

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
AUGUST 16, 2010**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, August 16, 2010, at the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 P.M. by Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes.

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

ALSO PRESENT Mark Zito, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant 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

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To **table** the following Minutes,
Special Meeting of July 6, 2010,
pending clarification of dollar amounts re: EHGEMS
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting of July 6, 2010
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of July 21, 2010
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Reminder: today through August 20th, school registration will be held at EHHS, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8-2:30, Tuesday and Thursday, 10-6:00 P.M.; August 23rd- September 3, at Board of Education office, 1110 Main St., East Hartford 9-1:00 P.M..

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Harry Boyd, 20 Carpenter Dr. – re: soccer games; use of athletic field at EHHS; students would like to play on EHHS field.; re: Dwyer Field – it is unsafe for students to play at Dwyer Field; there is no scoreboard, parking issues; how would students get there – transportation issues; will have lost revenue from PTO concession stand; Mr. Boyd suggested having a contingency fund to use if damage is done to the newly sodded field at EHHS;
2. Student from EHHS – was a goalie last year for EHHS – stated college scouts come to night and weekend games; Dwyer Field is not a regulation field;
3. Student from 60 Mercer Avenue – Christian Chamber – student – students would not get respect from other schools if we played at Dwyer Field;
4. Parent from 60 Mercer Avenue – re: parents were not aware that the EHHS field would not be available. Superintendent Zito responded that we received a recommendation from an expert employed by the Town, Mr. Russo, that it is advisable not to use the field for one year after we just completed several field improvements.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Update on EHHS Athletic Field

(Al Costa, Director of Facilities)

(David Caruso, Director of Athletics, EHHS)

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of using the EHHS field. Mr. Caruso stated no final decisions have been made; however, he has put a Plan B in place, should the Board decide not to use EHHS field – four football games could be played at Cheney and one at Rentschler Field. JV and Soccer could be played at Dwyer Field.

Mr. Aberasturia noted that Manchester has done the same thing to field as we have just done. They are playing on their field. Mr. Aberasturia suggests having a contingency fund in place that could come from gate receipts to allow yearly sodding of the field. Also, we would generate funds from swim meets.

Mr. Mainuli noted transportation for band and football team would cost approximately \$9,000 should we elect to travel elsewhere for games.

Superintendent Zito asked if we could develop a compromise – schedule football for some of the games at EHHS and others at Cheney Tech and Rentschler.

Mr. Oladell noted the mission of the EHPS is to educate all students to their fullest potential. He believes playing on EHHS turf is important to the well being of our students.

Mr. Costa stated if we maintain the weeding and fertilization program on a yearly basis, we will be in good shape for years to come. Mr. Mainuli stated if we can maintain a funding program for continual maintenance and fertilization, this will work.

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Superintendent Zito recommends that (1) schedule two home games and schedule the rest at Cheney; (2) have soccer at home. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes that we will meet again before school begins regarding this issue.

Fourth Quarter Budget Analysis

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

M. Mainuli reviewed with the Board the year end summary report. He noted we have finished the year in good shape. He noted we had a \$76.5 million budget this year. We were able to repay the Town \$3 million and do all the things we had planned on doing. All libraries have received over 700 new reading books.

Mr. Mainuli noted a stimulus package was just approved by the Federal government. \$110 million will be coming to Connecticut for education. We will know very soon what the guidelines will be.

Chairperson/ Superintendent Reports

Superintendent Mark Zito

- Thanked the Board for getting involved in contract negotiations for administrators;
- Bus routes will be published next week in the Gazette and on the Web site;
- Reminder: school begins August 31st and registration is being held at EHHS then back to the BOE on August 23rd;
- Thank you to Ram Aberasturia for continuously reminding the public of our registration dates, times and locations.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

- Thank you to Bob Damaschi who has resigned from the Board after serving 23 years. We are sorry he decided to resign. We thank him for his contribution to the Town of East Hartford as well as to the students and Board of Education; several Board members expressed their thanks to Mr. Damaschi as well.
- Reminder to parents of students attending East Hartford Middle School and Sunset Ridge that all students will be in uniform. Please be advised of the uniform policy.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit – Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes – August 18th, 5:15 P.M.

Curriculum – Dorese Roberts – September 13th, 6:00 P.M.

Facilities – Bryan Hall – meeting was held this evening; (1) thanks to Al Costa, there will be a new traffic route at EHHS and also thanks to Al for all the work he has done during the summer months; (2) On August 25th, CT. Shirtman will be at Sunset Ridge from 10-12:00

Finance & Audit – Ram Aberasturia - meeting scheduled for September 1st, 5:30 P.M.

PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve one **Retirement:**

1. Barbara K. Vandecar, Asst. Secretary, effective 8/6/10

Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve seven **Resignations:**

- 1. Aaron B. Fagan, Technology Specialist, effective 8/3/10;**
- 2. Nicholas Chanese, English Teacher, effective 7/26/10;**
- 3. Laura K. Meehan, Art Teacher, effective 7/26/10;**
- 4. Kimberly Y. Stevens, Gr. 4 Teacher, effective 7/28/10;**
- 5. Keva K. Griggs, Gr. 6 Teacher, effective 8/9/10;**
- 6. Gayle J. Cunningham, Grants Secy., effective 8/5/2010;**
- 7. David M. Leeman, Priority Tutor, effective 8/5/2010.**

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Primary Mental Health Program Grant
(Teresa Mason, Program Coordinator)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the application for continuation of the Primary Mental Health Program Grant for the Friend to Friend program at both Silver Lane and Hockanum elementary schools.
Motion unanimously carried.

Approve Memorandum of Agreement with East Hartford Education Association to Modify B2 Stipend Schedule

(Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources)

MOTION By Ram Aberasturia
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve Memorandum of Agreement with East Hartford Education Association to modify B2 stipend schedule at a total cost of \$3,126.00, as corrected.
Motion unanimously carried.

Approve Memorandum of Agreement with East Hartford Education Association to Modify B3 Stipend Schedule

(Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources)

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve Memorandum of Agreement with East Hartford Education Association to modify B3 stipend schedule at a total cost of \$2,855.00.
Motion unanimously carried.

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To Table for First Read Policy 1350 – Senior Citizens’ Benefits

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit committee

MOTION

By Ram Aberasturia

Seconded by Jeffrey Currey

To table for first read Policy 1350 – Senior Citizens’
Benefits

Motion unanimously carried.

To Table for First Read Policy 5119 – Transfers and Withdrawals

(Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chair, Policy & Audit committee

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To table for first read Policy 5119 – Transfers and
Withdrawals

Motion unanimously carried.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Bryan Hall re: (1) re: uniforms – what if students do not have uniforms. **Superintendent Zito** stated (1) parents will be contacted – you must comply; (2) we are working with the Department of Social Services re: helping those who are in need financially – thanks to the Town; (3) homeless will incur no costs. **Mr. Mainuli** stated the CT Shirtman has donated 100 shirts; (2) Mr. Hall suggested a sign be placed in front of Sunset Ridge. Mr. Kopcha is working on this. **Superintendent Zito** thanks Joanne Zatarain re: the suggestion that teachers may want to wear uniforms. They will receive a donation from the School Business Partnership offering staff uniforms for an additional \$3 additional cost of the present cost of uniforms. The amount received from staff will be placed in a fund for those in need of uniforms.

Marcus Oladell, IV re: (1) do we have a mascot for Sunset Ridge. **Superintendent Zito** stated it is the Eagles; (2) thank you to Al Costa for taking care of the traffic situation at EHHS.

Anita Morrison- re: (1) funding for Project Graduation. **Superintendent Zito** stated Joanne Zatarain had an idea for having pizza on Friday – half of the funds will go to Project Graduation- thank you to Sodexo; (2) what happened to report cards – **Superintendent Zito** stated we do not know; however, every person that did not get report cards, was sent one. This will be addressed for next year.

Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes re: when are we going to talk about CMT’s. Superintendent Zito stated a report will be made available in October. We will not have the information until then from the State. Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated she would have preferred to have the scores available in the summer so that students can move forward in September.

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TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS - None

MOTION

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Ram Aberasturia

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:18 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald