

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN, CT
EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT: MRS. DEPALMA, MR. DENUZZO, MR. HENNESSEY,
MRS. KLUTH, MR. POMPANO, MR. SCALESE and
MRS. VINEYARD**

ABSENT: MRS. MAISANO and MR. PALLADINO

**ALSO PRESENT: MR. ANTHONY SERIO, SUPERINTENDENT
MRS. ERICA FORTI, ASST. SUPT. OF
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
MRS. MARY ACQUARULO, DIRECTOR OF
PUPIL SERVICES
MR. JOSEPH TRAVAGLINO, DIRECTOR OF
BLDGS. & GROUNDS
MR. JASON LATHROP, BUSINESS ADMIN.
MRS. PATRICIA LEWIS, BUSINESS MANAGER**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson Kristen Vineyard called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. in the Boardroom at the High School. She then asked that the student reps lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES

Mrs. Vineyard asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board meeting of November 23, 2010.

Motion was made by Mr. DeNuzzo and seconded by Mrs. DePalma.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no objections to the motion and there were two (2) abstentions which were Mr. Pompano and Mrs. Vineyard. Motion carries. The minutes were approved.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Chairperson, Nicholas Palladino**

Mrs. Vineyard had no correspondence this evening.

- **Superintendent, Mr. Anthony Serio**

Mr. Serio had distributed correspondence he received from Mike Dolan regarding negotiations for non-certified personnel. The Board could look it over and either let him know or give him a call with any questions.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Athletic Oversight, Raymond Pompano, Chair**

Mr. Pompano spoke about the great job that the 6th grade football team had done and praised the players, coaches and families. He thanked the Mayor and the Superintendent for putting together an assembly at the Middle School. Mr. Pompano reported that Mr. Marone and Mr. DeNuzzo would be doing a follow up with a recruitment that was done in October at the Middle School. This would be for the Academy and St. Vincent's where they go and do an introduction of the coaches with the 8th graders. This would take place on December 21st.

There were also a couple of appointments on the agenda for coaches this evening.

- **Buildings & Grounds, Raymond Pompano, Chair**

Mr. Pompano reported he had been trying for five or six weeks to have another subcommittee meeting. They still had a lot of things to cover. He spoke about the Teacher Negotiations and how he hadn't heard anything regarding this. Mr. Pompano spoke about the heating/cooling situation at the Middle School. **He asked Mr. Serio to let him know when it would be a good time to schedule the Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee meeting.**

Mr. DeNuzzo questioned the resignations of those people who had been ticket takers for so many years because of salaries and taxes. Some of the people had worked for them for 30 years. He felt it was a great loss. Mr. Serio explained that the Board of Ed had an IRS audit and the IRS said these individuals needed to be Board employees and they had to have deductions taken out of their pay. This did not sit well with them. Mr. Serio stated he had investigated it and he had hit a stone wall as far as being able to do anything to avoid that from happening.

There was discussion on when the last time raises were given which was a long time ago. Mr. Serio explained he was not given the opportunity to do that because they decided to just refuse the position. A raise could offset the taxes that would have to be taken out. He would still like to talk to these individuals.

There was further discussion on 1099's and whether making under \$650 didn't require filling out a 1099. Mr. Hennessey spoke about how worker's comp comes into play because they were not really subcontractors, they were employees. The government wants their payroll taxes and withholding.

Mr. Serio stated that the people that worked for the band and received stipends were also upset regarding this issue. Mr. Hennessey stated that these people were very lucky that the IRS did not want all the money in arrears. They could have been fined with interest and penalties.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked if they could sit down with these people and give them additional money to offset the taxes. He thought they should try and retain these people. He asked Mr. Serio for his suggestion. Mr. Serio stated he had spoken with the Athletic Director today and he did not know whether that type of negotiation would be successful or not. **They needed to put a cost to that and inform the Board of it and if it was not something he could negotiate, he would still like to talk to those individuals to keep them informed. He would try to get on that as soon as possible.**

Mr. Hennessey thought there should be a way to work it out because it involved so few dollars. Mr. Serio stated that the people had been with them so long, they took it as an insult.

- **Curriculum & Instruction/Negotiations, Tia DePalma**

Mrs. DePalma definitely wanted to have a Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee meeting. Mrs. Forti explained that a group of them would be going to North Branford on January 6th to sit with Mrs. Imperato to talk about the structure and criteria of schedules they have in place and to get some ideas. This would give them some background knowledge and insight as to what they want to talk about. Mrs. Forti reported that the computer lab was up and running at Overbrook School thanks to Rob Becker and all the time he put in over there.

Mrs. DePalma reported that the Teacher Negotiations were continuing but they were not set. She did not know where they were with the non-certified because she had not heard from Mr. Dolan. She was under the assumption that he was going to be here tonight. There appeared to be no communication.

- **Finance/Grants Subcommittee, Christine Maisano**

Mrs. Maisano was unavailable to give a report this evening.

- **Food Service & PTA/PTO Advisory Committee, Kristen Vineyard, Chair**

Mrs. Vineyard stated they would be talking about a bid process for outsourcing the food service. She had nothing to report for PTA/PTO.

- **Legal/Ronald DeNuzzo, Chair**

Mr. DeNuzzo stated they had a subcommittee meeting this evening and had some discussion regarding expulsions which was presented to them by Mr. Anderson, principal of the high school and Central Office staff.

- **Policy & Bylaws, Charles Scalesse, Chair**

Mr. Scalesse spoke about the different policies and the ones the Board had vs. those they did not have but were recommended by CABE. **They would be holding another Policy & Bylaws Subcommittee after they had an Alcohol & Drug presentation in January.**

- **Personnel, Laura Kluth, Chair**

Mrs. Kluth stated she had no report this evening. She did ask why the principals were not here this evening. Mr. Serio stated there was nothing on the agenda pertaining to them. **She had heard there was a situation at Tuttle School and wanted to know how that was handled. Mr. Serio asked her to see him after the meeting and he would check it out and get back to her tomorrow.**

5. REPORTS/COMMUNICATION

- **Student Representatives, Kelianna Bonn & Rob Fucci**

Kelianna reported on the early dismissal and how there had been no issues with the lunches. The kids who were involved in athletics were able to have more time to eat and then get ready to practice or go to a game. On Thursday, they would be have a “deck the halls” during 7th period to decorate the hallways or the

doors to bring the Christmas spirit together throughout the school. She thanked the Guidance Department for being so helpful with college applications and mentioned a number of colleges where people had already been accepted.

Rob spoke about the Advisory Period and how it was being changed so that it had purpose to it. Prior to this, a lot of people did not understand the purpose. They wanted it to be exciting and new. There was some discussion on this and how it was supposed to be curriculum-oriented. Mrs. Forti stated that in September, the study was not yielding the outcome of the whole program. They needed to revise it and reorganize it so it was a productive time period to yield the outcomes. It was right in the middle of being reorganized and designed and then they could assign all of the groups across the school.

Rob stated they had spirit week a few weeks ago and everyone had fun. He spoke about liking the ½ year courses for English classes. Mrs. Forti informed the Board that they had approved some new courses back in June of 2010 that had gone into the Program of Studies.

- **Superintendent and Central Office Administration**

Mr. Serio stated the assembly that Mr. Pompano mentioned regarding the 6th grade football team was well-received by all. Students from the Academy, St. Vincent's and the Middle School attended. It was nice to see the support for these kids that had done so well and represented East Haven in the National Championship in Florida.

Mr. Serio spoke about an article in the Courier which explained our **positive behavior support for all students** teaching students that behaviors need to be successful in school and then beyond school. It was in all of our schools and was the first year of a three-year initiative. **They would be putting together a presentation to the Board about that program in the near future.**

- **Comments from the Chairperson, Nicholas Palladino**

Mr. Palladino was unavailable to give a report this evening.

6. COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC

Mrs. Vineyard asked if there was any communication from the public. There was none.

7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS – None.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Any questions or comments on the Board Briefs (11-23-10)

Any questions on the Board Briefs?

Mr. Scalesse wanted to add one thing to the Board Briefs about Policies & Bylaws. He handed out a packet they could add to their packets from last week. They had identified the Drugs & Tobacco and the other issue was cyberbullying with violations and penalties for cyberbullying. These were changing every day and they needed input. He suggested someone like Tom Mooney for this. Many of the bylaws needed to be updated and social networking needed to be updated. Mr. Scalesse went through the pages discussing the different policies that needed to be updated or looked into. Mr. Scalesse also touched on the subject of electronic participation in Board meetings. **He stated he had the policies on CD's and he could email the policies to the Board if they wanted them.**

There was some further discussion on the CAGE policy for cyberbullying and Mr. DeNuzzo mentioned they had started to draft something to present to the Board. Mr. Serio stated that Mrs. Forti had been looking into that. Mrs. Forti stated she had been working on that and was not as far along with it as she should be. She would revisit it before the next Board meeting.

Mrs. DePalma stated they needed to review the Superintendent's goals and it keeps getting put off. She wanted to schedule a subcommittee meeting. Mr. Serio

suggested they hold a subcommittee meeting solely for this purpose.

There was discussion on involving and inviting the public to participate in the subcommittee meetings so they would have a voice in areas they were concerned with. Mrs. Kluth stated it was a nice thought but they could barely get through what they had to get through tonight. Mrs. DePalma thought that perhaps they could just have a 30-minute question and answer period before the meeting to help people get answers to their questions.

Mrs. Forti stated that people would have to understand that perhaps they would not get an answer the same evening if something had to be researched or they had to seek out individuals that had some expertise.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Ratification of Appointments

- **½ Assistant Hockey Coach @ EHHS**

Mr. Serio requested the Board ratify the appointment of Michael Verderame for the ½ Assistant Hockey Coach @ EHHS. This was a shared position.

Motion was made by Mr. Pompano and seconded by Mrs. DePalma.

Any discussion on the motion?

This person was not an employee and it was a replacement position.

There was discussion on there being four assistant hockey coaches vs. two assistant hockey coaches. Mr. Serio knew Michael Verderame and his family. He was a player for East Haven High School and also played at a higher level. He believed he would be an asset.

There was discussion on whether someone could coach if certain items were pending. Mr. Pompano explained how the process worked.

Any further discussion? There was none.

There were no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries.

9.2 Request for Approval of the Payment of Invoices:

- **Dated December 15, 2010 for Fiscal Year 2010-11 in the Amount of \$1,024,638.93**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the payment of invoices dated December 15, 2010 for Fiscal Year 2010-11 in the amount of \$1,024,638.93.

Motion was made by Mr. Pompano and seconded by Mr. Hennessey.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. DePalma asked the following questions:

When did the budget freeze on into effect? Mr. Lathrop responded November 5, 2010. There was discussion regarding why there were bills for things such as instructional supplies and nursing supplies when there was a freeze in place. Mr. Lathrop explained how some were paid on a monthly basis or that they were ongoing expenses. They still had to meet the needs of the students. Currently, they were not holding on student activity funds or the professional development fund. Supplies for the nurses were most likely due to Epi pens. They also had orders for the new classrooms at Deer Run and D. C. Moore.

Mr. Lathrop would move his lines over on the sheets.

There was some discussion on transfers.

Where was the copy of the general ledger? Mr. Lathrop explained that it was not part of the packet. He would get it to them.

Durant Nichols - Mr. Lathrop stated they did approve that but it was never paid. It was approved in September. The fiscal year closed in August. These expenses would be taken out of the current fiscal year.

Mrs. DePalma asked whether the checks went out for the bills they talked about. She had a question about the dating of all of these. Mr. Lathrop explained how the software system they use will only allow one invoice date. This had been sent out in error and the date had been changed and resubmitted to the Board. Mrs. DePalma asked if they were up to date with the checks going out. Mr. Lathrop stated they had released a vast number of checks from the last meeting.

Mrs. DePalma asked Mr. Lathrop about the cash disbursement journal. Mr. Lathrop stated they could reproduce them. He had been out sick yesterday and he had not been able to get to that individual request. He would endeavor to get her that this week. Mrs. DePalma stated they had been asking for that since June of July. There was discussion on requests and the reason why the Board did not get items they requested. Mrs. DePalma stated they were asked to make decisions, but they did not receive the materials in order to make those decisions. She stated they had not received the bills until Friday this week. Mrs. DePalma stated she did not mind going through Mr. Serio's office, she just wanted him to answer her. **Mr. Serio stated he would like all requests from Board members to go through him.**

Dolan & Luzzi - The only thing that was not on the bills was the bill for Dolan & Luzzi and she could see they were not here this evening. They had asked for an explanation and asked that they come in person to explain it. Mr. Serio responded that he had spoken to Mike Luzzi and Mike Dolan and some of the charges were related to pending litigation and a lot of detail could not be brought forward without infringing on the rights of

the people who were litigants in the case. Hugh Keefe mentioned those things should not be up for discussion. Mr. Serio stated the second bill had more detail on it regarding what they could disclose and what they could not. **Mrs. DePalma said they had asked for the same type of narrative they received from Shipman & Goodwin. Mr. Serio responded that a copy of Shipman & Goodwin's bill had been sent to them. The next bill would be in that format.**

There was discussion on the bill from Shipman & Goodwin in the amount of \$14,000. Mr. Pompano stated this was very high and he hadn't heard anything regarding where they were with the Teacher Negotiations. Perhaps he had missed something; there were no updates. Mr. DeNuzzo stated he assumed they had been burning the midnight oil. Mrs. DePalma said absolutely. It was information that could not be shared in public session. **Mrs. DePalma stated they could have a Negotiation Subcommittee meeting and discuss it in Executive session.** She stated that Shipman & Goodwin had been doing a great job in negotiations. It was definitely money that was needed to be spent and it was well spent. It would not be the case if they were not the people working on this for negotiations. Mr. Pompano felt she was being pretty presumptuous. They had not received a briefing on this so far. Mrs. DePalma stated he would be the first person to be invited to that.

Mr. Pompano asked if the Dolan & Luzzi bill was going to be paid tonight. Mr. Lathrop stated the bill had already been presented. They could add it for approval and the motion would have to be added and voted on tonight. There was discussion on the correct procedure of adding this or amending the previous motion. It was decided they would vote on the bills and then add Dolan & Luzzi separately.

Any further discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries. The bills are paid.

Mr. Pompano made a motion to add the Dolan & Luzzi bill that was tabled from a previous meeting under 9.2.1 and it was seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

Any further discussion? There was none.

Mrs. Vineyard asked for a roll call vote.

Mr. DeNuzzo – yes
Mrs. DePalma – no
Mr. Hennessey – yes
Mrs. Kluth – yes
Mr. Pompano – yes
Mr. Scalesse – yes
Mrs. Vineyard – yes

Vote was six (6) in the affirmative to add to the agenda with one (1) opposed. Motion carries.

9.2.1 Permission to Pay the Outstanding Dolan & Luzzi Invoice

Mr. Serio requested the Board's permission to pay the outstanding Dolan & Luzzi invoice.

Motion was made by Mr. Pompano and seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

Any discussion on the invoice?

Mrs. DePalma wanted to say she was deeply saddened that this had become some kind of struggle or frustration amongst Board members regarding this. She stated that the litigation that was pending was never -- or did it ever involve this Board as a whole. The problem was because Dolan & Luzzi felt they shouldn't come here and they were advised not to -- you (Mr. Serio) put that out there on record, and she was a bit concerned about that. The Board was not ever made to incur any cost for this. This was just a political problem that was being now brought out in the open. She did not believe this

should be discussed here tonight. All they wanted was for Dolan & Luzzi to come here and talk to us about it.

Mr. Scalesse stated he was not aware that the 9.2 hours was for them speaking to Board members. He stated he received a letter dated November 12th, and it clearly said that all of the discussions were with Board members and it stated it was consultation with members associated with the lawsuit. He stated if they deny payment on this bill at this point in time, they were questioning the honesty and integrity of this law firm. He could not see why they were not going forward. Mrs. DePalma stated that Dolan & Luzzi worked for the entire Board, not individual persons.

Mr. Hennessey stated the Board was the client and we're not infringing on anyone's rights. We are all losing sight of something here. All of their other lawyers come in with names and initials and they account for all of their time.

There was discussion on previous bills and how they were accepted without changing the format. Mr. Hennessey felt they had a right to know what they were paying for. Mr. Scalesse wanted to know why he didn't say something seven months ago. Mrs. Vineyard felt if they had a problem with them, they should have said something then. Mr. Pompano agreed with Mr. Hennessey that they should get the kind of bill they wanted, but thought the November 12th letter kind of addressed that. He could not see withholding payment when services had been provided for seven months in the same format.

There was further discussion on how the billing from Dolan & Luzzi should be itemized. Mr. Pompano felt they might be moving into discussion that should be reserved for Executive Session. He felt they should move to vote on this.

Mr. Hennessey stated that Board members have no right to engage in spending money that includes attorneys. Only the Board could vote and approve money to spend on lawyers. If individuals were calling attorneys, that was a mistake. We need to know that. Individual Board members had no right to call

and get an opinion on a matter from the Board attorney. There was \$1,800 in conversations with Board members; we are the client and should know who, how long, and for what the calls were made.

Mrs. Kluth felt that only one person should call and that should be Mr. Serio to get that information for one charge for one time.

There was discussion regarding how the attorneys should be paid but subtract those particular hours. Mr. Serio stated this was the third month they were holding the bill regarding this issue. It was fine when they were first hired and they were paid with the same format. He stated he did not have an answer for them.

Mr. Scalesse stated he had brought up phone calls made to attorneys by this Board as far as protocol and procedures. Someone said we are Board members and we can do as we want. Mr. Hennessey responded he thought that Mr. Scalesse was correct. Mr. Serio informed the Board that when any of his staff needs to call an attorney they need to clear it through him. Mrs. DePalma stated she had no problem with anyone putting her name on the bill. Mrs. Kluth stated it made no sense to go over and over what happened. Just tell them we want an itemized bill. Tell them to email it to you (Mr. Serio) and you email it to us.

Mrs. Vineyard asked if there was any further discussion on this issue. There was none. She then requested a roll call vote.

Mr. DeNuzzo – yes
Mrs. DePalma – no
Mr. Hennessey – no
Mrs. Kluth – no
Mr. Pompano – yes
Mr. Scalesse – yes
Mrs. Vineyard – yes

Vote was four (4) in the affirmative with three (3) opposed. Motion carries. **The Dolan & Luzzi bill will be paid.**

9.3 Discussion and Approval of the Completion of the Following Capital Improvement Projects

Mr. Serio explained they were looking for approval on the completion of the following reroofing projects:

9.3.1 Overbrook Elementary School Reroofing

Mrs. Vineyard asked for a motion to accept State Project Number 044-0071, Overbrook Elementary reroofing as complete.

Motion was made by Mr. Pompano and seconded by Mrs. Kluth.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Serio explained that it was a procedure that the Board had to do to finalize the projects from the School Building Committee. This was to finalize the projects not start new ones. Mr. DeNuzzo had asked Mr. Lathrop for the breakdown of the amounts on each of the projects. Mr. Lathrop walked the Board through the process of finalizing the projects and how the final payment would be reimbursed in six (6) months from the State. They needed to approve this because the School Building Committee was saying that we are done with the project.

There was further discussion on this issue and it was determined that each of these items needed to be voted on separately. A roll call vote would be held for each school. This vote would be for Overbrook School.

Mrs. Vineyard asked for a roll call vote.

Mr. DeNuzzo – yes
Mrs. DePalma – yes
Mr. Hennessey – no

Mrs. Kluth – yes
Mr. Pompano – yes
Mr. Scalesse – yes
Mrs. Vineyard – yes

Vote was six (6) in the affirmative with one (1) opposed.
Motion carries.

9.3.2 Momauguin Elementary School Reroofing

Mrs. Vineyard asked for a motion to accept State Project Number 044-0072, Momauguin Elementary reroofing as complete.

Motion was made by Mr. Pompano and seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. DePalma asked Mr. Hennessey why he voted no. There was discussion regarding this coming back to the Board to finalize. Mr. Hennessey stated they were accepting \$4 million of roofs and there was no maintenance plan in place. Discussion ensued regarding the warranty and who was responsible for the roofs after the warranty ran out.

Mr. Travaglino stated he could not add anything to the conversation because he was not privy to what went on. Mr. Lathrop explained there was a two-year warranty and they did not need to buy a maintenance plan. If there was a problem, all Mr. Travaglino needed to do was pick up the phone and call the manufacturer.

Mr. Hennessey stated that Marilyn Vitale had signed off on the design and the prints. The Board had to assume all of the liability. Mrs. DePalma stated that's why you have a School Building Committee. Mr. Hennessey explained that until he understands something, he won't put his name on

it. Mrs. DePalma stated this was the process of the School Building Committee.

Mrs. Vineyard requested a roll call vote.

Mr. DeNuzzo – no
Mrs. DePalma – yes
Mr. Hennessey – no
Mrs. Kluth – yes
Mr. Pompano – yes
Mr. Scalesse – yes
Mrs. Vineyard – yes

Vote was five (5) in the affirmative with two (2) opposed. Motion carries.

9.3.3 Deer Run Elementary School Reroofing

Mrs. Vineyard asked for a motion to accept State Project Number 044-0073, Deer Run Elementary reroofing as complete.

Motion was made by Mr. Pompano and seconded by Mrs. DePalma.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Mrs. Vineyard requested a roll call vote.

Mr. DeNuzzo – no
Mrs. DePalma – yes
Mr. Hennessey – no
Mrs. Kluth – yes
Mr. Pompano – yes
Mr. Scalesse – yes
Mrs. Vineyard – yes

Vote was five (5) in the affirmative with two (2) opposed. Motion carries.

9.3.4 Joseph Melillo Middle School Reroofing

Mrs. Vineyard asked for a motion to accept State Project Number 044-0074, Joseph Melillo Middle School reroofing as complete.

Motion was made by Mr. Pompano and seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Mrs. Vineyard requested a roll call vote.

Mr. DeNuzzo – no
Mrs. DePalma – yes
Mr. Hennessey – no
Mrs. Kluth – yes
Mr. Pompano – yes
Mr. Scalesse – yes
Mrs. Vineyard – yes

Vote was five (5) in the affirmative with two (2) opposed. Motion carries.

9.4 Review and Possible Approval of Budget Transfers for 2010-11 Operating Budget

Mr. Lathrop informed the Board that it was only the first two pages, numbers 1-7, that was supposed to be included and that they would be voting on. Mr. Lathrop explained how the transfers were done and how he came to the conclusion to transfer.

Motion to approve the budget transfers was made by Mr. DeNuzzo and seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Hennessey felt they should wait on this until Mrs. Maisano returned because he did not have a clue of what they were

transferring here. This could be done at any time. Mr. Lathrop stated that the transfers were a little under \$10,000 which was not a lot of money. Some of the Board members thought they should wait and others thought they should move ahead.

Mrs. Vineyard asked for a roll call vote.

Mr. DeNuzzo – yes
Mrs. DePalma – no
Mr. Hennessey – no
Mrs. Kluth – yes
Mr. Pompano – yes
Mr. Scalesse – yes
Mrs. Vineyard – yes

Vote was five (5) in the affirmative with two (2) opposed. Motion carries. The transfers will be made.

9.5 Review and Approval of Food Service Bid

This was for review and approval of the food service bid.

Motion was made by Mr. Hennessey and seconded by Mr. DeNuzzo.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Serio stated this needed to say, “Review and approval of the food service bid process.” He thought this recommendation initiated with the Board to see what it would be like to be in the food service business and to see if vendors would be receptive to bidding on a cafeteria contract with the employees as their employees vs. Board of Education employees. But this should be “bid process”.

Mr. DeNuzzo made a motion to amend 9.5 to say, “Review and Approval of Food Service Bid Process.” It was seconded by Mrs. DePalma.

Any further discussion?

There was discussion on the process and whether this would be a cost savings to the Board or not. Mrs. Kluth was not in favor of outsourcing anything. There was discussion regarding who was on the committee and that people who worked in our system should be on this committee. Mr. Lathrop responded there was one food service employee on this committee who has worked in excess of 25 years and whom he considered to be an invaluable employee. There was a question as to whether this person worked with the kids and cafeteria workers and Mr. Lathrop responded yes.

There was discussion on why they would want to do this and Mr. Hennessey explained that because it was a specialty area, there were people who were experts who could do a better job of running a cafeteria. Mr. DeNuzzo stated just the money you save on Workers' Comp alone. Mrs. DePalma stated the difference would be they own our employees. Who was protecting these people? Mr. Hennessey stated that had to be part of the process.

There was discussion that there were current contract negotiations going on. Mrs. Kluth asked how they could settle a contract when they were talking about outsourcing it. Mrs. DePalma stated it was not happening. She thought it was an odd time to discuss this. She asked what the timeline was in settling the contract. Mr. Lathrop explained the process and how it would be put to a vote by March 22nd. Mrs. Kluth thought they needed to know if they were outsourcing it before doing the contract. Mr. DeNuzzo stated he disagreed with that comment.

Mr. Serio stated they needed to know the desires of the Board in investigating this process. That could be a condition as to whether they settle the contract as presented currently or if there was language that needs to be changed moving forward. They needed to look at both aspects of it. Mr. DeNuzzo asked when Mr. Serio proposed bringing that contract to the Board. Were they pretty close to settling it? **Mr. Serio stated he did not**

know how close they were to settling it. As they saw in the letter, some language in the contract draft that he saw he felt did not need to be put in that contract. He would probably get a final draft to them this week so they could review it.

There was discussion on how this was the third time they were being told they were settling the contract. Some Board members felt they were not being given accurate information. Other members felt the bid process needed to be settled before the contract and there was concern that people working in our cafeteria needed to be part of this process or it probably would not work.

Mr. Serio responded if the Board does not want to consider outsourcing, they needed to let him know. There was discussion on investigating the possibility of outsourcing and what the union reps had told their people or not told them. Mr. Serio thought the Board needed to make a decision to go into outsourcing the café or keep them as Board of Education employees; one way or another. Mr. Pompano stated when they get some information on the outsourcing they would be able to see if it was a cost savings. If they do not have that ability to look at that, they may never know. All they were saying was look at the process, run its course, and at that time make a decision. Mr. Serio stated the Board may decide that they may not want to lose the cafeteria workers if they were only going to save \$10,000 or they may want to look at outsourcing if they were going to save \$100,000. Mrs. DePalma said if they added some people to their committee, she would not be against this.

Mrs. Vineyard asked for a roll call vote.

Mr. DeNuzzo – yes
Mrs. DePalma – no
Mr. Hennessey – yes
Mrs. Kluth – no
Mr. Pompano – yes
Mr. Scalesse – yes

Mrs. Vineyard – yes

Vote was five (5) in the affirmative with two (2) opposed. Motion carries.

9.6 Review and Approval of One-Year Extension for Durham Service Transportation Contract

This was for review and approval of a one-year contract extension for Durham Service Transportation.

Motion was made by Mr. DeNuzzo and seconded by Mrs. Kluth.

Any discussion on the motion?

There was a concern that they still had some kids getting to school a little late. Mr. Lathrop explained that due to the cold weather last week there were a few delays because of that. They were executing the one-year Board option with the increase put in. They were currently up two buses. They had spent over \$2 million on transportation, but \$1.2 on regular bus transportation.

Mrs. DePalma felt that putting three-year olds with 6-year olds was an issue. Mrs. Forti state they were talking about bus issues; this was a separate issue. Mr. Lathrop explained it was not the responsibility of Durham because they transport the kids where we tell them to.

Mr. Hennessey had a problem with a lot of employees getting no pay raises because they were in dire straits. A 2.5% raise rubbed him the wrong way. He informed the Board that fuel was a lot cheaper than it was two years ago.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked if all of the other rates such as late buses, etc. were still the same as in the previous contract. Mr. Lathrop stated yes. There was some discussion on whether they could go out to bid and the timeline on doing this. Some of the pros and cons were discussed as well as the number of vendors that

might be interested in bidding on this which would probably be under five. There was also discussion on negotiating a lower rate with the current vendor. East Haven had been with Double A Bus since 1995 and they were bought out by Durham a number of years ago. Mr. Serio explained how they had gone out to bid at some point in time when the contract expired and only one bus company bid. Instead of perhaps negotiating \$50,000, the increase came in closer to \$350,000 with the same company. They had negotiated it by using fewer full-day buses between hours.

There was discussion of renegotiating this with Durham to bring it down. Mr. Lathrop stated they would then have to go back to the Town Council for approval. **Mr. Serio would meet with Durham Bus to try and renegotiate this.**

Motion to table was made by Mrs. DePalma and seconded by Mrs. Kluth.

Any further discussion? There was none.

There were no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries. This item was tabled.

9.7 Possible Approval of the Following Individual Contracts:

- **Senior Technology Specialist – Matt Ullring**
- **Technology Specialist – Robert Becker**
- **Help Desk Attendant – Carmen Ruotolo**
- **FRC Teacher Facilitators (2) – Mary Varunes and Maryanne D’Auria**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the individual contracts as discussed in Executive Session during the subcommittee meeting. The Help Desk Attendant would not move forward as presented. They would move forward with the same contract she was currently under in the past. He would come forward between now and the end of the year with her request. This would just be a one-year contract for this year.

Motion to approve the individual contracts was made by Mrs. Kluth and seconded by Mr. DeNuzzo.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries.

9.8 Possible Approval of Assistant Superintendent's One-Year Contract Extension

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the Assistant Superintendent's (Erica Forti) one-year contract extension as discussed in Executive Session during subcommittee this evening.

Motion was made by Mr. DeNuzzo and seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

Mrs. Vineyard asked if there were any questions on the informational items. There were none.

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements

- **Cheryl Vallario, Consumer Science Teacher @ EHHS (Resignation)**

10.1.2 School Newsletters

10.1.3 Invitation to State of the Arts, EHHS & Hagaman Memorial Library Present "*Carnival of the Animals*"

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

**THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION – JANUARY 11, 2011 – EAST
HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL, 35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST
HAVEN, CT 06513 at 7:00 p.m.**

13. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. DePalma and seconded by Mrs. Kluth.

There was no discussion on the motion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**MRS. KRISTEN VINEYARD, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
EAST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**