

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2011**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at the Board of Education Administrative Offices, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by Chairman Jeffrey Currey

PRESENT Chairman Jeffrey Currey, Secretary Bryan Hall (left meeting at 8:12 P.M.), Dorese Roberts, Christopher Gentile, Tyron Harris, 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
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
John Karzar, Principal, Stevens School
Art Arpin, Principal, Connecticut IB Academy
Scott Nozik, Principal, O'Connell School
Lori Stock, Teacher, O'Connell School
Helene Marchese, Principal, Woodland School
Matt Ryan, Principal, East Hartford High School

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

Discussion with possible action regarding School District Reconfiguration

Recommendations

At the direction of the Board, the Superintendent requested Scott Nozik, Principal, O'Connell School, Lori Stock, Teacher, O'Connell School, Art Arpin, Principal, CIBA, Matt Ryan, Principal, East Hartford High School and Helene Marchese, Principal, Woodland School present options for district reconfiguration. Discussion included alternative educational programs at East Hartford High School, O'Connell and Woodland schools. These included making O'Connell School an International Baccalaureate (IB) School initially for pupils aged 3-12 (Primary Years Program (PYP), and Middle Years Program (MYP) for students aged 11 -16, closing Stevens School and placing those students at Woodland and EHHS.

Dr. Zito stated he, Scott Nozik and Art Arpin visited several schools presently using this concept. Dr. Zito stated the students attending O'Connell IB would be for East Hartford students; however, the Board could contact the State and gain approval to accept students from other towns. A major disadvantage to allowing other districts to enroll would be that some East Hartford families may have to be placed on a waiting list. Tuition would be charged, allowing us to garner dollars from those outside the district. The fees charged to all would be an investment. Mr. Nozik stated his preference would be to have pre-K to 8th grade, then onto CIBA. Also to consider, is using Barnes School as part of a "campus approach". If the Board approved a pre-K program at Barnes/O'Connell, tuition would provide expenses for staff. Dr. Zito stated these programs focus on global connections. He feels we could attract over 500 students.

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Ms. Marchese noted she would stagger shifts at Woodland School. Some students would go to EHHS. Mr. Ryan noted he and Ms. Marchese would work very closely in determining who would be placed where. Parents are always a part of the determination.

No action was taken by the Board. This subject will be placed on the agenda of the next Regular Board meeting, December 19, 2011, for discussion and/or approval.

Special Meeting for Budgetary Purposes with Possible Action

Dr. Zito presented to the Board an updated Proposed Budget Reductions List, noting that \$3 million has been cut from the original Proposed Budget. He noted he is not pleased to have to make these cuts, but it is necessary at this time. At this point, if approved by the Board, reductions would allow the Board to submit a budget to the Mayor for \$86,401,737.

The following programs were reviewed. The Superintendent's proposed budget amounts are listed next to the program and all reflect current services, unless otherwise noted:

1. Administration/Benefits

#500 – Substitute Teachers - \$687,500

#402 – Paraprofessionals - \$584,519

#412 – Instructional Support - \$215,195

#501 – Board of Education Services - \$8,200

#510 – Central Administration - \$780,055 Mr. Mainuli noted #3300 –

Other Professional Services included the yearly independent audit. He also noted we received “no adverse comments” regarding the audit, which has been the case for the past seven years;

#512 – Community Services - \$28,739

#515 – Human Resources - \$446,343 Mr. Mainuli noted #3300 – Other Professional Services includes the Employee Assistance Program. Further, He noted the program is working very well and has had high usage;

#520 – Building Administration - \$4,567,664 Mr. Mainuli noted #4300 –

Repairs and Maintenance includes copiers and printers; #4900 – Other Purchased Services includes EHHS graduation expenses; #6109 Supplies General includes copy paper for all schools (\$90,000);

#530 – Fiscal Services - \$707,797 Mr. Mainuli noted #6109 – Supplies General includes \$5,000 for school uniforms; #7312 – Equipment New includes \$800.00 for digital cameras for Residency Officers;

#555 – Security Services - \$723,906

#560 – Student Transportation - \$2,157,823

#590 – Information Technology - \$1,852,671 – Mr. Mainuli noted the conversion to MUNIS system will be put on hold (\$105,000);

#920 – Fixed Charges/Benefits - \$13,788,935

Chairman Currey stated if additional meetings are needed between now and the regularly scheduled Board meeting (December 19th) for discussion of the budget, members will be notified.

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MOTION

By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To adjourn the Special Meeting (8:47 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION