

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2013**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, December 2, 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, Secretary Bryan Hall, Stephanie Watkins, Tom Rup, Christopher Gentile, Marilyn Pet, Tyron Harris

ABSENT Dorese Roberts

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
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
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 November 18, 2013, as corrected:
Page 5: under School Climate Report – second paragraph, last sentence:
Last year we had 41 incidents investigated, **and only 18 were substantiated.**
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Alyssa Crooks Student Representative

- Winter sports tryouts are presently taking place – Boys Basketball 12/3; Cheerleading 12/4 – 12/6;
- 12/3 – Fall Sports Night 6:00 PM;
- 12/5 – 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Exploring Life After High School – College and career options will be discussed;
- 12/9 – Grades for progress reports are due Monday;
- 12/12 – National Honor Society induction will be held ;
- Holidays Around the World will take place next Saturday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report – Jeffrey Currey

- Hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday;
- We will begin the budget meeting process on Thursday, December 5th;
- We will have a new member on the Board very soon;
- Please attend the holiday concerts throughout the district.

Superintendent's Report – Nathan Quesnel

- Happy Holidays to everyone.

Educational Programs: Teaching and Learning:

- **Expect Student Achievement: School Visits:** School visits have included multiple walkthrough of schools including Instructional Rounds and Principal visits;
- **Expect Student Achievement: SBAC Presentation:** Attended a presentation to district leaders on the new assessment system SBAC at the BoE facilitated by Assistant Superintendent Anne Marie Mancini. This was a high quality presentation that provided our school leaders with important information on the new assessment system we will be moving to this year;

Community Relations:

- **Build Family and Community Relationships: Aspire Grant – Synergy:** Congratulations to Principal Outhouse for receiving a \$10,000 grant from AT&T to support the Above and Beyond Program. Sincere thanks to Representative Henry Genga for his help in making this happen.
- **Build Family and Community Relationships: Sunset Ridge Sister School Grant from Asia Society:** Congratulations to Principal Kopcha at Sunset Ridge Elementary Academy of Arts and World Languages for receiving an \$11,000 grant from the Asia Society to continue to develop the elementary partnership with their sister school in China and the Chinese Language Program at the school in East Hartford. Monies will be used for the purchase of instruments.

Business Matters:

- **Align System and Operational Efforts: Budget Process:** Budget workshops begin 12/5. We will be guiding the BoE through an overview of the budget as well as a review of major priorities and drivers. In addition, we will be walking line by line through the Human Resources, Business Services and Facility accounts. I ask Board members to focus on those programs only. The next meetings will be held **12/9 and 12/11**. With direction given by the BoE, we hope to have a public hearing at our next BoE meeting with an opportunity for residents to speak regarding our budget. We hope to approve the budget prior to the holiday. I look forward to developing a BoE budget that meets the needs of our students and community.

Celebration/Recognition:

See above.

Common Core Curriculum Presentation

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum Anne Marie Mancini

Ms. Mancini gave a very detailed PowerPoint presentation on Common Core standards as it relates to East Hartford Public Schools. The Common Core will prepare students to succeed in college and the workforce. The mission of the Common Core is to ensure that every child is held to the same high standards and learns the same material, regardless of race, ethnicity or zip code. Forty six states and the District of Columbia have adopted the new standards.

Ms. Mancini noted for every 100 ninth graders, 65 graduate from high school, 37 enter college, 24 are still enrolled in sophomore year and 12 graduate with a degree in six years. Parents are informed of the Common Core during conferences at the schools. (Board Member Rup asked for additional information on the New England Region statistics).

The Common Core state standards provide a single set of clear standards for English/language arts and mathematics to allow all students to prepare for success in postsecondary education and the workplace. The new math standards focus on content and practice. Focus is on skill building, speed and accuracy.

Parents can assist their children by pointing out where you use math in everyday situations. They must encourage their children to face challenges positively and to see mathematics as a subject that is important.

In the new literacy standards, the focus is on non-fiction, careful reading. They are encouraged to write using evidence and increase academic vocabulary. Parents are encouraged to make reading important and fun. They can use technology to help build their child's interest in reading.

In EHPS, Grades K – 6 elementary schools have implemented the Common Core into all English/Language Arts and mathematics curricula. Grades 7 – 8 Middle School has implemented the Common Core into all English/Language Arts and mathematics curricula. Literacy standards for Social Studies, Science & technical subjects are currently being integrated into all curricula. Grades 9 –12 High School has implemented the Common Core into all English and Algebra I curricula. Literacy standards for Social Studies, Science & technical subjects are currently being integrated into all curricula.

Facility and IT Report: Update on Project Work

Al Costa, Director of Facilities

Guy Collins, Supervisor of Information Technology

Mr. Costa gave a PowerPoint presentation on the School Improvement Projects for 2012-2013 as well as a 20-year history of capital funding. Major projects completed in 2013 included Silver Lane School steps; site improvements to Mayberry and Hockanum schools; Pitkin School parking lot; new School Based Health Center construction at Hockanum and Mayberry schools; Readiness renovations at Hockanum school; School Based Health Center alterations at EHMS & EHHS; BoE office renovations; EHHS gym floor refinished and many IT projects district wide.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2013**

Mr. Collins listed many of the information technology projects that were completed, listed below:

- PC's and smart boards were ordered end of June and arrived in July; imaging began immediately at EHHS;
- IT imaged 859 new PC's in three weeks;
- Smart boards began arriving mid to end of July – all smart boards in K – 2 classrooms and media center labs were installed;
- Wiring of labs and classrooms began early in July and continued throughout summer;
- Replaced 20 aging computers at BoE;
- EHMS received 25 laptops for their Tech Ed Department;
- EHMS received 24 PC's between two rooms to support the Read 180 program;
- Added server storage to virtual servers;
- CIBA received 100 Google Chrome Books to replace laptops.

Mr. Costa noted a special thanks to contractors and suppliers that made these projects a success. He also thanked the IT Department staff and Department of Facilities staff for their continued outstanding performance.

OLD BUSINESS

Revised Board of Education Business Calendars, 2014 and 2015

MOTION By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the revised Board of Education Business Calendars for 2014 and 2015 as presented to the Board on December 2, 2013. Revisions have been made to both the 2014 and 2015 Business Calendars.
Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Resignations/Retirements – None

Board Member Representative Reports

Tyron Harris – attended CABA conference – they discussed (1) what different towns are doing regarding budgets; (2) towns are placing progress reports on line to parents.

Public Participation – None

Questions and Concerns by Board Members – None

Topics for Future Agendas – None

MOTION By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:40 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald