

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
AUGUST 3, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, August 3, 2009, 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, Marcus Oladell, IV, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

ALSO PRESENT Mark Zito, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Al Costa, Director of Facilities

ABSENT: Karen Howe, Bryan Hall

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To add to this evening's agenda Consent Calendar under Old and Unfinished Business for items a-f to remove from table and approve
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, July 6, 2009, as corrected:
Page 5: – 2nd to last sentence ...mow the lawn and maintain **periodically.**
Page 6: remarks by Ram Aberasturia under Questions/Concerns by Board members: **took Principal Ryan and Student Executive Board at EHHS to breakfast as a thank you for Board Appreciation Day.**
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, July 8, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes :
Special Meeting, July 13, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes :
Special Meeting, July 22, 2009

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Deadline for school registration is August 14th for all schools;
- Goodwin College 4th Annual Golf Tournament is September 23rd;
for further information call Karen Sulber, 291-9934;
- Secretary Ram Aberasturia called for a moment of silence in memory of
Emil Vetrano, who was a 35 year employee of the East Hartford school district as
well as a Union president

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

No report this evening – representatives not present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, resident of East Hartford re: (1) referred to the Summer Youth Festival and remarks made by Karen Howe, President/Producer of East Hartford Summer Youth Festival in which she stated... ' " When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.' " . Ms. Mayranen-O'Brien referred to "respect" that is missing from Board members; i.e., not endorsing Karen Howe as an incumbent Board member. Ms. Mayranen-O'Brien has asked the public to please consider Karen Howe as an unaffiliated candidate for the Board of Education.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

**Annual Review of EHHS Coaches Handbook
(David Caruso, EHHS)**

Mr. Caruso was present to discuss the EHHS Coaches Handbook. He noted there are no changes to the Handbook this year. He alluded to the review process used with coaches regarding the Coaches Handbook. He noted all coaches have to be Connecticut State certified. He also noted it is a challenge to get coaches.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/ Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Mark Zito

- Superintendent Zito was pleased to announce the Board of Education has appointed John Fote as First Assistant at EHHS;
- The State has released the CMT and CAPPs tests scores. Superintendent Zito stated he and Assistant Superintendent will be presenting a report to the Board on October 5th. He commented in general, the results were raised – there is a positive trend. However, there is concern about the CAPPs reading scores for 10th grade; also there is a decline in writing;
- Superintendent Zito stated tomorrow evening the Town Council is addressing the Teachers' Contract – it is proposed to have a one year extension with no step increases and a COLA increase of 1.99%; insurance will be up by 19 percent, resulting in a savings of \$830,000.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes commented on the Teachers' Contract, noting that New Britain has a one year extended contract with 2.5% COLA, giving ½ year step increase with insurance cost savings of 14 percent; no concessions for this year but will be for next fiscal year;
- Urged parents to make sure you are reading to your children – be sure they continue to learn over the summer;
- We are looking forward to an exciting new school year.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – no meeting scheduled this month;

Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien - no meeting scheduled this month;

Facilities – Robert Damaschi – meeting scheduled for 6:00 P.M., August 27th;

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - no meeting scheduled this month;

Future Planning – Karen Howe – Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes noted Future Planning will be meeting with Facilities in September to look at redistricting; there will be input from the community. No redistricting will take place this school year.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve one **Retirement:**

1. Esther Chamberlain, General Para, effective 6/30/2009;

Motion unanimously carried.

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By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve two **Resignations:**
1. Patricia Enes, Secretary, effective 7/31/09;
2. Ashley Moore, Spec. Ed. Teacher, effective 7/7/09;
Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To place the following policies on Consent Calendar to remove from table and approve:

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4118.51/4281,6141.325 – Use of New Web Tools (Blogging/Podcasting)

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

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 5125 - Student Records: Confidentiality

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

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 5144.3 - discipline of Students with Disabilities

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

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 5145.15 – Directory Information

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

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 5145.4 - Nondiscrimination

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

To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 6114.6 – Emergency Closings

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

Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

To Approve Extension of Superintendent’s Contract from April 22, 2012 to June 30, 2012

(Christopher Wethje, Director, Human Resources)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia

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Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve extension of Superintendent's Contract from
April 22, 2012 to June 30, 2012

Discussion with Possible Action Regarding the Recommendation to have the Town of East Hartford authorize the appraisal of Willowbrook Property

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

(Mark Scheinberg, President, Goodwin College)

(Todd Andrews, Vice President, Goodwin College)

MOTION

By Marcus Oladell, IV

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To authorize Town of East Hartford to allow appraisal of the Willowbrook property

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Costa stated the conceptual plan presented by Mark Scheinberg, President, Goodwin College, and Todd Andrews, Vice President, were reviewed by the Facilities Committee. The appraisal will be paid for by Goodwin College. Mr. Scheinberg noted he can ask the State if a road can be constructed prior to acquiring the Willowbrook .

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated we are not planning on changing any of the programs at Willowbrook.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

- Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated the new principal at EHHS suggested having a "contract" between parents and the school. This would be similar to "Project Appleseed" which is a parental involvement pledge. This is an interesting idea. Administration will take a look at such a "contract". It is our job as a Board of Education to be "cheerleaders". Superintendent Zito stated we are looking at the prospect of increasing our partnership with Child Plan.

- Marcus Oladell – re: has there been any conversation regarding Early Childhood Resource Centers from the State. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated they are still working on the budget.

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TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS - None

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (7:40 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald