

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
OCTOBER 20, 2014**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, October 20, 2014, at the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Chairman Jeffrey Currey.

PRESENT Chairman Jeffrey Currey, Tom Rup, Marilyn Pet, Dorese Roberts, Valerie Scheer, Christopher Gentile, Stephanie Watkins

ABSENT Secretary Bryan Hall, Tyron Harris

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
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Natalya Robinson and Jazmin Rampassard Student Representatives

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To amend this evening's agenda **under Old Business for First Read the following policies 1-7 and 9:**
Policy 1331 – Smoke Free Environment
Policy 3152 – Spending Public Funds for Advocacy
Policy 3432/3433 – Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement
Policy 4112.6/4212.6 – Personnel Records, for First Read
Policy 4118.231/4218.231-Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco
Policy 4118.24/4218/24 – Staff/Student Relationships
Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personal Leaves
Policy 6153 – Field Trips and Excursions
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting , October 1, 2014 (5:03 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Valerie Scheer
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of October 6, 2014 (6:39 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Valerie Scheer
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting of October 6, 2014
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of October 14 (5:00 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Natalya Robinson and Jazmin Rampassard – Student Representatives

- Spirit Week begins this week; different themes all week long – fundraising, food drive;
- 10/23 is Get to Know EHHS – a chance for 8th graders to come and see EHHS and become aware of different programs and activities offered at EHHS;
- 10/24 is Homecoming and football game;
- 10/25 is the Homecoming Dance;
- Attendance – school is stressing the importance of attendance this year; students and families are encouraged to track attendance;
- Two weeks until the end of the first quarter - grades can be checked through Home Access Center – good resource for students and parents to keep up with grades. Along with grades, service learning hours are very important – 30 hours required in order to graduate; different service learning opportunities for students are offered every week.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Pastor Gary Richards – supporting Goodwin School Garden—thank you to Principal Dan Brodeur, and teachers Melanie Champion and Ann Kostopoulos for their vision to have this garden.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman’s Report – Jeffrey Currey

- Congratulations to Cara Quinn on being selected as Connecticut State Teacher of the Year; thank you to the Commissioner and Lt. Governor for coming out to honor her;
- We will be having Nick Caruso from CAFE for our professional development;
- Attended a dinner in honor of Matt Ryan;
- Attended a meeting with the Town Council Ordinance Committee – we discussed the creation of a uniform budget format for the Town and BoE.

Superintendent's Report – Nathan Quesnel

Status of the Schools: My visits over the past few weeks have focused on the opportunity to meet with principals and discuss progress on plans that are in place; i.e., district coaching systems that are beginning to develop and be in place. As a district, we are working hard to establish the key role of coaches serving to support our teachers in the classroom with “job-embedded” professional development.

Updates from the District:

- **Cara Quinn, sixth grade teacher at Sunset Ridge** has been selected Connecticut State Teacher of the Year. We joined the State Department, Lt. Governor, Commissioner of Education and many other dignitaries in congratulating Cara at a whole school assembly on 10/8.
- On 10/9 I joined a group of district administrators and Principal Matt Ryan to celebrate his recent CAS Secondary Principal of the Year award at St. Clements Castle in Portland. We are very proud of his recognition.
- **Town Ordinance Meeting** on Budgeting Process update: we will develop a shared process and format for the Town and BoE Budget. We will be setting an additional follow up meeting to continue to review how both the general budget will look as well as how all grants and revenue are reflected.
- **We have been in touch with the Health Department of the Town regarding Ebola.** They emphasize washing hands thoroughly, getting flu vaccinations and to try to deal with the issues.
- **HeadStart Grant:** is due on 11/24. We are looking to write the grant on our own this year in an effort to realize the nearly 15% admin fees that we have lost in the past to the fiduciary agency. The HeadStart grant funds our entire pre-K program at Willowbrook at over \$1.2 million in addition to over \$500,000 of a district cash match. While this is certainly new and uncharted ground for us, this is an important step in working to make our Pre-K program a financially sustainable program vs. a financial loss.
- **EHPS Budget Process:** On 10/14 our building budget packets went out to all district administrators with a due date of 10/27. Our message to our administrators predicted another lean budget year with the request to submit austere school based budgets. As our costs as a district continue to be driven by potentially rising health care costs, magnet school tuitions and contractual requirements, we continue to lean extensively on grants to fund any school improvement means. We will continue to be working together with you as a Board to finalize our budget following my Superintendent's Budget projected to be in the Board's hands prior to Thanksgiving break.
- **Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Process:** Both our elementary and secondary schools have been focused the past few weeks on finalizing school based goals called “Student Learning Objectives: (SLOs) and “Indicators of Academic Growth and Development” (IAGDs). We continue to look carefully at student progress and baseline scores in relation to the district goals.
- **CCJEF:** Last week I was officially deposed for the pending Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Educational Funding (CCJEF) by one of the States Assistant Attorney Generals. This lawsuit as you know demands the State of CT adjust the current funding formulas for education and specifically speaks to the needs we experience in East

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Hartford. East Hartford has been a part of this case for over 15 years and with a projected trial date in January 2015, much activity has begun to present itself.

Good News Report:

- **Save the Date:** On October 27 from 5-7 we will be hosting a parent forum at Sunset Ridge School for a group of parents to come and share thoughts, feedback and suggestions regarding our shared work. I am looking forward to this event.
- **Save the Date:** On November 5, our Pupil Personnel Services Department will be hosting a Special Education Resource Fair from 5-7 PM at EHMS to provide parents with information and resources regarding their child, this is a great informative opportunity to engage our parents. For more information, contact Dr. Bremner Resource Fair @ EHMS.

Next Steps:

- Annual EHPS State of the School Report to Democratic Town Committee 10/23;
- School Based Budget due to Superintendent 10/27
- Superintendent's Budget to BoE – tentatively 11/26;
- BoE Workshops (Dates TBD – early December)
- BoE Adoption of Budget (Tentative 12/15)
- District Reconfiguration Study Review/Next Step Planning (10/20 5:30 PM)
- Sunset Ridge-MYP IB Academy Planning.

“What Matters” Presentation – Goodwin

Melanie Champion and Ann Kostopoulos gave a PowerPoint presentation on a vision they had to include East Hartford students to expand the “Goodwin Garden”. Relationships matter – so community members helped out, as well as Food Share.

After contacting our Principal, Dan Brodeur, in April, we began building the beds for our garden. We had an Arbor Day Celebration. On May 21st we held a school-wide planting – all students helped as well as parents. We donated food to the Eat Healthy Summer Meals Program. We also had a Harvest Table in front of the school. Goodwin was in the news – a Press Conference was held. We now would like to expand the program and garden to promote healthy access to the entire community. Thank you to our students (who loved gardening), the community, Principal Dan Brodeur and Board members. Both Chairman Currey and Superintendent Quesnel thanked Ms. Champion and Ms. Kostopoulos. Thanks for bringing to the meeting fresh vegetables from the garden.

First Quarter Financial Report for FY 2014-2015.

Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance

Mr. Mainuli noted we will have approximately \$5.5 million from our Woodland program. All of our revenues are holding. Magnet school enrollment had 58 additional students. We did, however, provide one additional bus for approximately \$60,000. We are paying for fuel separately. Bus operations are excellent.

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OLD BUSINESS

MOTION

By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **refer back to Policy & Audit** Policy 6142.101 – Student Nutrition,
Physical Activity, and Wellness Policy
Motion unanimously carried

MOTION

By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **approve** Policy 5131.911 – Hazing
Motion unanimously carried.

Dr. Bremner was present and stated this is our existing policy and CAFE's policy update which was reviewed and revised to reflect current legislative changes.

MOTION

By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **table for First Read the following policies 1-7 and 9:**
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Policy 3432/3433 – Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial
Statement
Policy 4112.6/4212.6 – Personnel Records, for First Read
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Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personal Leaves
Policy 6153 – Field Trips and Excursions
Motion unanimously carried.

MOTION

By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Tom Rup
To approve Financial Reconciliation of Project Costs and Acceptance of
Project as Complete State DAS Form EDO49F (Barnes Asbestos
Abatement Project)
Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Costa was present and stated this project was completed this past August. It was a total success.

NEW BUSINESS

Resignations/Retirements - None

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Board Member Representative Reports

Dorese Roberts (1) attended the Willowbrook Policy Committee meeting. Emphasis was placed on being a part of your child's early childhood education; (2) former EHPS teacher, Desi Nesmith, now principal of Metacomet Elementary School in Bloomfield is the recipient of the Milken Educator Award and awarded \$25,000.

Valerie Scheer attended a meeting at Pitkin School.

Questions and Concerns by Board Members - None

Topics for Future Agendas - None

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:20 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald