

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
NOVEMBER 4, 2013**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, November 4, 2013, at the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Jeffrey Currey.

**PRESENT** Chairman Jeffrey Currey, Dorese Roberts, Stephanie Watkins, Marilyn Pet, Tom Rup, Tyron Harris,

**ABSENT** Bryan Hall, Christopher Gentile

**ALSO PRESENT** Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools  
Debbie Kaprove, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum  
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources  
Al Costa, Director of Facilities  
Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance  
Alyssa Crooks and Brian Calero, Student Representatives

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA** - None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Tyron Harris  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting of October 21, 2013  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tyron Harris  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Regular Meeting of October 21, 2013  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Tyron Harris  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting of October 29, 2013  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Tyron Harris  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Meeting of October 29, 2013  
Motion unanimously carried.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD** - None

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Alyssa Crooks and Brian Calero, Student Representatives

- 11/5/13 – Boys Soccer vs. Wilton;
- EHHS – “Connections” classes are focusing on holiday events from different countries -- will keep you posted.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Vanessa Jenkins, President, EHHS PTO is requesting BOE participation in conjunction with their fundraising efforts for Project Graduation – the PTO is scheduling many events; i.e., 3<sup>rd</sup> annual bus trip to Mohegan Sun casino; a concert by the graduating class of 2012 and several other fundraising events. Ms. Jenkins will forward to the Superintendent’s office further details for this Project Graduation event.

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

**Human Resources/No Action Required**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** – Board Chairman Jeffrey Currey called for a moment of silence in memory of Board Member Marcus Oladell, IV, noting our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

**Scholarship Presentation in Memory of Pablo R. Diaz, Jr.**

**Ram Aberasturia**

Ram Aberasturia presented a \$1,100 check to the Board of Education for the Pablo Diaz Scholarship Fund. Funds were raised through proceeds from a UConn football game. Mr. Diaz passed away three years ago and Mr. Aberasturia has kept his memory alive with presenting checks to the Board of Education for the Pablo Diaz Scholarship Fund. Members of the Diaz family were present this evening.

Mr. Aberasturia also commented on the loss of Marcus Oladell, IV, stating he would like to continue raising funds this coming Memorial Day for a Scholarship in memory of Marcus Oladell, IV.

**Recognition of 2014 Paraprofessionals and Teachers of the Year, 2014 District Paraprofessional of the Year Anne Marie Wickersham and 2014 District Teacher of the Year Christine Boyer-Denecour**

Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources, reviewed the process involved to honor paraprofessionals and teachers. He noted they are both presented by their peers.

**2014 Paraprofessionals of the Year**

Goodwin School  
Hockanum School  
Langford School

Daryl Baird  
Debra Dagon  
Dawn McClintock

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|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Mayberry School</b>   | <b>Anita Levy</b>            |
| <b>Norris School</b>   | <b>Deborah Sinnamon</b>      |
| <b>O'Brien School</b>  | <b>Karen Vendette</b>        |
| <b>O'Connell School</b>  | <b>Mary Vaughan</b>          |
| <b>Pitkin School</b>   | <b>Mary Anne Rose</b>        |
| <b>Silver Lane School</b>  | <b>Sandra Sheehan</b>        |
| <b>Sunset Ridge School</b>   | <b>Jacqueline Szkirka</b>    |
| <b>East Hartford Middle School</b>   | <b>Frederick Fitzgerald</b>  |
| <b>Willowbrook School</b>  | <b>Madeline Rodriguez</b>    |
| <b>East Hartford High School and<br/>District Paraprofessional of the Year</b> | <b>Anne Marie Wickersham</b> |

**Teachers of the Year**

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Willowbrook School</b>                                  | <b>Melinda Grunert</b>          |
| <b>Hockanum School</b>                                     | <b>Jed Upson</b>                |
| <b>Langford School</b>                                     | <b>Amanda Seals</b>             |
| <b>Mayberry School</b>                                     | <b>Kerry Liebler</b>            |
| <b>Norris School</b>                                       | <b>Heather McClure</b>          |
| <b>O'Brien School</b>                                      | <b>Andrea Winiarski</b>         |
| <b>O'Connell School</b>                                    | <b>Laura Diminico</b>           |
| <b>Pitkin School</b>                                       | <b>Deborah Juzba</b>            |
| <b>Silver lane School</b>                                  | <b>Angela Landon</b>            |
| <b>Sunset Ridge School</b>                                 | <b>Melissa Morales-Reyes</b>    |
| <b>East Hartford Middle School</b>                         | <b>Gina Gorton</b>              |
| <b>East Hartford High School</b>                           | <b>Charles Nystrom</b>          |
| <b>Woodland School</b>                                     | <b>Lynn Schwarm-Pelletier</b>   |
| <b>Stevens School/Synergy</b>                              | <b>Donna Salerno</b>            |
| <b>Connecticut IB Academy</b>                              | <b>Joanna Ali</b>               |
| <b>Goodwin School and<br/>District Teacher of the Year</b> | <b>Christine Boyer-Denecour</b> |

All paraprofessionals and teachers honored this evening received a plaque from the Board of Education.

**Chairman's Report – Jeffrey Currey**

- Chairman Currey noted he has been going out into the community on a regular basis and he and the townspeople are seeing changes that have been taking place the past couple of years. Our teachers and administrators continue to work very hard to make sure East Hartford students continue to thrive as a result of caring teachers and parental support;
- Chairman Currey commented he is very proud of the staff honored here this evening.

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**Superintendent's Report – Nathan Quesnel**

**Educational Programs: Teaching and Learning:**

- **Expect Student Achievement: School Visits:** core focus of school visits over the past two weeks is on working with our administrative team regarding implementing the new teacher evaluation plan. To date, results have been very positive;
- **Insist on Results: School Improvement Plan (SIP) Review:** Central Office has been reviewing all School Improvement Plans. SIP's were submitted last week and have been reviewed with feedback being provided for all schools. This feedback will be incorporated into evaluations as well.

**Community Relations:**

- **Build Family and Community Relationships: Careers in the Middle Conference MCC Key Note Address:** Superintendent Quesnel had the opportunity to speak at the MCC Careers in the Middle Conference regarding the importance of building value for various and alternate career paths. Over 200 counselors and educators throughout the state attended, and we were able to showcase some of the work we are doing.

**Business Matters:**

- **Align System and Operational Efforts: Budget Process:** Superintendent Quesnel looks forward to developing a budget that will meet the needs of our students and community as well to preserve the existing programs that we have been in the process of developing while being conservative with district resources.

**Celebration/Recognition:**

- **\$10,000 AT&T Aspire Grant:** – we received a \$10,000 grant from AT&T today to provide funding for students in the Above and Beyond program at Synergy School. Thank you to Representative Genga for his efforts to secure these resources for East Hartford kids.
- **CIBA Junior IB Induction Program:** we inducted the largest number of juniors into our Junior IB program here at CIBA. Superintendent Quesnel stated we are extremely proud of our students and the commitment they continue to show in the district.

**Next Steps:**

- Budget Development – Superintendent's Budget to the BOE for 11/18;
- Administrative Evaluation Goals Due 11/15;
- Instructional Rounds Process beginning first visit at Goodwin School on 11/7;
- CAPSS/CABE Conference 11/15.

**IGNITE – Langford Elementary School**

A PowerPoint presentation was given by the following teachers at Langford Elementary School: Amanda Seals, Lynn Peck, Angela Egan and Abbey Roos. They reviewed in detail a concept of teaching founded by Chris Biffle and Chris Rekstad entitled "Whole Brain Teaching". It is a concept that brings the whole class together by totally involving all students with the teacher. Students are taught to abide by **rules**; i.e., be kind, be respectful, pay attention to the teacher, make smart choices, etc. Children are excited and having fun on a daily basis by becoming involved in obeying "rules" and learning at the same time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**To Remove from Table and Approve Policy 6142.101 – Student Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Wellness Policy**

MOTION By Tyron Harris  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To **remove from table** Policy 6142.101 – Student Nutrition, Physical activity, and Wellness Policy  
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Tyron Harris  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To **approve** Policy 6142.101 – Student Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Wellness Policy  
Motion unanimously carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**To Approve Two (2) Resignations and One (1) Retirement**

MOTION By Tyron Harris  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve two Resignations:  
1. Lee Salgado, Custodian 1, effective 10/21/13  
2. Shannon M. Bailey, Tutor, effective 11/1/13  
And  
To approve one Retirement:  
1. Bonnie R. Granger, Secretary, effective 3/10/14  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Request to Waive RFP process and move to accept the Town RFP Selection Process for the Purpose of Retaining Architectural Services for the Middle School Window Wall Design Project**

MOTION By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tyron Harris  
Request to Waive RFP process and move to accept the Town RFP Selection Process for the Purpose of Retaining Architectural Services for the Middle School Window Wall Design Project.  
Motion carried. **Nay:** Tom Rup

It was noted we would retain the firm of Capital Studio Architects of East Hartford, CT., under the same rate structure as submitted under the Town’s RFP, with further provisions which comply with Board policy.

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**Teacher and Administrative Evaluation Modifications**

**MOTION** By Marilyn Pet  
Seconded by Tyron Harris  
To approve changes made to the EHPS Teacher and Administrator  
Evaluation Plans.  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Board Member Representative Reports**

**Marilyn Pet** – re: Child Plan discussed starting a program to recognize students’ acts of kindness;

**Dorese Roberts**- attended CIBA Induction.

**Public Participation** - None

**Questions and Concerns by Board Members** - None

**Topics for Future Agendas** - None

**MOTION** By Tyron Harris  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:00 PM)  
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION