

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 7, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, December 7, 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 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 (arrived 7:30 P.M.) Bryan Hall, Jeffrey Currey

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

RECOGNITION OF CAPSS AWARD RECIPIENTS

(Matt Ryan, Principal, EHHS)

(Art Arpin, Principal, CIBA)

(Helene Marchese, Principal, Woodland)

(Nathan Quesnel, Principal, EHMS)

(John Karzar, Principal, Stevens) The following were the 2009-10 recipients of the CAPSS Award. Each received a plaque from the Board:

East Hartford High School

Alyssa Eckstein Gr. 12

Connecticut IB Academy

Julia Sisson Gr. 12

East Hartford Middle School

Paul Caccavale Gr. 8

India Hopkins Gr. 8

Woodland School

Ryan Leibowitz Gr. 11

Stevens School

Gustavo Moreno Gr. 12

Amber Murray Gr. 11

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes thanked all the CAPSS award recipients and stated we are all proud of them.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of November 12, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of November 12, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of November 16, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes
Regular Meeting of November 16, 2009, as corrected:
Page 5 – end of last paragraph: **Dorese Roberts asked if there were any businesses that were willing to help out.**
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of November 30, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- November 15th – NEASC representatives arrived at EHHS for their four-day visit. Opening remarks were heard from administrators and faculty members. The presentation was followed by group interviews of both the Board of Education and EHHS parents. Forty-six interviews were given to teachers from all subject areas;
- Superintendent Zito accepted \$8,000 from the Rotary Club as final payment of the \$38,000 to support “Project Lead the Way”, a pre-engineering program at both EHHS and EHMS.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Kimberly Barrington

- December 7-14 – Toy Drive will be held. Toys will be distributed the Department of Children and Families;
- December 18th – progress reports will be distributed;
- December 15th – Winter Concert will be held;
- Winter Sports have begun;
- December 17th – Talent Show will be held;
- December 16th – Christmas Caroling will take place at retirement homes and homeless shelters;

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- December 21st – Tri-M (music honor society) Polar Express show will be held for elementary school children at 6:00 P.M. in the auditorium.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Councilman Donald Pitkin – re: thanked the students from EHHS who recently volunteered for the Rotary;
2. Susan Skoronick – re: (1) congratulated the CAPSS award recipients; (2) re: raises for administrators – as a taxpayer does not think this is the right thing to do at this time – please reconsider this agenda item;
3. Deborah Gaudette, 22 Higbie Dr. – re: raises for administrators – this is an insult to our children – should ask for budget freeze.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Annual Adult Education Report – 2008-09

(Pat Perrone, Coordinator, Adult Education)

Ms. Perrone presented her 2008-09 comprehensive report to the Board. A total of 264 students participated, a total increase of nineteen percent. The ESL program provided free instruction to adults from over 25 countries. It was noted that courses are now offered on line. The next semester begins January 5, 2010.

Ms. Morrison asked for a breakdown of the \$77,000 Program Improvement Grant. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes asked how many students have gone on to further their education after receiving their GED.

Report on EHMS Schedule

(Nathan Quesnel, Principal, EHMS)

(Marcia Huddy, Supervisor, Secondary Instruction)

(Melissa Gavarrino, Department Head, Science)

The detailed report on the EHMS schedule was presented to the Board, stating where we are now, what changes will be made to the schedule and where we are going. It was noted we will continue to monitor/modify activity periods to better meet the needs of students; will continue to align schedules with student and school needs; will continue to monitor and plan for both interventions and enrichments; will assure that one READ 180 block is designated for ELL students with an ELL teacher.

Chairperson/ Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Mark Zito

- Thank you to the parents of CAPSS students - we are very proud of all the recipients of the CAPSS Award;
- Thank you to the presenters of the EHMS schedule report;
- December 21 – public hearing will be held on the budget at 6:30 P.M., followed by the Regular Board of Education meeting at 7:00 P.M.

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Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- We will be conducting budget workshops the week of December 21st; we need to get our budget to the Mayor by January 4th.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – meeting scheduled for December 16th;

Curriculum – Dorese Roberts – meeting will be scheduled sometime in January;

Facilities – Bryan Hall – we are presently working on our calendar of meetings to be scheduled;

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - meeting scheduled For January 6th, 5:30 P.M.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To approve two **Retirements:**

1. Susan Ammann, ELL Teacher, effective 2/26/10;

2. Deett Farnham, Secretary, effective 12/28/2009

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve two **Resignations:**

1. Christopher Norton, Priority Tutor, effective 11/18/2009;

2. Gary Shea, Priority Tutor, effective 11/25/09

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Overnight Field Trip to Baltimore, MD

(Chuck Nystrom, EHHS)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve overnight field trip to Baltimore, MD

For 12-15 students from EHHS who will be competing

In the Chesapeake FIRST Robotics Regional Competition

Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted fundraising will be done to defray the cost of the trip.

Approve Redistricting Study Contract with Harral-Michalowski Associates,

Bid CP# 1638-09

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve redistricting study contract with Harral-Michalowski

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Associates to provide a redistricting study for the East Hartford Board of Education
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Mainuli noted funding for this program is coming from Title I dollars. It is 100 percent grant funded. Superintendent Zito thanked Messrs. Mainuli, Costa and Staron, as well as members of the Facilities Committee. He stated this is an opportunity to improve the quality of education and creating opportunity for families to remain in East Hartford.

Approve Relinquishing Control Over the Property and Grounds Known as the Willowbrook School

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve relinquishing control over the property and grounds known as the Willowbrook School to the Town of East Hartford and lease the property back to the East Hartford Board of Education for a five year term, with an option to renew for one additional five year term, at a rate of \$1.00 per annum, upon the terms and conditions outlined in the Lease Agreement dated November 19, 2009.

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Mainuli stated the Willowbrook program will not be impacted by this action.

Approve Tuition Enrollment Slots for East Hartford Students to Attend the Goodwin College's Connecticut River Academy Magnet School

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Jeffrey Currey

To **table** approval of tuition enrollment slots for ten students in each grade to attend the Goodwin College's Connecticut River Academy Magnet School, at an estimated cost of \$4,700 per student for further discussion.

Motion unanimously carried.

This will be addressed at the first regular Board meeting in January, 2010.

Approve Restoration of Four Furlough Days for Members of Local 2727 of Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

(Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve restoration of four furlough Days for members of Local 2727 of Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

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Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated there are dollars in the salary and labor accounts to pay back to July 1st. Ms. Morrison thanked the secretaries, security and the union.

Approval of Salary Adjustments for Non-Bargaining Positions
(Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
To provide salary adjustments for non-bargaining positions in
FY 2009-10.
Motion carried. Nay: Robert Damaschi

The salary adjustments will remain in place beyond the current fiscal year. Ginny Lynch stated she is grateful to the Board for approving this decision.

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

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve certified staff member's use of employee sick bank
Motion unanimously carried.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Dorese Roberts noted she attended a meeting at the LOB called "Campaign Learn". Its goal is to close the achievement gap.

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

Bryan Hall attended a meeting in Hartford. They used the same firm for their reconfiguration as we are going to use. The common goal is children and getting parents involved.

Anita Morrison (1) attended her first Willowbrook Policy Committee. She was impressed with the Committee and its members. They discussed sale/lease of Willowbrook; (2) Child Plan had a meeting with grant writers. Ms. Morrison will report back to the Board with any updates.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Jeffrey Currey asked for status of Mega Education.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes would like to consider having a spelling bee for fifth graders.

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:45 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald