

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, November 3, 2014, 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, Tom Rup, Marilyn Pet, Dorese Roberts, Valerie Scheer, Christopher Gentile, Stephanie Watkins, Tyron Harris

ABSENT Secretary Bryan Hall

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 Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To amend this evening's agenda **under Old Business to table for First**
Read the following policies:

1. Policy 1250 – Visits to the Schools
2. Policy 1316.2 – Civility (Community Relations)
3. Policy 3410 – System of Accounts
4. Policy 4118.11/4218.11 - Nondiscrimination
5. Policy 5144.4 – Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students
6. Policy 5145.53 – Civility (Students)
7. Policy 6141.311 – Limited English Proficiency Program
8. Policy 6142.63 – Aquatic Activity Safety (Pool Safety)

And

under New Business (4-18) refer to Policy & Audit:

4. Policy 1330 – Use of School Facilities
5. Policy 5142.3 Safety: Skateboard/Rollerblade/Scooter and Other Such Recreational Equipment Use
6. Policy 5145.2 – Freedom of Speech/Expression
7. Policy 5145.21 – Student Government
8. Policy 5156 – Research Involving Students
9. Policy 6140 - Curriculum
10. Policy 6141 – Curriculum Design/Development
11. Policy 6141.2 – Separation of Church and State
12. Policy 6142 – Basic Instructional Program
13. Policy 6142.101 – Purpose and Goal
14. Policy 6142.52 – Democracy Education
15. Policy 6144 – Controversial Issues

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

- 16. Policy 6144.3 – Controversial Speakers
- 17. Policy 6145.3 – Student Publications
- 18. Policy 6145.31 – Underground Publications

Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- MOTION** By Tyron Harris
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting, October 8, 2014 (11:00 AM)
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of October 20, 2014 (5:30 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Meeting of October 20, 2014
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of October 21, 2014 (5:00 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.
- MOTION** By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of October 27, 2014 (4:45 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Natalya Robinson and Jazmin Rampassard – Student Representatives

- First marking period has ended; report cards are coming out either this week or early next week;
- 11/6 – 6:30-8:00 PM – Financial Aid/College Night – students learn about the financial aid process with parents;

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

- 11/25 – Celebration of Excellence – families of students invited;
- 11/26 – EHHS football game with Manchester; also, Hornet family dinner.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Recognition of 2015 Paraprofessionals and Teachers of the Year, 2015 District Paraprofessional of the Year Carol Coogan and 2015 State and District Teacher of the Year Cara Quinn

Superintendent Quesnel gave introductory remarks honoring the following. He also recognized Chris McCallan and Emil Kopcha. The following 2015 Paraprofessionals of the Year were introduced by their respective Principals. Each received plaques from the East Hartford Board of Education:

Willowbrook School	Aracelis Irizarry
Goodwin School	Beverly Concannon
Hockanum School	Carmarie Otero
Langford School	Karen LaFleur
Mayberry School	Carmen Nieves
Norris School	Linda Benevento
O'Brien School	Carol Maffe
O'Connell School	Jennifer Arpin
Pitkin School	Claudette Brennan
Silver Lane School	Debbie Dagon
Sunset Ridge School	Virginia Zagaja
East Hartford Middle School	Jennifer Oatway
Stevens School/Synergy	Shelley Nearing

East Hartford High School and
District Paraprofessional of the Year Carol Coogan

The following 2015 Teachers of the Year were introduced by their respective Principals. Each received plaques from the East Hartford Board of Education:

Willowbrook School	Aphrodite Koutsares
Goodwin School	Lia Kowal
Hockanum School	Jennifer Weaver
Langford School	Michael Craig
Mayberry School	Kathleen Dahlem
Norris School	Maxine Ursery
O'Brien School	Rosemarie (Sue) Lonabaugh
O'Connell School	Christina Huggins
Pitkin School	Jennifer Pires

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

Silver Lane School	Jennifer Araujo
East Hartford Middle School	Dawn Pekarovic
East Hartford High School	Jennifer Marinko
Woodland School	Jeannine Enamait
Stevens School/Synergy	David Bocchichio

Sunset Ridge School, District and
State Teacher of the Year

Cara Quinn

Ms. Cara Quinn thanked the Board as well as her co-workers for their continuing support of making each child in the East Hartford School district a success in learning.

Chairman's Report – Jeffrey Currey

- The Superintendent and I presented the Year-End Report to the Democratic Town Committee;
- Attended the Parent Forum at Sunset Ridge School with Superintendent Quesnel, Marilyn Pet and Valerie Scheer;
- Re: BoE Budget – Superintendent's Budget to BoE is tentatively scheduled for 11/26. Budget workshops begin – 12/4, 12/8, 12/10 and BoE Adoption of Budget (tentative) 12/15. A Public Hearing on the budget will be held on 12/1;
- Tomorrow is Election Day – Get out and VOTE.

Superintendent's Report – Nathan Quesnel

Status of the Schools:

As we hit the 45th day of school last week, our first phase of district benchmarks and accountability reports begin to happen. This process allows us to analyze and dig deeper into important measures we have set as a district for success. Our five leading indicators are: STAR Literacy Data; STAR Math Data; Intervention Fidelity Data; Student Discipline ISS/OSS and Student Attendance Data. We are also closely monitoring and supporting the daily actions going on in our schools through both Student Achievement Meetings and Academic Walkthroughs.

Updates from the District:

HeadStart Grant Process: Our grant writing team and building level administration continue to be hard at work on the HeadStart grant. As a district, we have made the decision to apply for the HeadStart grant and break away from the oversight of CRT as a way to recapture the 12% administrative fee that we pay annually as a delegate. We believe that this move will both improve and secure Pre-K for our kids for a long term future.

We are also investigating a potential move of the program to the portable classrooms on the Goodwin Campus for Fall 2015. For clarity, it is important to stress that we are still evaluating this move based on the ability of the college to meet our needs. As I have shared with you, this move is necessitated based on Goodwin's need to obtain the Willowbrook site in order to spend allocated funding for facility improvements. While we had originally planned to leave the site for Fall 2015 to relocate to another site (TBD) we have had to back off on this final plan based on the fact that the HeadStart grant went into re-competition and we will get the award in April

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

(too late to make the move). This is a multi-step process that we are trying to address in a systematic and thoughtful manner for the good of both the children and the district. Thank you to Ms. Ritchie for her continued support in this matter.

CIBA @ Sunset Ridge – Prior to our last BoE Meeting on 10/20, the administration had an opportunity to present an exciting proposal to the Board regarding the development of an IB Middle Years Programme (MYP). We are very excited to report on this project and our beginning plans for the reconfiguration of Sunset Ridge School and the completion of a K-12 International Baccalaureate (IB Pipeline). Following the celebrated tradition of academic achievement that has characterized CIBA, a grade 12 Diploma Programme (DP), and the successful accreditation of O’Connell Elementary School as an official IB Primary Years Programme (PYP), our Board informally moved to proceed with the next necessary steps to develop a continuation program at the middle level. Over the past few months, we have engaged in extensive planning including a comprehensive redistricting study that has allowed us to develop a thoughtful program that will provide a high quality choice for students and parents while potentially serving as a revenue source for our district budget. In alignment with the vision of EHPS, Schools that are the Pride of our Community, this offers an attractive new program to the families of East Hartford that builds on developing a legacy of bold and innovative school designs.

The proposed program provides an opportunity for students in grades 6-8 across town to attend the school following the IB curriculum. As a part of the program, students will have the opportunity to participate in the Fine and Performing Arts while learning a foreign language. Projected enrollment of the school will include both students graduating from the O’Connell program as well as other district students who wish to benefit from the IB experience. In addition, while unconfirmed to date, the district is seeking to partner with the State of CT and the Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) to allow out of district students to attend on a tuition basis. This revenue flow will allow for significant program enhancements, facility improvements and staffing to support the district. A planning grant from the State may come our way.

While there are many details of this bold and innovative program design that will need continued clarification, commitment and support, we anticipate enrolling students in this program in the Fall of 2015 with a projected timeline for IB Certification in the Spring of 2017. In turn, the district is turning its eye at CIBA and finding ways to continue to grow this popular program in both quality and accessibility.

Parent Forum: We hosted a forum last Monday evening at Sunset Ridge with a group of invited parents whose names building leaders provided. This was a great group of vocal parents who expressed clear appreciation for the work of the Board and the direction of the district. Extensive conversation focused on how we can continue to communicate better as well as the need to be sure we establish equity between theme and neighborhood schools.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

Good News Report:

- **Save the Date:** On November 5, our PPS 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. A great informative opportunity to engage our parents. For more information, contact Dr. Bremner Resource Fair @ EHMS.
- Congratulations to the Boys Soccer Team.

Next Steps:

- Superintendent's Budget to BoE – tentatively 11/26
- BoE Workshops: 12/4; 12/8; 12/10
- BoE Adoption of Budget (Tentative 12/15)
- Sunset Ridge-MYP IB Academy Planning.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION

By Tyron Harris

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To **table for First Read** Items 1-8 placed on this evening's amended agenda.

Motion unanimously carried

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION

By Tyron Harris

Seconded by Dorese Roberts

To approve to **refer to Policy & Audit** Items 4-18 on this evening's amended agenda.

Motion unanimously carried.

Resignations/Retirements

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Marilyn Pet

To approve the following Resignations:

1. Michele Houston, Tutor, effective 10/17/14;
2. Denise White-Patterson, Benefits Coordinator, effective 10/27/14.

Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent's Goals 2014-2015

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To approve the 2014-2015 Superintendent's Goals.

Motion unanimously carried.

Dorese Roberts had a question regarding making growth in first and second grades. Superintendent Quesnel stated his goals are aligned with the District's goals. We are working hard to get these goals up. Chris Gentile asked if any thought was given to growth lines and cohort data.

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

Non-Certified Staff Member's Use of Employee Sick Bank

MOTION

By Dorese Roberts

Seconded by Tyron Harris

To allow fellow bargaining unit members to donate sick days to a non-certified employee whose sick time was depleted.

Motion unanimously carried.

Board Member Representative Reports

Marilyn Pet (1) attended Garden Club meeting at O'Brien School. Students were excited with the reading program; (2) Child Plan has received grants from Pratt & Whitney and proceeds from a golf tournament. A fundraiser will be held in November – Melody Currey will be Honorary Chairperson; (3) attended the parent forum.

Valerie Scheer (1) visited Pitkin, Woodland and CIBA schools; (2) attended the parent forum.

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 (8:40 PM)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald