

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
OCTOBER 15, 2012**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, October 15, 2012, at the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. by Chairman Jeffrey Currey.

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

ABSENT None

ALSO PRESENT Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Cindy Tran, Student Representative
Aleysa Negron, Student Representative

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board of Education Meeting of October 1, 2012
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting of October 9, 2012
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Cindy Tran

Aleysa Negron

- October 6th – Homecoming – more than 300 students attended; it was a great success;
- Swim Team won over Windsor Locks;
- Volleyball officially made the States – they are currently at 8-4;
- October 25th, 7:00 P.M. – “Get to Know EHHS” – for 8th graders who plan to attend EHHS next year;

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
OCTOBER 15, 2012**

- October 17th – PSAT Day – 7:30 – 11:00

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report

- Tuesday, October 23rd – Board Retreat;
- Attended Pitkin School reading night – over 100 students were there; guest readers were myself, Mayor Leclerc and other guest readers;
- We received formal feedback from SDE; we are on target with where they would like us to be. Thank you to the administration for all of their hard work during this process;
- Sunset Ridge is hosting a delegation from their sister school in China on Tuesday, October 16th. A ceremony will be held at 1:00 P.M.

Superintendent's Report

- Re: Alliance Grant – we have received formal notification from the CT State Department of Education. We will respond with a finished draft. We hope to be notified within two weeks regarding release of funding.
- 21st Century Grant – we were notified today that we were awarded \$200,000 from the CT State Department of Education for our after school programming at O'Brien and Langford schools.
- Principal Meeting Tours – we have a new format for our principal meetings – we will be holding our meetings in different schools each month vs. being held at Central Office. The first hour will be used for principals to visit classrooms and observe learning in practice. Following the visits, principals will meet in the school library to discuss observations and provide feedback to the host principal to be useful in providing a mini-action plan for their home schools. The second hour of the visit will consist of an agenda driven business meeting. This new format has been well received. This leadership team will ultimately have a significant impact on our students' lives.
- I continue to visit all the schools – today I visited the STEM program at O'Brien and was impressed with work going on in the classrooms. Dr. Morgan-Thompson has done an incredible job integrating the concept of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math into the daily curriculum.
- Work Ahead: – development of School Improvement Plans to align with District Improvement Plans;
- Budget Process/Development – currently working on budget forecast and analysis with Paul Mainuli and Christopher Wethje.

First Quarter Financial Report FY 2012-13

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance)

Mr. Mainuli noted with a budget of \$85.7 million, we are in good shape at this time. We are holding back 30 percent in the operating budget just in case; i.e., possible overage for snow removal, etc. Also, we are expecting \$4.5 million from Woodland School, partially to be used for CREC Magnet Schools at a cost of \$242,000. Bryan Hall requested a report on the CREC Magnet Schools. Also, special education outplacements will cost \$2 to 2.5 million. We are on target with this. Regarding school uniforms, the Board funded \$11,000 and we will continue to monitor this account. Regarding school lunch account: -- we had to buy \$78,000 worth of equipment. A refrigerator truck cost \$54,000 and the remaining amount was for replacement equipment.

Future concerns:

- health insurance claims – last year they amounted to over \$1 million;
- \$400,000 in overtime last year for snow removal
- We have received \$100,000 for e-rate and an additional \$350,000 which will go toward communications.

Recognition of Connecticut's Outstanding Biology Teacher, Tyler Hoxley, EHHS

Melissa Gavarrino, Science Department Head, introduced Tyler Hoxley, Connecticut's Outstanding Biology Teacher. Ms. Gavarrino introduced Mr. Hoxley to the Board. It was noted he has been a science teacher in East Hartford for twenty years. He has received many awards in the past. Mr. Chuck Nystrom spoke of Mr. Hoxley's accomplishments. The Board presented Mr. Hoxley with a plaque.

Mr. Hoxley thanked Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove for the professional development he has received. He also thanked the teachers he has worked with for their hard work and support. Mr. Hoxley is also a liaison on the State Board of Education Review Committee.

Report on 2012 CMT/CAPT Results

Superintendent Quesnel gave a PowerPoint presentation and an in-depth explanation of the criteria used. He noted there were more gains on the scores on both the CMT and CAPT tests. Reading scores were impressive for grades 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8. Despite all the improvements that have been made, Superintendent Quesnel stated many grades still have to meet State requirements. Superintendent Quesnel noted significant gains in reading and writing at Hockanum and Langford schools. He attributed the positive news to the school district's General Improvement Plan and aligning the district's goals to the State's standards. He further noted Data Teams in each school provide the accountability needed to increase our test scores. Overall, Superintendent Quesnel stated he is very pleased with results and thanked the teachers and administration for their ongoing support to the children they serve.

Chairman Currey noted we do have more gain and are continuing on the road to success.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
OCTOBER 15, 2012**

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Referral to Policy & Audit, Regulation 6163.2 – Live Animals in the Classroom

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To refer to Policy & Audit, Regulation 6163.2 – Live Animals in the Classroom.
Motion unanimously carried.

Referral to Policy & Audit, Regulation 6172.3 – Home Schooling

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To refer to Policy & Audit, Policy 6172.3 – Home Schooling
Motion unanimously carried.

Resignations:

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following (two) **Resignations:**
1. Susan A. Barone, Priority Tutor, effective 11/2/12;
2. Ana Marie Evans, Sped/Para, effective 10/9/12
Motion unanimously carried.

Board Member Representative Reports

Tyron Harris – visited Sunset Ridge – an award ceremony will take place tomorrow at 1:00 at the Town Hall to celebrate the great things happening at Sunset Ridge. Also, thank you to the parents at Langford School for their continued support.

Dorese Roberts – visited Willowbrook School – they have reached 85% goal for attendance; visited Langford school – students were extremely well behaved. They continue to have bussing concerns, i.e., overcrowding;

Visited the STEM school – uniforms look great on all the students.

Public Participation - None

Questions and Concerns by Board Members - None

Topics for Future Agendas - None

MOTION By Marcus Oladell, IV
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:10 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald