

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
APRIL 20, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, April 20, 2015, in the CIBA Lecture Hall, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Bryan Hall

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

ALSO PRESENT Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools
Cynthia E. Ritchie, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum
Anne Marie Mancini, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Natalya Robinson and Jazmin Rampassard, Student Representatives

Chairman Bryan Hall called for a moment of silence for the recent tragedy of third grader Carlos Hernandez, Jr. from O'Brien School.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Valerie Scheer
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board Meeting, April 6, 2015 (7:00 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board Meeting, April 14, 2015 (5:00 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Letter from Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc and Vanessa Jenkins, PTO Treasurer, EHHS and Christie Crooks, PTO President re: holding a Project Graduation Golf Tournament May 16, 2015 at the East Hartford Golf Club as the primary means to provide funding needed to support Project Graduation. Entry fee is \$125 per person/\$500 for a foursome. Call EHHS PTO for further information: 860-212-1767.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Natalya Robinson, Jazmin Rampassard – Student Representatives

- 4th quarter began 4/13 – report cards were given out on 4/17;

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
APRIL 20, 2015**

- Check My Alerts on Home Access regarding a student's behavior and performance in school;
- 4/24 – Junior Prom at Rentschler Field;
- 4/28 – Talent Show;
- 4/29 – Honors and Awards Night;
- 5/4 – AP Testing begins.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Marcia Ferreira, President EHEA – expressed condolences to the friends and family of Carlos Hernandez, Jr.;
2. Mark and Katie Callahan – re: thank you for supporting Project Graduation and keeping our kids safe – this is a wonderful event – all foods are donated – the cost of Project Graduation is approximately \$15,000 - \$20,000 yearly.
3. Vanessa Jenkins, PTO President, EHHS – re: Project Graduation – donations of raffle prizes or monetary gifts are welcome. Thank you for all your support.

Superintendent Quesnel thanked all who are supporting Project Graduation.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Board of Education Appreciation

Superintendent Quesnel thanked Chairman Bryan Hall and the entire Board for their hard work throughout the year. Thank you to the EHEA for the flowers given to the entire Board. Thank you for all the gifts and cards from students. Board member Roberts thanked the students for their cards.

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report – Bryan Hall

- Thank you to the Board for all the time and effort you put in on a regular basis; Thank you to the Superintendent, Administration and Cabinet members for coming together in such a tragic situation we have encountered;
- Thank you to the choir for this evening's entertainment and to choir director Christian Scott;
- It is great to have a full board this evening;
- On behalf of the BoE, we are glad that our Superintendent is staying in East Hartford.

Superintendent's Report – Nathan Quesnel

Status of the Schools:

Back from April break, our schools continue to be in full swing and moving forward. We had a challenging week last week as we lost a dear and precious student at O'Brien Elementary School. As I visited the school and spoke to staff and students, I was reminded of the beauty of the profession we serve that allows us to work with children every day. In times like these, our staff comes together and continues to do what we do best – take care of our kids. We grieve with the Larroy family for the loss of Carlos

Hernandez, Jr. – may he rest in peace. East Hartford is a community of people who take care of one another and we will continue to do that.

Updates from the District

Commissioner’s Network EHMS: I want to thank the Board again for their unanimous support to the application of East Hartford Middle School (EHMS) into the Commissioner’s Network. Similar to the O’Brien plan, the EHMS plan will be developed through a local partnership of parents, teachers, administrators and a state department official and be a product of extensive collaborative planning. While the plan still needs to be written, this commitment has the potential to bring significant resources and funding to children who need it the most. We sincerely appreciate your vision, courage and willingness to put students first when it comes to the future of East Hartford. We will be in the next step phases of scheduling the building audit as well as appointing a Turnaround Team over the next week. I will continue to keep you updated throughout the process.

Summer School Plans: We are finalizing our Summer School plans as well as continuing to work hard within our operating budget to recover the needed \$185,000 cut in the Governor’s budget proposal that funds our summer school program. As soon as the plans are set, notices will be sent out to all impacted families to plan accordingly.

Technology Grant: We received word from the SDE that due to an error on the state side, the RFP for the state grant needed to be pulled in terms of our recently submitted technology grant. We are extremely disappointed as we had developed a great grant and anticipated the much needed award. We are awaiting news from the state on what the next steps might be.

Head Start Grant: We have received news that we will hear shortly on the Head Start grant. As you know, this is an extremely high stakes announcement for the future of our program at Willowbrook. Our contacts tell us that we should be hearing shortly.

Next Steps:

- April-May – Complete School Audit and Develop CN Plan for EHMS;
- Complete Design Phase for Smart Start Grant;
- Design Completion for Facility and Grounds renovations at O’Brien School; Budget Process – ongoing
- Pending news on Head Start Grant

“What Matters” Presentation – Sunset Ridge

Dan Catlin, Principal, Jaclyn Sanzaro and Ryan Murphy, with the help of Stacy Constantine and the Sunset Ridge Staff

A PowerPoint presentation was given by the 6th grade teachers, using the alphabet initials to expound on program offerings at Sunset Ridge School. Emphasis was placed on

developing relationships, forming relationships, helping others with teachers and parents working together.

Review of Commissioner's Network Plan

Lesley Morgan-Thompson, Principal, Corrie Schram, Assistant Principal and Kaylan Ricciardi, consultant with CSDE Turnaround Office

Ms. Morgan Thompson thanked the Superintendent, Chairman Bryan Hall and Cabinet members for the care shown for each other during the tragedy last week.

A PowerPoint presentation was given. Ms. Morgan-Thompson noted for the year 2014-15 we received \$473,000 from the State as well as funding from the Board of Education. Monies were used for facility upgrades, student iPads and other technology.

For Year 2 Planning we are proposing a budget of \$550,000. The increase will pay for expansion of the STEM program, K-6, continued development of family and community outreach programming and Family Center, professional development for instructional coaches, additional enrichment programs for students and additional literacy resources.

Additional supports are given from the Turnaround Office Support Staff – thank you to Kaylan Ricciardi.

Superintendent Quesnel commended Ms. Ricciardi for her involvement and concern for the Robert J. O'Brien STEM Academy.

A Connecticut Invention Convention Day at the Capitol was enjoyed by students. Legislator Jeffrey Currey and Superintendent Quesnel stopped by.

OLD BUSINESS – Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources, reviewed the following policies:

MOTION

By Tyron Harris

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To **remove from table and approve** the following policy:

1. Policy 1330 – Use of School Facilities

Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Tyron Harris

Seconded by Tom Rup

To **remove from table and approve** the following policy:

2. Policy 5113 – Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal

Motion unanimously carried.

REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONDAY,
APRIL 20, 2015

- MOTION** By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **remove from table and approve** the following policy:
3. Policy 5121 – Examination/Grading/Rating
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Tom Rup
To **remove from table and approve** the following policy:
4. Policy 5123 – Promotions/Acceleration/Retention
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To **remove from table and approve** the following policy:
5. Policy 5141.4 – Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and/or
Neglect
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **remove from table and approve** the following policy:
6. Policy 6145 – Graduation Requirements
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **remove from table and approve** the following policy:
7. Policy 6146.2 – Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **remove from table and approve** the following policy:
8. Policy 6163.3 – Live Animals in the Classroom
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To **remove from table and approve** the following policy:
9. Policy 6163.32 – Live Animals in the Classroom – Service
Animals in Schools
Motion unanimously carried.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
APRIL 20, 2015**

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To **remove from table and approve** the following Bylaw:
10. Bylaw 9325.2 – Order of Business
Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Retirements and Resignations:

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following (1) **Retirement:**
1. Jenny Correa, Principal Mayberry, effective 6/30/15
And
To approve the following four (6) **Resignations:**
1. Gerard Cook, Behavior Manager, effective 4/24/15
2. Dameon McLean, Behavior manager, effective 4/14/15
3. Steven Tierinni, Behavior Manager, effective 4/24/15
4. Roxanne Serrao, Part-time Secretary, effective 4/24/15
5. Kristi Gauthier, Teacher, effective 6/30/15
6. Daniel Rios, Jr., Tutor, effective 4/17/15
Motion unanimously carried.

**Acceptance of Town RFP Selection Process for the purpose of retaining
Architectural Services for Various School Projects**

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Valerie Scheer
That the Board agreed to retain CSA, for the recent Middle School Window Wall design project. CSA has provided outstanding design services. Based on the comprehensive RFP review process of architectural firms, already completed by the Town, we recommend the Board retain the same firm, Capital Studio Architects of East Hartford, CT, for the purpose of developing the formal plans and specifications for various other architectural services.

The school district will enter into a contract with Capital Studio Architects, under the same rate structure as submitted under the Town’s RFP, with further provisions which comply with Board policy. The contract would be written with specific architectural services required for the school district design project. The projects under the school district would be funded through school construction grants and would not apply to the Town’s fee limit for on-call services, or would it impact the school district operating budget.
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Rup noted he would like to have these fees discussed at a later time.

Board Member Representative Reports

Stephanie Watkins – attended concert at Pitkin;

Marilyn Pet – I have not attended Child Plan meetings recently as they are in the process of hiring a new director;

Dorese Roberts – (1) attended softball game; (2) attended literacy night – one family won an i-Pad; (3) Ms. Irvine asked Dorese to read a book to the students at Langford – in turn, students gave Dorese a book; (4) Langford roof is leaking; (attended Willowbrook Policy Committee meeting.

Shelby Brown – (1) visited Hockanum School – saw the community resource room; (2) participated in CAFE training – one of the agenda items was how Boards should interact with media;

Tyron Harris – (1) attended PTO meeting at EHHS – they are looking for volunteers to help out for Project Graduation.

Questions and Concerns by Board Members – None

Topics for Future Agendas – None

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:40 PM)

Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION