

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
JUNE 15, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, June 1, 2009, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes.

PRESENT Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Secretary Ram Aberasturia, Robert Damaschi, Dorese Roberts, Anita Morrison, Marcus Oladell, IV, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Karen Howe and Bryan Hall arrived at 7:50 P.M. (attended another Meeting).

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
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel
Al Costa, Director of Facilities

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated this evening we will be honoring retirees as well as staff members with at least 25 years or more of service.

Recognition of East Hartford Public School Retirees and Staff with 25 Years of Service

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Board Chair)

(Mark Zito, Superintendent)

The Board recognized the following individuals and presented them with gift cards:

| | <u>Retirees</u> | <u>25 Years or More of Service</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---|
| Roger Absher | Richard Larson | Francis Agnew |
| Shelley Beadle | Chester Lemiri | Denise Beaulieu |
| Maryann Ciganik | Gregory Morrell | Judith Dellaripa |
| Robert Clark | Jane Mount | Deborah Journalist |
| Agueda Delgado-Aranda | Joseph Pappalardo | Virginia Lynch |
| Carol Enes | Cindy Pentsak | Jean Ross |
| Bonnie Farnham | Diane Piper | Gail Rurka |
| Richard Felmer | Denis Robinson | Perry Santese |
| Pauline Fusco | Ida Jean Royer | Judith Silvers |
| Sandra Goodrich | William Tardif | Barbara Van de Car |
| Deborah Hartney | June Tavano | |
| Thomas Hartney | John Vestali | |
| Rhea Klein | Carla Yustinich | |
| Irene Krasij | Gail Zoppa | |

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Flag Day Ceremonies, Presentation of American Flag Essay Contest Winners

(Peg Burns, Chairman, Patriotic Commission)

(Pat Begley, Vice-Chairman, Patriotic Commission)

(Monica Giglio, Department Head, English)

The following essay contest winners were presented with a flag and a small token of appreciation from the Patriotic Commission. They also received a proclamation from Mayor Melody Currey, presented by Town Council Chairman Rich Kehoe. Each essay was read and will be sent to the East Hartford Gazette:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Delaney Hirth | East Hartford Middle School | |
| Rose Callahan | Sunset Ridge | |
| Zaria DeBerry | Goodwin School | Grade 5 |
| Christopher Gordon | Langford School | Grade 5 |
| Jasmine Curry | Hockanum School | Grade 5 |

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Rebecca LaCosse and Kimberly Barrington

No report this evening – representatives not present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To add to this evening’s agenda Consent Calendar under New Business for items f, g, i, j, k, l – to table for first read
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Marcus Oladell
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, June 1, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, June 1, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, June 2, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

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- MOTION** By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, June 2, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, June 4, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, June 4, 2009, as corrected:
Page 2: comma needed after name of Robert Damaschi
(per Mr. Aberasturia)
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, June 8, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Communication received re: East Hartford Police Department exploring idea of whether or not to pursue establishment of a Police Explorer Post in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America. If interested, call EHPD. Initial call is to determine level of support and interest;
- May 29th the Interact Club hosted the first “IB Shelterless” on the grounds of the First Congregational Church to raise money for ShelterBox USA, an organization that sends survival boxes worldwide for people who have experienced disasters and no longer have a place to stay and/or items for survival; CIBA collected \$3,000 for the cause;
- EHHS ESL class will be held from June 30th through the month of July from 9:30-11:30;
- Thanks to the CEO of CL&P, Ray Necci, for their donation of a utility pole at the challenge course behind EHMS;
- Project Graduation is Saturday, June 20th. If you wish to donate, please call 622-6200;
- Deadline for EHPS summer registration is August 14th. Central Registration is open from 8AM – 4PM Monday-Friday. A child not registered by August 14th may experience a delay in entry beyond the first day of school.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

(Karen Howe and Bryan Hall arrived 7:50 P.M.)

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Update on EIP

(Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel)

Ms. Lefkowitz noted the EIP process is a process of identifying academic/behavior problems to help students succeed. Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove noted the EIP process identifies students early so it can be determined if they may need further testing and other programs. Early intervention can also be done at the high school level to determine what a student needs to get back on track.

When asked how much parents involved, Ms. Lefkowitz stated parents are more involved now. They are invited to participate in the EIP process. A question was asked if we are keeping data to determine the success rate. Ms. Lefkowitz stated we are. SERC helps us with that. We have a uniform process. When asked if we need additional staff, Ms. Lefkowitz stated we are able to gather the necessary data with staff we currently have.

When asked if a parent can request an EIP, Ms. Lefkowitz stated if they are concerned, the first level would be for them to contact a teacher or principal and then possibly have an EIP.

In response to how long the EIP process takes, Ms. Lefkowitz stated possibly two weeks for someone to go through the entire process.

Superintendent Zito stated the goal is to help students before an IEP is needed. The teacher should work with the student.

Report on Recent Grants/Contract Awards

(Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel)

Ms. Lefkowitz reviewed with the Board recent grants (listed below) that were granted to East Hartford Public Schools:

School Counseling Grant for \$1,185,480 over three years – we were the only district in Connecticut to be awarded this Federal grant. The goal of this grant is prevention and intervention for students in K-6;

IDEA for \$1,895,590 over two years – The goal of this grant is to assist our district in meeting mandates of Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA);

Birth-to-Three Contract for \$1,170,056 – two year contract – The goal of this contract is to provide B-3 services for identified children residing in East Hartford;

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for \$2,013,662 over two years. The goal of this Federal stimulus money is to support/enhance special education and related services.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/ Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Mark Zito

- We wish Ms. Lefkowitz well in her new career;
- Superintendent Zito and Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer attended Woodland School graduation;
- CIBA graduation is June 17th; Synergy graduation is June 18th; EHHS graduation is June 20th. Superintendent Zito stated Darlene Bryant, PTO President, did an outstanding job in coordinating EHHS graduation festivities. Superintendent Zito hopes all students and parents enjoy the graduation exercises;
- Staff members "Welcome Back" letters will now be e-mailed and will be on the Web site;
- Thank you to all the volunteers for the support given to East Hartford students;
- Congratulations to students and coaches for outstanding performance in track and girls sports;
- Many letters were received in support of the Music Department – an extra thank you to Emil Kopcha;
- The Town Council meeting is being held tomorrow evening – we hope the results will be favorable for the school district to receive \$2 million back from the Town.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- Thank you to Rich Kehoe in supporting a Motion to move the \$2 million placed in contingency back into our budget to bring us to a \$79 million budget. We are very grateful to the Town Council. From the State side, they will be going into session this weekend; hopefully, there will be a budget soon.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – meeting scheduled for July 15th

Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien - meeting scheduled for June 16th, 6:00 P.M.

Facilities – Robert Damaschi –meeting scheduled for June 24th, 5:30 P.M.

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - meeting scheduled for July 1st, 5:30 P.M.

Future Planning – Karen Howe – no meeting scheduled.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve one **Resignation**

1. Jennifer Fanelli, Para/SpEd, effective 6/22/09

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve one **Retirement**

1. Rhea M. Klein, Department Head, Special Education, effective 6/30/09.

Motion unanimously carried.

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OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personal Leaves

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

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To remove from table and approve Policy 4152.6/4252.6
Personal Leaves
Motion unanimously carried.

(Mr. Damaschi left the meeting at 8:42 due to personal reasons)

NEW BUSINESS

To Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Northfield, MA

(John Karzar, Principal, Synergy)

MOTION By Hilde Mayranen O'Brien
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve request for overnight travel to Northfield, MA
for a leadership retreat with the Adventure Leaders Program
for students from Stevens Alternative High School
Motion unanimously carried.

There is no cost to the district or students. Dollars involved come from the Safe Schools Grant.

To Approve Contract Renewal with Sodexo Management, Inc.

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve contract renewal with Sodexo Management, Inc.
commencing July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.
Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve Selection of Vendor for Heavy Duty Truck with Plow and Sander

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve selection of vendor for heavy duty truck with
plow and sander and award to Interstate Ford for \$60,143.00
Motion carried. Nay: Dorese Roberts

Ms. Roberts was concerned with spending the dollars at this time. Mr. Costa explained it will be funded through year-end balances identified in various accounts of our operating budget. Superintendent Zito stated if we do not use our dollars by June 30th, they must be returned.

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To Approve the Technology Plan

(Guy Collins, Supervisor, Information Technology)

(Marcia Huddy, Supervisor, Secondary Instruction)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Bryan Hall

To approve the technology plan for 2009-2012, as recommended by the Technology Plan Committee.

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Oladell stated he would like parents and students to be a part of the Technology Plan Committee in the future. Ms. Morrison stated (in the absence of Mr. Damaschi) that Mr. Damaschi had requested a workshop regarding our overall technology needs. Mr. Collins stated a workshop will be given, most likely through the Curriculum Committee.

To Approve Bid #1625-09 Band Instruments

(Emil Kopcha, Supervisor, Fine & Performing Arts)

MOTION

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve bid #1625-09 Band Instruments from NEMC, Washington Music Center and Music and Arts.

Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Mayranen-O'Brien thanked Mr. Kopcha for an incredible program he is providing for the students of East Hartford.

To Table for First Read Policy 5131.8 – Off School Grounds Misconduct

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

MOTION

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Bryan Hall

To table for first read policy 5131.8 – Off School Grounds Misconduct

Motion unanimously carried.

Amendment

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Bryan Hall

To refer Policy 5131.8 back to Policy & Audit Committee for future review.

Motion unanimously carried, as amended.

CONSENT CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To place the following policies on Consent Calendar to table for first read:

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To Table for First Read Policy 4118.51/4218.51, 6141.325 Instruction – Use of New Web Tools (Blogging/Podcasting)

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

To Table for First Read Policy 5125 – Student Records; Confidentiality

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

To Table for First Read Policy 5144.3 – Discipline of Students with Disabilities

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

To Table for First Read Policy 5145.15 – Directory Information

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

To Table for First Read Policy 5145.4 Nondiscrimination

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

To Table for First Read Policy 6114.6 – Emergency Closings

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

Motion unanimously carried.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Ram Aberasturia – (1) thanked Jody Lefkowitz for all the work she has done for the district; (2) thanked Mayberry School for Board of Education Appreciation Day and bought ice cream for all students and staff as a thank you for Board of Education Appreciation Day.
Bryan Hall – thanked the band for their outstanding performance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien – re: can we look into the situation where a parent was charged \$10 for a stolen lock at EHHS.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS - None

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:30 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald