

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN, CT  
EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513  
TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2011  
7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT: MR. PALLADINO, MRS. DEPALMA, MRS. MAISANO,  
MR. SCALESSE and MRS. VINEYARD**

**ABSENT: MR. DENUZZO, MR. HENNESSEY and MRS. KLUTH  
MRS. PATRICIA LEWIS, BUSINESS MANAGER  
MR. JOSEPH TRAVAGLINO, DIRECTOR OF  
BLDGS. & GROUNDS**

**ARRIVED LATE: MR. POMPARNO (7:45 p.m.)**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Nicholas Palladino called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Boardroom at the High School. Mr. Palladino asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. MINUTES**

Mr. Palladino asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Board meeting of July 5, 2011.

Motion was made by Mrs. Vineyard and seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

Mrs. Maisano wanted to say for the record that she received many, many calls with regards to the cafeteria. She was still quite upset by the verdict. She felt that one Board member should have abstained from that vote based on a previous relative that worked at Whitson's. She did not believe that it would change the vote, but he should have abstained from voting. Mr. Palladino stated this was not the area to discuss this. They could bring it up under Old Business. Everyone agreed that the minutes were correct.

There was no further discussion or objections to the motion. Motion carries. The minutes were approved.

### **3. CORRESPONDENCE**

- **Chairperson, Nicholas Palladino**

Mr. Palladino had no correspondence this evening.

- **Superintendent, Mr. Anthony Serio**

Mr. Serio had no correspondence this evening.

### **4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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

- Mr. Palladino explained that Mr. Pompano was downstairs at a School Building Committee meeting currently.

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

**Mrs. DePalma would still like to schedule a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting. She would also like to get the results of the CMT and CAPT scores prior to the seeing them in the newspaper.**

Mrs. Forti reported on how successful and exciting the professional development was on June 29<sup>th</sup> with the I-pads. She thanked the Board members for coming.

Mrs. DePalma did not know what to say regarding negotiations. She needed to get Mike Dolan to come and give an update. There were four outstanding contracts. Mrs. DePalma asked if they had to design a new contract with Whitson's for the outsourcing. Mr. Serio stated he did not believe so; they have to abide by the contract for one year.

Mrs. DePalma stated they had met regarding the Superintendent's evaluation and they had come up with a timeline to complete the work and then share the evaluation with the Superintendent. **They would be meeting on July 19 and July 21 at 6:00 p.m.** Mrs. DePalma stated at this point, that there might be a big glitch regarding the dates. They needed to meet two times to complete their work and then on August 9<sup>th</sup> meet with Mr. Serio to review the evaluation.

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

Mrs. Maisano had no report this evening.

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

Mrs. Vineyard had no report this evening.

- **Legal/Ronald DeNuzzo, Chair**

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

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

**Mr. Scalesse informed the Board they needed to set up some meetings after the Superintendent's evaluation to go over bylaws and policies that needed to be changed or updated. The Board members could get back to him after the next week or two regarding any changes or updates they would like. They would also look at some recommendations from CAFE.**

- **Personnel, Laura Kluth, Chair**

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

## 5. REPORTS/COMMUNICATION

- **Student Representatives**

The student representatives do not report during the summer.

- **Superintendent and Central Office Administration**

Mr. Serio had no report this evening.

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

Mr. Palladino had no report this evening.

## 6. COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC

Mr. Palladino asked if there was any communication from the public.

**John Finkle, 91 Angela Drive**, stated that his question was based on the motion that was made and whether it was just for the purpose of accepting the bid proposal as the motion said. They hadn't ironed out the contract Whitson's operated under for this proposal and everything stays like this year and the following year it goes into effect? Mr. Serio stated he would check into it and explained they would be setting up a meeting with union representation for the cafeteria, Whitson's and the administration to find out exactly all of those minor particulars that they had to have such as who was retiring or who had a pension. There wasn't a lot that was changing for the employees.

Mr. Finkle explained he had read the bid specs. For example, you bought a new POS system. Was Whitson's going to take it over? Or the transport of the food from this point to satellite -- were they using their own truck or using ours? Mr. Serio stated those were the things they needed to iron out. Mrs. DePalma stated there was no contract. Mr. Serio stated he did not know what she meant by no contract. Mrs. DePalma stated they outsourced; where was the arrangement between -- She then stated she had broken the rules and they could wait.

Any other comments? There were none.

## **7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **7.1 Report from Kostin & Ruffkess**

Mr. Serio stated that Mr. Centofanti was there to give them his report. Mr. Centofanti stated that he basically wanted to come tonight to give them an update on what he had done and talk about what the next step should be based on where they were right now. They came out pretty close; they were \$50,000 off. Mr. Centofanti stated the Board had a higher expenditure than -- he could not remember which way it went now. He added that part of the question was that the Board, as well as the Superintendent, had asked what the problem was and they wanted to know where things were going wrong.

Mr. Centofanti informed the Board that the way the Town and Board of Education each record their activity was from a different source or different way. After working on it, he could not see where it went off track. They were now here in July, and part of that plan was that he would put in a new system. He met with the Superintendent and Mr. Thompson and each side needs to record the activity so there's a way to reconcile and make sure everything flows the way it needs to flow. They should be able to accomplish this by July 31<sup>st</sup>. With one month of activity, it should not be cluttered with a lot of things and they could see where the problem may arise. The bank recs have to be done 30 days after that month.

There was further discussion on how the Town and Board would be able to reconcile with fewer problems and a better way to catch any mistakes that might occur on either side. They would be able to move forward with the new system that works and identifies things that might go off track.

Mr. Palladino asked if Mr. Centofanti found anything that he would say was totally improper or did he see anything that was misappropriated or out and out larceny or theft. Did any of this come

across when he was doing the audit? Mr. Centofanti explained that it was not an audit, it was a reconciliation focused on the big picture. He stated that nothing had come to his attention. Mr. Palladino asked if there were any red flags that this could be a potential problem. Mr. Centofanti explained that that was not the focus of what he was looking at as of February. He was not looking at the transactions; he did that during annual audits. Mr. Palladino asked him when he did his last audit of the Board of Education last year, were there any red flags that came up or any missing appropriations or missing money or attempt of theft of funds; anything that was a red flag.

Mrs. Maisano stated there were discrepancies. Mr. Centofanti stated there was nothing from an audit perspective that would lead him in that direction. Mr. Palladino asked Mr. Thompson to notify the Board if there were any problems, if they found anything on a monthly basis. When he says this Board, he means this Board, the nine (9) members. If there was a problem, he wanted the Board notified right away. There was further discussion on the Town and Board working together and how the procedures and forms would be worked out.

Mrs. Maisano asked how they were planning on not using to or due from and how they get that off the books. Mr. Centofanti stated they cancel it out. Mrs. Maisano's concern was not missing appropriations at this point, but she wanted to know if he ran into something. Her concern was the condition of the books and if he felt as though the Finance Department and the condition he received all this accounting information was done properly. She wanted to know what condition the books were in. Did they receive the information in a timely fashion?

Mr. Centofanti stated there were a few minor things in the general ledger that needed to be adjusted or cleaned up. The condition was improved over what he had gotten before and he had not looked at them in detail. If they were reconciled through May, they were way ahead of the curve. If they reconciled through June, the final numbers should be in September and not November or December. From the timing, as far as compared to prior years, the information was flowing and had been done in a timely manner more so than in the past two years.

Mrs. Maisano asked Mr. Centofanti if he thought the Finance Department had a good handle on the accounting procedures. Mr. Centofanti did not know if he could evaluate procedures. Mrs. Maisano stated that knowing how to balance accounts and realize the balance sheet was off, it was just typical accounting. Mr. Centofanti stated with the information he was getting, there was a better understanding than there had been.

There was further discussion on this issue. Mr. Thompson wanted them to know that the Town was upgrading its software to be the same software as the Board of Ed. When the Town gets on the same software as the Board, then he would be able to incorporate all of their accounts into one accounting system. He would be able to see all of their expenditures and hopefully produce a trial balance on all of Mr. Lathrop's accounts and his own accounts.

Mr. Lathrop stated he was looking forward to helping the Town with their implementation. They had some pretty good procedures in place. We can help them cross train between his employees and our employees to get them up and running.

Mrs. Maisano asked how much they had paid to Kostin & Ruffkess for this to happen. Mr. Centofanti stated that for the first part of reconciling through February, it was \$5,000 and another \$5,000 for the process they plan to put in. That's \$10,000 total. Mrs. Maisano thought there was a ceiling on that in the amount of \$8,000 and that he was supposed to come to them if it was going to go over that. He was just comparing the books from the Town to the Board of Ed. He wasn't doing an audit. She stated she felt a little confused and wondered if she were the only one that was confused.

(Mr. Pompano arrived at 7:45 p.m.)

Mrs. Maisano stated if they understood the accounting methods, what did he do? Mr. Centofanti stated all he did so far was attempt to reconcile through February; that was the first step. Once he got to that point with the Town records and saw he couldn't reconcile the specifics exactly as to why you were off and what caused the problem, he was now putting the new procedures in place and would

reconcile in July because they were in July. It was the first month of the fiscal year and it was a lot cleaner and easier. The first \$5,000 was to do it the old way. He came here tonight and he didn't know what benefit they get out of that piece. Mrs. Maisano said, "I'm taking it you got to February and it didn't reconcile and we were off \$50,000 and then you said, let's move on and go to July and make it all balance." Mr. Centofanti replied that's part of looking at it and trying to figure out what was going wrong. He could not figure it out and a better plan was to try to go to July rather than May or June. This was the most efficient way since they were in July.

Mrs. Maisano asked what would cause the problem and Mr. Centofanti explained that a small part of the problem was gas charges for the Board of Ed and how the Town bills the Board of Ed. This was not recorded on the Board side and it was on the Town side. It could be something related to payroll which seems to be more complicated. Those types of things or any journal entry say expense or balance sheets were going to capture that information. Mr. Thompson explained it would show in the audit. Mr. Centofanti stated they would have to reconcile that in some way to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Maisano asked if he was comfortable with the Finance Department and the way it was. Mr. Centofanti stated that part of putting this process in was to get more information.

Mrs. DePalma asked if he would have a written report for them at some point. Mr. Centofanti stated if he had specific recommendations. Mrs. DePalma commented they had some feedback a while back about procedures or something and they were not hearing that now. They had been asking him to come for quite some time. Mr. Centofanti stated he would make sure there was some written feedback about what was put in place. This was what we accomplished for this part of the project and here are some recommendations. He would begin working with the Finance Department at the beginning of August to look at that.

Mr. Serio stated it was a long process. He was glad to hear what he was hearing. Dealing with a direction the Town and the Board of Ed were able to do it in a timely fashion and they were talking the same language. It was important the auditor does the Town and Board of Ed and there was one audit with the same kind of system in place so

there weren't these discrepancies. There was nothing worse than finding out there were problems after June 30<sup>th</sup> or not finding out until November or December.

Mr. Lathrop informed the Board that Mr. Thompson made it very clear what his expectations were. They were posting the bank reconciliations for the Board of Ed on the website. Mr. Thompson wanted to make it clear that they were not doing his (Mr. Lathrop's) work recording his reconciliations and transactions.

Mr. Palladino stressed the importance of the Board being notified immediately of any problems. They could go through Janice who would then get the information out to them immediately through email. He was happy to hear what he was hearing regarding the same software and that everyone was communicating better.

Mrs. Maisano wanted to be clear that he had not touched on the rentals or Little Jackets or grants or anything like that. It was just the operating accounts he was concentrating on. Mr. Centofanti stated he didn't do anything but have a conversation that this was his plan. He didn't do anything. Mrs. DePalma stated they were asking for feedback for quite some time. Mr. Centofanti stated that it was not asked of him and he was not aware of it. Mrs. DePalma stated they were told that you were. Mr. Centofanti replied that there was a letter sent.

Mrs. Maisano said she got the impression that he was displeased, if you will, with the process; displeased of the timing of receiving that information. He was sitting here right now and telling her a different story; she was confused. She wasn't going to go there; she would wait for his final report. Mr. Centofanti stated it was not timely; it was not reconciled on the timetable that was originally promised.

Mrs. Maisano could not understand why it was not a problem that he did not get this information in a timely fashion when there were eight or nine people in that department. It was promised in March that you would receive it. She thought that was what they were hiring him for more than just to reconcile between them. She was told many times that we reconciled between the Town and the Board. Mrs. Maisano wanted to show no disrespect at all, but \$8-10,000 to hear that; that's

common sense. Am I wrong? She could have told them that. She stated she was going to wait until his report was finished. She stated that they were told everything was in balance, they had a general ledger and everything was peachy. Mr. Thompson stated it would be peachy going forward. Mrs. Maisano stated it was not peachy, and it was never peachy and she was tired of being lied to. She did not want to have this conversation anymore.

Mr. Lathrop stated he wanted to clarify that the Town doesn't adjust its cash balances during the year. Mrs. Maisano asked why not. Mr. Lathrop responded that's not a Board of Ed thing; it is the Town. Mrs. Maisano stated they pay a fortune to figure out why this isn't in balance and now pay more money to have different things in place. She thought it was common accounting; Accounting 101. Mrs. Maisano believed they had a problem in their Finance Department and that the numbers were inaccurate. She also believed that she called for an audit and an audit not done by Kostin & Ruffkess, no disrespect to them, and that Mr. Pompano had asked for a forensic audit based on all of the errors in payroll. There were problems in the department and she was sure he was aware of it. She looked forward to seeing how he would make sure the Town and the Board of Ed balanced every month and curious to see if worked. Mr. Centofanti stated he was there to put specific procedures into place.

There was further discussion on how the system should work and Mr. Thompson hoped to bring a report here to make everyone sure that the system was working correctly. Mr. Palladino thanked him for his input.

Mr. Palladino asked that the Board move 8.8 up on the agenda because the gentlemen were there from the School Building Committee meeting.

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

There was no discussion, abstentions or objections to the motion. Motion carries.

## **8.8 Approval of Final Plans, Project Manuals and Professional Cost Estimates for Overbrook Elementary School (Project #044-KLZV)**

Mr. Serio explained that the School Building Committee met this evening at 7 p.m. and they were here now for us to approve the final plans, project manuals and professional cost estimates for Overbrook Elementary School (Project #044-KLZV).

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Pompano stated the School Building Committee met and Paul Jorgensen, the architect from Silver/Petrucelli, and Joe D'Albero were here this evening with the final plans and cost estimates for the project we are preparing for review next week. The project had not changed since the last meeting. There were eight (8) classroom portables transported to the site and were being connected with permanent connection cords and doing minimal site work. They were completely satisfying all codes per the State of Connecticut requirements. The existing trailers fell short of the State requirements for a few things such as the sound requirements which did not meet the newer requirements. They needed to remove the HVAC and put in newer equipment which adds to the cost which was documented in our cost estimate. Mr. Palladino asked what they would be doing with the HVAC units they were taking out. Mr. Jorgensen stated that they belonged to the Board. They owned the equipment.

There was discussion regarding the appraisal that needed to come in. Mr. D'Albero explained that it had come in at \$500,000 and the second came in at \$510,800. Mr. Pompano stated that because of the efforts of the Town Hall and here, the negotiated price for those was \$200,000. Mr. Palladino asked for clarification regarding the fact that those trailers had never been sent in for reimbursement. Mr. D'Albero stated that Newtown did not get a reimbursement. Mr. Palladino said that Newtown bought them brand new and nobody ever put in for the reimbursement. Mr. Lathrop explained they had forwarded the serial numbers to the State to see if they were

reimbursed. The State did their review. **There was no written document, but he could see if they could get a written document. Mr. Palladino stated it would be nice to have it in writing.** Again, he asked if they would get the reimbursement and Mr. Lathrop responded yes.

Mr. Pompano explained that on Monday they take it to the State and then they go out to bid for a couple of weeks and once that process was complete, the architect could move forward. The work would begin in late August or early September and they would not be ready for September. **He explained that Central Office had made arrangements regarding all-day kindergarten beginning in September regardless of the portables being ready. Mrs. DePalma thought they should get that information out to the public.**

There was no further discussion, abstentions or objections to the motion. Motion carries.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Ratification of Appointments**

- **Kindergarten Teacher @ Overbrook (1)**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the appointment of Kim DeLuca who had a Master's Degree at a salary \$44,354. This was a new kindergarten position at Overbrook.

Motion was made by Mrs. Vineyard and seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

Any discussion on the motion?

There was no discussion and no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries.

- **Kindergarten Teachers @ Deer Run (2)**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the appointments of David Hendrixson who had a Master's Degree at a salary of \$44,354 and

Kelly Neuser who had a Master's Degree at a salary of \$44,354. These were new kindergarten positions at Deer Run School.

Motion was made by Mrs. DePalma and seconded by Mrs. Vineyard.

Any discussion on the motion?

There were 200 candidates that applied for the position and they interviewed 14.

There was no further discussion and no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries.

- **Grade 2 Elementary Teacher @ DC Moore**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the appointment of Lisa Scillia who had a Master's Degree at a salary \$44,354. This was a new kindergarten position with a one-year contract at D. C. Moore. This one-year contract was due to the fact that these students would be moving to Momauguin the following year and they would hopefully have sufficient staff. They would be revisiting this position.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Would this person have bumping rights over someone else? Mr. Serio stated yes, he thought they would.

There was no further discussion and no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries.

- **Special Education Summer School Staff**

Mr. Serio requested Mrs. Acquarulo go through her list of hires for the Special Education summer school staff. Mrs. Acquarulo recommended the Board accept the list in their packets. The

program starts on Monday. There were 67 youngsters showing up at Deer Run School on Monday and they would be running seven (7) classrooms.

Motion was made by Mrs. Vineyard and seconded by Mrs. DePalma.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Serio informed the Board that his daughter, Kristina Serio was on this list and he wanted them to be aware of this.

Mrs. Acquarulo explained the fact that there were two on-call nurses who were available by phone. They were not on site but lived in East Haven and could be reached by phone if need be.

There was no further discussion and no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries.

- **Fall Coach for JMMS Volleyball**

Mr. Serio requested the Board ratify the appointment of Kristen Varunes as the fall JMMS volleyball coach at EHHS.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

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

Mr. Serio requested the Board's permission to add two positions to the agenda. The first was a Grade 1 teacher at Deer Run School and the other was an FRC Parent Educator.

Motion to add was made by Mrs. Vineyard and seconded by Mrs. DePalma.

Any discussion on the motion?

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

- **Grade 1 Teacher @ Deer Run School**
- **FRC Parent Educator**

Mr. Serio requested the Board ratify the appointments of Samantha Segrue who had a Bachelor's Degree, Step 1, with a salary of \$43,413. This position was a Grade 1 teacher at Deer Run School. The reason they were adding this tonight was because the posting for this position closed today. This person was being recommended by the principal at Deer Run School.

The second position was for the FRC Parent Educator. Mr. Serio was requesting the Board ratify the appointment of Marissa Velazquez. This position carried a salary of \$30,000 and started on August 1, 2011.

Mrs. Forti explained they had a Parent Educator who was 19 ½ hours a week. They had an Operational Review by the State Department of Education in the spring. While they were not cited for anything significant, there were recommendations that we needed to strengthen this component of the program. They took language from the recommendation and used it as part of the job description. They were highly interested in someone who was bilingual because of the number of children and parents in the program who were not English speaking.

This position was grant funded. The person who held the position previously was Marlo Giogrande. Mrs. Forti explained that she had been invited to apply and she did not apply. This position did not require certification. Mrs. Bacon spoke to Marissa's qualifications. All backgrounds would be checked. Mrs. Bacon replied that all her references were checked. Mr. Lathrop stated that this employee was currently employed by the school district. This person would have an individual contract for this position with medical benefits. **Mr. Palladino stated if this was an individual contract and they were not in a union, the Board would need to see the contract prior to approving the**

**candidate. He stated there were so many benefit packages; he wanted to make sure they were on the right page.**

Motion was made by Mrs. Vineyard and seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

There was no further discussion and there were no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries.

## **8.2 Request for Approval of the Payment of Invoices:**

- **Dated July 13, 2011 for Fiscal Year 2011-12 in the Amount of \$344,926.70**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the payment of invoices dated July 13, 2011 for Fiscal Year 2011-12 in the amount of \$344,926.70.

Motion was made by Mrs. Vineyard and seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Maisano asked if the invoice dated 7/07 was accrued for or due by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lathrop explained they were for the current fiscal year. One is the payment of the second of three years for the ERIP. The first payment was made last year in early July or early August. The second set of invoices was associated with the settlement of the Carbone et al case. The initial payment for that settlement went directly to the attorney. The second set of payments, underneath the agreement, went directly to the people that were members of the case which would continue for another three years.

Any further questions or discussion? There was none.

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

### **8.3 Review and Possible Approval of 2011-12 Budget Transfers**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the budget transfers as provided in their Board packets this evening. Some of these were inter-building transactions from instructional supplies to textbooks or something of that nature. He stated that Mr. Lathrop thought that we should bring everything forward.

Mr. Pompano just had one question which was it was on the agenda for 2011-12 budget transfers and on the sheet it is 2010-11. Mr. Lathrop stated that was his error. It was a typo.

Motion was made by Mrs. Vineyard and seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

Any discussion on the motion? There was no further discussion.

Mr. Palladino asked for a roll call vote.

Mrs. DePalma	-	no
Mrs. Maisano	-	no
Mr. Pompano	-	yes
Mr. Scalesse	-	yes
Mrs. Vineyard	-	yes

Vote was three (3) in favor with two (2) opposed. Motion carries.

### **8.4 Request Permission to Cancel the July 26, 2011 and August 9, 2011 Board of Education Meetings**

Mr. Serio requested the Board's permission to cancel the July 26, 2011 and August 9, 2011 BOE meetings.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Palladino stated if they needed to have a meeting they could call a Special Meeting at any time with 24 hours' notice. Mr. Serio stated if

something came up, he would be the first to recommend something. Mr. Scalesse reminded them of the August 9<sup>th</sup> Evaluation Meeting. It was suggested it could be a Special Meeting. Mrs. DePalma stated they were going to have a Special Meeting instead of the Regular Meeting; she did not think it was the right thing to do.

Mr. Palladino asked for a roll call vote.

Mrs. DePalma	-	no
Mrs. Maisano	-	no
Mr. Pompano	-	yes
Mr. Scalesse	-	yes
Mrs. Vineyard	-	yes

Vote was three (3) in favor with two (2) opposed. Motion carries.

**8.5 Request Permission for Superintendent to Hire During the Summer**

Mr. Serio requested the Board’s permission to hire during the summer if there were openings. There were two Special Ed hires they would need to interview. There were 90 applications that were submitted. They would interview at least 10.

Motion was made by Mrs. Vineyard and seconded by Mrs. DePalma.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. DePalma stated her issue was they really can’t do it before it comes before the Board for ratification. **Mrs. Maisano stated if there were any changes in administration, she wanted them to make sure the Board was made aware of it. If someone was leaving or if they were thinking of putting someone new in a position, they wanted to know. Mr. Serio stated that was something he would bring to the Board prior to doing that.**

The interviews would be done by a committee.

There was no further discussion on the motion.

Mr. Palladino asked for a roll call vote.

Mrs. DePalma	-	no
Mrs. Maisano	-	no
Mr. Pompano	-	yes
Mr. Scalesse	-	yes
Mrs. Vineyard	-	yes

Vote was three (3) in favor with two (2) opposed. Motion carries.

### **8.6 Request Permission for Superintendent to Pay Invoices During the Summer**

Mr. Serio requested permission from the Board to pay invoices during the summer.

Motion was made by Mrs. Vineyard and seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Maisano felt that the timeframe on receiving the invoices and the time to review them was insufficient. Mr. Serio explained that they did the invoices every two weeks. Mr. Lathrop stated they could hold a check if there were any issues the Board may have. Mr. Pompano stated that this would be done via email through the Superintendent's office. Janice would send it out electronically. Mrs. DePalma wanted to explain why she was saying no to this. They were here to have meetings and they were obligated to have meetings and carry on the business of the Board. She thought they should have the meetings. Mrs. Maisano stated there were going to be more expenditures with all-day kindergarten. The public needs to realize how much we're spending. She did not feel that the invoices were given to them on a timely basis. If it was emailed, there was not enough time to review it.

Any further discussion? There was none.

Mr. Palladino asked for a roll call vote.

Mrs. DePalma	-	no
Mrs. Maisano	-	no
Mr. Pompano	-	yes
Mr. Scalesse	-	yes
Mrs. Vineyard	-	yes

Vote was three (3) in favor with two (2) opposed. Motion carries.

**8.7 Approval of the Following Field Trip:**

- **EHHS Band to U.S. Scholastic Band Assoc. National Championship in Allentown, PA on 11-12-11**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the field trip for the EHHS Band to U.S. Scholastic Band Assoc. National Championship in Allentown, PA on 11-12-11.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

A charter bus would be used for this trip.

There was no further discussion and there were no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**9.1 Any questions or comments on the Board Briefs (6-14-11 and 7-05-11)**

Any questions on the Board Briefs?

Mr. Palladino wanted to bring the Board up to date on the items he spoke about with the Town.

The first item was the bidding process for the cleaning contracts. They did get them, but very late. It was inappropriate to get them on the night of the meeting. They did table it and the date came and

went. The Town did have the right to do it. **The Business Office and our Director of Buildings and Grounds should have gotten it to us much sooner. Perhaps someone should advise them regarding the timeframe around such items and they could have an emergency meeting.** He hoped in the future these bids come to them in a very timely manner and not the night of the meeting.

Mrs. Maisano stated she couldn't agree with him more. They received these transfers on Friday for the schools and they voted on them tonight and they did not discuss the June 30<sup>th</sup> numbers. Mr. Serio explained that the transfers were for next year and we don't know where we are on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Maisano stated it was crazy to transfer money in the new fiscal year. Mrs. DePalma stated according to the policy and bylaws, they were not supposed to act on something like that. It comes before the Board; you wait two meetings and then act on it.

Mr. Pompano stated there has been a track record now of requests from this Board to the Director of Buildings and Grounds in regards to safety and cleanliness, and communications have failed. Each time it is sorry or I dropped the ball on that and it won't happen again. It's just past practice repeating itself. This was something that should have been communicated to us ahead of time to the Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee. It got dropped in his lap just the same. He would like to echo what Chairman Palladino said. They did not know and five days later the bid was going to warrant and awarded. That information should come from the person in charge of that position. **Mr. Serio stated as he gets them, he puts them in the next Board meeting. He would make sure they were in the Board packet next time and he would do some further investigation into the timeline of this to make sure it did not happen again.** This was the first time the Town went ahead and approved the bids prior to the Board approving; even if they had to ask for an extension. He was not questioning what they were saying, just wanted to know how this happened. He thought he had the leeway to give them the time they were requesting when it was tabled. **Mr. Pompano stated he could at least brief the Board. The Director could call him or email him.** That did not happen. He could have briefed the Board and they could have taken action on it that night.

Mr. Palladino stated the second thing was the old desks that were at Hays School. The Board had wanted to donate them if possible to a charitable cause. He did get permission from the Town to go ahead and do that. **The Town will not get involved with it. They won't advertise it or send out flyers. They told us to feel free to do that. Just a phone call from the Superintendent to Town Hall and public works would remove the rest of the junk with no problem.** Mrs. DePalma stated the desks were outside for the last week.

Mr. Palladino stated the other thing he was going to check into was the Murphy Security debacle. Murphy had a clause for a one-year extension provided they maintain the same rate they gave us the previous year. He had spoken to the person at Murphy and asked them why they did not bid and it was that they had that in the contract. Mr. Palladino stated he then called Town Hall and explained that because Murphy worked with us before, they were able to maintain that contract rollover to the second year.

There were some questions from the Board about how we were utilizing Murphy or not utilizing them in the summer. Mr. Serio explained that Mr. Anderson had approached him in the month of June and because there were not a lot of rentals and not much going on here, why keep the building open late at night and run the air-conditioning and so forth. We decided that we would staff security during the day with our own people as we have done in the past and close down the building between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. If there were evening events they would provide security as they had done this evening. This way they would conserve energy and save some money. It was a waste of money to have security sit here. This was not a problem with Mr. Muzzy at Murphy Security.

There was further discussion regarding the bid. Mr. Palladino stated they extended the contract with Murphy, but next year they would have to bid on it. Mrs. DePalma thought that as far as this Board was concerned, she believed he should have this building secured in the evening. It breaches security of this building. Mr. Palladino asked if the gate was getting locked. It was not. **Mr. Palladino thought that they should rethink using their own people and go back to Murphy at night to make sure the building was secured properly**

**and the gates were locked. He wanted Murphy back the way they were.**

Mr. Lathrop stated they had explored this last year and the locks had all been replaced. There was further discussion on the security of the building. There was discussion on how the new security people did not know who the Board members were and that they did not know the security people. Mrs. Maisano stated she walked in tonight and there was no one to be found. Murphy Security was always there.

**Mr. Serio asked if they were saying they wanted Murphy Security back. He stated he would put them back.**

Mrs. DePalma stated the point they were also trying to make was this was a policy and a contract that was signed with Murphy and all of a sudden everything was changed. That's not good. Mr. Palladino asked what they were saving by not having Murphy here from 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. Mr. Lathrop did a quick calculation and stated around \$8,000.

Mrs. Maisano spoke about how this Board voted to outsource this so they did not have the liability or workman's comp. Here they get rid of the cafeteria workers by outsourcing and then have our guards work and get rid of the outsourcing. Mr. Lathrop stated our guards were always schedule during the day. There was nobody from two o'clock until such time. There were a very limited amount of events.

Mr. Palladino felt it was important that the gate be locked at night. That was important that it was locked at 10 p.m. when Murphy left. Mrs. Maisano stated that \$8,000 was not a real number. The cost of our own people, the savings was \$4,000. They just spent \$8,000 on Kostin & Ruffkess. **Mr. Palladino stated they wanted to see Murphy back in the building. Mr. Serio would take care of this.**

The next thing was the bill that came up for the Middle School heating situation over the winter where they brought in George Ellis. According to the Town, when he spoke with them today, they had paid the bill. There was discussion on how the Board had paid the bill as well. **Mr. Palladino stated that first thing in the morning, they needed to call over to Town Hall and make sure they paid it.**

**They told me they did. He wanted to make sure that they were not paid twice.** Mrs. DePalma stated if the company accepted payment from both of them, we didn't want to use that company anymore. **Mr. Lathrop to get the check number and the date when it was paid.** Mr. Lathrop stated it was in their last packets.

## **10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Mr. Palladino asked if there were any questions on the informational items. There were none.

### **10.1 Correspondence**

#### **10.1.1 Resignations and Retirements**

- **Christina Serpa, Spec. Ed. Teacher @ JMMS (Resignation)**
- **Margaret Cuticello, Paraprofessional @ Tuttle (Resignation)**

#### **10.1.2 School Newsletter**

## **11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.**

## **12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

**THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – JULY 26, 2011 AND AUGUST 9, 2011 WILL BE CANCELLED.**

**THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE ON AUGUST 23, 2011. – EASTHAVEN 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 Mr. Pompano and seconded by Mrs. Vineyard. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**MR. NICHOLAS PALLADINO, CHAIRPERSON  
EAST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**