

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Acting Chairperson Ram Aberasturia.

PRESENT Acting Chairperson Ram Aberasturia, Robert Damaschi, Dorese Roberts, Anita Morrison, Marcus Oladell, IV, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Karen Howe, Bryan Hall

ALSO PRESENT Mark Zito, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Kimberly Barrington, Student Representative to the Board
Marci Nogueira, Food Service Manager, Sodexo)
Jim Cotton, Johnson Controls

ABSENT Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

**INTRODUCTION AND SWEARING IN OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – KIMBERLY BARRINGTON**

Acting Chairperson Ram Aberasturia administered the oath of office to Kimberly Barrington, student representative to the Board.

**RECOGNITION OF PENNY BRICE AND THE SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP
(SBP) AND PARTNERS**

Ms. Brice noted we have many businesses that fund our programs. The most important aspect of the program is to build and sustain trusting relationships. Ms. Brice noted the SBP has been here for twenty-five years. Ms. Brice then thanked the following Board of Directors of the School Business Partnership who have dedicated their time and funding to the SBP.

Terry Parker, UTC, Board Chair
Mary Sullivan, First New England Federal Credit Union, Treasurer
Mary Beth Reid, Chamber of Commerce
Anna Alfaro, CL&P (Northeast Utilities)
Michelle Hacker, Career and Department Head, EHHS
Karen Howe, East Hartford Board of Education
Dr. Linda Iverson, Supervisor of Elementary Curriculum & Assessment
Susan LaFleur, McDonalds
Kaitlin Lavery, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company (also former student EHPS)
Mary Martinez, New Alliance Bank

Jessica Benson, Travelers (also former student EHPS)
Scott Chadwick, Attorney, Chadwick & Stone

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Each was awarded a plaque from the Board of Education for their outstanding commitment to SBP.

Acting Chairperson Ram Aberasturia congratulated Penny Brice on the work she has done for this partnership.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, August 3, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, August 3, 2009, as corrected:
Page 1: under Approval of Minutes ...took Principal Ryan
and Student Executive Board at EHHS to breakfast as a
thank you...(omitted "s" from "thank")
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Kimberly Barrington, Student Representative

- First week of school went very smoothly;
- First dance of school year will be held on September 11th at 7:00 P.M. – tickets will be sold on September 8-11 during lunch for \$5;
- All first semester activities are now posted on-line;
- Back-to-School Open House will be September 17th, 6:30-9:00 P.M.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Ms. Roberts was happy to see additional social workers being hired.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson/ Superintendent Reports

Acting Chairperson Ram Aberasturia welcomed staff and students back to school and wished them a great new year.

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Superintendent Mark Zito

Superintendent Zito noted we had a great opening of schools. He visited the schools opening week, noting attitudes of staff and students were outstanding.

- We have a total of 7,314 students enrolled at this time;
- Superintendent Zito attended a convocation ceremony on August 27th –a special thank you to Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove, Dr. Linda Iverson and John Fote;
- Compliments to Al Costa and his staff for the condition of all the buildings;
- Thank you to Chris Wethje – we have 613 full time teaching positions in the district;
- Thank you to Penny Brice for her work with the SBP partners.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – meeting scheduled 9/16, 5:30 P.M.

Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O’Brien - meeting scheduled one hour prior to next Regular Board meeting, 9/21;

Facilities – Robert Damaschi – meeting scheduled for 9/14, 6:30 P.M.

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - meeting scheduled for 10/7, 5:30 P.M.

Future Planning – Karen Howe – presently working with Facilities, Finance & Audit and Superintendent re: redistricting and use of buildings – meeting will be scheduled when Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes returns.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve twelve **Resignations:**

1. Claudio Lopez, Jr., Spanish Teacher, effective 7/28/09;
2. Erin S. Albert, School Psychologist, effective 7/29/09;
3. Linda D. Portal, Priority Tutor, effective 7/30/09;
4. Denise N. Levasseur, Priority Tutor, effective 7/30/09;
5. Kristi M. Hummel, Teacher, effective 8/1/09;
6. James G. Foran, Priority Tutor, effective 8/7/09;
7. Dawn L. Thomacos, Head Custodian, effective 8/13/09;
8. Keith Leonard, Custodian I, effective 8/20/09;
9. Luz Helena Victor, Para/SPED, effective 8/20/09;
10. Pamela V. Lockard, Home Econ. Teacher, effective 8/31/09;
11. Patrick Sullivan, Priority Tutor, effective 8/21/09;
12. Travis J. Mack, Behavior Manager, effective 8/31/09

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve one **Retirement:**

1. Patricia R. Flannery, Media Para, effective 7/31/09

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Energy Reduction Program and Referral to Town Council for Action

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

(Johnson Controls)

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To **table** Energy Reduction Program Phase II for further information.

Motion unanimously carried.

To Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Woodstock, CT

(Scott Nozik, Principal, O'Connell Elementary)

(Dr. Pauline Fusco, former Principal Sunset Ridge)

MOTION

By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve request for overnight travel to Woodstock, CT to attend the Discovery Center at Camp Woodstock in Woodstock, CT.

Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted Dr. Fusco has been affiliated with this program since 1996. The students own classroom teachers attend. Funding is provided by private donations. The focus of the program is on math, science and language/arts. Camp Woodstock program involves diversity training.

Acting Chairperson Ram Aberasturia requested a report on families who did not attend in the past and for what reasons. It was noted if families could not afford to send a child (cost is approximately \$68 per student), funding would be provided in part by the Discovery Center.

Ms. Howe asked what do we do with students that are not going on this trip. Principal Nozik responded we will have activities in place.

Students who do attend the program will come back to the Board and give a 15-minute presentation.

To Approve CP#1634-09 for Food Service Point of Sale System (POS)

(Marci Nogueira, General Manager, Sodexo)

MOTION

By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve CP#1634-09 for Food Service Point of Sale System and award to Nutrikids (Sodexo)

Motion unanimously carried.

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The Sodexo contract will support up to \$75,000 toward the purchase of the POS. Total POS cost will be approximately \$100,000. The remaining \$30,000 will be funded through the district's school lunch account excess and Healthy Foods reimbursement.

Acting Chairperson Ram Aberasturia asked Mr. Mainuli what cost savings will we have. Mr. Mainuli stated the cost of printers – we will be able to link to e-School Plus. Acting Chairperson Ram Aberasturia also requested a cost benefit analysis for the public and Board.

Mr. Mainuli would like to implement the POS by October 1, 2009.

To Delete Policy 1112.1 – Coverage of Board Meetings

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

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To delete Policy 1112.1 – Coverage of Board Meetings
Motion unanimously carried.

To Table for First Read Policy 1170 – Recognition of Students, Citizens, Staff Members, and Members of the Board of Education

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

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Bryan Hall
To table for first read Policy 1170 – Recognition of Students, Citizens, Staff Members, and Members of the Board of Education
Motion unanimously carried.

To Delete Policy 1324 – Soliciting Funds from and by Students

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

MOTION By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To delete Policy 1324 – Soliciting Funds from and by Students
Motion unanimously carried.

To Table for First Read Policy 1660 – School/Business Partnership

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

MOTION By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To table for first read Policy 1660 – School/Business Partnership
Motion unanimously carried.

To Table for First Read Policy 5131.8 – Off School Grounds Misconduct

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

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To table for first read Policy 5131.8 – Off School Grounds Misconduct
Motion unanimously carried.

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To Table for First Read Bylaw 9221 – Filling Vacancies

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

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To table for first read Bylaw 9221 – Filling Vacancies
Motion unanimously carried.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Karen Howe – (1) attended opening day of school at Willowbrook School – Ms. Howe provided breakfast; the motivational speaker was excellent; Open House was held the following week – over 125 people attended - there is a great level of commitment. (2) attended Woodland School Open House – it was nice to see the Superintendent walking through the building and communicating with parents, staff and students.

Bryan Hall – (1) visited East Hartford Middle School – very impressed with Nate Quesnel, new Principal; (2) Friday attended “Connections” program – we have very exciting things happening - Mr. Hall commended our Superintendent.

Anita Morrison – (1) attended Norris School Open House – re: the 5:00 start time, requests a later start time next year. The Superintendent stated he is flexible; (2) Board of Education pictures in schools need to be updated; (3) schools should update Web sites for all activities and events – also meeting schedules; (4) re: e-School – parents being able to go on line with attendance records and grades – would like update – Mr. Mainuli stated we are piloting this at CIBA now and then it will be throughout the district.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Dorese Roberts – (1) re: Town providing laptop computers for Council members to cut back on paperwork – will Board members have laptops. Superintendent Zito stated this will have to be discussed at a Board meeting; (2) re: uniforms – subject should be brought back to Board.

Robert Damaschi – re: bringing programs to the Board on short notice – should be going to Committee involved and then present to the Board. Mr. Aberasturia echoed Mr. Damaschi’s remarks.

Karen Howe – re: starting time for Open House – might be a good idea to consider staggering times. Superintendent Zito stated he will talk to principals throughout the school year on this issue.

Bryan Hall – re: Superintendent’s Update – would like to see a schedule of sporting events included in the Update.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Uniforms – to Policy & Audit and Future Planning Committee

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:00 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald