

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 17, 2012**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, December 17, 2012, at the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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

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

Chairman Jeffrey Currey called for a moment of silence for the families of the victims affected by the tragedy that occurred in Newtown, CT. He also thanked Mayor Leclerc and Superintendent Quesnel for the safety, care and compassion shown during this grieving time.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board of Education Meeting of December 3, 2012
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT- None
Cindy Tran and Aleya Negrón

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Brian Cloutier – parent of child at O’Connell School, re: parents not being notified that the Board of Education will be adding 300 hours to the curriculum – why was this decision made – did the teachers’ union approve it – will there be any further parent involvement. Superintendent Quesnel noted we will be addressing the TIME Collaborative pilot program later in the agenda this evening. He further noted he would like Mr. Cloutier to be an active parent participant in working out the logistics with district leaders.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report

- Chairman Currey apologized for missing the last Board meeting, but was in Washington with Superintendent Quesnel. Congratulations to the CAPSS Award recipients and CAPT Scholars, as well as those who received the Academic Accomplishment Award;
- Regarding TIME Collaborative – Chairman Currey stressed that all options will be considered as we work out logistics. We will provide everyone with an action plan as we work to provide extended learning time. We will continue to receive support from the Connecticut State Department of Education as well as the National Center of Time & Learning. We will continue to keep everyone posted;
- Public Hearing was held this evening at 6:30 P.M. The budget will be posted on our web site;
- Have a healthy and Happy New Year.

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Quesnel called upon Karen O'Connell, President of the East Hartford Teachers Union, to thank her for being instrumental in having a publication placed in the CEA Advisor regarding the success of our STEM program at O'Brien School. Many of our teachers participated in the Connecticut STEM Conference in September at the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford. Ms. O'Connell stated it is good experience to have our teachers give presentations;
- A communication went out to parents regarding the recent tragedy at Sandy Hook School in Newtown, assuring families that safety is our number one priority. Superintendent Quesnel urged parents to be sure updated contact information is provided to their child's school;

Work Ahead:

- To continue to stay committed to a fiscally responsible budget;
- Continue to work with our legislators to address issues regarding magnet school tuition payments;

Implementation:

- Alliance Plan Position Hires
- Math Coach Positions

IGNITE

Principal Ryan introduced Cynthia Dee, East Hartford High School, Health Occupations Career & Technical Education teacher, who gave a moving PowerPoint presentation on the success of students pursuing their dreams.

TIME Collaborative

Superintendent Quesnel noted parents will be informed as the planning team explores all options of the TIME Collaborative pilot program at O'Connell School. He apologized to parent Brian Cloutier for not explaining sooner to parents how the process will proceed. We will be working with the Connecticut State Department of Education and the National Center on Time & Learning.

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Joanne LeBeau, District Literacy Support for the Alliance Grant and Melissa Todd, Grade 1 Teacher & Administrator Intern, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the TIME Collaborative. O'Connell School was selected to participate in the 300 hours of additional learning time for all students beginning FY 2013-14.

Funding has been provided through State resources – Alliance District funds grant. The East Hartford TIME Collaborative Team members are in place as well as District Team members, consisting of Superintendent Quesnel, Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove, Marcia Huddy, Joanne LeBeau, Chris Wethje, Karen O'Connell, Nancy Spitko – CEA and Paul Mainuli.

The design team will explore and draft options for an extended learning schedule to provide more instructional and enrichment opportunities for students that will support the IB curriculum. The team will seek input from parents and community partners. Parents are urged to participate in the process. Superintendent Quesnel stated we are already doing this at Sunset Ridge by increasing the day to a total of 200 hours. Presently, we are looking at enrichment programs for the summer.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Three Resignations and One Retirement

MOTION

By Tyron Harris

Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV

To approve the following three (3) **Resignations**

1. Allan D. Barnes, Behavior Manager, effective 11/29/12
2. Lisa R. Farrington, Title 1 Tutor, effective 12/7/12
3. Valerie Cancellieri, Priority Tutor, effective 12/7/12

and

one (1) **Retirement**

1. Ralph Gray, Teacher, effective 6/30/13

Motion unanimously carried.

Advanced Placement Environmental Science

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To **refer** the Advanced Placement Environmental Science

Curriculum/Course Pilot Proposal to the Curriculum Sub-Committee for discussion.

Motion unanimously carried.

2012 – 2015 Para Contract

MOTION

By Christopher Gentile

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To approve the 2012-2015 Para Contract

Motion carried. Nay: Stephanie Watkins, Tom Rup

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Mr. Rup suggested being a little more open with taxpayers with what we are doing with their dollars. Chairman Currey thanked the paras who took part in this contract.

2015 Board of Education Business Calendar

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To approve the 2015 Board of Education Business Calendar
Motion unanimously carried.

Board Member Representative Reports

Dorese Roberts – Attended Willowbrook School Policy Committee – they are fully enrolled; they received a grant of \$15,400 for job training. Extra dollars from the grant will be used for Apple training.

Marilyn Pet – attended the O’Brien After School Garden Club. She was very impressed with the success of the program.

Bryan Hall – (1) attended the Winter Concert at Sunset Ridge – he noted the talent we have is amazing. (2) TIME Collaborative initiative will enrich your child’s day.

Christopher Gentile – (1) Thank you to Chairman Currey for his heartfelt comments regarding the Newtown tragedy; (2) questioned the security process – are we looking at all areas. Superintendent Quesnel stated safety is our No. 1 priority. He asked Mr. Gentile if he would take part in the security discussions taking place.

Public Participation

- Parent – 639 Oak Street – re: (1) daughter attends O’Connell School and presently arrives home at 4:00 P.M. concerned with an increased day; (2) would like her daughter to be more challenged by her teachers; (3)has concerns regarding safety at O’Connell School.
- Brian Cloutier – parent of a child at O’Connell School – (1) re: incident at O’Connell School last year -would prefer to have heard of what happened from Administration; (2) re: TIME Collaborative initiative – what will happen when funding stops.

Questions and Concerns by Board Members – None

Topics for Future Agendas – None

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marcus Oladell, IV
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:20 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald