

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 16, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, November 16, 2009, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. by Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes.

PRESENT Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Secretary Ram Aberasturia, Robert Damaschi, Dorese Roberts, Marcus Oladell, IV, Anita Morrison Bryan Hall, Jeffrey Currey, Tyron Harris

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

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes welcomed the two new Board members: Jeffrey Currey and Tyron Harris.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To place in nomination the name of Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes as Chairperson of the Board of Education.
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
To place in nomination the name of Ram Aberasturia as Secretary of the Board of Education.
Motion unanimously carried.

**RECOGNITION OF NADEL HENVILLE, MAYBERRY ELEMENTARY
(Jenny Correa, Principal)**

Nadel Henville, 4th grade student at Mayberry School, was recognized for winning a writing contest through Benchmark Education. Her writing was featured in My Best Moment that was published by Benchmark Education. The book was shared with Board members.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACADEMY OF FINANCE BOARD MEMBERS

Penny Brice, School Business Partnership, thanked the Board for recognizing the Advisory Board of Directors of the Academy of Finance. The Academy of Finance program began twelve years ago and has given \$175,000 in scholarships. Ralph Gray is the Director of the program at East Hartford High School. Each of the fifteen recipients received a plaque from the Board. Ms. Brice thanked the Board and staff of East Hartford High School for their support of the program.

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Superintendent Zito offered his gratitude to the Academy of Finance Advisory Board of Directors.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To place on Consent Calendar, under New Business,
To table for first read Items c through o.
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of October 27, 2009 (5:10 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of October 27, 2009 (6:05 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting of November 2, 2009 (7:05 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Bryan Hall
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of November 4, 2009 (7:11 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of November 5, 2009 (6:02 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

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WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has provided an online directory of scholarships that are available at www.hfpg.org/scholarships. The Hartford Foundation expects to award approximately \$1 million to 580 students from the region next year.
- Vinny's Home & Garden, 1375 Silver Lane, East Hartford, will host East Hartford High School's 4th Annual Empty Bowls Project, which has created handcrafted bowls, platters and plates. Proceeds from sales will be used to support The Friendship Center, a local soup kitchen. The event will take place on November 20th, 5-8 P.M. at Vinny's Home & Garden. As a special thank you, Vinny's will give a free poinsettia to the first 200 guests attending.
- Saturday, November 21st – 7:00-9:00 P.M. – Greater Hartford Superintendents of Schools, administrators of colleges, social service agencies, municipalities and clergy are invited to attend a dinner-discussion for the purpose of shrinking scholastic disparity in Greater Hartford. There is no cost for this event. Please respond to Doug Dix at 768-4261.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Kimberly Barrington

- NEASC is visiting East Hartford High School, CIBA and Synergy November 15-18. Tours are being conducted. Interviews and shadowing of teachers, students, parents and staff are taking place. Results of the NEASC visit will be given in March, 2010.
- EHHS Newsletter was mailed out last week.
- Report cards go out this Thursday.
- Spirit Week events: November 18th - window painting; Pop Top War; Penny War last week.
- November 25th – Pep Rally after school.
- December 3, 4 and 5 – Drama Club presenting Pixies King & Magical Things Match Girls Gift at 7:00 P.M. – admission \$5.00.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Tim Larson – thanked the Board of Education and ING Greater Hartford Marathon. ING invited EHMS students to participate in this year's marathon. 2,000 kids participated as well as twelve chaperones. Proceeds go to CCMC as well as other charities. Mr. Larson thanked the Board for supporting this endeavor. \$6.5 million came into the capital region during this marathon. Mr. Larson would like to have one representative from the Board to participate.

Both Ram Aberasturia and Marcus Oldell, IV will participate – they must beat 2 hours, 10 minutes! Mr. Hall stated the program is great. He volunteered last year and will next year.

Mr. Larson is also inviting a representative from the Town Council to participate.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

**Presentation of Field Trip to Discovery Center
(Scott Nozik, Principal, O'Connell Elementary)
(Students)**

Mr. Nozik reviewed with the Board the success of the Discovery Center at Camp Woodstock field trip. Forty- nine fifth grade students attended the field trip. Four full scholarships and one partial scholarship were provided. Everyone who wanted to go, did go. Two teachers were also on the field trip. Four students presented an overview of the trip to the Board.

In response to a Board member's concern, it was noted that twenty-eight students in the fifth grade qualify for free/reduced lunch. Of those twenty-eight, twenty-two participated in the field trip.

Mr. Nozik thanked the Board for allowing the students to attend the field trip.

Chairperson/ Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Mark Zito

- NEASC visitation – Superintendent Zito thanked the Board members who met with the NEASC committee as well as EHHS staff for all their efforts.
- Superintendent Zito welcomed the two new Board members: Jeffrey Currey and Tyron Harris.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes also welcomed Jeffrey Currey and Tyron Harris to the Board. She noted it will be a busy year: redistricting, Board Strategic Goals and many other issues.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – meeting scheduled for 11/18, 6:00 P.M.;

Curriculum – Dorese Roberts – no meeting scheduled at this time;

Facilities – Bryan Hall – meeting scheduled for 11/23, 5:00 P.M. – (1) will continue discussion on redistricting, (2) Al Costa and Paul Mainuli have worked on a draft for the acquisition of Willowbrook School;

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - meeting scheduled December 2, 5:30P.M.

Future Planning – Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated the entire Board will be working on this committee.

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PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve three **Resignations:**
1. Nicole Gutkowski, SPED/Para, effective 11/13/09
2. Kari Fusconi, Title I Tutor, effective 11/6/09
3. Charles Graham, Music Teacher, effective 12/31/09
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve three **Retirements:**
1. Lorenzo Sacdalan, Head Custodian, effective 11/27/09
2. Joyce Krasner, SPED Teacher, effective 6/30/2010
3. Lorraine Kemp, Music Teacher, effective 12/31/09
Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Remove from Table and Approve Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process/Conduct and Discipline

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

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To remove from table and Approve Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process/Conduct and Discipline
Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Overnight Field Trip to Beijing, China

(Robert Spiller, CIBA, Guidance)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve overnight field trip to Beijing, China, June 22 – July 5, 2010 for 16-20 Connecticut IB students.
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi, Tyron Harris

Mr. Aberasturia asked if any free and reduced lunch students will be attending. It was noted they will be participating. A count of how many will be provided. Mr. Hall asked that the Board be provided with a count of free and reduced lunch attendees beforehand so we can somehow provide funds for them. Dorese Roberts asked if there were any businesses that were willing to help out.

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Approve the Revised 2009-2010 East Hartford Board of Education Subcommittees
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Board Chair)

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the revised 2009-2010 Board of Education Subcommittees
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following on Consent Calendar:
Under New Business, items c through o:

Approve Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank
(Christopher Wethje, Director, Human Resources)

Approve Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank
(Christopher Wethje, Director, Human Resources)

To Table for First Read Policy 1100 – Communications with the Public
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

To Table for First Read Policy 1311.1 – Political Activities of School Employees
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

To Table for First Read Policy 1313 – Gifts to School Personnel
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

To Table for First Read Policy 2001.1 – Participatory Management
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

To Table for First Read Policy 2110 – Management Positions
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

To Table for First Read Policy 2121 – Lines of Responsibility
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

To Table for First Read Policy 3524.2 – Hazardous Materials in Schools
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

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To Table for First Read Policy 4118.113/4218.113 - Harassment
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

To Table for First Read Policy 4118.121/4218.121 – Freedom of Speech
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

To Table for First Read Policy 4118.211 4218.211 – Retaliation and Whistle Blowing
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

To Table for First Read Policy 6114.7 – Safe Schools
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

Motion unanimously carried.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Ram Aberasturia – attended Sunset Ridge and discussed with staff the FasttMath component of the curriculum. A special thank you to Jenn Hills, the technology teacher, who has contributed to the success of this program.

Anita Morrison and Ram Aberasturia attended Mayberry and Langford schools. Also visited EHMS – they are working a program to get more parent involvement.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes and Marcus Oladell, IV visited Sunset Ridge.

Jeffrey Currey attended a PTO meeting at Silver Lane. Parental involvement was discussed.

Dorese Roberts noted she has not been able to attend many schools due to working hours.

Anita Morrison attended Norris and O’Brien PTO’s – they discussed ways of having more parental involvement.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Dorese Roberts (1) welcomed new Board members; (2) asked status of providing laptops for Board members. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes asked Mr. Mainuli to quantify the cost. Superintendent Zito stated we would have to furnish flash drives also, if laptops are purchased; (3) re: Open House at EHMS. Superintendent Zito noted he will speak with Debbie Kaprove on this subject.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes would like to look at the following:

- Mega Education
- Graduation requirements re: 40 hrs. of community services
- Drop out rates – how we can reach out

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- Homeless population – i.e, how are they doing in school. Superintendent Zito noted the majority of dollars go into our transportation. Mr. Mainuli will do a report on this with his staff.

It was noted Board members' pictures will be taken at the next Regular Board meeting.

MOTION

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:50 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald