

**SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2015**

A Special Budget Meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at the Board of Education Administrative Offices, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:48 PM by Chairman Bryan R. Hall. The Town Council was invited to this meeting.

PRESENT Chairman Bryan Hall, Secretary Tyron Harris (arrived at 5:55 PM),
Shelby Brown, Valerie Scheer, Tom Rup, Stephanie Watkins

ABSENT Dorese Roberts, Marilyn Pet, Harry Amadasun, Jr.

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 Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Dr. Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Joanne Zatarian, CPA, Business Services

Town Council Members Present:

Rich Kehoe, Chair
Esther Clarke, Minority Leader
Ram Aberasturia
Bill Horan, Vice Chair
Marc Weinberg
Joseph Carlson
Linda Russo, Majority Leader
Michael Kurker

Chairman Kehoe called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 5:49 PM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

Business Needing Board Action

Special Meeting for budgetary purposes with possible action on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Superintendent Quesnel stated the purpose of this budget meeting is to present the FY 2016-17 EHPS Superintendent's Budget to the East Hartford Board of Education and Town Council. The purpose of this presentation is to clearly communicate the necessary resources needed for continued district growth and improvement as well as to earn the support and commitment of the Board in the budget process. Superintendent Quesnel thanked everyone for coming this evening.

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As identified in Superintendent Quesnel's PowerPoint presentation, we are proposing a budget for FY 2016-17 of \$91,047,191, a 3.0% increase over the current year adopted budget. The essential drivers driving the 3% increase are contractual increases in Teacher Salaries, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) and Debt Service. Superintendent Quesnel noted this budget is in alignment with our developing EH2020 vision. This budget has been carefully designed to both promote Schools that are the Pride of our Community as well as strategically deliver a High Quality Learning Experience for Every Child, Every Day.

Business Services – Paul Mainuli

Mr. Mainuli walked us through and highlighted the significant changes in the budget under object summary of the Superintendent's Proposed Educational Plan & Budget book. Mr. Mainuli stated staff costs represent over sixty percent of our operating budget moreover, noting the key budget drivers are 1) Debt Service; 2) Special Education out-placed student costs and 3) Student Transportation. With regards to utilities we saved over \$30,000 with our solar panels over the previous fiscal year and are expecting a similar outcome this fiscal year. This proposed budget is supported by over \$22 million in grant funds. Lastly, Mr. Mainuli noted we will continue to look for grant opportunities and apply for as many grants as possible that will allow us the opportunity to provide innovative enrichment opportunities for our students.

Human Resources – Christopher Wethje

Mr. Wethje gave a detailed overview of the contractual salaries/benefits and the impact on the 2016-2017 budget. Mr. Wethje noted we have over 1,300 employees and the key budget drivers are salaries and benefits which represent 80% of the operating budget.

Facilities – Al Costa

Mr. Costa spoke about the Facility projects for the upcoming year and those that are still to be determined.

- EHMS Window Wall Project (Summer 2016) - \$8 million (2 year Project)
- EHMS Interior Renovation Project (Phase 1-Summer 2016)
- EHHS Athletic Field Project (Summer 2016)
- Hockanum ECLC Renovation/Site Work (Summer 2016)
- O'Brien Interior/Site Renovation Phase 2 – Inside of Building and additional site work
- Langford School Roof (TBD) – awaiting local share funds and completion of design
- Woodland/ Silver Lane Parking Lots (TBD) – In Capital Improvement Plan

Chairman Hall thanked Mr. Mainuli and Mrs. Zatarian for their assistance in putting this budget together. Superintendent Quesnel thanked the Board and Town Council members for their input and suggestions this evening and noted we are thankful to have Chairman Kehoe and the members of the Town Council to work with us on this budget.

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MOTION By Valerie Scheer
Seconded by Stefanie Watkins
To adjourn the Special Budget Meeting of the Board (8:39 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

Chairman Kehoe called the meeting of the Town Council to adjourn at 8:40 PM

MOTION By Esther Clarke
Seconded by Bill Horan
To adjourn the Special Budget Meeting of the Town Council (8:40 PM)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Octavia L. Moore

APPROVED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION