

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
JUNE 1, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, June 1, 2015, in the Lecture Hall of the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairman Bryan Hall

PRESENT Chairman Bryan Hall, Secretary Tyron Harris, Tom Rup, Valerie Scheer, Marilyn Pet, Stephanie Watkins, Christopher Gentile, 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
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Natalya Robinson, Student Representative

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Valerie Scheer
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting, May 18, 2015 (7:00 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

- Tuesday, June 2, 6:30 PM – Sunset Ridge Spring Concert, EHMS/Auditorium;
- Thursday, June 4, 6:30 PM – O’Connell’s Got Talent”, O’Connell West/All-Purpose Room;
- Thursday, June 4, 7:00 PM – East Hartford Adult Education Graduation, EHHS Auditorium;
- Friday, June 5, 12:00 Noon – Woodland Graduation, Woodland School Auditorium;
- Thurs, June 11, 5:30 PM – Special Facilities Committee Meeting;

To register your child for the upcoming school year, Central Registration is located at 734 Tolland Street, open 12 months a year, Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Natalya Robinson– Student Representative

- 5/29 – Friday, Seniors had their prom at the Convention Center in Hartford, pictures are available on line;
- 6/1 – Seniors have Class Night for yearbook signing and end of the year high school celebration;
- 6/1 – Volleyball match EH vs. Xavier for the State Tournament, EHHS Volleyball team won the conference tournament this year;

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- 6/2 – Spring Sports Night – celebrate spring athletic accomplishments;
- Sunday, June 7 – Autism Walk to raise money for Autism Awareness;
- Next week – Final Exams;
- 6/15 – Graduation – 7:00 PM at the Bushnell.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recognition of Student Representatives: Jazmin Rampassard and Natalya Robinson

Both Chairman Bryan Hall and Superintendent Quesnel thanked the Student Representatives to the Board for their outstanding contributions to the Board throughout the school year. Each student received a gift certificate and a boutonniere.

Recognition of Volunteers of the Year, District School Organization Presidents and School Governance Council Chairs

2015 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Elizabeth Mix	CIBA
Susan & Mark Skowronek	EHHS
Lisa Ahern	EHMS
Kimberly Norige	Goodwin
Alfred Leonard	Hockanum
Stacey Smith	Langford
Taysha Aponte	Mayberry
Cheryl Gorham	Norris
Marc D'Aloisio	O'Brien
Ann Meglin	O'Connell
Lisa LeBon	Pitkin
Nasreen Al Omari	Silver Lane
Colin Haydu	Stevens
Jennifer Rolfe	Sunset
Esther Adesokan	Willowbrook
Laurie Janecko	Woodland

2015 SCHOOL ORGANIZATION PRESIDENTS

Elizabeth Mix	CIBA
Christie Crooks	EHHS
Michelle Paradis	Goodwin
Mindy Duval & Taysha Aponte	Mayberry
Arline Adamovich-Witek	O'Connell
Debra Jenkins	Pitkin
Heather Armentrout	Sunset
Joshua Crooms & Esther Adesokan	Willowbrook

2015 SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL CHAIRS

Joe Bernabucci	EHHS
Cari Magnano, Karen Koski & Dottie Marks	EHMS
Jennifer Pecott	Hockanum
Susan Ruiz & Lesa Whittingham	Langford
Marilyn Rosario-Cosme & Amy Holt	Mayberry
Katie Sullivan & Maxine Ursery	Norris
Kinyarda Davis	O'Brien
Renee Byers	O'Connell
Jena Ledoux & Hahia Rookwood	Silver Lane
Heather Pearson	Stevens
Heather Armentrout	Sunset Ridge

Each received a boutonniere.

Recognition of District Retirees and Staff of 25+ Years

RETIREMENTS

Marie Adams	Patricia DeBlasio	Richard Melody
Francis Agnew	Brenda Fayed	Beverly Moreau
Christine Boudreau	Donna Fitzgerald	Kathy Morgan
Marilyn Boccaccio	Constance King	Louise Pruchnicki
Laura Brancato	Roger LaFlamme	Marion Romak
Judy Brown	Cheryl LaRochelle	Jean Ross
Kathi Cale	Mora Martin	Luz Santos
Barbara Chamberland	Joyce Mazzadra	Meryl Sloate
Janice Cianciulli	Kathleen McNally	Irene Turner
Jenny Correa		Mary Vaughan
Barbara Crowley		Judy Washburn

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kathi Cale	Christine Kiely	Carolyn O'Connor
David Case	Brenda Knapp	Richard Sheldon
Janet Charest	Cheryl LaRochelle	Anne Wickersham

Each received a boutonniere and gift certificate.

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report – Bryan Hall

Chairman Hall noted the following: This time of the year is when most people start to get into a summer slowdown frame of mind, but we, the Board of Education, have to continue focusing in a full frame of mind, as we have a full plate of objectives that will have top priorities throughout the summer months.

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Although you may not see us meeting bi-weekly in the summer, we as a board are continuing to work on the “behind the scenes” important goals that will continue to evolve the EHPS to perform at their best, for every child every day.

Last week was extremely busy –

- Tyron and I marched in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday;
- We had principal interviews on Tuesday;
- On Wednesday, I attended the parent forum hosted by Superintendent Quesnel at EHMS, before leaving to speak at the CIBA Honors and Awards Ceremony. Ninety awards were presented to students of the No. 1 High School in Connecticut, the Assistant Superintendent was also in attendance;
- Thursday morning, Nate and I attended the Scholarship Breakfast at EHHS. There were scholarships presented totaling \$134,000;
- AND we cannot leave out the Friday follow up meetings with the Superintendent to continue moving our district forward;
- Nate and I also attended the successful Career Day at EHMS. It was well attended with community leaders sharing with the 8th grade class what it takes to become a successful adult in various careers.

So, as the Chairman, I want to thank this entire Board of Education for their commitment, passion, sincerity and vision each of you have for the East Hartford school district. Thank you, thank you, thank you...I also want to thank Donna Sahlberg and Pam Wentworth who assist me in organizing multiple duties, including our Board meetings – both who work at the Central Office of the Board of Education – and thank you to Donna Fitzgerald for all you do!

Now – on to six graduations in two weeks!

Superintendent’s Report – Nathan Quesnel

Superintendent Quesnel thanked Bryan Hall for his kind remarks.

Status of the Schools: Welcome to June and congratulations to our incredible school community as represented by students, parents and faculty tonight. As we come to the end of a wildly successful school year, I am especially pleased that this meeting takes the time to honor the folks who make it all happen. Thanks to our parents and SGC leaders who spend late hours in our buildings working hard, giving back and supporting our kids. Congratulations to our district retirees on long and distinguished careers of building hope for kids – congratulations to our staff with 25 years of service for your continued dedication, wisdom and commitment to East Hartford and finally, thanks to our student representatives for taking the time to provide us with bi-weekly updates of the great things going on in our schools. We are sincerely appreciative.

Updates from the District: Mayberry Principal: Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Anne Axton-Jones as the newest member of the EHPS learning team. After an incredibly competitive interview process that began with 30 applicants, the Board unanimously approved the hiring of Mrs. Anne Axton-Jones as the new principal of Mayberry Elementary School. She will replace long-time principal Mrs. Jenny Correa, who will retire after eleven faithfully and expert years of service to East Hartford children.

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Ms. Axton-Jones joins us with an extensive background in curriculum and instruction from a variety of leadership roles. She currently serves as the Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment for Lebanon Public Schools but has previously taught grades 1-6. Anne has also served as an elementary literacy coordinator, and curriculum specialist in different school districts in Massachusetts.

Ms. Axton-Jones has a proven track record of results with a vision to make Mayberry Elementary School a school that is the pride of the East Hartford community. She has zeal and high energy to achieve success. When asked to best define herself in terms of our core beliefs Anne shared that “effort defines me because without effort, the other attributes will never be realized.” We are excited to have Anne’s experience; technical skill set and committed will joining the EHPS learning team.

EH2020 Process: As you know we are hard at work developing our new 5 year plan for East Hartford Public Schools that has earned the moniker, EH2020. Tonight, I wanted to and ask for your input as we continue to chase and pursue growth for our district and schools. In order to capture the vision, inputs, dreams and aspirations of our community, I respectfully need our communities help in the planning process. While I recognize that we are all busy, I ask you as community members to please take a few minutes to click on the following link that will be posted tomorrow on our website and **submit an anonymous answer to three simple questions - it should not take more than 5 minutes.** The data from the climate surveys will also be included as we finalize a plan. Thanks in advance for participating.

Vision Planning Questions: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EH_2020 Please take the survey.

Commissioner’s Network EHMS: Last week, our Senior Leadership team attended an important meeting at CSDE with the Commissioner to review progress on the Turnaround Plan. We have been informed that EHMS will come up on the SBOE Agenda for July 2 which will cause us to really step up the pace of our work. The Commissioner was very complimentary of our work and pledged the full support of the department behind our efforts. From the committee level, the team continues to work well. Assistant Superintendent Mancini and Principal Menard are doing a great job leading this process and I am excited to see what they come up with.

Good News Report:

- Congratulations to the boys’ volleyball team for their 3-2 win over Glastonbury in the 2015 CCC championship. The fans witnessed history with the school’s first ever CCC championship in volleyball. The boys came back after trailing 2 sets to 1. The boys have played three days in a row including a 5 match thriller on Thursday, beating Southington in 4 on Friday, duking it out with Farmington in 4 sets early on Saturday and with a 45 minute rest, they played Glastonbury and took them down in one of the best games seen in the area. The final was 21-19 in the final set. You can read more about it here. <http://www.courant.com/sports/high-schools/hc-ccc-boys-volleyball-final-0531-20150530-story.html>;

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- Stanley Staron was given the EHPS 4th Quarter Non-Certified Staff Spotlight Award; Stan works as the district purchasing agent at Central Office but has an incredible reach into the district and most importantly into the day-to-day lives of the folks we serve. Stan serves as a mentor for our Connections Advisory Period at EHHS and is always working hard to lift someone up. Stan is a true gem of an employee who is certainly deserving of this great honor!
- Denise Beaulieu, a Special Education Teacher at Norris was given the EHPS 4th Quarter Certified Staff Spotlight Award. If you might remember, Denise is the teacher who facilitated the Junior Prom experience that one of our children with extremely special needs enjoyed this year. Denise is a champion of children, a caring sole and a true bundle of energy. I received this e-mail from her today after Chris and I delivered the award – I think it speaks for itself:

Mr. Quesnel,

Thank you so very much for your personalized appreciation for what I do for East Hartford. I am who I am and do what I do, because it is the right thing to do. My students and their families are important to me. I do not leave a stone unturned, because an educational moment lost is gone forever, and that is just not OK. I am proud of my students, their families, and the work we do together.

My hands are still trembling and my heart rate is still elevated, because I have great respect for you both, and initially worried something was wrong. I am so glad there wasn't (except for the state of my room).

It is, and always has been, an honor to serve you. You are absolutely right...my passion runs deep, and it lives out loud. Thank you for celebrating with me.

Denise

Next Steps:

- June 1 – EHBoE Budget Adoption
- June 15 – Complete CN Plan for EHMS
- June – Complete Design Phase for Smart Start Grant
- June – Pending news on HeadStart Grant
- June 15 – High School Graduation
- June 18 – Last Day of School
- June 22-23 – Administrative Retreat

OLD BUSINESS – None

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NEW BUSINESS

Retirements and Resignations:

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tyron Harris

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

1. Luz Santos, Executive Secretary, effective 6/12/2015;

And

To approve the following Two (2) **Resignations:**

1. Linda McTigue-Brodeur, Behavior Manager, effective 6/30/2015;
2. Mary Steidler, Assistant Secretary, effective 5/29/2015

Motion unanimously carried.

Primary Mental Health Program Grant

Mary Beth Kuzoin, Program Supervisor, Family Resource Center

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Valerie Scheer

To approve the Primary Mental Health Program Grant for selected children at Hockanum, Mayberry and Silver Lane schools in Grades K, 1 and 2.

Motion unanimously carried.

The Primary Project model is implemented in accordance with SDE guidelines with a goal of assisting in a successful adjustment to the learning environment. The program has been funded and running in East Hartford since July 1, 1996. The Board of Education contributes \$5,000 to this program.

Transfer of General Budget Funds to the Town of East Hartford's Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements

Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services

MOTION

By Marilyn Pet

Seconded by Stephanie Watkins

To approve Transfer of Year End, General Budget Fund Balance to the Town of East Hartford's Reserve Fund for Building Improvements.

Motion unanimously carried.

With the Board's approval, funds will be set aside from year end balances and placed within the Town's "Reserve Fund" in accordance with Section 10-34 Town Code Ordinance. This section of the Town Ordinance allows the Board of Education to set capital and non-recurring expenditures, in this Reserve Funds for use under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education. The Town Council must approve the use of these funds for building improvements.

Budget Adoption

Superintendent Nathan Quesnel and Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tom Rup

Be it therefore resolved: that the East Hartford Board of Education Approve its FY 2015-2016 Adopted Budget of \$88,266,419.

Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent Quesnel commented “that after receiving no spending increase last year, school officials are very appreciative. Our town works hard to support education. This is a budget that does the least amount of harm to our students and moves the initiatives of the town and district forward.”

Chairman Hall stated this has been one of the smoothest budget processes we have had. We thank our State delegation in assisting us in obtaining funds. Mr. Mainuli stated we worked hard with Business Services and Pupil Services to streamline the budget.

Superintendent Quesnel thanked Mr. Mainuli , Joanne Zatarain and team, as well as a thank you to the Mayor and Town Council.

Questions and Concerns by Board Members

- **Stephanie Watkins** – (1) attended Mayberry Talent Show; (2) attended Town Wide Orchestra; (3) attended Pitkin School field day event;
- **Dorese Roberts** – (1) attended Willowbrook Policy Committee – parent committee members planned a wonderful book give away and activity. They also hosted a Multi-Cultural Night on May 21st (2) attended girls softball game

Topics for Future Agendas - None

MOTION

By Tyron Harris

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To go into Executive Session for discussion with possible action regarding the Superintendent’s Evaluation and Contract (9:10 PM)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald

The Board meeting reconvened at 9:35 PM.

MOTION

By Valerie Scheer

Seconded by Marilyn Pet

To approve the Superintendent’s evaluation with a one year contract extension to 2018 and salary increase to \$186,000.

Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION

By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Valerie Scheer
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:53 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Tyron Harris

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION