

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 4, 2014**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Jeffrey Currey.

PRESENT Chairman Jeffrey Currey, Secretary Bryan Hall, Tyron Harris, Tom Rup, Christopher Gentile, Marilyn Pet, Dorese Roberts, Valerie Scheer, Stephanie Watkins

ABSENT Alyssa Crooks, Brian Calero – Student Representatives

ALSO PRESENT Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum
Anne Marie Mancini, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting of February 3, 2014
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of February 19, 2014
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of February 20, 2014
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- 3/17 Board of Education Appreciation Dinner, 5:30 PM – RSVP to Donna Sahlberg

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 4, 2014**

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT - None

Alyssa Crooks, Brian Calero

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Deborah Torres – re: in support of bus drivers retaining employment with possible new bus company;
2. Cynthia Creller – re: in support of bus drivers retaining employment with possible new bus company;
3. Karen Howe – re: Invitation from Executive Board East Hartford Summer Youth Festival, Inc. 50th Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, April 5th at Marco Polo Restaurant – proceeds will benefit the East Hartford Summer Youth Festival, Inc. Scholarship Fund.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report – Jeffrey Currey

- Congratulations to Matt Ryan, Principal at EHHS, who was named CAS Secondary Principal of the Year;
- Congratulations to Linda Smith, Special Ed teacher at EHMS who was awarded the Rachel D'Avino award from the University of St. Joseph for her dedication toward academic and professional development. Rachel D'Avino was studying at University of St. Joseph when her life was taken at Sandy Hook;
- Attended health insurance informational session at Town Council meeting where we have learned we will need to increase our health insurance costs by 30% for next year. Thank you to Paul Mainuli and Joanne Zatarain for their work as we continue to work through the numbers for the current year and next year;
- Thank you to Dr. Sharon Bremner for facilitating the professional development session for the BoE members regarding Special Education.
- Regarding BoE budget, (of which 80% is committed to salaries and benefits) Mayor Marcia Leclerc proposed a budget asking for a decrease. There will be a Public Hearing on March 5th at 7:00 at Town Hall. Please attend to voice your support– the future of our town are the children in our town in schools. Investing in education is an investment in the future of our town; investing in education is a town's responsibility.

Superintendent's Report – Nathan Quesnel

- Superintendent Quesnel noted a brochure and application has been sent to parents regarding what offerings we have in East Hartford for the K-6 Education Program Offerings for 2014-2015. Parents can call the Superintendent's office with any questions they may have. However, applications are due back by March 10th.

Educational Programs: Teaching and Learning:

- **Expect Student Achievement:** Our schools continue to work hard regarding implementation and passing the 100th day of school in February. Our focus continues to be on implementation of the Common Core State Standards in our curriculum documents and our new Teacher and Administrative Evaluation Plan.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 4, 2014**

- We are working as a committee, making adjustments to our plan which will be reviewed by you in April. Thank you to our Central Office Team and staff.
- **Expect Student Achievement: Commissioner's Network Meeting(s):**
Commissioner's Network:
We continue to work through the process of developing a Turnaround Plan at O'Brien School. The Turnaround Committee has explored an audit that was conducted by the CSDE as well as begun to address the central themes that this application entails. Some ideas that have surfaced are the expansion of the STEM model into the lower grades, the development of a STEM coaching program, the addition of key support staff and a potential family liaison coordinator that could bridge the gaps that develop between family and home. Our committee members continue to be insightful regarding the process. We have also been granted an extension from the SDE and hope to present this plan to you at the April BOE meeting following the ratification at the local level.

Community Relations:

- **Community Communication:** As a part of our budget process, we have reached out to the presidents of our PTOs and SGC's and asked for their voices at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday night. Our goal is not to divide but rather to help illustrate the collective voice of our parents and families regarding the important decision that will be in front of our Council.

Business Matters:

Align System and Operational Efforts: Budget Process: We are entering the final stage of approval for our district budget and had the opportunity to present our budget to the Town Council last Wednesday night. We continue to be concerned regarding the Mayor's 1.7% reduction in our budget that may result in significant cuts to programs that are vital to our students. We are also working with our State delegation to secure additional funding support and believe we will be able to come to a solution that meets the needs of our town.

Good News Report:

- **CAS Principal of the Year:** We were notified by the Connecticut Association of Schools that Matt Ryan has been selected as the Secondary Principal of the Year for 2014. This is an incredible honor and we are very proud of Matt for his contributions within the district. As we consider our District Improvement Plan and our commitment to growing competence, this is exactly the type of awards we want to get. Great news!

Next Steps:

- **Town Public Budget Hearing 3/5/14 7:00 Town Council Chambers**

IGNITE – O’Connell

Greg Fox, Principal

Presenters: Bea Corrado and Melissa Todd

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Ms. Corrado and Ms. Todd. They noted the extended learning time at O’Connell School has offered all students various enrichment opportunities. It allows teachers to reach many more students. Students are also receiving literacy support. The offerings at O’Connell School are high quality. Chairman Jeffrey Currey and Superintendent Nathan Quesnel thanked Mr. Fox, Ms. Corrado and Ms. Todd.

DMV Contest Videos

Maria White and John Bacon provided a 25 second video on safe driving. The video can be seen on the East Hartford Web site and everyone is encouraged to watch the video. A competition is ongoing for the most watched videos. Mr. Bacon noted Channel 5 has contributed equipment for a new studio at EHHS to do student news weekly. It was suggested that Superintendent Quesnel and Chairman Currey might want to consider doing their weekly updates in the new studio.

STAR Assessments

Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove

Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove gave a PowerPoint presentation on STAR Assessments. She noted the EHPS mission is to deliver a high quality learning experience for every child, every day. Focus is to expect academic achievement for every child and close achievements gaps and to insist on results based on improvement through data informed decision making across the district.

Part of the STAR Assessment is to do online assessments for reach administration and scoring. This mimics how Smarter Balanced Assessments will be given, replacing CMT’s. It also allows students to practice technology skills.

East Hartford chose STAR Assessments because it is scientifically valid and reliable. Assistant Superintendent Debbie Kaprove provided a video showing how STAR works and how it measures student achievement. Results are available immediately as well as many reports. She also noted that STAR reports provide comprehensive data but are still only one picture of how a student is doing in school.

Training and ongoing support for teachers have been provided as well as meetings on line.

Mid-Year Progress Report – Superintendent Nathan Quesnel

Superintendent Quesnel stated the Mid-Year Progress Report is to showcase key district accomplishments and core work that has been completed at the mid-year point of school year 2013-2014 and to share next steps for future work for Spring 2014.

- First, Superintendent congratulated Chairman Currey and Board Member Tyron Harris for attending and completing the CAFE Leadership Institute program;

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 4, 2014**

- Governor Malloy gave a Proclamation to make Sunday, January 26th College Bowl Sunday, focusing on helping parents to receive Federal aid;
- Thank you to Assistant Superintendents Debbie Kaprove and Anne Marie Mancini, and Marcia Huddy for implementing professional development opportunities for the district;
- Created an employee spotlight program;

- Committed to listening what we need to make us grow;
- There has been a drop in out of school suspensions and an increase in in-school suspensions;

Further, the Superintendent referred to the District Improvement Plan and noted the following Six Expectations are followed within the district at all levels: (1) Expect student achievement; (2) Align system and operational efforts; (3) Foster talent and competence; (4) Nurture a solution based culture of safety and engagement; (5) Build family and community relationships and (6) Insist on Results.

Superintendent Quesnel noted 85% of the core work has been completed in each of the noted six expectations at this juncture.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Retirements and Resignations

MOTION

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve two (2) **Retirements:**

- 1. Patricia K. Perrone, Adult Ed, effective 6/30/14**
- 2. Arthur C. Arpin, Principal/CIBA, effective 6/30/14**

and

To approve two (2) **Resignations:**

- 1. Charles E. Eason, Behavior Manager, effective 2/14/14**
- 2. Stephanie F. Coroso, Assoc. Secretary, effective 2/28/14**

Motion unanimously carried.

Chairman Currey thanked both Patricia Perrone and Arthur Arpin for their support and leadership over the past years. We wish them well in their retirement.

Approval of Bid #1698-14 – Award for Student Transportation Services – Regular Transportation to

Dattco Bus Company

Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services

Stanley Staron, Purchasing Agent

Philip Johnson, Vice President of Operations, Dattco

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 4, 2014**

MOTION

By Tyron Harris

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve waiving the technical defect in the Dattco proposal and accept the Dattco corrected rate sheet showing the corrected rates for the "Noon Vehicle Per Day/Per Hour" category and further moved to waive the requirement in Policy Number 3323(a) to award the transportation contract to the lowest responsible qualified bidder, as this is in the best interest of the Board and East Hartford Public Schools.

Motion carried. Nay: Tom Rup

MOTION

By Tyron Harris

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve a new, three year contract with Dattco Bus Company for Student Transportation to begin on July 1, 2014 and run through June 30, 2017. The Board shall have two (2) one (1) year options to extend this contract at rates mutually agreed upon by both parties. Performance Bond was removed on advice of Counsel.

Motion carried. Nay: Tom Rup

Mr. Mainuli noted Dattco must be able to store busses in East Hartford. He further noted bus assignments will be made available to all schools in September. We will send messages out to parents if a bus will be late. Dattco Vice President of Operations Philip Johnson noted drivers will keep the same hourly rate. All drivers must re-apply to Dattco for their positions.

Superintendent Quesnel noted he had a tour of Dattco's operations and was very impressed with what they had to offer. He thanked Mr. Mainuli, Mr. Staron and the entire team for coordinating this undertaking.

Request for Overnight Travel to Spain

MOTION

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To approve request for approximately six CIBA students to travel to Spain the week of April 11-18, 2014, with two chaperones.

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Arpin noted fundraising has already begun.

Board Member Representative Reports

Marilyn Pet – (1) attended a meeting at O'Brien School which consisted of parents, administrators and teachers. She noted the professionalism of the teachers was outstanding; (2) A tentative date of April 23rd is scheduled for the 4th anniversary of Synergy. They are currently recruiting alumni. A new program has been instituted at Synergy and EHHS which allows police officers to meet with children.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 4, 2014**

Valerie Scheer – visited Pitkin School and met with second graders;

Questions and Concerns by Board Members

Topics for Future Agendas

MOTION

By Tyron Harris

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (10:30 PM)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION