

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
MARCH 18, 2013**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, March 18, 2013, at the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Secretary, Bryan Hall.

PRESENT Chairman Jeffrey Currey (arrived 7:55 P.M.), Secretary Bryan Hall, Tom Rup, Dorese Roberts, Stephanie Watkins, Christopher Gentile, Marilyn Pet, Tyron Harris

ABSENT Marcus Oladell, IV

ALSO PRESENT Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Cindy Tran and Aleya Negron, Student Representatives

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Christopher Gentile
Under New Business – Agenda item No.3 will now become Agenda item No.1.
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes, as corrected:
Regular Meeting of March 4, 2013
Page 5: under Board Members Questions & Concerns: **Tom Rup** re:
Head Start Program – referred to a **Government** study...
Motion unanimously carried, as amended.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- East Hartford Public Schools Registration for 2013-14 is open all year long – Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM.
To 4:00 P.M., 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108. Telephones: (860) 622-5081, 5082 or 5084.;
You can also visit our web site;
- Guidance Information – attention sophomores: plan to attend the “Exploring Life After High School”
program on Tuesday, March 19th, 7:00 P.M.

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STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Cindy Tran and Aleya Negron

- March 12th -Boys Basketball final game against Fairfield. They had a great season;
- Spring sports began today;
- March 19 – “Exploring Life After High School” program – 6:00 P.M. dinner will be provided; college representatives will be present. Sophomores please plan to attend.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Superintendent’s Report

- Re: CMT and CAPT weeks – Superintendent Quesnel visited many of the district schools throughout this period and was proud of the efforts of teachers and students.; congratulations to all the students for their hard work; The Superintendents is looking forward to the data we will receive to push the bar to the next level;
- Due to our 8th day of school cancellation and pursuant to our BOE approved calendar, our last day of school for the district will be June 21st. Also, the first day of the scheduled April Break (4/15/13) will be a school day. The last day of school will be adjusted, should there be further school cancellations;
- April 2nd – 7:00 P.M. – we will host “Rachel’s Challenge” presentation which tells the story of Rachel Scott, the first person killed at Columbine High School in 1999. This is a story of a young woman with a compelling and powerful vision that sends a message of hope, kindness and love. Our students will see this presentation during the day; Dr. Sharon Bremner has initiated this presentation.
- Please join me in congratulating Emil Kopcha for the Education Partner Award he will receive from the Chamber of Commerce meeting at Goodwin College on March 28th. Emil is being recognized for his service in the design of Sunset Ridge School and the incredible work that continues at Sunset Ridge;
- Time Collaborative Update: Our team of teachers and administrators continue to focus on the development of a school schedule that provides extended learning time at O’Connell School. Thank you to the community and parents for their input. Also, thank you to the parents who attended the open house on March 5th. We will have a first draft of our proposal and schedule on April 1st. A survey will be going out to parents. I look forward to presenting this schedule and working with our Board and community on this exciting opportunity;
- School Choice Process: Elementary School Choice letters went out over the last two weeks and we have had a great response. Please carefully read and review the options presented and make a choice that is best for your child. Open Houses have been scheduled at all of our theme schools;
- Work Ahead: Budget Process – we will be meeting soon with the Board and Town regarding the budget;
We are also focusing on (a) potential partnerships with the State of Connecticut regarding school improvement; (b) beginning of summer work process regarding the revitalization of

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Barnes School East Wing; (c) Synergy redesign process and (d) district organizational moves: Pre-K Readiness Program to Hockanum School.

IGNITE – Connecticut IB Academy

A comprehensive PowerPoint presentation was given outlining the IB Diploma Program, focusing on the Biology curriculum. Biology students perform 60 hours of laboratory/field investigations over the span of the course. Laboratory work and report write-ups are assessed using strict IB criteria.

A variety of lab work is performed; i.e. DNA from E Coli cells, examine red blood cells to determine cases of Sickle Cell disease. Students also study and use mathematical models to determine genetic makeup. Students work with various strains of bacteria to determine antibiotic resistance. In the junior year, all CIBA biology students undertake the “Group 4 Project, which is a part of the Internal Assessment grade used for assessing manipulative skills. Students also work with faculty to determine heart rates for cardiovascular fitness experiments.

Third Quarter Analysis

Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services

Mr. Mainuli stated the overall budget is in good shape. He noted that the 30% hold back on operating expenses along with improving revenue projections allowed the district to cover a significant increase in magnet school tuitions. He also stated that it is critical that we make funds available by year end. We have outlined our year-end priorities:

- (1) Paying our debt service obligations by year-end (this will be paid in June)– this will save us over \$720,000 in next year’s budget;
- (2) Complete Barnes School renovations;
- (3) Complete Pitkin School parking lot;
- (4) Asbestos removal at Barnes School

Also, we should look at the following:

- a. Health benefits costs for next year – pay into this account prior to the end of this fiscal year;
- b. At the elementary level - need to purchase new technology in lower grades – laptops, smart boards, etc.

Savings for utilities

Last year we had a mild winter– we are now using natural gas in all our facilities, except Stevens School – we are working with the town and CNG to determine whether a natural gas line can be connected to Stevens School.

Mr. Mainuli also provided the Board with the following documents:

- a. FY 2012-13 Object Summary/Forecast Report with Comment for March 7, 2013;
- b. FY 2012-13 Financial Report by Object Summary for March 7, 2013;
- c. FY 2012-13 Monthly Financial Report – by Program (Account Detail for All Funds);
- d. FY 2012-13 Budget Transfers Report for March 7, 2013.

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Alliance Plan Update

Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Kaprove gave a very concise PowerPoint presentation regarding the Alliance Plan Grant. She noted the State's School Alliance Grant has provided \$1.71 million to East Hartford, based on an educational improvement plan submitted by school administrators and approved by the State Department of Education. Ms. Kaprove stated we hope to have this grant for five years, dependant upon the State's completing its budget process and the implementation of next year's budget. She noted a draft plan for evaluating teachers is scheduled to be submitted for review by the State by April 15th.

Monies are given to priority school districts and whose performance needs improvement and can only be used to enhance exiting programs. It will be used to focus on three areas for improvement: bringing school curriculum in line with state common core standards, a literacy initiative for pre-K through third grade students, and staff and teacher professional development.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy 3323 – Soliciting Prices

MOTION

By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To **remove** from table Policy 3323 – Soliciting Prices
Prices
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To **approve** Policy 3323 – Soliciting Prices
Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Overnight Travel to Hartford and Cromwell for the All State Music Festival

MOTION

By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve overnight travel April 2-4, 2013 to Hartford and Cromwell for two students from EHHS to attend the All State Music Festival sponsored by The Connecticut Music Educators Association.
Motion unanimously carried.

Four Resignations

MOTION

By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Christopher Gentile
To approve (4) **Resignations:**
1. Catherine A. Callahan, Health & PE Teacher, effective 6/30/13
2. Elizabeth C. Rivera, Bilingual Tutor, effective 3/22/13
3. Kristine Rickards-Schlichting, School Psychologist, effective 6/21/13
4. Cheryl A. Johnson, Grade 2 Teacher, effective 3/22/13
Motion unanimously carried.

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Refer to Facilities State School Construction Grant for Floor Tile Removal of Asbestos at Barnes School

MOTION

By Christopher Gentile

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To **refer** to Facilities Committee State School Construction Grant for floor Tile removal of asbestos at Barnes School

Motion unanimously carried.

Chairman's Report

- The Town Council passed the budget. We will be getting together soon as a Board;
- The Board will be presented with a \$1,000 check from The Lion's Club Quest Brunch. Thank you for their generosity.

Board Member Representative Reports

- Art Arpin, Principal, Connecticut IB Academy, thanked Bryan Hall for helping to assist in the lottery selection for incoming freshmen, class of 2013 at the Connecticut IB Academy. Mr. Hall selected all of the lottery classes;
- Bryan Hall – re: During CAPT testing at EHHS a motivational speaker was present to address 400 sophomores;
- Marilyn Pet – Child Plan re: community gardens – we are working in conjunction with EHPS to begin gardens;
- Stephanie Watkins attended the Sodexo Elementary Students Grades 3-6 Future Chef Competition at EHHS on March 13th.

Public Participation - None

Questions and Concerns by Board Members

Superintendent Quesnel noted there will be a Special Meeting on April 9th – Board Retreat.

Topics for Future Agendas – None

MOTION

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Marilyn Pet

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:10 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald