

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
JANUARY 3, 2012**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Chairman Jeffrey Currey.

PRESENT Chairman Jeffrey Currey, Secretary, Bryan Hall, Secretary, Marcus Oladell, IV, Marilyn Pet, Tyron Harris, Christopher Gentile, Dorese Roberts, Stephanie Watkins, Tom Rup

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

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Christopher Gentile
Amendment due to change in order of business as specified in Policy 9325.2 – Order of Business
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of December 7, 2011
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of December 15, 2011
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of December 19, 2011 (5:40 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting of December 19, 2011, as corrected:

Page 5: last Motion: Seconded by **Marcus Oladell, IV**;
Page 7: in header: omission of **M** in word Monday and
omission of **D** in word December.
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tom Rup
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of December 20, 2011
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of December 20, 2011
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

(Joshua Dillon and Cindy Tran)

- January 13th – Winter semi-formal dance, 7:00-10:30 P.M. Tickets are \$5.00; ticket sales begin tomorrow. There will be no tickets at the door;
- January 23rd – new date for mid-term exams due to weather; students will receive schedule of exams on January 13th;
- January 23, 24 and 26 – 8th grade students visiting EHHS;
- Week of January 9th – PSAT scores will be distributed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following present and past parents spoke in favor of retaining the Head Start program at Willowbrook School. A petition signed by 148 people was presented to Chairman Jeffrey Currey:

1. Troy Mendes, Sr.
2. Alice Cannavaro-Brndiar
3. Yaasmeen Cook
4. Hilary Mann
5. Michelle Randolph
6. Jason Morales
7. Neysha Cruz
8. Cassandra Collier

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required – none reported

Chairman's Report

Chairman Currey wished everyone a safe and Happy New Year. He thanked all parents who spoke this evening.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mark Zito, Superintendent, noted the following:

- Congressman John Larson visited East Hartford and noted he is sponsoring a bill as part of the President's stimulus package. The \$25 billion package includes upgrading facilities for K-12 programs and will put skilled tradesmen back to work;
- John Misselwitz, UTC Research Center donated \$10,000 to the School Business Partnership;
- Special thanks to Guy Carbone and Kate Cirillo for donating \$1,000 to Norris Elementary School in order to fund Thanksgiving baskets for needy families;
- Special thanks to Board members and Mr. Mainuli for their hard work and many hours spent during budget deliberations.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Field Trip to Montreal

MOTION

By Marcus Oladell, IV

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve request for 20-25 EHHS students to travel to Montreal, Canada to attend the FIRST Robotics Regional International Competition March 14-17, 2012.

Motion unanimously carried.

Referral to Policy & Audit Committee re: Policy 5141.41 – Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Adults with an Intellectual Disability

MOTION

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To refer to Policy & Audit Committee Policy 5141.41 – Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Adults with an Intellectual Disability

Motion unanimously carried.

Referral to Policy & Audit Committee re: Policy 5141.4 – Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and/or Neglect

MOTION

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To refer to Policy & Audit Committee Policy 5141.4 – Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and/or Neglect

Motion unanimously carried.

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Budget Adoption

MOTION

By Tom Rup

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To adopt the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for FY 2012/13 of \$85,766.419 and forward to the Mayor.

Motion unanimously carried.

Board Members' Comments:

Tom Rup – (1) we cannot afford the current salary and benefits structure; (2) disapproves of laying off teachers – would like to see concessions by all; i.e., administrators, teachers, etc.; (3) is not in favor of Head Start program – referred to article from Time magazine stating “Head Start Doesn't Work”.

Stephanie Watkins – believes Head Start does work.

Dorese Roberts – in favor of Head Start program.

Chairman Currey stated if Head Start is not run by the Board of Education, you can be sure we will work with CRT.

Bryan Hall noted if Head Start is eliminated, there will be services available to residents of East Hartford.

Christopher Gentile stated he hopes people understand we have gone through many options during this budget process.

Dr. Zito stated this has been the most difficult budget process in his three years with East Hartford – there are no guarantees the Town Council will approve this budget, but we hope they will adopt this budget. You must realize we have not had an increase in State funds since 2008-09. This is a real burden on the Town. Towns like East Hartford are starting to suffer. This is a responsible budget.

Dr. Zito also commended the Board and Mr. Mainuli for their efforts during the budget process. Dr. Zito also stated he hopes the State will recalculate the way they fund school districts.

Marilyn Pet noted she is in favor of the Readiness and Head Start programs. They are quality programs.

Chairman Currey also thanked Mr. Mainuli and Dr. Zito for the time spent answering Board members' questions during the review of the budget this past month. He also thanked parents and the East Hartford taxpayers.

Chairman Currey noted the Board has lost approximately \$2.5 million in Federal Education Jobs Fund monies as well as an increase of \$1 million in health benefits. This budget will require the Board to eliminate approximately 50 full-time positions and close two schools. This budget will go to the Mayor. If additional cuts are then made, it may require the Board to look further into closing existing programs and possibly additional school closings. We will not know the ramifications until the Mayor, and subsequently the Town Council, approve the budget. Results should be known sometime in March.

Chairman Currey asked the public to contact either Dr. Zito or him with any further concerns or additional questions.

Board Member Representative Reports - None

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Public Participation

Michelle Randolph suggested that the Board contact Time magazine and urge them to visit Willowbrook and then state that “Head Start does not work”.

Alice Cannavaro-Brndiar reiterated the value of the Head Start program and thanked the Board for listening.

Yaasmeen Cook wants teachers to remain – she needs to be able to trust the teachers.

Questions and Concerns by Board Members

Marcus Oladell, IV- re: does Pitkin School have a Governance Council – Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove stated it does not and it was not required by the State; however, she will double check this.

Topics for Future Agendas - None

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:25 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION