

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
APRIL 1, 2013**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, April 1, 2013, at the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Chairman Jeffrey Currey.

PRESENT Chairman Jeffrey Currey, Tom Rup, Stephanie Watkins, Christopher Gentile, Marilyn Pet, Tyron Harris, Marcus Oladell, IV

ABSENT Dorese Roberts, Secretary Bryan Hall

ALSO PRESENT Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Cindy Tran and Aleysa Negrón, Student Representatives

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

MOTION By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To add Consent Calendar to this evening's agenda:
Under New Business: place Items 2-4 on Consent Calendar:
Referral to Curriculum Committee: (2) Foundations of Health, Science and Technology – EHHS Proposal (3) Medical Mysteries – EHHS; (4) Public Health – EHHS
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting of March 18, 2013
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of March 19, 2013 (5:03 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Marilyn Pet
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of March 19, 2013 (5:17 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

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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.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Cindy Tran and Alevsa Negron

- 3/21-3/23 – The Pajama Game performances – it was a successful turnout;
- 3/23 – Bunny Breakfast – was a fun and successful event ;
- 4/24 – Senior Citizens Prom will be held from 4:00-7:00 P.M.;
- 4/2 – 9th & 10th graders enjoyed a presentation of Rachel’s Challenge;
- 4/2 – Rachel’s Challenge will be held for the community at EHHS Auditorium at 7:00 P.M.
- 4/5 – Grades close;
- 4/9 – Spring Choral and Orchestra Concert at 7:00 P.M.
- 4/27 – Junior Prom

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION APPRECIATION

Ms. Jenny Correa thanked the Board for their tireless work on behalf of the children and families of East Hartford. Students made posters for all Board members. Chairman Jeffrey Currey thanked all principals for the work they perform throughout the year that impacts teachers, families and students. Tyron Harris thanked all Board members and staff for their outstanding contribution to the students of East Hartford. Marilyn Pet thanked all involved that put on a wonderful dinner this evening.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman’s Report

- Thank you to all that acknowledged Board of Education Appreciation this evening – we do what we do because we care;
- Congratulations to Emil Kopcha who was awarded the first education award from the Chamber of Commerce;
- Attended Silver Lane School Literacy Night; a guest speaker was present; books were handed out to those present; Thank you to Big Y and Maneleey’s;
- Attended the Pajama Game – it was a huge success;
- Attended Inter-El concert last week. All performances show the level of talent that our students possess;
- April 9 - Quarterly Board Retreat being held at 6:00 P.M., Administration Building;
- April 27th – Project Graduation being held;
- May 18th –Golf Tournament being held for Project Graduation
- April 11th – Glastonbury/East Hartford Magnet School planetarium opening - 6:00 P.M.

Superintendent's Report

- Thank you to the entire Board for the work, passion and collaboration on behalf of the children of East Hartford. Many times your countless hours and thankless actions go unnoticed. Please know that your actions, leadership and commitment always matter to the children of EHPS and the staff that serve them.
- Thank you to Jeff Currey for his leadership as Board Chairman;
- **Time Collaborative Update** – Our teachers and administrators presented the latest draft schedule to the National Center on Time and Learning and the State Department of Education. We were thrilled to have our Commissioner Stefan Pryor in attendance and in the district. Thank you to the parents, School Governance Council and O'Connell PTO. This draft schedule will be presented to parents through a letter home in addition to a feedback survey. Parents, please fill out the survey. I'm looking forward to presenting this schedule and working with our Board and community on this exciting opportunity;
- **School Choice Process** – We have received 1,164 school choice letters by our deadline of March 22nd. Our Assistant Superintendent is in the process of sorting through these requests and developing lists based on parent and student preference. We will update you ASAP regarding the status of your school choice. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact us at (860) 622-5194;
- **Teacher and Administrative Evaluation Plan Update** – Both our teacher and administrative evaluation plan development committees have been working feverishly to complete our evaluation plan. The state has extended the submission deadline to May 3rd. Thank you to our bargaining units for their yeomen efforts in this cause;
- **Synergy Redesign** – We continue progress on our Synergy Redesign project. The Synergy Team will be conducting an off-site visit next week at CCAT to establish their guiding mission. I look forward to sharing the audit results and initial plan next week at our special session;
- **Rachel's Challenge** – I want to personally invite you to join us at the EHHS Auditorium tomorrow evening (April 2nd) at 7:00 P.M. This is a free event and will host as many families as our auditorium is able to hold. Our special night will showcase a powerful story called Rachel's Challenge, which tells the story of Rachel Scott, the first person killed at Columbine High School in 1999. Rachel's Challenge is a story of a young woman with a compelling and powerful vision that has begun to sweep America in its message of hope, kindness and love. Our students will be treated to this presentation during the day.
- **Work Ahead**
- Potential Partnerships with the State of Connecticut regarding school improvement;
- Beginning of Summer work process: Hockanum School, O'Connell/Barnes, Pitkin Parking lot;
- Synergy Redesign Work

IGNITE – Goodwin Elementary School

Ms. Wendy Weingarten gave a very powerful, presentation that was amazing. She spoke passionately about the unified sports program, which includes special needs students. This program is in its third year. In the first and second years of the program, 45 students participated. Ms. Weingarten stated she is hoping to continue the program. It has been an amazing and successful experience for all involved.

OLD BUSINESS

CORRECTED 04-23-13

Barnes School Construction Grant Application – Asbestos Floor Tile Removal
State Project #TMP-043-FDNJ – Asbestos Floor Tile Removal

MOTION By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve *State Grant Application and Educational Specifications for Barnes School* ~~Construction Grant Application – Asbestos Floor Tile Removal~~ and refer to Town Council for its approval.
Motion unanimously carried.

This was reviewed and approved at the Facilities Committee and forwarded to the full Board for its approval.

NEW BUSINESS

East Hartford High School and Connecticut IB Academy Graduation Dates

MOTION By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the graduation dates for EHHS and Connecticut IB Academy.
Motion unanimously carried.

EHHS Graduation date will be June 25, 2013 at The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT, 7:00 P.M., and the Connecticut IB Academy graduation date will be June 21, 2013 at the East Hartford High School Auditorium, 7:00 P.M.

MOTION By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To refer the following items to Curriculum Committee:
▪ Foundations of Health, Science and Technology – EHHS
▪ Medical Mysteries - EHHS
▪ Public Health – EHHS
Motion unanimously carried.

Four Resignations

MOTION By Stephanie Watkins
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve (4) **Resignations**:
1. Joanne M. O’Connor, Tutor, effective 3/12/13;
2. Patricia A. Reid, Tutor, effective 3/22/13;
3. Cynthia J. Simpson, Tutor, effective 3/28/13;
4. Patricia E. Karabetsos, Spec. Ed Teacher, effective 6/30/13
Motion unanimously carried.

Board Member Representative Reports

Stephanie Watkins – attended performance of Pajama Game last Friday.

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Public Participation - None

Questions and Concerns by Board Members

Tom Rup – re: where are we with the budget. Chairman Currey stated we will have this placed on the April 15th Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Superintendent Quesnel thanked the families that attended this evening's Board meeting. We appreciate the sacrifices you are making to being involved.

Topics for Future Agendas - None

MOTION

By Marcus Oladell, IV

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (7:35 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION