

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 7, 2011**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, February 7, 2011, at the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes.

PRESENT Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Secretary Ram Aberasturia, Marcus Oladell, IV, Anita Morrison, Bryan Hall, Jeffrey Currey, Julie Kieras, Tyron Harris

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

ABSENT Dorese Roberts

Naima Morst, 5th grade student at Sunset Ridge Elementary Academy for Arts and World Languages, sang the Star Spangled Banner.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of January 11, 2011 (5:10 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of January 11, 2011 (6:03 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of January 18, 2011 (6:22 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

**APPROVED BY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting of January 18, 2011 (7:25 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Julie Kieras
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of January 20, 2011 (5:09 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of January 20, 2011 (6:04 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of January 25, 2011 (5:05 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of January 25, 2011 (5:58 P.M.)

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Ram Aberasturia noted there are numerous scholarships available to high school seniors planning to attend college. He urged those students to see their guidance counselors for assistance.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Haley Sluboski, Student Representative

- February 9th – Winter Concert at EHHS, 7:00 P.M.;
- February 19th – annual Cabaret Show and dinner will be at 5:00 P.M.; tickets are \$20;
- EHHS is celebrating Black History Month with many projects underway.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Parent, 150 Ludlow Rd., Manchester – has two daughters attending CIBA – re: mandating school uniforms – what metrics are used to determine quality of education; it is an extra burden to spend approximately \$350-\$400 each to dress her three children – under what authority gives you the OK to mandate parents spending dollars in a specific

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way – how many incidents, i.e., assaults, concealed weapons, etc., took place this past year based on their dress. You should be focusing on educating students, not focusing on what they wear; safety will not increase; reconsider and remove mandate for school uniforms;

2. Ginny Lynch, Chapel St., President Paraprofessionals Union – re: in favor of eliminating February vacation due to excessive snow days;
3. Rich Ramande – has two daughters attending CIBA – re: not in favor of uniform policy – what are you basing statistics on; if you are having uniforms, EHHS and CIBA should have the same colors; this has not been very well thought out – what is your goal;
4. Parent of EHHS student, 79 Larrabee Street – re: uniforms – where are the dollars coming from?
5. Freshman at CIBA – clothes make us different – we need to express ourselves;
6. Student at CIBA –re: uniform policy - concerned for cost to her family;
7. Student (Steven) at CIBA – re: uniform colors – believes EHHS and CIBA colors should be the same;
8. Parent (Turner) – not in favor of uniform policy – too stringent; has no impact on education;
9. Emily Burns, student, CIBA – against uniform policy;
10. Student at EHHS, 84 Syracuse Drive – against uniform policy;
11. Sophomore at CIBA – against uniform policy because it has negative consequences;
12. Andrea Hilton, CIBA – against uniform policy – you express yourself with your own clothing;
13. Parent of daughter at CIBA – against uniform policy – please re-consider;
14. Two students at CIBA – against uniform policy.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Career and Technical Education Update

(Michelle Hacker, Department Head)

Ms. Hacker gave a PowerPoint presentation on Career and Technical Education (CTE). She noted CTE has the support of the Board and teachers. We have a partnership with Manchester Community College (MCC) and have received over \$30,000 from MCC. Along with our present courses in Personal Finance & Advanced Personal Finance and Project Lead the Way, next year the following courses will be added: Entrepreneurship, Digital Electronics, Digital Communications, Sports and Entertainment Marketing and others.

Update on Sunset Ridge Elementary Academy for Arts and World Languages

(Emil Kopcha, Principal, Sunset Ridge)

Mr. Kopcha gave an overview of the Sunset Ridge Elementary Academy and its extensive offerings to students. He stated the mission of the school is “helping every child to see the whole picture”. The curriculum being used is the Language/Arts curriculum for East Hartford. Uniforms have been a success. They have given a sense of pride to students. Offerings of science, social studies, music and visual arts are enjoyed by all students. We received a grant from Pratt & Whitney. Thanks to the Board for its support – we have new technology, Smart

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Boards and new laboratories. Currently, we have a sister school partnership in China from an \$11 million grant. Parental involvement at our school is outstanding.

Superintendent Zito stated parents were surveyed and 99% will stay. We can accommodate more students.

Snow Operations Cost Report FY 2010-11

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

Mr. Mainuli noted the overtime expenses incurred due to the frequency of snow storms and snow removal. Also, outside vendors were called in to assist with this task. Costs associated from December 29, 2010 through February 3, 2011 have amounted to \$64,485.50. Mr. Mainuli noted this figure could go into six figures if we have additional snow storms. He further noted we have been proactive by planning ahead.

Mr. Costa noted our roofs are ok. They were evaluated previously and again today.

Chairperson/ Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Mark Zito

- Superintendent Zito thanked Al Costa and the entire Facilities Department for the great job they are doing with snow storm issues;
- We are aware of snow banks – parents are urged to take extra precaution;
- Good news – Daniel Javier and Antoinette Spada, students at O’Connell School, were selected to receive an award at the 12th Annual Elementary Celebration of the Arts. A dinner is taking place this evening at the Aqua Turf to honor these students.
- In anticipation that this is Ram Aberasturia’s last Board of Education meeting, we wish him well in his new endeavor.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- Thank you to all that spoke this evening regarding the uniform policy. Purchases of uniforms can be made at EHHS. We will assist those who cannot pay for uniforms;
- Thank you to Ram Aberasturia for his outstanding service while on the Board and I will miss you.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – meeting scheduled for 2/16, 5:15 P.M.

Curriculum – Dorese Roberts – meeting scheduled for 2/14, 6:00 P.M.

Facilities – Bryan Hall – meeting scheduled for 3/7, 6:00 P.M.

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - meeting scheduled for 3/2, 5:30 P.M.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Julie Kieras

Seconded by Jeffrey Currey

To approve **two Resignations:**

1. Bonnie J. Armentrout, Para/Instruct, effective 1/28/11;

2. Laura A. Frausini, Home Economics Teacher, effective 2/18/11.
Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Remove from Table and Approve Policy 4112.5/4212.5 – Security Check/Fingerprinting
(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To remove from table and approve Policy 4112.5/4212.5 – Security
Check/Fingerprinting
Motion unanimously carried.

Remove from Table and Approve Policy 6162.6 – Use of Copying Devices and Copied
Materials

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

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To remove from table and approve Policy 6162.6 – Use of
Copying Devices and Copied Materials
Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Connecticut State Department of Social Services Block Grant Program
(Brian Reynolds, Director, Student Assistance Center)

(MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve Connecticut State Department of Social Services
Block Grant Program
Motion unanimously carried.

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to St. Louis

(Charles Nystrom, EHHS))

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
To approve request for overnight travel to St. Louis MO for
20-25 students from EHHS to compete in the FIRST Robotics
World championships.
Motion unanimously carried.

Approve Request for Overnight Travel to Greenbelt, MD

(Melissa Gavarrino, Science Department Head)

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve request for overnight travel to Greenbelt, MD for
12 students from EHHS to participate in the NASA-funded

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Catalyst Aerospace after school program
Motion unanimously carried.

Approve Change to 2010-11 School Calendar

(Mark Zito, Superintendent)

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve change to 2010-11 School Calendar

to eliminate February vacation and have students and staff

report to school on February 22 through February 25, 2011.

Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent Zito stated staff members that had previously booked vacation on or before February 6, 2011 for the February vacation must show evidence of flight/hotel reservations no later than February 14, 2011. Superintendent Zito stated the Board may have to amend the April school vacation as well, depending on additional days needed due to storms. Presently, the last day of school will be June 20, 2011.

Informational Report and Discussion with Possible Action on Creating a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Theme Based School

(Melissa Gavarrino, Department Head, Science)

(Lesley Morgan-Thompson, Principal, O'Brien Elementary)

(Michelle Hacker, Department Head, Career & Technical Education)

(Tod Kenney, Department Head, Math)

A PowerPoint presentation was made to consider a STEM Theme Based School at O'Brien School for the upcoming school year. Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove noted letters must go out to parents soon with options outlined. A Motion was made by Ram Aberasturia and Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV to approve the STEM Theme Based School which was withdrawn by Ram Aberasturia due to a Special Meeting to be scheduled on February 22nd, 6:00 P.M., 3rd Conference Room, Administration Building for further discussion and possible approval. Mr. Bryan Hall stated East Hartford has been selected by the Boy Scouts of America to receive a NASA, 4-year grant to train certified teachers to provide curriculum for the NASA program for students in Grades 4-9. We must provide a STEM Science Camp in the summer. The grant is due by Friday, February 11, 2011. A letter of intent will be forwarded to Bryan Hall. His office is putting this grant together.

Approve Contract Extension for School Uniforms to Connecticut Shirt Man of Watertown, CT

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance)

MOTION

By Jeffrey Currey

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve contract extension for school uniforms to

Connecticut Shirt Man, Watertown, CT

Motion unanimously carried.

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It was noted that EHMS has expanded the line of clothing. Connecticut Shirt Man is exploring the possibility of a satellite store, in one of our schools, during the summer months.

Approve On-Call Hearing Officer Services for Student Expulsions

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance)

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

After lengthy discussion, Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated the Board members must work closely with Dr. Bremner reserving times Board members are available to attend expulsion hearings.

To Approve Amended Willowbrook Property Lease with Goodwin College

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance)

MOTION

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Jeffrey Currey

To approve amended Willowbrook Property Lease with Goodwin College, as presented on February 7, 2011.

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Mainuli noted the amended property agreement was reviewed by the Town's Corporation Counsel and Risk Manager, as well by representatives of Goodwin College.

To Approve Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank

(Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources)

MOTION

By Jeffrey Currey

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve certified staff member's use of Employee Sick Bank

Motion unanimously carried.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Ginny Lynch – re: we need to have many non-fiction books available so students can get real life experiences through their reading.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Many Board members wished Ram Aberasturia well in anticipation of his moving on to the Town Council. They thanked him for his exemplary service while on the Board.

MOTION

By Jeffrey Currey

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (10:40 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.