

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 24, 2008**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, November 24, 2008 at the Board of Education Administrative Offices, 1110 Main 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, Anita Morrison, Karen Howe, Marcus Oladell, IV, Dorese Roberts (arrived 7:15 P.M.)

ALSO PRESENT Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Donna Tyrrell, Manager/Accounting, Business Services
Joanne Zatarain, CPA, Business Services

ABSENT Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Discussion of 2009-10 Budget

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated we began the proposed budget at \$87,742,065, or a 6.36 percent increase over the 2008-09 adopted budget. We are now at a 3.9 percent increase or \$85,777,065. Mr. Mainuli noted the following reductions allowed us to get to a 3.9 percent increase:

Staff Retirements	\$900,000
Kelly Services	100,000
Student transportation	300,000
OT – Facilities	140,000
Textbooks	75,000
Adjust salary accounts – vacancies/attrition	450,000

Mr. Mainuli proposed that we could probably eliminate or reduce the following:

Professional Development – eliminate \$25,000;

Copiers – If we extend the contract with CBS Blooms, we can save \$100,000-200,000;

Out of District Tuition – SpecEd – we have \$1.3 million budgeted – reduce by \$125,000; we expect revenue from Woodland to be approximately \$2 million;

Kelly Services – we can bring amount down to \$800,000 by cutting \$100,000; the impact would be that more teachers would not be covered – Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove stated the impact would be in reading intervention programs, larger classes, loss of instructional time at the secondary level; may impact student achievement.

Mr. Aberasturia asked if there is data available as to how, if any, Kelly Services

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has impacted children. He further suggested increasing the amount we pay subs hourly vs. using Kelly exclusively. He would like information from teachers as to their opinion of Kelly Services. It was noted we have spent \$197,000 to date on Kelly Services. Their fill rate is approximately 95 percent.

Mr. Mainuli noted we have to be concerned with Hartford proposing to charge tuitions for their Magnet Schools. It is possible that this would cost approximately \$2 million. We must also consider increasing lunch prices next year; regarding the uniform proposal – there can be a cost impact. Mr. Mainuli stated he is hoping the ECS dollars will stay at current year levels around \$40 million.

Comments by Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes:

- No one wants to cut anything that affects school achievement;
- Re: Supplies Instructional – has increased – can we cut anywhere in this line?
- Re: Equipment New in Athletic Department and others – Mr. Mainuli stated this line can be prioritized;
- Re: BOE budget line – can anything be cut. It was noted we are paying \$23,000 for CABA membership;
- Re: Library books – can we cut this – last year we spent \$25,000;

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated she would like to get the percentage to 3.2 percent. Mr. Mainuli stated we are now at 3.4 percent. Mr. Damaschi stated he would like to go to 3 percent.

Mr. Mainuli noted we will get \$300,000 from Medicaid. We hope the E-rate will be approximately \$120,000. Expenses expected will be an additional \$250,000 for Open Choice for CREC; \$42,000 from Hartford billed to us for Classical Magnet; regarding Kelly Services – if it is over \$800,000, we will have to plan to add to this account; regarding Overtime – if overtime is needed, the Superintendent must be notified in advance.

The next budget meeting will be December 3rd at 7:00 P.M.

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To adjourn the Special Meeting (8:05 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald