

**REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
MAY 19, 2014**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, May 19, 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, Tom Rup, Marilyn Pet, Dorese Roberts, Valerie Scheer, Stephanie Watkins, Tyron Harris

ABSENT Christopher Gentile

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
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance
Alyssa Crooks, Student Representative

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of May 5, 2014
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting of May 5, 2014
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of May 6, 2014
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of May 8, 2014
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of May 12, 2014
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of May 13, 2014
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Central Registration is now located at 734 Tolland Street. They are open from 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 PM daily. Info Line is (860) 622-5080. Please register your children early.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Alyssa Crooks, Student Representative

- Senior Ball tickets are on sale – 5/23 – 5/27;
- 5/27 – Spring Sports Night
- 5/29 – Scholarship Ceremony 7:30 A.M. in the Lecture Hall
- 5/29 – Pops Concert 7:00 PM in auditorium

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report – Jeffrey Currey

- Attended the Parent/Teacher Community Forum hosted by CEA at EHMS with Board member Scheer;
- Thank you to all who participated in the budget process;
- Attended a PTO fundraiser for Project Graduation on Saturday in the EHHS auditorium, listened to a piano concert by former EHHS graduate, Orice Jenkins;
- Last evening we had the privilege of attending the Top 20 Dinner at Rentschler Field honoring the Top 20 EHHS graduates;
- Visit from Governor Malloy last Monday at O'Brien Elementary School to discuss their inclusion into the Commissioner's Network. Thank you to the delegation for their attendance. Thank you to the Superintendent and Board member Scheer for getting this together and Board member Pet for her participation, and a huge thank you goes to Pam Wentworth who babysat 18 little ones with the assistance of some of the high schoolers who were able to use this as community service;
- Last week we hosted meetings where we outlined the budget reductions and offered the public an opportunity to have their voices heard. We, again, thank all of those who have participated in the budget process.

Superintendent's Report – Nathan Quesnel

Educational Programs: Teaching and Learning:

Expect Student Achievement: Staff Appreciation Week: Last night we celebrated our Top 20 scholars from EHHS at Rentschler Field. Thank you to the Exchange Club and administration at EHHS for their presentation. Congratulations to our Top 20.

- **SBAC Testing:** We have completed SBAC testing this week. Thank you to both the students, staff and Marcia Huddy for their efforts to make this field test a smooth operation.

Expect Student Achievement: Commissioner's Network Meeting(s): Commissioner's Network: On May 7th, the State BOE approved our Network plan for O'Brien School that will bring over \$450,000 of staffing and resources to the school for next year as well as over \$500,000 of Bond money that will be used to improve the infrastructure of O'Brien School. On Monday, Governor Malloy visited O'Brien School and congratulated our team on the work we had completed and the plan that is in place. Next up is the design work for the portable classrooms and hallway renovations that are on the docket to be completed.

Alliance Plan III: We continue to await news on our Alliance Plan from the State. Thank you to parents and Board members

Community Relations:

- **Community Forum:** We conducted our annual district Community Forum on May 15th at EHMS – thank you to parents who attended this event. Joining me at this event was Chairman Currey, Board Members Scheer and Pet.

Business Matters:

Align System and Operational Efforts: Budget Process: Following our budget proceedings last week, we will be submitting a budget reduction plan for approval tonight. While this has been a difficult process, we believe we have been able to craft a budget that best meets the needs of our students and community with the resources that have been provided. Thank you to the Board.

Good News Report: This year for the first time as a graduation requirement, seniors were required to complete 30 hours of community service in addition to their academic coursework. Due to their hard work, and the incredible support of the EHHS community, notably Assistant Principal DeCarli, Teacher Dan Pichette, and Guidance Counselors Sara Johnson and Cathy Barry, I am proud to report the following: Total hours earned by 315 seniors that are in the Class of 2014 graduation requirement report is 16,940 hours. Yesenia Vargas earned 1,610 hours over her four years.

**Next Steps: 6/13 – Synergy/CIBA Graduation\
6/16 – EHHS Graduation**

Professional Development Report

Marcia Huddy, Supervisor of Program Development and Assessment

Ms. Huddy gave a PowerPoint presentation on Professional Development in our district. It was noted that the purpose of professional development is a comprehensive, sustained, and intensive

approach to improving teachers' and principals' effectiveness in raising student achievement. The Professional Development Committee is linked to the teacher evaluation committee.

Ms. Huddy reviewed the results of the Professional Development Survey. She noted 329 staff members completed and submitted the survey. Positive feedback was received. Ms. Huddy noted teachers are the most important factors – it is our responsibility to offer staff development for teachers to grow. Superintendent Quesnel stated this district has made tremendous strides with Professional Development. The outlook for 2014-15 is to focus on broad topics: Common Core: Curriculum, Close Reading, Text Complexity, Rigor, Questioning; training and ongoing support; Interventions and progress monitoring (e.g. Lexia, MVRC, and Gradpoint), Day of Choice is November 4, 2014 – addressing educators' personal growth needs.

Elementary Counseling Grant

Dr. Sharon Bremner

Dr. Bremner stated this Elementary Counseling Grant is open to 52 districts. We will know if we receive this grant by the end of September. It could allow us up to \$400,000 annually. The proposal addresses the Absolute Priority by expanding the existing elementary school counseling program. Presently, six of the district's nine elementary schools have no social worker support. Current enrollment of 2074 students in these six schools could be served with additional staff. The measurable success of our initiative is contingent on the recruitment and hiring of three highly qualified, certified School Social Workers. These social workers would be assigned to provide direct counseling interventions, parental involvement and community outreach.

The grant's effectiveness will be facilitated by the support of highly professional and experienced department staff, with many opportunities for staff interactions and staff development. Supportive intervention tools, such as Second Step, and community resource contacts have already been initiated. All areas of Application and Program Requirements are addressed in the grant.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Resignations/Retirements

MOTION

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To approve the following (1) **Retirement:**

- 1. Sandra Sheehan, Special Ed Para, effective 6/16/14**
- and**

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

- 1. Julie E. Williams, ESL Teacher, effective 6/30/14**
- 2. Keith Lombardi, Lifeguard, effective 5/15/14**
- 3. Sonia Amado, Tutor, effective 5/30/14**

Motion unanimously carried.

2014-15 Budget Adoption

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To approve an adopted annual budget for East Hartford Public Schools for FY 2014-2015 of \$87,266,419.

Motion unanimously carried.

Chairman Currey reviewed how the budget process evolved throughout the year. The budget approved by the Town Council in April left the Board with a \$5 million shortfall. He stated this is not a win for East Hartford. We must have people come out during the year so that everyone knows what good is being done – the community must come out and state our successes. Chairman Currey stated the administration and parents have supported us throughout this process.

Mr. Mainuli noted we are using almost 40 percent of Alliance funding for operating costs.

To Rescind Letters of Non-Renewal of Certain Non-Tenured Teachers

MOTION

By Bryan Hall

Seconded by Tyron Harris

That the Board **rescinds** the non-renewal of the following non-tenured teachers. Dana Saccomano and Alison Pilon are partially rescinded, returning as a .6 FTE's and not to full time positions:

FIRST	LAST	DOH	POSITION	FTE	LOCATION
MICHAEL A	PICARD	03/03/14	GRADE 2	1.0	LANGFORD
STEPHANIE	REALE	01/21/14	GRADE 2	1.0	MAYBERRY
CAROL	FELLENSTEIN	01/02/14	GRADE 5	1.0	O'CONNELL
KELLEY L	HUNTER-MORALES	09/24/13	GRADE 2	1.0	LANGFORD
KATIE L	MANFRE	08/26/13	KINDERGARTEN	1.0	GOODWIN
LINDSEY M.	FIGUEROA	08/26/13	GRADE 4	1.0	SUNSET RIDGE
VICTORIA M	MILLER	08/23/13	GRADE 1	1.0	MAYBERRY
KARA A	LEVENDUSKI	08/23/13	LITERACY COACH	1.0	O'BRIEN
JENNIFER	SIERRA	08/23/13	GRADE 5	1.0	SILVER LANE
AUDREY J	ARESCO	08/23/13	GRADE 5	1.0	O'CONNELL
KARA A	COLON	08/23/13	GRADE 6	1.0	O'CONNELL
STEPHANIE A	GORMAN	08/23/13	GRADE 5	1.0	O'CONNELL
DENYEL J	PARENT	08/23/13	GRADE 3	1.0	O'CONNELL
REBECCA L	BROOKS	08/23/13	KINDERGARTEN	1.0	NORRIS
HOLLY E	de MELO	08/23/13	LITERACY COACH	1.0	WOODLAND
PATRICIA A	REID	08/23/13	GRADE 2	1.0	O'BRIEN
THOMAS J	DONATO	08/23/13	MATH COACH	1.0	LANGFORD
* DANA M	SACCOMANO	08/23/13	MUSIC	0.6	O'CONNELL
.ROBIN M	RUSSOTTO	08/27/12	MUSIC	1.0	NORRIS

KAELY R	ADAMS	01/03/12	MUSIC/STRINGS	1.0	SUNSET RIDGE
ALYSSA M	HOVANEK	12/12/11	MUSIC	1.0	WOODLAND
PATRICIA A	O'SULLIVAN	08/25/11	MUSIC	1.0	EHMS
JULIE O	SPAGNESI	08/26/10	MUSIC BAND	1.0	EHMS
*ALISON L	PILON	11/12/13	ART	0.6	EHHS
CELESTE M	SHELLEY	9/25/13	ART	1.0	EHMS
DAVID J	BROWNELL	08/26/10	ART	1.0	SYNERGY
STEPHANIE P	PELLEGRINO	08/26/10	ART	1.0	EHMS
MATTHEW J	MARTUCCI	08/25/11	HEALTH&PE	1.0	EHHS
MARCIE L	BLACK	08/26/10	HEALTH &PE	1.0	EHHS
JOSEPH M	PEARCE	08/26/10	HEALTH &PE	1.0	NORRIS
JACKELINE P	THOMPSON	08/27/12	SPANISH	1.0	O'CONNELL IB
GILLIAN G	RONDINONE	08/26/10	TECH ED	1.0	EHMS
THOMAS E	STEGNER	08/26/10	TECH ED	1.0	EHMS
CLARISSA T	DOZIER	12/11/13	HEAD START	0.7	WILLOWBROOK
MEREITH T	KRAUSS	08/23/13	LA INTERVENTION	1.0	EHMS

Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Mainuli stated a recent actuarial study by the Town projected \$112,437 in savings, reducing the contribution to the paraprofessional pension plan. These savings allowed funding for a full time teacher at EHMS and a full time teacher at EHHS. Chairman Currey thanked the teachers for coming out this evening.

Chris Wethje commended the teachers for the work they are continuing to do during this budget period.

Superintendent Quesnel commended Chris and his entire team for the work they continue to do.

Board Member Representative Reports

- **Stephanie Watkins** re: (1) attended O'Brien Spring Concert; visited Mayberry School;
- **Dorese Roberts** re: (1) attended band and woodwind concert at EHHS; (2) attended JV softball game;
- **Valerie Scheer** re: (1) attended Pitkin concert; (2) attended track meet;
- **Bryan Hall** – re: attended EHMS concert last week.
- **Marilyn Pet** – (1) attended concert in support of Project Graduation; (2) Garden Club visited O'Brien School – kids were excited with the herbs and vegetables they were planting.

Questions and Concerns by Board Members

Bryan Hall – commended Chairman Currey, Superintendent Quesnel and his cabinet for their tireless efforts in putting the budget together.

At this time, Chairman Currey recognized one of our parents with a child in the audience and thanked them for coming this evening – they were at a previous meeting in support of Sunset Ridge School.

Topics for Future Agendas None

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:20 PM)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION