

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 22, 2011**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at the Administration Building, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 P.M. by Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes.

PRESENT Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Marcus Oladell, IV,
Anita Morrison, Jeffrey Currey, Dorese Roberts

ALSO PRESENT Mark Zito, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Melissa Gavarrino, Department Head, Science

ABSENT Tyron Harris, Bryan Hall, Julie Kieras

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Discussion with possible action on creating a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Theme Based School

(Melissa Gavarrino, Department Head, Science)

Mr. Mainuli noted in keeping with the Board's directive, and considering the success of the Sunset Ridge Academy, we would like to pursue another theme based school in East Hartford. Mr. Mainuli noted this new STEM school will cost \$178,000 for six classrooms, equipment, etc. Grants will fund \$101,000 and the remaining \$77,000 will come from our current year's budget. This will allow 75-100 additional students from throughout the district to attend the new program. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes believes this number may be too low. We would plan to open this school beginning September, 2011.

NASA's Summer of Innovation Grant, pursued by Board member, Bryan Hall, will give us \$25,000-\$30,000 per year over three years to fund a summer camp that could involve O'Brien School.

Superintendent Zito stated he believes we can do the same thing at O'Brien School as we did at Sunset Ridge. Through professional development, teachers will get the STEM experience in grades 4-6. O'Brien's district attendance will remain intact. He encouraged the Board to consider this opportunity. Further, he would like the Board to continue this model in the future for the entire district.

Ms. Gavarrino stated she is very excited with the creation of a STEM theme based school and noted we currently have an after-school program for grades 4-6 for Science. She would like to see the Board pursue this concept throughout the district. Students may be able to take AP classes in the future.

**APPROVED BY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
To approve the Science, Technology, Engineering and
Mathematics School (STEM) at O'Brien School.
Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent Zito noted parents of students in the fifth grade presently will receive a letter giving them four choices for the sixth grade – Sunset Ridge, STEM school at O'Brien, remaining in their current elementary school or East Hartford Middle School.

Superintendent Zito suggested that Nate Quesnel come to the Board with an update on how well the sixth graders are doing. He may have waiting lists in his school.

Update on Norris Roof and Snow Removal Operations

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance)

Mr. Mainuli noted we have spent \$62,000 from December 2010 through January 2011 for roof and snow removal. We do not have a total to date to share this evening.

Mr. Costa gave a brief overview of background information on the Norris roof, noting new prefabricated wood trusses were designed for 40 lbs. per sq. ft. of live load and was completed in 1989. We are not sure, at this juncture, what caused the roof to have structural damage. Mr. Costa anticipates having new trusses next week to begin the restoration process. The project will be completed within a 30-45 day time frame.

Mr. Costa further noted we are looking into insurance claims. We are compiling detailed information with all costs associated with the damage. The Board will receive periodic updates.

MOTION By Jeffrey Currey
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To adjourn to Executive Session for discussion with possible action
regarding Retirement Incentive for Certified Employees.
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

The Board meeting reconvened at 7:48 P.M.

MOTION By Jeffrey Currey
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To table discussion with possible action regarding Retirement Incentive
for Certified Employees.
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION

By Jeffrey Currey
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:45 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes