

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
OCTOBER 17, 2011**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, October 17, 2011, at the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes.

PRESENT Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Secretary Jeffrey Currey,
Marcus Oladell, IV, Anita Morrison, Bryan Hall,
Christopher Gentile, Dorese Roberts, Julie Kieras

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
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Cindy Tran, Student Representative
Joshua Dillon, Student Representative

ABSENT Tyrone Harris

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

MOTION By Jeffrey Currey
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To change order of agenda to address Items c & d under
Informational Reports first and address items a & b next; and
To place on this evening's agenda a Consent Calendar under
New Business, items b-f
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of September 27, 2011
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of September 27, 2011
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting of October 3, 2011
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of October 4, 2011
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of October 6, 2011 (5:36 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of October 6, 2011 (6:39 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

(Cindy Tran and Joshua Dillon)

- EHHS Volleyball – we won against Fermi;
- EHHS Football game at Cheney Tech – EHHS won over E.O.Smith;
- Homecoming dance – over 450 people were in attendance;
- 10/12 – PSAT’s and Community Service Day took place;
- 10/27 – Get to Know EHHS Night – 7:00 P.M.;
- 11/21 – Spirit Week
- 11/23 Student Council Pep Rally – Hornet Pride
- Student Council has given \$4,500 to the school’s fund for subsidizing uniforms for families in need in exchange for three dress-down days.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/Appointments/No Action Required

Scholarship Presentation in Memory of Pablo Diaz, Jr.

(Ram Aberasturia, Town Council Member)

(Lt. Juan Rivera-Malave, East Hartford Police Department)

(Peresita Palomino)

Mr. Aberasturia stated we raised \$1,600 for scholarships in memory of Pablo Diaz, Jr. The family was very grateful for contributions to the scholarship fund in memory of Pablo Diaz, Jr.

Aberasturia Family Scholarship Presentation
(Ram Aberasturia, Town Council Member)

Mr. Aberasturia presented a check to the Board for \$500.00 from the Aberasturia Family to be used toward scholarships. Mr. Aberasturia committed to an additional \$500.00 for next year, if he does not improve his finishing time by thirty minutes in the Hartford Marathon.

Mr. Aberasturia also congratulated the Board for East Hartford being listed as No. 7 as one of Connecticut's Top Work Places.

Both Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes and Superintendent Zito thanked the Diaz family and Mr. Aberasturia.

Report on 2011 CMT/CAPT Results
(Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent)
(Dr. Santosha Oliver, Coordinator, Assessment, Evaluation and Research)
(Marcia Huddy, Supervisor, Professional Development, Program Improvement & K-12 Curriculum)

Dr. Zito briefed the Board that the report to be given on the 2011 CMT/CAPT results will inform the Board and public where we are at this juncture as a school district.

Dr. Santosha Oliver gave a comprehensive overview on the 2011 CMT/CAPT results.

Regarding the 2011 CMT results, Langford and Norris schools achieved "safe harbor" status. Also, Sunset and Langford schools are no longer "in need of improvement" status.

Mathematics: There was an overall growth pattern from 2006-2011, as the percentage of students Scoring at or above the proficient level significantly increased in Grades 3-8 and matched cohort growth was comparable to the state as measured by vertical scale scores. To this end, the growth of the 2009 Grade 5 cohort (current 8th graders) and 2009 Grade 6 cohort (current 9th graders) outpaced the state's growth from 2010 to 2011. Challenges remain e.g. Grade 3 mean vertical scale score it was noted by Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove that we must focus on K-2 intervention, building fluency in basic skills and number sense and professional development in this area.

Reading: From 2010 – 2011, the percentage of students scoring at or above the Proficient level significantly increased in Grade 6. From 2010 – 2011, the percentage of students scoring at or above the Goal level significantly increased in Grades 4 and 6. From 2009 – 2011, overall reading performance trended up, as the percentage of students scoring at or above the Proficient level significantly increased. Conversely, Grade 5 performance trended down. Matched cohort growth was comparable to that of the state as measured by vertical scale scores. To this end, the growth of the 2009 Grade 4 cohort (current 7th graders) outpaced the state. It was suggested to increase reading interventions in K-Grade 3, with focus on improvement in curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development.

Writing: Results were excellent in Grades 4, 7 and 8 from 2009 – 2011. The percentage of students scoring at or above the proficient level significantly increased in Grades 4, 6, 7 and 8. In addition, the same trend was observed in the Goal range from 2009 – 2011, as the percentage

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of students scoring at or above the Goal level significantly increased in Grades 4, 6, 7 and 8. However, Grade 5 lost some ground in the Goal range. It was suggested to expand the John Collins Writing Program to Grades 5 and 6, continue the development of an explicit and focused writing program at the elementary level, continue administration of Direct Assessment of Writing prompts in Grades 2- 8 and writing dictation and writing samples in Grades K – 1.

Science: From 2009-2011, the percentage of Grade 5 students scoring at or above goal increased. However, from 2010-2011, the percentage of Grade 8 students scoring at or above the proficient and goal level decreased. It was suggested to implement a plan to increase relevance of lab activities, professional collaboration and the use of the data team process (with newly revised assessments) to monitor achievement throughout the year.

Regarding the 2011 CAPT results administered in Grade 10. It was noted the first administration of CAPT was introduced in 2007 and that writing performance has significantly increased since that time. To this end, the percentage of students scoring at or above the Proficient level, as well as at or above the Goal level significantly increased from 2007 – 2011. This year's testing showed 10th graders outperformed last year's 10th graders in science, but did not do as well in mathematics and reading. It was suggested to re-organize the 9th and 10th grade curriculum to address CAPT-specific skills prior to administration in March (including monthly CAPT embedded tasks in mathematics), continue John Collins Writing Program across disciplines, and continue CAPT Attack program, Academic Focus Reading Strategies/CAPT Focus Course and the Read 180 Intervention Program.

Committee Reports

Chairperson/Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent Zito

- Thank you to Dr. Oliver and staff for the outstanding presentation this evening.

- Dr. Zito asked Board members to focus on the communication sent to Board members from him regarding the upcoming schedule of 2013 budget workshops and reconfiguration meetings. He urged Board members to contact him immediately if there is a conflict with any of the dates;

Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes

Regarding the budget meeting schedule disseminated to Board members this evening, Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated we are beginning meetings this early in the year due to the Town Charter which demands we begin the budget deliberations early.

Special Committee Reports

Policy & Audit – Bryan Hall –next meeting 11/7 6:00 P.M.

Curriculum – Dorese Roberts – next meeting 11/21 6:00 P.M.

Facilities – Anita Morrison – next meeting will be scheduled before the end of the month.

Finance & Audit – Jeffrey Currey – next meeting 11/9 5:30 P.M.

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PERSONNEL

MOTION

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To approve the following **two (2) Retirements:**

1. Barbara R. Pershan, Instructional Para, effective 11/30/2011;
2. Theresa A. Godreau, Executive Secretary, effective 12/30/11.

Motion unanimously carried.

OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

To Approve School Uniform Discount Coupon for Families Meeting Federal Income Guidelines

MOTION

By Jeffrey Currey

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve school uniform discount coupon for families Meeting Federal Income Guidelines to purchase winter apparel.

Motion carried. Abstain: Bryan Hall

It was the thought of the Board to give coupons of \$8 of for each item purchased. Mr. Mainuli was asked to contact The Connecticut Shirtman to see if he would consider increasing the amount of the coupon. Mr. Mainuli will also have this offer placed on our website.

MOTION

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve the following items placed on Consent Calendar:

**Table for First Read Policy 5126 – Awards for Achievement
(Bryan Hall, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**Table for First Read Policy 5131.6 – Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco (including Performance-Enhancing Substances)
(Bryan Hall, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**Table for First Read Policy 6145.1 – Intramural Competition
(Bryan Hall, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**Table for First Read Policy 6145.23 – Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics
(Bryan Hall, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

**Table for First Read Policy 6174 – Summer School/Adult Education
(Bryan Hall, Chair, Policy & Audit Committee)**

Motion unanimously carried.

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Representatives Report

Dorese Roberts – visited Mayberry School and met with Mr. Overstreet, Behavior Manager

Public Participation – None

Questions and Concerns by Board Members - None

Topics for Future Agendas - None

MOTION

By Jeffrey Currey

Seconded by Anita Morrison

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:10 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION