

**SPECIAL MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
OCTOBER 20, 2014**

A Special Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, October 20, 2014 in the Main Office Conference Room of the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by Chairman Jeffrey Currey.

PRESENT Jeffrey Currey Chairman, Tom Rup, Stephanie Watkins, Valerie Scheer, Christopher Gentile, Marilyn Pet (arrived 5:56 PM), Dorese Roberts (arrived 5:58 PM)

ABSENT Bryan Hall Secretary, Tyron Harris

ALSO PRESENT Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent
Anne Marie Mancini, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Albert Costa, Director of Facilities
Bryan Olkowski, Principal, Windham Middle School
Daniel Catlin, Principal, Sunset Ridge School
Kim Knapp, Teacher, Sunset Ridge School
Mike Zuba, Consultant
Rebecca Auger, Consultant

MOTION By Stephanie Watkins
Seconded by Tom Rup
To go into Executive Session for discussion with possible action regarding contract for Local 2727.
Motion unanimously carried.

The Board meeting reconvened at 6:08 PM.

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins
To approve the contract for Local 2727.
Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion Regarding District Reconfiguration Study

The discussion will include an Introduction/Overview by Superintendent Quesnel, Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance and Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources. Consultants Zuba and Augur will review existing conditions to prompt the District Reconfiguration Study (Spring 2014).

Superintendent Quesnel stated, as directed by the East Hartford Board of Education that East Hartford Public Schools remains committed to develop a K-12 continuum of IB programs within the district. The next necessary move for the district is the development of a program at the middle level, or a Middle Years Programme (MYP).

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Following an extensive planning period, a comprehensive redistricting study based on student enrollment, budgetary needs, and many conversations, this proposal captures an opportunity to develop a Middle Years Programme at Sunset Ridge School that will continue to strengthen the district's efforts to meet the needs of a diverse student body.

Superintendent Quesnel stated we have only talked about two phases i.e., for years SY 2015 and SY 2016. We must consider the use of Sheff funding for programmatic and capital projects. We will have to market this to parents who would like to have a middle school experience. There are many variables to be considered, i.e. extra school activities. Challenges for the district include a decline in Sunset Ridge enrollment and the facility is underutilized.

The Pre-K program at Willowbrook has an expiring lease; we must enhance Pre-K programming. Mr. Mainuli noted that currently CRT is the fiduciary agent –they give dollars to East Hartford.

The Reconfiguration Study charge will include examining building size, utilization and conditions, current and projected enrollments, budget considerations and opportunities for Reconfiguration/Consolidation.

We will need to explore options for moving HeadStart Pre-K to an elementary school. Presently, we are looking at a grant for HeadStart. If that does not happen, HeadStart will be gone, and dispersing K-5 or K-6 in conjunction with on-going efforts to phase out 6th grade at all elementary schools, except O'Brien and O'Connell Choice Schools.

Mr. Wethje stated staffing that currently exists would have to change. We would be hiring teachers in year two.

Chairman Currey noted this is an extraordinary undertaking that we are considering. He is very pleased with the consultants who are working diligently with the East Hartford Administrators. Additional meetings will be scheduled.

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board (7:02 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

Executive Session Recorded by: Christopher Wethje
Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald