

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 2009**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, December 14, 2009, at East Hartford Public Schools Administration Building, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 P.M. by Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes.

PRESENT Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Secretary Ram Aberasturia, Robert Damaschi, Anita Morrison, Marcus Oladell, IV (arrived 6:27 P.M.), Dorese Roberts, Tyron Harris, Jeffrey Currey, Bryan Hall (left because of illness)

ALSO PRESENT Mark Zito, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Joanne Zatarain, CPA, Business Services
Donna Tyrrell, Accounting Manager, Business Services

Special Meeting for Budgetary Purposes with Possible Action

Superintendent Zito stated the proposed budget request of \$85,231,746 includes \$5,950,673 in ARRA grant funds. It represents an increase of 7.8% over last year's budget. It includes ten new teaching positions as well as a Principal to be located at Willowbrook school.

Major increases in this year's budget include \$2.3 million of additional costs for health benefits; \$266, 285 for school transportation; \$110,000 for technology and \$113,759 for textbooks. Within the next couple of months, the Town will adjust our direct appropriation which will result in their giving back to the Board \$3.5 million. It is a State regulation for the Town Council to reinstate \$3.5 million to meet the Minimum Budget Requirement for funding public education.

Mr. Mainuli referred to specific line items: #1310 and #1320 includes funding set aside for bargaining group contracts in negotiations, teacher certifications, i.e. masters, doctorate, and extra contractual days.

He noted #2120 – Health Self Insure is a \$2.3 million increase. #3230 Pupil Services – includes tuitions for those attending CREC and \$60,000 for the Connecticut River Academy; #3330 Other Professional Services includes \$700,000 for Kelly Services; #4900 – Other Purchased Services include Sonitrol and EHHS graduation. Mr. Mainuli stated no significant changes were made in the operating budget. He has kept it at the current year levels.

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Mr. Mainuli noted IT Department is looking to do a “list serve” to all parents. It will be an enhancement that will reap benefits for all.

Mr. Aberasturia requested information on what utility savings the district has received as a result of the completion of Phase I of the Johnson Controls energy efficiency program. Mr. Costa agreed to prepare a report on the utility savings for the Board.

Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove explained the Title I ARRA Grant Funds. It is a two-year grant of almost \$2 million. The Title I ARRA funds are made available to support intervention programs and improve student achievement in our schools. Mr. Mainuli noted the Title I ARRA funds must be spent by June 30, 2011.

Dr. Sharon Bremner noted the IDEA AARA Funds (different from Title ARRA funds) can be used to support the regular IDEA special education grant. Discussion took place regarding the CREC managed, Lincoln Academy, funding for which was included in the IDEA AARA grant. There is \$30,000 allocated to the program which provides evaluation and counseling services to students. It was noted the dollars have not be spent to date. Superintendent Zito stated we will try to use these dollars by the end of the fiscal year.

At this time, Mr. Mainuli stated to the Board a draft report of the June 2009 Independent Audit conducted by Blum Shapiro indicated that there were no issues with the financial management of the school district. Mr. Mainuli added that this will be the fifth year in a row that there were no issues concerning the financial management of the school district. The Board thanked Paul Mainuli, Joanne Zatarain and Donna Tyrrell for their efforts.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes asked that an Administrative Organization Chart be made available to the entire Board.

Mr. Aberasturia suggested a meeting should again take place with the Mayor, Parks & Recreation and Board of Education to discuss shared services.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes asked that Board members who have questions regarding the proposed budget should e-mail any of the Directors, with a copy to the Superintendent, or send an e-mail directly to the Superintendent.

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It was noted the next Budget meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 15th, 5:30 P.M. to discuss Administration and Health Benefits. A budget meeting will also be held on Thursday, December 17th, 5:30 P.M. Also, a discussion and possible action on pay grid for non-bargaining employees will take place.

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board (9:02 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald