

**REGULAR MEETING  
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,  
JANUARY 5, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, January 5, 2015, 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, Tom Rup, Marilyn Pet, Dorese Roberts, Tyron Harris, Valerie Scheer, Christopher Gentile, Stephanie Watkins

**ALSO PRESENT** Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools  
Cynthia E. Ritchie, 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  
Natalya Robinson, Jazmin Rampassard – Student Representatives

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

**MOTION** By Dorese Roberts  
Seconded by Tyron Harris  
To create a Consent Calendar **Under Old Business to include items 1-11:**

1. Policy 5123.2- Summer School Work for Credit
2. Policy 5142.3 – Safety: Skateboard/Rollerblade/Scooter and Other Such Recreational Equipment Use
3. Policy 5156 – Research Involving Students
4. Policy 6111 – School Calendar
5. Policy 6141 – Curriculum Design/Development
6. Policy 6142.2 – Separation of Church and State
7. Policy 6142 – Basic Instructional Program
8. Policy 6142.101 – Student Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Wellness Policy
9. Policy 6144 – Controversial Issues
10. Policy 6144.3 – Controversial Speakers
11. Policy 6145.31 – Underground Publications

Motion unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** By Bryan Hall  
Seconded by Tyron Harris  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Board Meeting, November 19, 2014 (10:30 AM)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Tyron Harris  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Regular Board Meeting of December 15, 2014 (7:00 PM)  
Motion unanimously carried.

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**MOTION** By Bryan Hall  
Seconded by Tyron Harris  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Board Meeting of December 16, 2014 (5:00 PM)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**MOTION** By Tyron Harris  
Seconded by Dorese Roberts  
To approve the following Minutes:  
Special Board Meeting of December 16, 2014 (5:30 PM)  
Motion unanimously carried.

**Written Communications to the Board**

1/16 – 9:30 AM – celebration of Martin Luther King’s birthday at Hockanum School.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

**Natalya Robinson, Jazmin Rampassard– Student Representatives**

1/8 – A’Ric Jackson, Inspirational speaker at EHHS;

1/12 – PTO meeting;

1/12 – Student Governance meeting;

Two weeks until exams – “Cookies, Cocoa and Cram” study sessions for exams;

- Students and families should check Home Access Center for up to date information;
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade visits during exams.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

**Human Resources/No Action Required**

**Chairman’s Report – Jeffrey Currey**

Chairman Currey welcomed everyone back from the holidays and wished them a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Superintendent’s Report – Nathan Quesnel**

**Status of the Schools:** We welcome our students and staff back today from a long Christmas and New Years break and are thrilled to get started for 2015. We are very excited to start a new year, recommitted to our vision, mission and core beliefs. Best wishes and health to each of you for 2015.

**Updates from the District:** Superintendent Quesnel has listed some of the great things that we have accomplished as a result of everyone’s leadership. You should be proud of the work you have led as a Board:

- 2014-2015 – EHPS hires new Elementary Assistant Superintendent Cynthia Ritchie – a huge addition to a strong senior leadership team;

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- 2014-2015 – EHPS launches revised strategic plan accountability system with “Numbers on the Wall”. This system is utilized by all schools and continues to inspire and focus on data that drives achievement while educating the whole child.
- 2014-2015 – EHPS commissions and receives a comprehensive redistricting report and takes the first steps working with the SDE to develop a Middle Years IB Programme at Sunset Ridge. This proposal will complete the district IB pipeline, offer choice to parents and provide a potential revenue stream using Sheff monies – details of the project are still pending approval from the state.
- 2014-2015 – O’Brien Elementary School successfully applies and implements Year 1 as a member of Cohort III of the Commissioner Network Schools. This plan brings over \$1.2 million in resources over three years as well as nearly \$500,000 in facility monies.
- 2014-2015 – After extensive effort on behalf of our Facilities Department, EHPS is awarded special legislation that allows funding to adequately meet the needs of the long awaited EHMS window wall project; construction is slated for summer 2015.
- 2014-2015 – EHPS rolls out and fully implements the MUNIS financial system, due to hard work and efforts of the Business Service Division. This system will improve financial accountability for the district for years to come.
- 2014-2015 – EHPS hires four new building principals and makes a significant shift in leadership for the district.
- 2014-2015 – EHPS decides to step away from a long standing, but dysfunctional, relationship with CRT and submits a Head Start Grant (\$1.5 million) to fund the district Pre-K program. Also, EHPS submits a Smart Start Grant to the Office of Early Childhood and takes another step forward to realizing the vision of the Early Childhood Center.
- 2014-2015 – EHPS transfers to Dattco Transportation and significantly improves district systems to facilitate effective routing and customer service.
- 2014-2015 – EHPS successfully works with the Town Council to improve transparency and understanding of the budget process. While the budget process still has significant work to unfold in the spring 2015, the submitted 3.3% budget marks the lowest BoE and Superintendent budget proposal in nearly a decade. We are also using a variety of methods of communication, including newspapers, on-line messaging and plans for a Channel 5 show.
- 2014-2015 – EHPS Teacher, Cara Quinn, is selected as the State Teacher of the Year – a huge honor for the talented EHPS staff.
- 2014-2015 – EHHS Principal, Matthew Ryan, is selected as the Secondary Principal of the Year. Top to bottom talent!
- 2014-2015 – O’Connell Elementary School is recognized by the Connecticut Association of Schools as having an Exemplary School Climate.

**Good News Report: SMART START UPDATE:** Superintendent Quesnel stated he is thrilled to share that due to several factors, we were able to facilitate a revote for the School Readiness Council and secure the votes to successfully move the grant forward. The letter of support will allow the district to apply for a state grant that will offer an additional 36 free Pre-K spots for East Hartford children. The state provides \$5,000 per child and \$75,000 of facility monies per classroom for renovations. These monies will be helpful to upgrade an existing school and refit

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classrooms for Pre-K students. While the grant does not fully fund the program, we believe that this makes both financial and programmatic sense.

**Next Steps:**

**1/6** – Three Kings Holiday;

**1/20-1/26** High School Exams

**2/25** – Town Council Chambers: EHPS Budget Presentation. Superintendent Quesnel stated we are working with Channel 5 to give a great presentation.

**3/23-27** – Elementary Parent Conference Week

**3/26** – Middle School Conference Night

Bryan Hall thanked the superintendent for a great last year.

**“What Matters” Presentation – Pitkin School**

**Jennifer Hills-Papetti, Principal**

A presentation was given sharing with the Board and public the exciting things that are happening at Pitkin School. This presentation will be shown to students on Friday of this week. Principal Hills-Papetti stated she is thrilled to be at Pitkin School and being able to witness the students’ accomplishments. Board member Valerie Scheer stated it is with a sense of pride to see what is taking place at Pitkin School.

**East Hartford Public Schools Legislative Agenda Presentation**

Superintendent Quesnel shared with the Board some of the positions of importance for EHPS that may be addressed in the 2015-2016 Legislative Session. He stated the East Hartford Public Schools Legislative Agenda for 2015-2016 will be posted on our web site. Some of the highlights follow:

- All of our East Hartford delegates are on the Education Committee;
- We are still working on a date for a legislative breakfast, including Board members;
- Magnet School funding is our No. 1 priority – we are the most impacted district in the state; second, we must address the Sunset Ridge future; and, third, we must address the Alliance Grant future.
- We urge the Connecticut legislature to take timely steps to develop a magnet school funding plan that ceases to compromise local district financing; we have outlined such a plan in a report shared with the board this evening.

Superintendent Quesnel also provided a detailed report this evening on the unintended consequences of magnet school tuition payments on East Hartford Public Schools. The report in its entirety can be found on our web site.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

By: Bryan Hall

Seconded by: Tyron Harris

To **table for first read** the following policies placed on this evening’s Consent Calendar:

1. Policy 5123.2- Summer School Work for Credit
2. Policy 5142.3 – Safety: Skateboard/Rollerblade/Scooter and Other Such Recreational Equipment Use
3. Policy 5156 – Research Involving Students

- 4. Policy 6111 – School Calendar
  - 5. Policy 6141 – Curriculum Design/Development
  - 6. Policy 6142.2 – Separation of Church and State
  - 7. Policy 6142 – Basic Instructional Program
  - 8. Policy 6142.101 – Student Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Wellness Policy
  - 9. Policy 6144 – Controversial Issues
  - 10. Policy 6144.3 – Controversial Speakers
  - 11. Policy 6145.31 – Underground Publications
- Motion unanimously carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Retirements/Resignations:**

**MOTION**

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To approve the following ten **(10) Retirements:**

- 1. Marie Adams, Teacher, effective 6/30/15;
- 2. Marilyn Boccaccio, Language Arts Consultant, effective 6/30/15;
- 3. Barbara Chamberland, Teacher, effective 6/30/15;
- 4. Constance King, Teacher, effective 1/30/15;
- 5. Joyce Mazzadra, Teacher, effective 6/30/15;
- 6. Jean Ross, Elementary Literacy Coach, effective 6/30/15;
- 7. Meryl Sloate, Speech/Language Pathologist, effective 6/30/15;
- 8. Roger LaFlamme, Custodian, effective 12/17/2014;
- 9. Richard Melody, Custodian, effective 12/26/14;
- 10. Kathy Morgan, Assistant Secretary, effective 12/26/14;

**and**

To approve the following **(9) Resignations:**

- 1. Rachel Brainard, Tutor, effective 12/23/14;
- 2. Stacey Adams, School Psychologist, effective 12/3/14;
- 3. Jeffrey LaFleur, Teacher, effective 1/16/15;
- 4. Marla McKee, Teacher, effective 6/30/15;
- 5. Robert Armstrong, Technology Ed. Teacher, effective 1/20/15;
- 6. Allan Barnes, Behavior Manager, effective 12/19/14;
- 7. Christopher Cleveland, Behavior Manager, effective 11/26/14;
- 8. Justin Perkins, Behavior Manager, effective 1/8/15;
- 9. Daniel Sousa, Behavior Manager, effective 1/8/15.

Motion unanimously carried.

**Bid #1705-14 EHMS Window and Curtain Wall Replacement Project**

**Al Costa, Director of Facilities**

**MOTION**

By Christopher Gentile

Seconded by Marilyn Pet

To refer to **Facilities Committee** Bid #1705-14 Window and Curtain Wall Replacement, East Hartford Middle School  
State OSF Project #043-0236 A/EC

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The Department of Facilities opened bids on January 5, 2015 from contractors and is prepared to review them with the Facilities Committee on January 13, 2015 and with the Public Building Commission on January 21, 2015. Bid award recommendations are anticipated to come before the Board of Education for the February 2, 2015 regular Board meeting.

Motion unanimously carried.

**Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**

**Al Costa, Director of Facilities**

**MOTION**

By: Christopher Gentile

Seconded by: Marilyn Pet

To refer to Facilities Committee the Capital Improvement Plan

Motion unanimously carried.

This is an annual update.

**Policy 1700 – Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property**

**MOTION**

By: Dorese Roberts

Seconded by: Tyron Harris

To refer Policy 1700 to the Policy and Audit Committee

Motion unanimously carried.

**Board Member Representative Reports**

**Valerie Scheer:** attend the Pitkin School concert;

**Bryan Hall:** EHHS won the basketball tournament.

**Questions and Concerns by Board Members –**

The Board wished Chairman Currey good luck beginning Wednesday in his new role as a Legislator.

**Topics for Future Agendas - none**

**MOTION**

By Tom Rup

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:00 PM)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald