

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 1, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, December 1, 2008, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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, Karen Howe, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

ALSO PRESENT Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Jody Lefkowitz, Director of Pupil Personnel
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Kimberly Barrington, Student Representative
Rebecca Lacosse, Student Representative

RECOGNITION OF CAPSS AWARD RECIPIENTS

(Matt Ryan, Principal, EHHS)

(Helene Marchese, Principal, Woodland)

(Jeff Fournier, Principal, EHMS)

(John Karzar, Principal, Stevens)

Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove stated students who have shown character and academic skills have been selected to receive the CAPSS award. The following individuals were recognized by their respective principals and received an award from the Board as well as a gift certificate:

East Hartford High School

Jimmy Nguyen	Grade 12
Kimberly Ann Barrington	Grade 11
Rumanah Salim Kasliwala	Grade 10
Kim-Vui Hau Duong	Grade 9

East Hartford Middle School

Andrew Secker	Grade 8
Hema Singh	Grade 7

Woodland School

Luis Figueroa	Grade 10
Carmen Correa	Grade 9

Stevens School

Chrysanthi Kyris	Grade 10
Tasha Willingham	Grade 9

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, November 10, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, November 17, 2008
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, November 17, 2008, as corrected:
Page 3: under Supplemental Education Services and After School Programs – Title 1 funding is used...remove **as well as funds from the school district**
Page 4: (1) under Chairperson/Assistant Superintendent's Reports: Reference made to Assistant Superintendent should read **Interim Superintendent**; (2) under Committee Reports: Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia – should read **nothing to report at this time.**
Page 6: last Motion – seconded by **Dorese Roberts**
Page 7: Motion re: approval of Curriculum/Course Pilot Proposal... and last Motion re: approval of Memorandum of Agreement... - **Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes voted Nay on both of the referenced Motions.**
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- First annual EHHS Boys Soccer Alumni game was held on November 29th. Thank you to Stewart Perry for his donation of \$250 for the event;

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Kim Barrington and Rebecca Lacosse

- Pep Rally was held on November 26th – over 1,000 students attended. Seniors won all events;
- 12/4 – 7-9 P.M. at EHHS – a program “Exploring Life after High School” will be held; over seven colleges and universities come to the school to talk to parents and students to help students prepare now for life after high school;

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- Any parent whose child lost credits due to attendance can discuss their concerns with either Matt Ryan or Nathan Quesnel;
- Football Game was a great event – cheerleaders on both teams gave a wonderful performance; thanks to Mr. Caruso and the administrative team for helping out;
- Students will be helping out for the holidays by donating food, toys and clothing; Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated it is a fine gesture that we are helping out those in the community less fortunate than others.
- Progress reports will go out on December 2nd.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Report on Secondary Summer School

(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

(Marcia Huddy, Supervisor, Secondary Instruction)

(Pat Perrone, Coordinator, Adult Ed/Summer School)

Ms. Perrone reviewed the final report of the 2008 Secondary Summer School with the Board. There were 335 students from East Hartford enrolled in the 2008 program and 77 out of district students enrolled, an increase of 3.5% over 2007. There is no charge for East Hartford residents and \$120 per ½ credit course for out of district students. Students who received a grade below 50 are not eligible for summer school. Ms. Perrone has been asked to provide how many dollars were generated from out of district enrollees.

The program was held at the East Hartford Middle School. The majority of the staff are teachers, paras/tutors currently working in our district. Most of the non-academic positions were filled by employees currently employed by our district. We also used student teachers provided by the Alternate Route to Certification program. They had been given orientation in June. The program was again a success.

Annual Adult Education Report 2007-2008

(Pat Perrone, Coordinator)

Ms. Perrone provided a report for the Adult Education for FY 2007-08. She noted all mandated classes are free. The only paying courses are continuing education. Enrollment for the program was down from 180 enrollees in the 2006-07 school year to 167 for the 2007-08 school year. The reimbursable amount received from the State was 56.88 percent. It was noted the ESL program provided free instruction in English to adults from over 35 countries.

There will be the first Open House at EHHS on December 3rd, 6:00 P.M. to explain the adult education program. Ms. Perrone provided the Board with a packet offering on-line courses for the East Hartford Adult Education program.

**Principals' Connecticut Mastery Test Presentation – Langford Elementary School,
EHMS**

(Greg Fox, Principal, Langford)

Mr. Fox gave a Power Point presentation to the Board on the 2008 CMT analysis. He noted many celebrations and also areas that are in need of improvement. Continued focus will be placed on third and fourth grade students. Several initiatives will be used in areas needing improvement; i.e., implement Effective Teaching Strategies into daily lessons, offer after school program for students in reading writing and math, use reading intervention programs and continue use of Data Team. Meetings are being held twice weekly with staff to identify what is and what is not working.

Mr. Aberasturia asked if there is anything Mr. Fox might need from the Board. Mr. Fox stated he would like to keep the PTR down. Ms. Morrison asked if laptops are being used. Mr. Fox stated they are.

(Jeff Fournier, Principal, EHMS)

Mr. Fournier gave a Power Point presentation to the Board on the 2008 CMT analysis. He noted many areas where EHMS is at or above proficiency. He also stated EHMS will be implementing the John Collins writing program and increase professional development opportunities to address areas of concern. He stated many initiatives will also be implemented; i.e., continue to use Effective Teaching Strategies, have team meetings; work in small groups; use block time more effectively.

Mr. Aberasturia asked if there is anything Mr. Fournier might need from the Board. Mr. Fournier stated he feels students benefit from the “Read 180” program. Ms. Roberts asked if weekly quizzes are given. Mr. Fox stated weekly quizzes are given; however, additional assessments will be developed. Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove noted the 21st Century Grant also provides opportunities for students to improve academic achievement. We can always use more assessments.

Discussion of Parent Involvement District Wide

(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

Through an in-depth selection of opportunities for parents/volunteer efforts, Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove reviewed a wide variety of opportunities for parent involvement. In addition to those presented, Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove noted we use surveys to send out to parents. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes asked to have the surveys shared with the Board. She also asked if members of the community, i.e., retirees, can volunteer in the schools. It was noted they can and forms are available in the student handbook. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes suggested that the volunteer forms be placed on our Website.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Assistant Superintendent's Reports

Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove

- As noted in the Rotary Newsletter, the CIBA Interact Chartering ceremony was held on November 10th, honoring students who have worked in service organizations;
- Child Plan will host their volunteer holiday breakfast tomorrow, December 2nd;
- Received a communication from Penny Brice noting East Hartford Public Schools staff had donated \$8,723 to the United Way;
- A special thank you to the CAPSS winners;
- The football game was hard fought – the half-time game ceremony was remarkable;
- Work on the budget continues – we all have concerns – Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove commended Mr. Mainuli and his staff for the efforts they are making in prioritizing the budget dollars.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes:

- Thank you to Mr. Mainuli and staff for their continued efforts in working on the budget;
- Attended the CABA Conference – East Hartford's "Next Edition" singing group was chosen to lead off the convention

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit - Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – meeting scheduled for December 8th, 5:30 P.M.

Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien - meeting scheduled for December 2nd, 5:30 P.M.

Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – meeting scheduled for December 2, 5:30 P.M. at Goodwin School;

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

Future Planning – Karen Howe – meeting scheduled for December 10th, 5:30 P.M. at Board Office.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve two **Retirements:**

1. Joseph Pappalardo, math teacher, effective 6/30/09;
2. William Tardif, security officer, effective 11/21/08

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve two **Resignations:**

1. Jennifer Hollar, SpecEd teacher, effective 11/4/08;
2. Terrance Perry, Behavior Manager, effective 11/26/08

Motion unanimously carried.

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OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Roof Replacements O'Connell & Goodwin Schools

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve the ED049, Educational Specifications for O'Connell and Goodwin Elementary Schools and submit Educational Specifications to the Town Council requesting the Town Council to authorize the Board of Education to apply for the State Building Grant.

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Costa stated we will receive 72% reimbursement for this project from the State.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Hank Pawlowski, Jr. sent out a memo to the Public Building Commission regarding approval of the roof project. A joint meeting with Facilities Committee will be scheduled soon.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Karen Howe – (1) requested an update on the Youth Task Force; (2) re: article in newspaper re: ACLU report – concerns were expressed regarding several towns giving information about resource officers having presence in various schools, including East Hartford. The article should stress the positive role the resource officers are playing in our schools; (3) Dr. Lorraine Monroe of Harlem spoke at the CABA Convention and it was very informative. She has written a book, Monroe Doctrine which is highly recommended.

Anita Morrison – re: (1) EHHS, CIBA and O'Brien schools had food drives and gave the food to St. Mary's Food Bank; (2) re: resource officers in schools – students stated they liked the presence of resource officers in the school.

Dorese Roberts – re: article in newspaper re: resource officers – article stated unfair practice - it set a tone of discrimination. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated we will have a report from the Chief of Police to address concerns; re: summer school – below 50 grade cannot attend. Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove will provide a rationale to the Board for this ruling.

Ram Aberasturia – re: fee structure for adult education should be reviewed; (2) played in the soccer game on Saturday – field is in bad shape. Mr. Aberasturia will discuss this issue with Mr. Costa.

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Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – re: need to put together a plan for rolling repairs on the track field. She stated she would like to work with Mr. Costa on this. Mr. Costa stated we have a 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan. We used to have a maintenance grant it no longer exists which prevents us from addressing many issues. We need to be able to put capital improvement plans in the operating budget.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Ram Aberasturia – re: Facilities issues – we should consider fundraisers – make it a community effort

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – (1)status of Foundation – Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove stated this would be a great opportunity to discuss the Foundation at a future meeting; (2) Town Council would like to have a joint meeting with the Board of Education on Johnson Controls. It was noted Mr. Costa will arrange to invite Johnson Controls and Mike Walsh and Billy Taylor to the Regular Board Meeting on December 15th for a presentation by Johnson Controls.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To recess to Executive Session for discussion with possible action
Regarding a personnel matter (9:30 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:54 P.M.

No Action Taken

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:58 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Christopher Wethje