

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, November 3, 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, 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
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel
Rebecca Lacosse, Student Representative
Kimberly Barrington, Student Representative

ABSENT Karen Howe

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, September 4, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, September 23, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, October 6, 2008, as corrected:
Page 2: under second Motion: Mr. Aberasturia asked which **studies** are you referring to...;
Page 3: 1st sentence should read **Penny War Challenge**;

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Page 6: under Questions/Concerns by Board Members:
Ram Aberasturia – would like **to know which studies demonstrate the benefit of not using literacy coaches in the classrooms.**

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Marcus Oladell, IV

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve the following Minutes:

Special Meeting, October 15, 2008

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve the following Minutes:

Special Meeting, October 20, 2008 (5:31 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve the following Minutes:

Special Meeting, October 20, 2008 (6:24 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve the following Minutes:

Regular Meeting, October 20, 2008, as corrected

Page 1: 1st Motion under Approval of Minutes: Motion seconded by **Marcus Oladell, IV;**

Page 4: 1st Motion seconded by **Robert Damaschi**

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve the following Minutes:

Special Meeting, October 21, 2008

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

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To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, October 27, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- 2008 CABE/CAPSS Convention will take place on Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15 to honor board members who have served ten or more years on local boards of education. Bob Damaschi and Hilde Mayranen will be recognized.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Rebecca Lacosse and Kim Barrington

- Spirit Week begins November 20th- 24th;
- 11/24 – Pep Rally will take place after school
- 11/24 – football game in the evening
- Homecoming dance was held – 350 students attended.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

ChildPlan Presentation and Recognition of Dr. Martinez

(Donna Kehoe, Executive Director)

On behalf of Child Plan, Mayor Melody Currey, Stan deMello and Lydia Sanabria presented a plaque to Dr. Marion Martinez for her dedication and support of Child Plan since her years as Superintendent. They also thanked the Board.

Recognition of Teachers of the Year and East Hartford's 2009 Teacher of the Year –

Beth Wrobel

(School Principals)

(Dr. Marion Martinez, Superintendent)

(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

The following were selected as Teachers of the Year 2009. Each teacher was introduced by their respective principals. A plaque was given to each teacher from the Board:

Willowbrook	Melissa Scott
Hockanum	Leslee Flanagan
Langford	Rachel Levine
Mayberry	Eric Forrest
Norris	Elizabeth Auxier
O'Brien	Mary White
O'Connell	Kristie D. Bourdoulous
Pitkin	Ushawnda Mitchell

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Silver Lane	Angela Landon
Sunset Ridge	Brendan Boyd
Woodland	David Hippler
Stevens Alt. High School	Laura Meehan
CIBA	Paul Makarewicz
East Hartford High School	Kathryn Patla
East Hartford Middle School	Jill Wnuk
District and Goodwin School	Beth Wrobel

Principals' Connecticut Mastery Test Presentation – Hockanum School, Silver Lane School

**(Lisa Beauchamp, Principal, Hockanum
Cathie Ciccomascolo, Principal, Silver Lane)**

Lisa Beauchamp

It was noted that writing scores have improved in part due to the implementation and expansion of Writer's Workshop model. Reading scores need improvement. This will occur by the use of district pacing guides and use of Data-Driven Decision Making Teams to guide instruction. Math scores need improvement. Focus will be concentrated on continued implementation of "Growing with Mathematics" program. Safe Harbor was not achieved in the 2007-08 school year; however, we expect to reach Safe Harbor once again in 2008-09. Mr. Aberasturia asked for Cohort information. He also asked if there was anything needed from the Board. Ms. Beauchamp responded, "a new boiler".

Cathie Ciccomascolo

It was noted that overall CMT scores have improved. Future focus will be on use of Data Driven Decision Making, Professional Development and an Early Intervention Program. Increase family involvement is a positive goal that is expected to be achieved in the 2008-09 school year. Mr. Aberasturia asked if anything was needed from the Board. Ms. Ciccomascolo responded they can always use additional books.

Preliminary Status of 2009-10 Budget

**(Dr. Marion H. Martinez, Superintendent)
(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

Dr. Martinez presented a preliminary status of the 2009-10 budget stating it is a 6.36% increase or \$5.2 million over the adopted budget. She further stated at the request of Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, the budget incorporates only contractual obligations and outstanding liabilities. Dr. Martinez also noted school choice is a huge liability. She recommended the Board of Education freeze the budget through the second quarter. Revenue sources for 2009-10 will not be known until March.

A Public Hearing will be held prior to the December 15th Regular Meeting per Chair Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes. Major work for the budget will not take place until the Spring of 2009.

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The budget is due to the Mayor by January 4, 2009. Dr. Martinez stated she will send a memo to the Board outlining issues.

Strategic School Profiles

(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

Ms. Kaprove provided the Board with 2007-08 school profiles for all schools in the district for their review. She stated we will continue to support the efforts of all schools.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent Martinez:

- Dr. Martinez noted this evening will be her last Board of Education meeting with the district. She will be leaving as Superintendent of Schools on November 14th, and officially ends her career with East Hartford effective December 3, 2008. She thanked all the schools for their support as well as Board members who supported and encouraged her.
- She recognized Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien's leadership and support along with her understanding of the initiatives.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes:

-Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes urged everyone to Vote "yes" on the referendum regarding the infrastructure in the school district.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit - Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – meeting scheduled for November 19th;

Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien - meeting scheduled for December 15th, 5:30 P.M.;

Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – meeting will be scheduled soon.

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

Future Planning – Karen Howe – Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated three forums have taken place regarding the dress code. We will be voting on the issue by the end of this year.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve two **Resignations:**

1. Kristina F. Sutay, Special Ed Para, effective 10/15/08;
2. Jaclynn M. Ouellette, Grade 2 Teacher, effective 10/22/08;

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3541.44 – Privately Owned Vehicles

(Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Chair, Policy & Audit)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To remove from table and approve Policy 3541.44 –
Privately Owned Vehicles
Motion unanimously carried.

**Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9311 – Formulation, Adoption, Amendment,
Deletion of Policies**

(Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Chair, Policy & Audit)

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To remove from table and refer back to Policy & Audit Bylaw 9311 –
Formulation, Adoption, Amendment, Deletion of Policies
Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Appointment of Interim Superintendent

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Board Chair)

MOTION By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve the appointment of Debbie Kaprove as Interim
Superintendent
Motion carried. Nay: Ram Aberasturia, Anita Morrison

To Approve the Annual Contract for UCONN Dental Services for Head Start

(Nancy Moriarty, Supervisor, Willowbrook)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the annual dental contract with UCONN for Dental
Services for Head Start students at Willowbrook School
Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Moriarty was present.

To Approve B-2 Payment for Athletic Trainer Position

(Chris Wethje, Director, Human Resources)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve B-2 Payment for Athletic Trainer Position
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

**To Approve Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank
(Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources)**

MOTION By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve certified staff member's use of employee
sick bank from Norris School
Motion unanimously carried.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Dorese Roberts was invited to O'Connell School for a multi-cultural dinner and dance performance. She thanked O'Connell for the invitation. She said the performance and food was outstanding.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ram Aberasturia re: (1) hopes we can take up the dress code issue very soon; (2) would like to see a report on transient students – where are they coming from, as well as students in our own district – how often are they moving from school to school; (3) suggests focusing on cohorts when presentations are given by staff to better assess our performance; (4) teachers and principals should have more autonomy in addressing students' needs; i.e. pacing guides; (5) what plans do we have in place to address the issue of parent involvement; (6) suggested doing collaborative efforts with the Town regarding social services in order to address the social needs of our students; Mr. Aberasturia also commended Dr. Martinez for starting the full-day kindergarten program.

Anita Morrison asked if Dr. Frieberg is planning to address our teachers, staff and community members. Dr. Martinez stated she was scheduled to present at a ChildPlan forum but due to lack of interest, the program was cancelled and rescheduled. She is planning on coming to the district on March 5, 2009 for a 2-day session.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes thanked Dr. Martinez for all her efforts in East Hartford. She commented that she has brought us ahead. She further wished her well.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS - None

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:10 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.