

**FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 7, 2009**

A meeting of the East Hartford Board of Education Finance & Audit Committee was held on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at the Board of Education Administration Building, 1110 Main Street East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairman Ram Aberasturia.

PRESENT Ram Aberasturia, Chairman
Robert Damaschi, Committee Member and BOE Member
Marcus Oladell, IV, BOE Member
Anita Morrison, BOE Member
Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chairperson BOE

ALSO PRESENT Paul Mainuli, Director of Finance
John Fote, Assistant Principal, High School
Ralph J. Viola, representing East Catholic
Kariene Rodney, Roughriders
Marlon Rozie, Roughriders
Ed Fenton, Roughriders
Michele Goodale, Roughriders

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve the Minutes of September 2, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

Public Participation - None

Discussion of East Catholic High Schools Pool Rental Fees

Mr. Viola, representing East Catholic High School, was present to discuss the inequities in Policy 1330 – Community Relations – Building Rentals. This was precipitated by a request from East Catholic to have fees waived for the use of swimming pools in the district. The Board elected to charge East Catholic a rate charged local groups and not the out of town rate.

In a letter to Superintendent Zito, Mr. Viola has proposed a new fee structure that he would like to discuss at an upcoming Board meeting. An example of his proposal, a minimum and maximum amount should be set; example...\$100/hr., minimum 2 hours; \$50/ea. per 3rd and 4th hours; \$25/5th hour, maximum of \$325 for pool rental. Mr. Viola also questioned the custodial fees. Chairman Ram Aberasturia, Chairperson of the BOE, Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes and Mr. Mainuli explained it is a contractual obligation with the Union. Mr. Viola also referred to the YMCA as getting “special” treatment from the school district when using the pool facilities.

He further noted the YMCA is not part of the Town. They are an outside group.

Discussion of the Connecticut Roughriders Request to Waive Building Rental Fees

Representatives from the Connecticut Roughriders, a 501(c)(3) organization, has requested to continue to use East Hartford school gymnasiums for their Fall town travel program and Spring AAU program, without cost. It was noted that 60 percent of participants involved in the program are East Hartford residents.

It was the consensus of the Committee to have Mr. Mainuli work with the Roughriders and present a matrix to the Committee regarding what schools would be used, if custodians will be present and times of use. They will then be notified of a decision.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Bid #1636-09 – Drivers Education

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To approve Bid #1636-09 – Drivers Education and award to AAA Driving School as vendor for the Driver's Education Program at EHHS and forward to the full Board for its approval.
Motion unanimously carried.

After much discussion, it was unanimous that AAA be awarded Bid #1636 – Drivers Education. Mr. Fote noted that AAA would provide all supplies needed and would compensate the school between \$25 and \$40 for each student for classroom use. AAA also offers students that graduate from the driving school a free, one-year membership in AAA.

Discussion of Policy 1330 (a) Community Relations – Building Rental Fees

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To move Policy 1330 (a), as amended, to the Policy and Audit Committee.
Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion of the Connecticut Lightning Request to Waive Building Rental Fees

This agenda item will be discussed after Policy 1330 (a) Community Relations – Building Rental Fees is discussed and acted upon by the Policy & Audit Committee.

Discussion of Monthly Financial Report for September 2009

(Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services)

Mr. Mainuli reviewed the first quarter report and shared his concerns with the Committee:

- Labor Relations – we have \$82,000 remaining for legal services in this line item. In January, we will be recommending a transfer money into this account to cover legal costs;

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- Account 3230 – Pupil Services – We will be \$200,000 short in tuition costs for students attending CREC magnet schools, plus the cost of a new van for students attending the CREC Global Pre-K – Grade 1 Magnet School;
- Utility Accounts – remain stable at this time. We do not anticipate any increases at this time;
- Account 5610 – Tuition LEA's In-State – we do expect revenue from Woodland School to be \$3 – \$3.5 million;
- We expect to receive e-rate money in the amount of \$200,000 to cover the costs of the voice and data telephone system;
- Supplies are being watched carefully and are controlled.

OTHER BUSINESS - None

MOTION

By Robert Damaschi
Seconded by Ram Aberasturia
To adjourn the meeting of the Finance & Audit Committee
(7:20 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by: Donna Fitzgerald