

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, December 15, 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
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Kimberly Barrington, Student Representative
Rebecca Lacosse, Student Representative

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, November 24, 2008 (5:07 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, November 24, 2008 (7:00 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, December 1, 2008 (6:47 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, December 1, 2008 (7:00 P.M.),
as corrected:
Page 6: under Questions: Anita Morrison -...schools **had food drives and gave the food to St. Mary's Food Bank.**

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Page 6: under Questions: Dorese Roberts re: article in newspaper re: Resource officers- **article stated unfair practice** – it set a tone of Discrimination.

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve the following Minutes:

Special Meeting, December 2, 2008

Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- letter from Mary Lou Hill re: child with special needs attending Woodland School – forwarded to Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove for response;
- Newspaper article shared with Board regarding the December 3rd EHMS mock trial team. EHMS was one of 14 teams that competed and will be advancing to the semi-finals on January 12, 2009.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Kim Barrington and Rebecca Lacosse

- Groups from EHHS will be participating in Holiday Caroling at Riverside Healthcare and St. Mary's Shelter on Wednesday, December 17th;
- December 11th – Athletic Department celebrated the Fall sports banquet at EHHS;
- Winter sports have begun – please come out and support our teams;
- Regarding attendance policy, rules are being followed;
- December 23rd – Teacher Appreciation Breakfast will be held at 6:30 A.M..
- Luncheon will be held in January for new staff in honor of their accomplishments;
- Talent show was held last week. It was a great success;
- Dress code s being discussed this evening – student representatives stated they look forward to the discussion.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Lisa McMahan, 122 Leverich Dr. – regarding dress code: thanked Policy & Audit Committee for their input; concerned that final provisions have not been made for those that will need financial assistance to purchase uniforms; suggests having uniforms on a smaller scale to begin with – please reconsider;
2. Alyssa Eckstein , student – her mom is a single parent and could not afford to purchase clothing needed for dress code;
3. Tawny Kennedy, junior at EHHS – against dress code policy – cannot afford uniforms – does not believe this policy will change anything; suggests enforcing present dress code policy;
4. Zach Kessler, student – re: CIBA – very concerned that we will not be able to draw as many students as we would normally with a rigid dress code – we presently have difficulty keeping students at CIBA; it was noted a petition was passed out at CIBA

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and more than half the students who signed were not in favor of the proposed dress code;

5. James Melo, 25 Garden St., Manchester, CT – does not support proposed dress code;
6. Junior Hring, 17 Deerfield CT, Apt. B – does not support proposed dress code;
7. Melissa Karvelos, 64 Michael Ave. – re: (1) school vacation schedule – why is East Hartford on a different vacation schedule than Hartford – makes it difficult when you have one child going to East Hartford and one going to Hartford magnet school; (2) in favor of proposed dress code policy for K-8 except for strict colors – they should be interchangeable – will create a financial strain;
8. Justin McMahon, Jr. at EHHS – did not mind having uniforms in the past, but it did not change anything; i.e., bullying is not due to clothing but personality;
9. Sophia Benjamin/Perry Benjamin, 118 Central Ave. – heard that uniforms would help for those that disobey – reprimand them for individual consequences, but not uniforms; parents have to take responsibility for their children – focus on supplies, books – things that make them learn.
10. Jasmine Brinson, 56 Home Terrace – believes behavior was one of the reasons for the dress code – not in favor of proposed dress code;
11. Rebecca Lacosse, Student Representative – in favor of uniforms;
12. Kimberly Barrington, Student Representative – in favor of uniforms; do not limit colors;
13. Bridget Burger, 34 Parkwood Dr. – enforce the present dress code – uniforms will not address any of the problems;
14. Esther Schiff – not in favor of proposed dress code – tax dollars should go toward education, no uniforms – re: financial assistance for uniforms – this must be addressed; if you give for some, you should give for all; enforce present dress code.
15. Joe, Jr. at EHHS – BOE should worry about other things, like not having seats or enough books in some classes;
16. Elizabeth Lopez – will be difficult financially – will the State help pay for uniforms. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated “no”.
17. Tayla – Jr. at EHHS – against uniforms – maybe you should consider beginning with younger grades;
18. David Arburr, 54 Shady Lane – leave policy the way it is – make administrators accountable to have present dress code enforced;
19. Maureen Willette, 176 Langford Ln. – parents can dress children appropriately – they should start at an early age to dress them appropriately; if concerned with students not acting appropriately, they should be punished;
20. Karen O’Connell, President, EHEA – (1) complimented students and parents that expressed concerns this evening; (2) re: student transportation going out to bid – Board policy states anything over \$10,000 must go out to bid.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes thanked everyone for their comments this evening. All will be taken into consideration.

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INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Principals' Connecticut Mastery Test Presentation

Mayberry Elementary

(Jenny Correa, Principal, Mayberry)

Ms. Correa reviewed the CMT results for Mayberry School. She noted they did not make AYP; however, growth has been made with students that stay with us. Ms. Correa noted Grade 3 and 4 teachers will participate in a research partnership with the Benchmark Education Company which will help teachers with instruction in Best Practices for differentiated instruction. Ms. Correa noted 50% of her staff, years 1 & 2, went on to other areas after receiving professional development in our district. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated she is very concerned about teachers leaving us after we have provided professional development.

Mr. Aberasturia asked if there was anything needed from the Board for the upcoming school year.

Professional Development will be provided to staff on CALI. Debbie Kaprove stated the State pays for this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/Interim Superintendent's Reports

Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove

- Interim Superintendent Debbie Kaprove invites all parents and community members to look at the Winter Concert Schedules on our Web Site. We have many talented students in East Hartford;
- The National Honor Society for Music is holding an event for elementary students on 12/22/08 – the Polar Express will be shown at 5:00 P.M.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes:

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit - Hank Pawlowski, Jr. – no meeting scheduled;

Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien - meeting scheduled for this evening will be rescheduled.

Facilities – Hank Pawlowski, Jr. no meeting scheduled.

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - meeting scheduled for January 7th, 5:30 P.M.

Future Planning – Karen Howe – no meeting scheduled.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Robert Damaschi

To approve four **Resignations:**

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1. Rosario Garcia, Behavior Manager, effective 12/18/08;
 2. Michelle A. Carras, Spec.Ed. Teacher, effective 1/2/09;
 3. Lillian N. Aivaliotis, Title 1 Tutor, effective 12/11/08;
 4. Rosanna M. Brini, Title 1 Tutor, effective 12/8/08
- Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve four **Retirements:**

1. Robert W. Clark, Health & PE Teacher, effective 6/30/09;
2. Richard Felmer, Health & PE Teacher, effective 6/30/09;
3. Sandra L. Goodrich, Spec.Ed. Teacher, effective 6/30/09;
4. Ida Jean Royer, Spec.Ed. Para, effective 12/23/08

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Approval to go Out to Bid for Student Transportation Services
(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

(Mr. Oladell recused himself from the following discussion/Motion on the agenda)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve going out to bid for student transportation services
Motion carried. **Aye:** Ram Aberasturia, Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes,
Hank Pawlowski, Jr., Dorese Roberts, Anita
Morrison.
Nay: Karen Howe, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien,
Robert Damaschi

**To Approve a 3-Year Contract Extension with CBS Blooms/Xerox
(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Karen Howe
To approve a 3-year contract extension with CBS Blooms/Xerox
Motion carried as amended to go out to bid:

Aye: Ram Aberasturia, Dorese Roberts, Mary Alice
Dwyer Hughes, Anita Morrison, Hank
Pawlowski, Jr.

Nay: Marcus Oladell, IV, Robert Damaschi,
Karen Howe, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien,

Amendment

By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Karen Howe

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To approve going out to bid for Digital Copiers.

Amendment carried.

Nay: Robert Damaschi

NEW BUSINESS

To Approve Full Time Music Program Elective at Woodland School

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve a full time music program elective at Woodland School

Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve Proposed Schedule Changes for Mid-term Exams at EHHS

(Matt Ryan, Principal, EHHS)

(Art Arpin, Principal, CBIA)

MOTION

By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve proposed schedule changes for mid-term exams at EHHS

Motion carried. **Nay:** Karen Howe, Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

To Table for First Read Student Dress Code Policy 5132

(Hank Pawlowski, Chair, Policy & Audit)

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To table for first read student dress code Policy 5132 and refer back to Policy & Audit Committee and Future Planning Committee.

Motion carried. **Nay:** Robert Damaschi, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

This policy was revised at the December 8th Policy & Audit Committee to reflect new student dress code requirements, including uniforms for Grades K-8.

Ms. Howe thanked the members of the Policy & Audit and Future Planning Committees for their hard work on this topic. She also thanked the parents and community at large.

To Approve the 2009-10 Board of Education Business Calendar

(Debbie Kaprove, Interim Superintendent)

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve the 2009-10 Board of Education Business Calendar

Motion unanimously carried.

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To Discuss and Approve the Board's Proposed Budget for FY 2009-10 with the reductions as recommended

(Debbie Kaprove, Interim Superintendent)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To discuss and approve the Board's proposed budget for \$85,178.161 for FY 2009-10 with the reductions as recommended
Motion carried. **Nay:** Robert Damaschi, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes thanked the Finance Department for a job well done. She further noted we will know firm numbers at the end of the February or early March.

To Approve Resolution Authorizing the Superintendent and/or Designee to Execute the 403 (B) Plan Documents to Comply with Requirements and Regulations Issued by the Internal Revenue Service

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

To approve Resolution authorizing the Superintendent and/or Designee to execute the 403 (B) Plan documents to comply with requirements and regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service
Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve Bid #1621-08 RFP Professional Design Services for Roof Replacement at O'Connell and Goodwin Elementary Schools

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve Bid #1621-08 RFP Professional Design services for Roof Replacement at O'Connell and Goodwin Elementary Schools and retain the architectural firm of J Associates.
Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve the Revised 2008-09 East Hartford Board of Education Subcommittees

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Board Chair)

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve the Revised 2008-09 East Hartford Board of Education Subcommittees
Motion unanimously carried.

To Table for First Read Policy 4118.22 – Code of Ethics

(Hank Pawlowski, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION

By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

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To table for first read Policy 4118.22 – Code of Ethics
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 4131.6 – Professional Administrative Dues
(Hank Pawlowski, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To table for first read Policy 4131.6 – Professional
Administrative Dues
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 6162.51 – Surveys of Students (Student Privacy)
(Hank Pawlowski, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Karen Howe
To table for first read Policy 6162.51 – Surveys of Students
(Student Privacy)
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 6200 – Adult and Continuing Education
(Hank Pawlowski, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To table for first read Policy 6200 – Adult and Continuing
Education
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 7112 – Enrollment Projections
(Hank Pawlowski, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To table for first read Policy 7112 – Enrollment Projections
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Bylaw 9121 – Chairperson
(Hank Pawlowski, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To table for first read Bylaw 9121 – Chairperson
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Bylaw 9123 – Secretary to the Board
(Hank Pawlowski, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

MOTION By Hank Pawlowski, Jr.
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

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To table for first read Bylaw 9123 – Secretary to the Board
Motion unanimously carried.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Anita Morrison – Information on Child Plan can be found in your Board packets.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ram Aberasturia – Thanks students and our Board Representatives for coming out this evening to address the proposed student dress code.

Marcus Oladell, IV – Christmas Show was excellent.

Karen Howe – Concerned with student who spoke this evening re: not having desks in some of the classes at EHHS.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (10:32 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald