

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 1, 2010**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, February 1, 2010, at the Connecticut IB 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, Marcus Oladell, IV, Tyron Harris, Anita Morrison, Bryan Hall, Jeffrey Currey

ALSO PRESENT Mark Zito, Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel
Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Kimberly Barrington, Student Representative

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To place on this evening's agenda a Consent Calendar under Old and Unfinished Business, items a-k and under New Business items e-i.
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Jeffrey Currey
Seconded by Bryan Hall
To approve the following Minutes
Regular Meeting of January 19, 2010, as corrected:
Page 5: Bryan Hall and Robert Damaschi attended a meeting to discuss the EH/Glastonbury Magnet School...
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of January 21, 2010 (5:00 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Jeffrey Currey
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes
Special Meeting of January 21, 2009 (5:55 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

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WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Kimberly Barrington

- Exam week is over.
- Second semester began last week; reports cards being mailed home soon;
- Sweethearts Valentines Day dance will be held; Animal Rights Club are sponsors;
- February 27th – Cabaret will be performed;
- CAPT week is first week in March – Freshmen prepare for CAPT tests; Sophomores take CAPT tests and Juniors either opt out or take seminars on college, life after high school, etc.;
- March 10th Mr. EHHS Variety Show – seven Junior and Senior boys with a variety of talent will compete for the title – tickets are \$3-\$5;
- Ms. Barrington apologized for not attending the past two meetings due to illness.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Discussion of Board Goals

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes reviewed each of the following four goals with Board members and the public: Academic Achievement, Reconfiguration, Communications and Efficiency, and Hiring. She also urged parents to return surveys regarding Reconfiguration.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated we will be voting on these goals at the next meeting. They will then be placed on our Web site. Mr. Hall noted these goals were a team effort.

**Update on EHHS Overnight Field Trip to CT Science Center
(Melissa Gavarrino, Science Department Head)**

Ms. Gavarrino updated the Board on the overnight field trip to the CT Science Center that took place in the fall. We are a pilot for this grant, of which the Board of Education received \$14,000 for technology. The goal of the program is for students to solve problems with other schools who were also awarded this grant. Hopefully, students will choose careers in technology/science fields.

This May, students will be able to see the entire Science Museum. Students will be invited to present to the Board on their past trip.

Ms. Gavarrino thanked teachers and the forty-one ninth and tenth graders who went on the trip.

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Chairperson/ Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Mark Zito

- School district is making efforts to contribute to the Haiti disaster – thank you to all those involved in this important endeavor;
- Congratulations to our basketball team for their recent win;
- Columbus Circle area – the catwalk has been closed by the Town in this area... Bus #29 will be used to bus students until the catwalk is repaired;
- 2/6 – The Connecticut Readers Association will be sponsoring “Connecticut Loves to Read Day” held at Barnes & Noble bookstore in Buckland Mall from 11:00-12:30. East Hartford will be represented by Jenny Correa and Lisa Beauchamp;
- CIBA has been named as a magnet school of excellence for the second consecutive year – congratulations to Art Arpin, students and staff;
- CT State Department of Education announced a Crossroads two-year grant award of \$50,000/year for students at risk.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- Legislative opening session is Wednesday. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes is on the Board of Education Functions Committee which addresses the issue of the sharing of resources with other towns. We should be proud that East Hartford is already doing its sharing with the Town.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – meeting scheduled for February 17th, 5:15 P.M.

Curriculum – Dorese Roberts – no meeting scheduled.

Facilities – Bryan Hall –meeting scheduled for February 22, 7:00 P.M.

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

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Jeffrey Currey

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve three **Resignations:**

1. Elieser Mercado, Bilingual Tutor, effective 1/22/10;
2. Jason Hawley, Behavior Manager, effective 12/11/09;
3. Margaret DeVito, Nursing Supervisor, effective 2/26/10

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Bryan Hall

To approve one **Retirement:**

1. Carmel Kurth, SPED/Para, effective 1/29/10

Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To remove from table and approve the following items a-k on Consent Calendar under Old and Unfinished Business and under New Business, to table for first read items e-i.
Motion unanimously carried.

Remove from Table and Approve Policy 3221 – IDEA Program/Fiscal Compliance Reporting

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4145.1/4245.1 – Tax Sheltered Annuities (Voluntary Retirement Savings Program)

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9140 - Board Representatives

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9150 – Board Consultants

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9222 – Resignation/Removal from Office

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9230 – Orientation of Board Members

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9250 – Remuneration and Reimbursement

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9260 – Protection of Board Members

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9300 – Methods of Operation

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9360 – Legislative Program

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9410– Public Announcement of Accomplishments

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

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It was noted the cost of this service is eligible for E-Rate reimbursement of 74%. Total annual cost to the district (including E-Rate reimbursement) is Year 1 - \$12,883 (includes start-up costs); Year 2 - \$10,702 and Year 3 - \$10,702.

**Approve Agreement with CBS/Blooms for Contract on Printer Repairs and Maintenance
(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve agreement with CBS/Blooms for contract on
Printer Repairs and Maintenance
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Jeffrey Currey – attended CREC Council meeting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Ram Aberasturia – re: suggests having a voice mail system that would go out to parents to notify them about school closings, or district notifications, and/or emergencies.

Dorese Roberts – re: status of laptops for Board members.

Anita Morrison – re: (1) February 9th 1:30 p.m. – Anita and Spencer Clapp have arranged to visit Pulaski Middle School in New Britain to discuss with staff, administrators and parents the uniform issue; (2) re: basketball game – our kids are outstanding.

Jeffrey Currey – re: thanked Emil Kopcha for chaperoning the Lion King performance.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Ram Aberasturia – re: (1) invest in sports programs – excellent after-school program that provides mentoring, ability to work with others and develop positive connections to the school system; (2) this is an exciting time to be on the board with the many challenges facing us, and as a result of the Board working together, I am honored to be a member of this Board.

Robert Damaschi – re: article that appeared in CIAC re: setting high standards re: sports – East Hartford should do this. Superintendent Zito stated East Hartford has higher standards than CIAC – we already have the “C” rule in effect.

Marcus Oladell, IV – re: reconfiguration – proposed resolution to address traffic on Forbes Street – we need to focus on safety issues.

Bryan Hall – re: “Urban Voices” focuses on mentoring for kids – 93.7 on radio on Sundays.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:20 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.