

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 17, 2014**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, November 17, 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

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, Student Representative

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To create a Consent Calendar **Under New Business include items 4-15:**
4. Policy 5132.2- Summer School work for Credit
5. Policy 6111 – School Calendar
6. Policy 6153.2 – Student Participation in Election Process
7. Policy 6161 – Equipment/Books/Materials: Provision/Selection
8. Policy 6161.1 – Evaluation of Instructional Materials
9. Policy 6162.31 – Research: Testing
10. Policy 6162.32 – Test Integrity/Test Preparation
11. Policy 6163.3 – Live Animals in the Classroom
12. Policy 6164.2 – Comprehensive School Counseling Program/Guidance Services
13. Policy 6172 Alternative Programs
14. Policy 6172.12 – Magnet Schools
15. Policy 6200 – Adult Continuing Education
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Christopher Gentile
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board Meeting, November 3, 2014
Motion unanimously carried.

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MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Meeting of November 10, 2014 (5:00 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Natalya Robinson– Student Representative

- 11/25 – Celebration of Excellence – celebrating student achievement – dinner will be served at 5:00 PM;
- 11/26 – Hornet Thanksgiving family dinner – families and community members have been invited to dinner before the Thanksgiving Day football game against Manchester;
- 12/1 – Winter athletic teams begin 12/1; Parent project takes place on Thursdays;
- 12/2 – Fall Sports Night;
- 12/4 – Exploring life after high school – 6-8:30 PM at EHHS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recognition CAPSS Award Recipients

The following eight students are being recognized and were selected by their principals. The CAPSS Award recipients for 2014-2015 are listed below. Each received a Barnes & Noble Gift Card and a certificate from the Board of Education:

East Hartford High School

Melica Gayle	Grade 12
Anishka Smart	Grade 12

Connecticut IB Academy

Marcus Lane, Jr.	Grade 12
Radeana Hastings	Grade 12

East Hartford Middle School

Brian Colon-Rodriguez	Grade 8
Tyrone Kennedy	Grade 8

Woodland School

Bryan Bauer	Grade 12
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Stevens School

Samantha Marie Wilson	Grade 12
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Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report – Jeffrey Currey

- Attended CABE Conference this week in Mystic with Marilyn Pet, Stephanie Watkins, Dorese Roberts and Valerie Scheer;
- EHHS field upgrade is on the Town Council agenda for tomorrow;
- Budget workshops will be held from 5:30 – 7:30 on the third floor conference room in the Administration Building on 12/4, 12/8 and 12/10. Please make every effort to attend. Adoption of the budget has been tentatively scheduled for 12/15. Chairman Currey has requested that the budget dates be posted on the BoE web site.

Superintendent's Report – Nathan Quesnel

Status of the Schools: This year continues to move forward. Last week our Principals Meeting occurred at Mayberry Elementary School and I am incredibly proud to report the best school walk-through I have ever been a part of. At Mayberry, a major focus of the School Improvement Planning work has centered on student engagement and student to student discourse. As I sat in the back of a first grade room, I watched two students discuss a word problem the teacher had posted on the Smart Board. The topic of the conversation was whether the problem was an addition or a subtraction problem. As I noted a lull in the conversation, I leaned in and asked the little boy if he knew the answer. As he looked back at me, his partner, a little girl with black hair noted, "you need to give him time...he is processing." As I walked around the school I saw teachers planning, working hard and most importantly leading the students toward a high quality learning experience – this is what the work we are doing is all about! Proud of East Hartford!

Updates from the District:

Head Start Grant Process: Our grant writing team and building level administration continue to be hard at work on the Head Start grant. We are finalizing the grant process and will hopefully begin uploading the multi-components of the grant onto the online platform for submission this week. It is due on 11/24. We are excited this grant focuses on the Head Start of a multi-component of an Early Childhood Center (ECC) that is in design for the district. While we will be suspending our special BoE meeting on this project until after the new year, (based on the intensity of December) we are very much looking forward to discussing and working on this with the members of the Board.

CABE/CAPSS Conference – along with BoE members Jeff, Marilyn, Stephanie, Dorese and Val, I attended several interesting presentations. In addition, I presented on a panel regarding the work I led last year as co-chair of the Common Core Task Force. The conference was kicked off by Pasi Sahlberg, a Finnish educator, who spoke of the progress made in Finland regarding their educational systems. While I do not believe all the concepts or ideas are transferrable to our current context, it was very interesting to hear about and learn.

SPED Resource Fair: Public congratulations and thank you to Dr. Sharon Bremner and the members of our Pupil Personnel Department on an inspirational and well attended evening at EHMS for our first SPED Resource Fair. District parents took advantage of this opportunity to access and learn about the resources our district provides to students. A state agency who

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participated, shared that he had never seen such a presentation across the state that reached out and sought to meet our families with support – East Hartford leads the way!

Good News Report: EHPS Annual Report: We just learned our EHPS Annual Report won a CABE Recognition for Communication. We are very proud of the document we have produced and shared throughout the town. This document highlights and captures the great work going on in our district as well as familiarizes our community with our strategic plan. We look forward to continuing to improve this reporting process.

Next Steps:

- Superintendent's Budget to BoE – tentatively 11/26
- Public Hearing on Superintendent's Budget 12/1
- BoE Workshops: 12/4; 12/8;12/10
- BoE Adoption of Budget (Tentative 12/15)
- Report Cards: First reporting period ends 11/24 with report cards home during Parent Conference Week – December 1-5.
- Be ready for snow: please watch our local listings as well as sign up for our district Twitter Account for School Closings.

“What Matters” Presentation – O’Connell

Greg Fox, Principal, Bea Corrado, Assistant Principal

O’Connell School is now an official IB World School and has received an outstanding elementary school of the year award by CAPSS.

Principal Greg Fox and Assistant Principal Bea Corrado gave an in-depth PowerPoint presentation. They noted small group instruction and enrichment is provided on a daily basis. Support is witnessed daily. Board Member Tom Rup asked how the longer school day is working out. Principal Greg Fox stated “excellent”. Extended learning day offers many opportunities for students such as Science club, African Drumming, Karate, Lutz Museum, and cooking connection.

Common Core State Standards Implementation: Foundations Literacy Plan

Kathleen Simoneau, Curriculum Intervention Specialist

A PowerPoint presentation was given outlining the Foundations Curriculum. Ms. Simoneau noted the components of Foundations are phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. It was noted that last year many younger students had difficulty identifying their letters and remembering their sounds. This year, through working with Foundations, the students are remembering them! A kindergarten teacher noted she loves Foundations and never in 25 years of teaching have the students had so much success with the letters and sounds this early in the year.

This program’s initial training began in June, 2014 and will be offered throughout the district in various schools. The primary coaching site will be Mayberry School. Superintendent Quesnel thanked Ms. Simoneau for her outstanding presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

- MOTION**
- 1. Policy 1331 – Smoke Free Environment**
By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To **remove from table** Policy 1331
Motion unanimously carried.
- By Marilyn Pet
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **approve** Policy 1331
Motion unanimously carried.
- 2. Policy 3152 – Spending Public Funds for Advocacy**
By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Christopher Gentile
To **remove from table** Policy 3152
Motion unanimously carried.
- By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **approve** Policy 3152
Motion unanimously carried.
- 3. Policy 3432/3433 – Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement**
By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Valerie Scheer
To **remove from table** Policy
3432/3433
Motion unanimously carried.
- By Stephanie Watkins
Seconded by Valerie Scheer
To **approve** Policy 3432/3433
Motion unanimously carried.
- 4. Policy 4112.6/4212.6 – Personnel Records**
By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **remove from table** Policy
4112.6/4212.6
Motion unanimously carried.
- By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To **approve** Policy 4112.6/4212.6
Motion unanimously carried.
- 5. Policy 4118.231/4218.231 Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco**
By Christopher Gentile
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **remove from table** Policy
4118.231/4218.231
Motion unanimously carried.
- By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To **approve** Policy 4118.231/
4218.231
Motion unanimously carried.
- 6. Policy 4118.24/4218.24 – Staff/Student Relationships**
By Valerie Scheer
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins
To **remove from table** Policy
4118.24/4218.24
Motion unanimously carried.
- By Stephanie Watkins
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To **approve** Policy 4118.24/4218.24
Motion unanimously carried.

7. Policy 4152.6/4252.66 – Personal Leaves

By Dorese Roberts	By Stephanie Watkins
Seconded by Stephanie Watkins	Seconded by Valerie Scheer
To remove from table Policy 4152.6/4252.66	To approve Policy 4152.6/4252.66
Motion unanimously carried.	Motion unanimously carried.

8. Policy 6153 – Field Trips and Excursions

By Stephanie Watkins	By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Valerie Scheer	Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To remove from table Policy 6153	To approve Policy 6153
Motion unanimously carried.	Motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS
MOTION

By Dorese Roberts
 Seconded by Valerie Scheer
 To refer to the Policy & Audit Committee Items 4-15 placed on this evening's **Consent Calendar**:

4. Policy 5132.2- Summer School work for Credit
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Motion unanimously carried.

Resignations/Retirements
MOTION

By Dorese Roberts
 Seconded by Christopher Gentile
 To approve the following four (4) **Resignations**:

1. Tenisha Baker, Para Educator, effective 11/14/14
2. Nicole Buckley, Teacher, effective 10/31/14
3. Thaddeus Scott, Teacher, effective 11/21/14
4. Cathy McCullough, Teacher, effective 12/5/14

Motion unanimously carried.

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Hourly Rate for Substitute Paraprofessionals

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve the increase in hourly rate pay for substitute paraprofessionals to \$11.00/hour, effective January 1, 2015
Motion unanimously carried.

Non-Bargaining Unit Salaries

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Dorese Roberts
To approve a salary increase for Non-Bargaining employees of 2.00% for FY 2014-15.
Motion unanimously carried.

Board Member Representative Reports

Marilyn Pet – Attended Garden Club at O'Brien School.

Dorese Roberts – (1) Attended Willowbrook School Policy Committee Meeting – they are diligently working on the grant proposal which is due by December 10th. They were asking parents to submit letters of support for this grant. (2) Attended CABA Conference – Ms. Roberts also noted most districts are having problems with Common Core;

Stephanie Watkins – Attended the CABA Conference, she noted they are all very proud of our Superintendent.

Valerie Scheer – (1) Attended the CABA Conference; (2) Visited Pitkin School. The after school reading program is excellent.

Chairman Currey noted everyone knows the work going on in East Hartford. Thanks to the BoE.

Questions and Concerns by Board Members -

Tom Rup re: absenteeism rate at Synergy. Superintendent Quesnel stated it is painful. We are working toward getting it down.

Topics for Future Agendas - None

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Marilyn Pet
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:50 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.