

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 15, 2011**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at the Board of Education Administrative Offices, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Acting Chairperson Jeffrey Currey.

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

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Mark Zito, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Al Costa, Director of Facilities

The following Principals were in attendance:

Matthew Ryan, EHHS; Arthur Arpin, CIBA; Melissa Gavarrino, Department Head, Science; Scott Nozik, O'Connell; John Karzar, Synergy; Joanne LeBeau, Willowbrook; Helene Marchese, Woodland; Emil Kopcha, Sunset Ridge; Lisa Beauchamp, Hockanum; Leslie Morgan-Thompson, O'Brien

General Overview of the 2012-2013 Budget

Superintendent Zito offered congratulations to the following new Board members: Marilyn Pet, Stephanie Watkins, Tom Rup.

Superintendent Zito noted if we keep the budget at current service levels, we will need \$89.6 million, an increase of \$7 million over our adopted budget. He further noted that the district's budget has remained at \$82.5 million for the past three years.

Mr. Mainuli noted many factors contribute to the proposed budget increase: the Federal Job Stimulus funding will expire this fiscal year. The job stimulus funds offset \$2.5 million in teacher salary costs this year. Health benefit and contractual costs also contributed to the increase. Mr. Mainuli also stated that significant increases in student enrollment at magnet schools will require the district pay approximately \$2.4 million in tuition costs for East Hartford students attending CREC magnet schools and the Connecticut River Academy. Magnet school tuition is draining the financial resources of the district. We have also experienced an increase in spending for student transportation; i.e., homeless students, open choice students and out-of-district students. Mr. Mainuli mentioned to the Board that the administration has asked First Student Bus Company to reconfigure the districts bus routes, including school bell times, to identify possible savings and improve efficiency.

Discussion Regarding District Reconfiguration Recommendations

Superintendent Zito reviewed the Board's recent implementation of a restructuring plan that resulted in the establishment of the Sunset Ridge School for Performing Arts and World Language and the O'Brien STEM School. He stressed the importance of continuing our effort to provide theme-based school options for parents and children in East Hartford. All our theme-based schools and the addition of sixth grade at the middle school have been very successful.

Superintendent Zito stated there are many ideas to be explore for the future design of the district; i.e., IB programs at elementary that extend into the middle and high schools. Restructuring alternative education programs to expand culinary arts options for students. Superintendent Zito indicated that a number of meetings will be scheduled to address topics separately.

Superintendent Zito noted that each spring letters are sent to all parents offering them school choice for their children. Superintendent Zito further noted he will have staff determine the cost of developing an advertising campaign to promote East Hartford Public Schools. The advertising plan will be brought to the full Board for review and possible approval.

Discussion with Possible Action Regarding Birth-to-Three Programming

It was noted the Birth-to-Three program is a grant funded program that currently does not require a cash match from the district for staff salaries and benefits. It is presently housed at Willowbrook School. The Board pays for space and electricity. All other expenses are paid from the grant. The grant is up for renewal and must be submitted to the state in early December. This is the first time that Birth- to-Three agencies must re-apply for funding to continue its programs. It was the consensus of the Board to place this item on the Regular Board meeting agenda for Monday, November 21st for discussion and possible approval.

Discussion Regarding Readiness and Head Start Programs

General discussion took place regarding the future of Head Start and Readiness programs. These discussions will continue with future budget meetings.

MOTION

By Jeffrey Currey
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To adjourn the Special Meeting (8:50 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald