

**REGULAR MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Monday, September 21, 2015, in the Lecture Hall of the Connecticut IB Academy, 857 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Bryan Hall

PRESENT Chairman Bryan R. Hall, Secretary Tyron Harris, Shelby Brown, Marilyn Pet, Valerie Scheer, Tom Rup, Dorese Roberts

ABSENT Christopher Gentile, Stephanie Watkins

ALSO PRESENT Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools
Cynthia E. Ritchie, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum
Anne Marie Mancini, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Christopher Wethje, Director of Human Resources
Paul Mainuili, Director of Business Services
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting, September 8, 2015 at 6:30 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Regular Board of Education Meeting, September 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting, September 9, 2015 at 5:00 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve the following Minutes:
Special Board of Education Meeting, September 9, 2015 at 6:00 PM
Motion unanimously carried.

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WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- **Monday, September 21, 2015, 7:00 PM**- East Hartford High School Governance Council Meeting located at 869 Forbes Street
- **Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 5:00 PM**- Sunset Ridge PTO
- **Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 6:00 PM**- Sunset Ridge School Governance Council Meeting located at 450 Forbes Street
- **Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 6:30 PM** – Pitkin PTO
- **Monday, October 5, 2015, 7:00 PM** – Regular Board of Education Meeting located at CIBA/Lecture Hall
- **Thursday, October 8, 2015, 8:30 AM** – Willowbrook Policy Council Meeting located at Willowbrook School/ Multi-Purpose Room

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Jazmin Rampassard, Natalya Robinson

- o Over 400 parents attended Open House on September 17, 2015
- o Home access center reminder for parents
- o Football team won 7-6 against New Britain on September 18, 2015
- o Boys Soccer Team scored 2-0-1
- o Swim team beat Platt
- o There are 500 students in the high school that are involved in sports
- o Progress reports are coming out in a week
- o EHHS Marching Band will be performing at the Big E on Wednesday, September 23, 2015
- o SAT's at school on Saturday, October 3, 2015. SAT day is Wednesday, October 14, 2015

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jazmin Beacham, Parent

Ms. Beacham would like express her concerns with our uniform vendor CT Shirtman. Ms. Beacham is a parent of an EHHS freshman, in efforts to have her student ready for the beginning of school with adhering to the uniform code she wasn't able to provide him with uniform due to the lack of inventory. An order was placed with the vendor and it took 30 days to fulfill the order. Ms. Beacham was not pleased with the customer service she received from the vendor and the lack of communication with timeframes for filling orders. Ms. Beacham would like to thank Superintendent Quesnel for giving students the opportunity to wear a plain polo shirt without penalties until their uniform shirts are available.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Human Resources/No Action Required

Chairman's Report – Bryan Hall

- o **Schools Continue to Work Hard:**
- o Big Moments Ahead:
 - o October will be an especially important week for the BoE members as the administration intends to take the next step in a multi-year process towards

enhancing our district programs that started two years ago when Sunset Ridge was unable to meet our enrollment goals.

- The next step, the launch of the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) will represent a commitment to the full journey of East Hartford students from Pre-K through 12th grade.
- As BoE members, this is a special time – not without challenge, to take the next step towards the solidification of the EH2020 vision of Schools that are the Pride of our Community.
- Following the identification of a site on 10/5, we will charge our administration with the task of developing a reconfiguration plan for the children who currently attend the site selected by the Board for the ECLC. We know this will not be easy work nor an easy decision but we believe that by starting with a Future First approach, we can successfully navigate those obstacles ahead.

○ **Big Year Ahead:**

- Launch of the MYP Program at Sunset/CIBA
- Development of the Early Childhood Center/ District Reconfiguration
- Focus on Family and Community Engagement

- **Teachers Contract:**

- I want to thank the Town Council, especially Chairman Kehoe for their support in accepting the EHPS Teachers contract last Wednesday night.
- I want to especially thank Chairman Kehoe for his strong statements made regarding the “future of our town” and how the competitiveness of our schools will define our resident’s desire to stay, invest and live in East Hartford- we could not agree more.
- We appreciate the leadership and direction from the Council to continue our good work, to continue to work together and to continue to share the challenges ahead.

○ **Contract Highlights:**

- Used the Proforma for Collective bargained labor Agreements - January of 2015 as a guide to all our contract negotiations. The Proforma was developed and agreed upon by the Board and the Town.

○ **Highlights:**

- General Wage Increases at or below 2% each year;
- Step freeze in year two,
- Elimination of seed funds for the Health Savings Account;
- High Deductible health plan increases from \$1500/\$3000 to \$2000/\$4000
- Cadillac tax reopener provision

○ **The Process:**

- Two full day negotiation sessions were held in June which resulted in mediation on August 6th.
- Marty Weber was the agreed upon mediator for the session.
- Committee Members: Bryan Hall, Tom Rup and Tyron Harris

○ **Thanks to the Teachers:**

- The teachers were willing to work through the negotiation process to reach a mediated settlement. They should be commended for their efforts.
- Also, special thanks to Chris Wethje, Paul Mainuili and Nate Quesnel.

Superintendent's Report – Nathan Quesnel

- Status of the schools
- Uniform Concerns
- Transportation
- Hartford Foundation Grant
- 21C Programming
- Good News Report:
 - Congrats to Dr. Sharon Bremner who presented at a State Wide Conference at the Connecticut Special Education Back to School Convocation. We are thrilled to have her and East Hartford showcased for the talent we know exists in the district.
- Next Steps:
 - School Year 15-16—MYP Training Sunset/CIBA
 - September-October 5 – District preparation to identify site for ECLC
 - Sept/Oct- Finalize grant planning and management for the HFPG Partners in Achievement Grant. Phase 1 of this work will involve the posting and hiring of a coordinator for the office of Family and Community (OFC) Partnerships.
 - Oct- rewriting Head Start Grant for the 5 year narrative that will exist at the ECLC
 - Oct/Nov- planning for Reconfiguration meeting on 11/16 where the BoE will be presented with multiple questions for potential district reconfiguration
 - School Year 2015-2016- ALL IN

Summer Hiring Report – Chris Wethje, Director of Human Resources

- Mr. Wethje noted our mission is to deliver a high quality learning experience for every child, every day. Further, he noted the single most important fact that influences student performance is the teachers and support staff that work with the students. The hiring process is the beginning of our relationship with employees and not only an opportunity for candidates to show us what they have to offer but to showcase East Hartford Public Schools.

East Hartford Educators will...

- Foster Talent and Competence
 - Purposefully hire, retain and promote top level talent at all district positions
- As of September 1, 2015, we have hired four certified administrators and thirty-seven certified teachers. There were eight vacancies as of September 1, 2015.

SBAC PRESENTATION – Anne Marie Mancini, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum

- **About the Smarter Balanced**
 - The SB was designed as a tool to help educators accurately determine whether students are on track for college and career.
 - 2010- CT Adopts CCSS
 - 2014- Field Test Administered
 - 2015 – Operational Test Administered

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- **A Balanced Assessment System**
 - o Summative Assessments
 - Benchmarked to college and career readiness
 - o Formative Assessment Practices
 - Teacher resources for formative assessment practices to improve instruction
 - o Interim Assessments
 - Flexible, open, used for actionable feedback
- Teachers and schools have information and tools they need to improve teaching and learning

From Commissioner Wentzell

“As leaders, teachers and parents examine our baseline results, it is very important to Remember that not having learned something yet is feedback for future growth ... The results do not mean that our students are learning less, rather it reflects that we raised the bar.”

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Resignations:

MOTION By Tom Rup
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve Five (5) Resignations
Motion unanimously carried.

Certified Member’s Use of Employee Sick Bank-EHHS:

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To approve use of employee sick bank-EHHS
Motion unanimously carried.

Certified Member’s Use of Employee Sick Bank-CIBA:

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Shelby Brown
To approve use of employee sick bank-CIBA
Motion unanimously carried.

Board Member Representative Reports

- **Valerie Scheer** – Nate, Tyron and Valerie visited Norris school and were very happy with what’s going on there. O’Brien has a very enthusiastic Principal.
- **Dorese Roberts** – Attended Langford orientation where she was able to greet about 20 families and give out business cards so they can reach her with any questions that may arise.
- **Tyron Harris**- Taking a look to see if we can put some funds aside to invest in tuition reimbursement for teachers. Giving the staff a sense of encouragement to go after their certification.
- **Chairman Hall**- We have a great team working together and we appreciate the support.

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Questions and Concerns by Board Members – None

MOTION By Dorese Roberts
Seconded by Tyron Harris
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:05 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Octavia Moore

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION