

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
OCTOBER 6, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, October 6, 2008, 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, Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Marcus Oladell, IV, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Rebecca Lacosse, Student Representative
Kimberly Barrington, Student Representative

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, September 11, 2008 (5:05 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, September 11, 2008 (6:10 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, September 15, 2008 (5:40 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, September 15, 2008 (7:02 P.M.), as corrected:
Page 5: under Questions: Ram Aberasturia:...re: concerns
re: wearing masks **at the football game;**
Page 6: (1) Regular meeting reconvened at **10:23 P.M.**
(2) 1st Motion: **Messrs. Damaschi and Oladell were absent for this
vote.**
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, September 22, 2008, as corrected:
Page 3:...literacy coaches have greater impact by not using
them in classroom. **Mr. Aberasturia asked which studies are you
referring to...**
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, September 23, 2008
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, September 23, 2008
Motion carried. Abstain: Dorese Roberts

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Communication from Future Planning Committee Chairperson Karen Howe – re: Meeting scheduled for October 8th, 5:30 for parents, staff and students at CIBA to discuss school uniforms or a uniform code of dress for elementary schools (K-6).

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Rebecca Lacosse and Kim Barrington

- 10/8 - Student Council Meeting;
- 11/1 - Homecoming night – will be selling glow sticks as a fundraiser;
- 11/20 - Spirit Week Beginning: Several activities have been scheduled for the week;
- 11/17 - 11/21 Pop Top Challenge;

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- 11/24-11/28 – Penny War Challenge
- Fundraisers – seat cushions are being sold for \$5 and glow sticks are being sold at homecoming (price not finalized)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Ginny Lynch, 87 Chapel Street – re: praised Dr. Martinez for the many hours it has taken to have staff put together presentations to the Board regarding test scores – commented that the Board is not supportive of the progress being made; suggests that Board members spend a day in the schools to recognize the positives that are going. Ms. Lynch also noted that some Board members have spent time in the schools.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Mr. Pawlowski asked how many hires we now have – Mr. Wethje responded we have 650 teachers and have one teacher opening remaining. There are also approximately four para openings.

Principals' Connecticut Mastery Test Presentation – Woodland School, Pitkin School

(Helene Marchese, Principal, Woodland)

(Dr. Linda Iverson, Principal, Pitkin)

Principal Helene Marchese stated success is measured by the number of students that return to their home schools. During 2007-08 18 students returned to their home schools. Presently we have eighty students enrolled and three have returned to their home schools. Our focus will continue to be on student achievement and behavior. Mr. Aberasturia asked if there was anything needed from the Board that could make her more successful. Principal Marchese stated no and thanked the Board for its support. Mr. Aberasturia further asked that the Board receive a report on tracking what happens to the children in the years following their return to their home schools.

Dr. Linda Iverson shared with the Board the many celebrations at Pitkin School. She noted Pitkin School has exceeded the district average in the percentage of students scoring at or above proficiency in reading math and writing in Grades 3,4,5 and in every subgroup by as much as 40 percentage points or more in some areas. They will continue to work very hard. Ms. Roberts stated she was very proud of what Pitkin School has accomplished and also thanked Superintendent Martinez for setting the initiatives in motion. Mr. Aberasturia asked if there was anything needed from the Board that could make her more successful. Dr. Iverson stated no and thanked the Board for its support.

Report on Enrollment

(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)

Dr. Martinez noted this year was unusual in that a number of students registered the very last week of August into the first week in September. Enrollment volatility created a delay in reviewing teacher assignments by September 10th. Dr. Martinez presented a report reflecting decreasing enrollment overall. We presently have a total enrollment of 7,314. Choice magnet schools have drawn students out of the district. A separate report will be given

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specifically on the magnet schools. There is a tuition cost associated with those going to magnet schools. The special education component is very costly.

Report on District Improvement Plan

(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)

Dr. Martinez stated that our District Improvement Plan was presented to the State on April 22nd. Last Thursday, October 2, 2008, we presented the Plan to the State Board and received approval. The District Data Team was also present to answer any questions. It was noted for the next three years we will have the State Department of Education Support Team available to help us. The Plan is also on our website. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes thanked everyone on the District Improvement Data Team for their continued support.

Update on New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

(Matt Ryan, Principal, EHHS)

Mr. Ryan stated the accreditation process takes place every ten years. This will occur for East Hartford November 16-18, 2009. We are beginning to prepare for the NEASC accreditation now. We have established co-chairs and committees, compiled surveys and self study reports. NEASC representatives will also assist us in the process. Our next steps will be the completion of a report stating our strengths and weaknesses as well as logistics of the visit in November 2009.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent Martinez:

- Dr. Martinez stated Debbie Kaprove reported on cohort analysis – we can provide the information to the Board again, if they would like.
- Future Planning Committee has done a fine job in planning for parent forums – there is a meeting at CIBA on October 8th at 5:30 on student uniforms.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes:

- Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes echoed Dr. Martinez's remarks regarding the Future Planning Committee;

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit - Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – Meeting scheduled for October 15th, 6:30 P.M. to discuss Policy 9120 – Officers of the Board;

Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien - Meeting scheduled for October 20th, 5:30 P.M.;

Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – No meeting is scheduled;

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - Meeting scheduled for November 5th, 5:30 P.M.;

Future Planning – Karen Howe – Meeting scheduled for October 8th, 5:30 at CIBA to discuss school uniforms or a uniform code of dress.

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PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve one **Retirement**:
1. Agueda Delgado-Aranda, Benefits Coordinator, effective 10/3/08;
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve one **Resignation**:
1. Christine Aparo, SpEd/Para, effective 9/30/08
Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS

**To Approve Consultant Agreement with Eileen Luddy & Associates, Inc.
(Jody Lefkowitz, Director, Pupil Personnel)**

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve Consultant Agreement with Eileen Luddy &
Associates, Inc.
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 3541.44 – Privately Owned Vehicles
(Hank Pawlowski, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To **table** for first read Policy 3541.44 – Privately Owned Vehicles
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

**To Table for First Read Bylaw 9311 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment, Deletion of
Policies**

(Hank Pawlowski, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To **table** for first read Bylaw 9311 – Formulation, Adoption,
Amendment, Deletion of Policies
Motion unanimously carried.

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**To Approve Intercommunity Mental Health Grant
(Jody Lefkowitz, Director, Pupil Personnel)**

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve Intercommunity Mental Health grant

Amendment By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Karen Howe
To amend from “grant” to “Contract”
Motion unanimously carried, as amended.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Dorese Roberts – attended EHHS Open House; visited O’Connell School where they had a performance of an opera; they have the Follett library system in place; they have approximately 15 laptop computers; the principal has received materials for the Bench Mark Program; visited Sunset Ridge – they do not have laptops yet.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Karen Howe – re: homecoming dance at EHHS – has a concern if they are planning to use strobe lights – can be a medical issue;

Ram Aberasturia – would like to know which studies demonstrate the benefit of not using literacy coaches in the classrooms.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- **Ram Aberasturia** re: have staff at Woodland School present to the Board and public another explanation re: upgrade to the program to correct perception and also make it available to members of the staff;
- **Hilde Mayranen-O’Brien** re: what are plans for an interim Superintendent.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:15 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.