Healthy Food Certification
(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve the State of CT healthy food compliance for FY 2009-10 under section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes.
Motion unanimously carried.

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

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve certified staff members' use of employee sick bank
Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve Bid #1629-09 Fire Sprinkler Inspections and Services
(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Karen Howe
To approve Bid #1629-09 Fire Sprinkler Inspections and Services and award to Hartford Sprinkler Co.
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Costa noted this service contract is in accordance with "NFPA 13A, Recommended Practice for Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Sprinkler Systems.

To Approve Bid #1630-09 Integrated Pest Management Service - EHPS
(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Bryan Hall
To approve Bid #1630-09 Integrated Pest Management Service – EHPS and award to Richland Pest Control, Hartford, CT in the amount of \$8,000/yr.
Motion unanimously carried.

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To Approve Bid #1631-09 Treated Mop Service

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

MOTION By Karen Howe
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve Bid #1631-09 Treated Mop Service
and award to the lowest bidder, G&K Services in the amount of
\$7,437/yr. beginning July 2009.
Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve Drainage Swale on Langford School for Colby Drive Development

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

MOTION By
Seconded by
To **deny** approval of proposed drainage swale on Langford School
property for Colby Drive Development.
Motion unanimously carried.

To Table for First Read Policy 4152.6/4252.6 Personal Leaves

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

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To **table** Policy #4152.6/4252.6 – Personal Leaves
for first read.
Motion unanimously carried.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Ram Aberasturia– (1) commended the elementary school students on their Art Show;
(2) congratulated EHHS students for their singing performance;
Dorese Roberts – congratulated elementary students on their Art Show.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Jen Garcia – re: school lunch price increases – are children on free & reduced lunches subject to the price increases. Mr. Mainuli stated the increase do not affect children on free & reduced lunches.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ram Aberasturia – (1) has organized a trip for 25-30 students to go to the CT State Department of Labor; (2) re: concern of a parent who spoke at previous Board meeting re: condition of softball field – have we responded. The Superintendent sent a letter to the parent;

Karen Howe – (1) May 20th – Ms. Howe and Superintendent Zito will attend the CREC annual meeting; (2) May 4th the Governance Committee of CREC met; (3) Summer Youth Festival will host auditions at Sunset Ridge on the following dates: 5/26, 5/28, 5/29 and 6/1 and 6/5;

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Dorese Roberts – attended Spring Concert at Sunset Ridge School – students received a standing ovation – it was wonderful;

Marcus Oladell, IV – attended Spring Concert at Hockanum School;

Anita Morrison – re: budget update – Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated we are applying for stimulus funds. We will be meeting toward the end of the month.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS – None

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:02 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald