

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2009**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at East Hartford Public Schools Administration Building, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:38 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

ALSO PRESENT Mark Zito, Superintendent of Schools
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Guy Collins, Supervisor, IT Department
Ken Sayers, Network Administrator

ABSENT: Bryan Hall (ill)

Special Meeting for Budgetary Purposes with Possible Action

The following programs were presented and discussed:

Support Services/Program

#400 – Substitute Teachers – under professional - \$700,000 for Kelly Services (grants can cover some of these dollars). Mr. Mainuli noted we had a 97% fill rate last year with Kelly Services. Feedback has been very positive. They have kept the cost constant. This program is very beneficial to the district. Superintendent Zito stated it is important to know our classes are covered. He also noted he has asked that administrative intervention be done in the afternoon so as not to interfere with the classroom.

Mr. Mainuli noted 34% of absentees were due to illness. Mr. Aberasturia asked what is the average number of teacher absences in a year, and is it equal to other districts.

#402 – Paraprofessionals - no changes. Mr. Mainuli referred to percent increases for paras. Ms. Roberts asked for a copy of what he was reading from. It was noted this would be available in an Executive Session.

#411 – Program Development – Mr. Mainuli noted this program supports professional development that cannot use grant dollars.

#412 – Instructional Support - #1320 –Non-Cert OT & Extra - includes a contingency for paras.

#420 – Media Services – no changes.

#421 – Educational Technology – to be used to support district-wide technology to purchase equipment and software to enhance curriculum.

Support Services/General

#501 – Dues & Fees – Superintendent Zito stated he feels we cannot belong to CABE this year at a cost of \$23,000 for dues. He continues to receive phone calls asking us to join. He will continue to state we cannot join for financial reasons.

Board Expenses – awards and plaques come out of this account.

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#510 – Central Administration – discussion took place regarding having parents being able to go on-line at the site to self-register.

#512- Community Services – this is the School/Business Partnership – dollars remain the same. Mr. Aberasturia asked that the Board be provided with amount of dollars brought in last year.

#515 – Human Resources – reduced the labor relation account; re: #3300 – Other Professional – additional dollars are requested to help employees/families with problems – an employee assistance program.

#520 – Building Administration – it was noted an Assistant Principal will be added; also an elementary principal at Willowbrook.

#530 – Fiscal Services – account will remain status quo.

#551 – Plant Operations – account will remain status quo.

#552 – Plant Maintenance – account will remain status quo.

#555 – Security Services - account will remain status quo.

#560- Student Transportation Services – slight increase of 3.79%.

#590 – Information Systems – Questions were raised regarding leasing computers vs. purchasing. Superintendent Zito suggested to Mr. Collins and Mr. Sayers to provide quotes from Dell regarding leasing and to work with Mr. Staron. Mr. Aberasturia stated we should fund technology as much as we can. The Superintendent stated he agrees. Superintendent Zito asked for the status regarding laptops for Board members. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes asked about the possibility of leasing laptops for schools. Mr. Mainuli noted we are applying for a grant of \$53,000 to be used for wireless technology.

#920 – Fixed Charges – this account has increased approximately 35 percent from last year due to increase in #2120 – Health Self Insure. Mr. Damaschi asked why the Town pays less for insurance coverage than the Board. Mr. Mainuli will contact Mr. Walsh at the Town for an explanation.

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 (8:55 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.