

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
OCTOBER 19, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, October 5, 2009, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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 (arrived 7:40 P.M.), Bryan Hall, Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien, Karen Howe

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

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Anita Morrison  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve the following Minutes:  
**Regular Meeting, October 5, 2009**  
Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

Mr. Aberasturia asked for a moment of silence for the recent passing of Karen Howe's mother.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

**Kimberly Barrington**

- Homecoming weekend was successful; 400 students attended the dance. Hornets won the game 26-13; KIM BARRINGTON WAS HOMECOMING QUEEN!
- PSAT Day – seniors were in seminar; sophomores and juniors took PSAT test, freshmen did PSAT related activities;
- 11/24 – Pep Rally Decorating Party
- 11/25 – Pep Rally;
- 11/9-11/13 – Penny War;
- 11/16-20 – Pop-Top War
- 11/18 – Window Painting Party

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

**Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required**

**Report on Elementary Summer School**

**(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)**

**(Dr. Linda Iverson, Supervisor, Elementary Instruction)**

Mr. Fote provided a PowerPoint presentation on the July 6-July 30 Summer Connections summer school report held at O'Brien School. 451 students attended, four days per week for four weeks. There was a 91% attendance rate. Programs offered were mainly dedicated toward literacy and student achievement with appropriate assessment practices. Daily reading practice was given.

Mr. Fote noted students improved as a whole in all assessments administered by the teaching staff. Also, phone calls home to parents were made on a daily basis to keep them abreast of achievements.

Surveys were given to students for their comments; all received were positive, and students commented how they looked forward to attending the program on a daily basis. Mr. Fote noted he would like to return to Langford School next summer. He plans to focus on math literacy. Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove thanked Mr. Fote for his enthusiasm and a program well done.

**First Quarter Financial Report**

**(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)**

**(Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel)**

Mr. Mainuli stated we are currently in good shape, due in part to the 30 percent hold back on the operating budget as well as controlling purchase orders/requisitions.

Due to a new accounting issue, the Town will be reducing our budget by \$5.9 million in Federal dollars. This, however, will not have an impact on our budget. We will begin our new budget with \$73 million, plus \$5.9 coming from Federal stimulus.

Present concerns exist in certain areas:

- Labor Relations – we currently have \$82,000 remaining in this line item. We may have to make adjustments and transfer funds in the future;
- Due to CREC schools, we are looking at \$2.5 million for tuition costs and \$500,000 for transportation costs for special education; however, we are expecting \$3 million in revenue from Woodland School;
- Utility accounts – electricity prices are up -- we will be receiving \$110,000 from the Town which will be credited to electricity. We also expect \$50,000 from CL&P.
- Building Improvements Account – this account remains over budget by \$52,000 – we may have to transfer funds in the future. We will be bringing transfer information to the Board throughout the year.

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- Revenues expected: \$3 million from Woodland, \$124,000 from Medicaid, \$300,000 from e-rate (\$200,000 of that will go to IT Department for voice and data communications. Revenue projections are holding strong.

Mr. Mainuli noted the issue of “furlough days” will be discussed during the second quarter, if there are fund balances in the operating budget .

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes asked for a breakdown of how many students are going to CREC and by grade. Mr. Mainuli stated this information will become available in a couple of weeks.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson/ Superintendent Reports**

**Superintendent Mark Zito**

- Attended Governor’s Forum on Dropouts today – both Karen Howe and Bryan Hall were in attendance – talked about “perception”, “drop out rates”, “take advantage of opportunities in Town”, as well as other topics.

Mr. Hall commented the youth panel was tremendous today. We really need to address teenage pregnancy. We are doing many positive things in East Hartford. East Hartford looked very good. The Superintendent is open to suggestions. It was very heartwarming.

Ms. Morrison noted she would like to learn more about our Connections Program. The Superintendent stated we will continue to focus on our dropout situation – but, we should also focus on good things that are going on. Mr. Oladell suggested having workshops stating how good East Hartford is.

- November 2<sup>nd</sup> – we have invited students who scored well on CAPT and other tests to be recognized at EHHS for two hours;
- October 26<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 P.M. – we will be conducting interviews for Assistant Principal at EHHS; we will also address the East Catholic High School bussing issue.

**Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes**

- Regarding drop outs – we are already on the path to address this situation; Regarding the Connections Program, everyone in the community, as well as teachers, are to be commended.

**Special Committee Reports**

**Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes** – meeting scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>; 6:00 P.M.;

**Curriculum – Hilde Mayranen-O’Brien** - meeting scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup>;

**Facilities – Robert Damaschi** –meeting held this evening 5:30 P.M.;

**Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia** - meeting scheduled November 4th, 5:30, Board office;

**Future Planning – Karen Howe** – meeting scheduled with Facilities November 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 P.M. to discuss redistricting and an update on the dress code.

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**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION**

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve three **Resignations:**

1. Heather McCarthy, Priority Tutor, effective 10/2/09;
2. Anthony Restrepo, Behavior Manager, effective 1/1/10;
3. Jennifer Longo, Title I Tutor, effective 11/13/09

Motion unanimously carried.

**OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To remove from table and approve the following from  
Consent Calendar a through w:

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1000 – Concept, Goals, and Roles in Community Relations**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1112 – News Media Relationships**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1112.2 – School News Releases**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1150/1160 – Communications with the Public**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1180 – Memorials for Deceased Students or Staff**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1210 – School-Community Associations**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1221 – Citizens' Advisory Committees for the Board of Education**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1250 – Visits to the Schools (During School Hours)**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1260 – Educational Foundations**

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

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**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1310 – Relations Between Public and School Personnel**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1311 – Staff Participation in Community Life**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1312.1 – Complaints concerning Categorically Funded Programs**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1315 – Distribution of Materials to School/Personnel**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1321 – Public Performances by Students**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1323 – Gifts to Students**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1340 – Access to School Procedures and Materials**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1414 – Relations with Welfare/Youth Services Department**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1416 – Fiscal Authority**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1430/1440 – State/Federal Government**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1500 – Relations between Area, State, Regional & National Associations and the Schools**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1600 – Relations between Non-Public and other Education Organizations and the Schools**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 5142 – Student Safety**

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

**Remove from Table and Approve Policy 1150/1160 – Communications with the Public**  
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

**Remove from Table and Approve Bylaw 9010 – Limits of Authority**  
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

Motion unanimously carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**To Approve Request for Overnight Travel to the Connecticut Science Center, Hartford, CT**

(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)

(Melissa Gavarrino, Department Head, Science)

**MOTION**

By Hilde Mayranen-O'Brien

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To approve request for overnight travel to the Connecticut Science Center, Hartford, CT and waive time requirement.

Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted there is no cost to the district. This is funded by the National Science Foundation grant. Mr. Aberasturia requested that after the students return, please provide information as to how many of those students who attended were free and reduced lunches.

**To Approve CP#1636-09 Driver's Education Program**

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

(John Fote, Assistant Principal, EHHS)

**MOTION**

By Marcus Oladell, IV

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve CP#1636-09 Driver's Education Program and award to AAA Driving School.

Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Howe suggested to Mr. Mainuli to share the information on the Driver's Education Program with CIBA. Ms. Roberts asked for information on how many students will participate.

Mr. Mainuli noted AAA provides all needed supplies and will compensate the school between \$25-\$40 for each student for classroom use. The money will go back into the SAA accounts.

**To Approve Mayberry School Property Damage Acceptance of Final Settlement**

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

**MOTION**

By Robert Damaschi

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

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To approve Mayberry School Property Damage Acceptance of \$25,000 for Final Settlement offered by the insurance company.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**To Table for First Read Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process/Conduct and Discipline**

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

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Bryan Hall

To table for first read Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/  
Due Process/Conduct and Discipline

Motion unanimously carried.

**REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Ram Aberasturia** visited Sunset Ridge, EHHS and EHMS – discussed how we can reach “at risk” students;

**Marcus Oladell** visited Hockanum School;

**Bryan Hall** visited Synergy. He talked with several teachers; he read testimony from kids who love the program. Mr. Hall was impressed with what Synergy has to offer.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**Anita Morrison** – several concerns she would like to share at this point, as she will be on vacation for the next several days: (1) supports East Catholic ; (2) re: dress code – pleased we are opening this up again; (3) remind people to vote; (4) wishes Ms. Mayranen the very best and thanked her for her years of service.

**Marcus Oladell, IV** thanked Ms. Mayranen for her years of service.

Superintendent Zito stated we have one more meeting left before Ms. Mayranen leaves.

**Hilde Mayranen-O’Brien** - inmates came to East Hartford and Theresa Graziola received kudos from the inmates.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** - None

**MOTION**

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board ( 9:00 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.