

REVISED

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

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

ABSENT: MR. PALLADINO and MR. SCALESSE

**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-Chair, Kristen Vineyard called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at the High School. She then asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES

Mrs. Vineyard asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board meeting of August 24, 2010.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no objections or abstentions to the motion. 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 no correspondence this evening.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Mr. Pompano reported the CIAC was starting their fall athletic contests and he wished the athletes and teams in each sport the best of luck.

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

Mr. Pompano and Mr. Scalesse did a walk-through of some of the buildings with Mr. Serio and Mrs. Forti. Both he and Mr. Scalesse collaborated on a couple of things and there seemed to be a lot of transportation and scheduling issues. The buildings were safe and there were positive-learning environments at all of the schools. The walk-through of the Middle School was much improved over last years. The buildings were clean which they attributed to the custodial staff. The hallways were orderly with plenty of supervision. The classrooms were a little bigger because the building was older and there were some class sizes of 25 or 26.

Mr. Pompano spoke about the lunch waves and there were four of them but they seemed to have enough room. He also stated

there was great utilization of the technology that had been put in place there. They had Smart Boards and with the STEM grant had a lot of things in place that would help take the students to the 21st Century. They were very pleased with what they saw with buildings and grounds.

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

Mrs. DePalma spoke about having a Curriculum & Instruction meeting to go over CMT's. Mrs. Forti thought that perhaps they could give a report under Special Presentations at the next Board meeting.

Mrs. DePalma mentioned that East Haven was recognized by the State for SRBI and that it was a model for the entire State. Mrs. Forti stated that the Commissioner had sent out a memo and noted a link to the State website where East Haven's plan was highlighted. The first ACES Curriculum Council meeting would be held here with local districts in the area.

Mrs. DePalma asked Mr. Serio to let her know when the next negotiation meetings would be for the secretaries and custodians because she had not heard from Attorney Dolan. Mr. Serio stated the next meeting for the secretaries would be on October 5th.

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

Mrs. Maisano said she was waiting for the June 30th year end report and Mr. Lathrop responded he would be delivering that at the next Board meeting which was on September 28th.

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

Mrs. Vineyard had no report this evening.

- **Legal/Ronald DeNuzzo, Chair**

Mr. DeNuzzo had no report this evening.

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

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

- **Personnel, Laura Kluth, Chair**

Mrs. Kluth had no report this evening.

5. REPORTS/COMMUNICATION

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

The student representatives introduced themselves and spoke highly of the new principal, Steve Anderson. So far school was going smoothly. Kelianna was on the volleyball team and both junior varsity and varsity had won their games tonight. The principal had met with each grade in an assembly to welcome the students and he greeted them in the foyer in the morning. Freshmen Orientation had taken place and the principal had delivered a good speech to them.

Rob spoke about the new Smart Boards and how “cool” they were. He was happy they had them and could not wait to be able to use one. He spoke about student schedules and how the Guidance Department was working really hard to meet everyone’s needs with the new system.

The Board wished them well this year and if they had any needs, to please tell them.

- **Superintendent and Central Office Administration**

Mr. Serio spoke about the meeting they had this evening at 6 p.m. to inform parents of what had transpired over the summer. He thanked the custodians, café workers, the bus company, the tech dept. and all those who had put in endless hours to get the system up and running. He was very pleased with the way things went with opening day except for a number of bus issues and a few other items. Things had improved drastically since Day 1. The

bus routes were too long and they would be looking at that. He would be coming to the Board to ask for additional funding for transportation to try and resolve some of the issues. When the weather changes, he wanted to make sure all of the children arrived home safely and in a timely manner. Mr. Serio spoke about the orientations and parent nights and how enthusiastic the parents were. The Meet and Greets were a big success. The Overbrook and Middle School cafeterias were upgraded and done. The solar panels and electrical services are being upgraded and would alleviate a lot of issues at the Middle School. The fiber optics was working at the Middle School and was superfast. Both he and Mrs. Forti had been in the schools on a daily basis.

Tonight they had taken down the parents' concerns and would share those with the building principals at tomorrow's meeting. The district suggestions would be addressed. They had spoken with some parents after the meeting and he would get back to them as soon as he had the answers.

Mrs. DePalma felt the parents had come out this evening to get answers to their questions. She had asked that this be part of their agenda. She felt badly for these people because they deserved this. The people needed time to come up and ask a question and get an answer quickly. People were missing work to deal with bus issues, etc.

Mrs. Kluth agreed because some of the parents left that meeting at 6 p.m. and had come to this meeting. She too felt they deserved answers and they deserved them now. The bus company was still here ready to answer the people. Mrs. Kluth proposed an idea she had about running the buses on a north/south schedule instead of the way it was being done now. This would cut the routes and the kids would not have to spend three hours on a bus a day.

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

Mr. Palladino was unavailable this evening and Mrs. Vineyard did not have any comments.

6. COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC

Barbara Spears, 5 Karen Way, did not like the answers she was getting from the Middle School guidance department regarding 6th grade being an “exploratory year”. She spoke about PE and computers being offered for only one quarter each at the Middle School for 6th graders and two quarters for 7th and 8th graders. Then they had no physical education for the rest of the year. She had a problem with that. She had told Debbie in guidance of her concerns and was told that there was not enough staff. Mrs. Forti stated she could respond to her in writing on this issue.

Pam CoFrancesco, 54 Green Street, spoke about the same issue at the Middle School and the fact that they had library 5 days a week which she believed they did not need. They also had study hall all year long and gym and computers for one semester. She was told the Academy kids were going to have gym all year long. This was not fair because if their kids only had it for one semester it should be the same for the Academy students. She had contacted the State regarding this. Mrs. DePalma felt that all kids should have it for the whole year. Mrs. CoFrancesco had asked the Board for a schedule from the Academy and never received it. Mrs. DePalma stated she had asked for a schedule as well.

Lena Travers, Laurel Street, said she had sent an email out to all of the Board members but some had bounced back. She had spoken with Ms. Forti and she explained to her what was going on. Mrs. Travers stated she told Ms. Forti she did not agree with going on with these “exploratory programs”. She also did not feel that they needed library or a free period. Mrs. Travers thought that the free period could be used for computers or gym. The free period was study hall. She spoke about chorus and band and how it used to be an after-school program. Her daughter had chorus every day and then they took that away and gave her a study period. She had also heard that the 7th and 8th graders from the Academy were using our gym. They use it during our free periods. When they use it, her 6th grader was not getting gym.

Patrick Madley, 351 Strong Street, spoke about the opening of school and how he had enjoyed it. He stated there were scheduling issues at the high school and how this affected students especially for the juniors and seniors because they were very important years. Sometimes these issues did not get resolved for 4 weeks. He stated the new Power School program was supposed to be easier to use and it was harder to use. He talked about the guidance changing the procedures to be seen and how you cannot get an appointment for days. He was appalled and disappointed with the guidance staff. He felt this was a very serious problem.

Mrs. DePalma spoke about asking for a mock schedule because parents had called her with concerns such as phone calls not being answered. She did not believe any child should have gym for only one quarter of the year. They had promised the people in Town that they would support the Middle School. Mrs. Kluth stated they had told them they would not lose anything but they would gain.

Mrs. DePalma suggested they have a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting to see what the curriculum was in these areas.

Lena Travers, spoke again about her meeting with Ms. Forti and how Ms. Forti told her the Middle School was fully staffed. She did agree with Ms. Forti that each classroom had a teacher but she did not think there was enough staff for the 6th grade. If they had enough, then none of this would be happening. She did not have a problem with the full-year courses but gym and computers were not considered specials. Ms. Forti did tell her though that she would take all of her suggestions into consideration for next year. She stated her child could not learn on a two-month basis but needed to learn repetitively throughout the year.

There was some discussion on foreign language, Spanish, and how this was offered and which timeframe was best for students to retain what they learn.

Mrs. DePalma spoke about having a meeting to go over what was needed at the Middle School and make changes if they could possibly be made.

Mrs. Vineyard stated they should let Central Office work out the problems and questions parents have and get back to the Board.

There was discussion on whether there were classrooms that were not being utilized at the Middle School. All of the spaces were being used at the Middle School. **Mrs. Kluth did not want to meet to have a presentation with a slide show. She felt it should be set up next week to listen to them as individuals.**

Mr. Serio explained there were three open houses next week, one for each grade.

Mr. Hennessey stated they had lost a lot of staff over the last two years. The grant they found out about last week was really a grant for replacing staff. They should not have staffing problems. Mr. Serio responded this was a scheduling problem, not a staffing problem.

Mr. Serio explained they had done the best they could with what they had. They could revisit it if the Board was unhappy. They were trying to do this with the least disruption. Mrs. Forti explained that they had answers to all of these questions but needed to do this with a bigger cohort of parents and share it amongst a larger group of adults in a forum that would be most meaningful to them. Mrs. Vineyard stated that these items could be addressed at the open houses at the Middle School.

Donna Palmer, Academy parent, wanted this Academy vs. the Middle School to end. She stated she sympathized and totally agreed with them. They had Spanish and it was taken away from them. She would like it throughout the whole district as well as having gym throughout the year. She agreed there should not be a study period in 6th grade, but when her son has 2 ½ hours of homework, it makes sense to have a study period. She did not want animosity. When she hears, “they are using our gym” it makes the kids upset. Mrs. Palmer was surprised to hear Mrs. Kluth, an elected Board member, say if anyone should use that gym, it should be the Middle School kids. Mrs. Palmer stated that they should all use the gym. This was why they were where they are today. She agreed

with a lot of the Middle School parents but it should be equal for all of the kids.

Mrs. Kluth explained that what she was saying was that before the 3rd and 4th and 5th graders get it, the Middle School kids should get it all year. If there were empty classrooms at the Academy, there would be more room for these kids to have everything all year. She stated she did not say anything about the Academy.

Laura Dellarocca, 7 Manor Road, stated she had not looked at her children's schedule totally but stated they were in music and choir again and her son does not sing. They should get rid of music and band during the day. She felt that their kids needed gym.

Marilyn Vitale, 47 Forest Street, spoke about having a ceremony for retired teachers so they could be recognized with a small token of appreciation. She stated that Mrs. Forti had stated she would look into this. Mrs. Vitale spoke about there being no mention of the electrical problem at the Middle School and wanted to know if it was being addressed. Mr. Travaglino stated that this was a School Building Committee issue. It was an addendum to the solar panels to upgrade them in the system. Mrs. DePalma stated it was part of the original package. She believed it was addressed when they knew they were going to add all of the other students. **Mr. Lathrop explained that Stan Seliga was unable to be here this evening to give a report, but would be here to report it at the next meeting.**

Mrs. Vitale stated she would also like to comment on the report from the police department. She stated she had spent her own hard money through the Freedom of Information and she had read through the investigation. There was something in there that upset her because that whole investigation was based on an anonymous letter. She did not believe in anonymous letters; if people could not sign their name to it, she would not honor it. She hoped they were not spending money on lawyers and reports on anonymous letters.

7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS – None.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Any questions or comments on the Board Briefs (8-24-10)

Mr. DeNuzzo asked Mr. Serio if he had checked into the criteria for the stimulus package and whether or not they had to use the money in one year or could they carry it over. Mr. Serio stated they could carry it over for two years. Mr. DeNuzzo asked for confirmation that what they don't use this year, they don't have to give back. Mr. Serio stated that was correct. Mrs. Maisano asked how much it was for and Ms. Forti replied it was for \$1,097,000.

Mrs. Maisano asked about the planners at Tuttle School. Mrs. Travers stated she had a letter in the process for the Board with a copy of the invoice. She stated Mrs. Ruff had told her to do this.

Mrs. Maisano asked about the Durant Nichols Houston bill and if there were any changes made. Mr. Serio stated there would be no change in the bill. Mrs. Maisano stated that she still wanted this to remain tabled then and it would remain unpaid.

Mrs. Maisano asked where they were with Kostin & Ruffkess. Mr. Serio believed that they never did any work, so there would be no bill. Mr. Lathrop stated he would void the check and the fiscal year remains open with that purchase order with an unexpended balance. No additional information would be sent. There was discussion on this being for errors that were made and how Kostin & Ruffkess wanted information on the grants which had been their only concern at that time.

Mr. Serio explained that Kostin & Ruffkess' availability to look at the information was not until mid-June and at that point it was too late. Mr. Lathrop explained that the check was held until services were rendered or not rendered and the fiscal year remained open at the Board's request. Mrs. DePalma asked if they had anything in writing stating that that was not happening. Mr. Lathrop deferred this to the Superintendent and Mr. Serio stated he did not have anything.

Mrs. Maisano stated that she wanted to go on record that this should have been done and done for a lot less.

Mrs. Maisano wanted to know what the status was on the Teacher on Special Assignment at the Middle School. How many interviews were being done and how many applicants?

Mr. Serio stated at this time there was no action at this time because he had not been updated on any stipend positions. They closed on Thursday. This was only open to internal candidates.

Any further questions on the Board Briefs? There were none.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Ratification of Appointments

- **Family and Consumer Science Teacher @ EHHS**

Mr. Serio requested the Board ratify the appointment of Dennis Dorio as the replacement Family & Consumer Science teacher at EHHS.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Hennessey thought they had hired someone for this position at the last meeting. Mr. Serio replied that he had resigned.

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

It was decided to do all of the hires at this point as a group.

Mr. Serio requested the Board ratify the appointments of the following people in the following positions and state whether they were a new hire, reappointment or recall.

- **Family & Consumer Science Teacher @ EHHS**
 - Cheryl Vallario (New Position)
- **English Instructional Leader @ EHHS**
 - Lisa Veleas (Replacement)
- **Special Education ABA Support @ Deer Run**
 - Susan Capezzone (Replacement)
- **Hall Monitor @ EHHS**
 - Angelo Baldino (Replacement)
- **ELL Aides (Reappointments) (Attached to Minutes)**
- **Instructional Aides (Reappointments) (Attached to Minutes)**
- **Instructional Aides Pre-K & Kindergarten (Reapptmts.) – (Attached to Minutes)**
- **Special Education Aides (Reappointments) – (Attached)**
- **Technology Teacher at Deer Run/Overbrook (Recall)**
 - Davia Burke
- **Music Teacher @ JMMS (Recall)**
 - Shawna Coste
- **Spanish Teacher @ JMMS (Recall)**
 - Maria DeSarbo
- **.4 Music Teacher @ DC Moore (Recall)**
 - Matthew Laudano
- **Grade 3 Teacher @ Ferrara (Recall)**
 - Stephanie Sawyer
- **Assistant Boy's Soccer Coach @ EHHS (New Apptmt.)**
 - Nathaniel Bradshaw

- **Pom Pom Coach @ EHHS (New Apptmt.)**
 - Erica Marini
- **Varsity Football Assistant Coach @ EHHS**
 - Rob Belevich
- **Freshman Assistant Football Coach @ EHHS**
 - Rich Ranciato
- **JMMS Girl's Soccer Coach @ EHHS**
 - Karen O'Leary
- **JMMS Boy's Soccer Coach @ EHHS**
 - Kathleen Doheny
- **.4 Speech/Language Pathologist @ EH Academy/JMMS**
 - Barbara Laudano (rehire)
- **.4 Speech/Language Pathologist @ Tuttle**
 - MaryJean DeFilippo (rehire)

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no objections to the motion. There was one (1) abstention which was Mrs. Vineyard. Motion carries.

9.2 Request for Approval of the Payment of Invoices:

- **Dated September 15, 2010 for Fiscal Year 2009-10 in the Amount of \$1,474,110.82**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the payment of invoices dated September 15, 2010 for Fiscal Year 2010-11 in the amount of \$1,474,110.82.

Mrs. Vineyard asked for a motion.

Motion was made by Mrs. Kluth and seconded by Mrs. Maisano.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Maisano asked if they could get this a little sooner than Friday.

D'Amato, Peter – This was for the refinishing of the gym floors. This had been rebid.

Cengage Learning – Math textbooks for the high school

D.F.G Electric – This was for 220-volt outlet in the new teachers' room at the middle school.

Internal Revenue Service – This was for uncollected and unpaid Medicare taxes for a three-year period where employees' Medicare was not taken out. The check for \$138,000 needed to go out by Friday in order to avoid paying any penalties.

There was discussion on the amount being incorrect, but when calculated out, the amount was correct. This was a full and final settlement. The Town was not picking up any part of this because all of the employees were Board of Education employees.

There was discussion on the W9 forms that employees had to fill out and get back to him. Mr. Lathrop explained the reason this went to employees who work here was because one of the concerns the auditors had was they had requested a register of all payments made in 2008 and the W9's they had on file. They were missing some W9's and Mr. Lathrop's staff and Central Office staff worked together and did a mass mailing to all of our vendors and those employees who get reimbursement.

Mrs. Kluth is out of the room at this time.

UI – Why was the bill at Hays higher in the summer than at Tuttle? Hays School had the Little Jackets in it during the summer.

W.B. Mason – This was for paper.

Any further questions? There were none.

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

9.3 Approval of Out-of-State Field Trips:

- **EHHS Marching Band to Big E, CT Day Parade on 9/22/10**
- **EHHS Marching Band to Allentown, PA on 11/06/10**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the above-mentioned field trips.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

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

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

Any discussion on the informational items? Mrs. DePalma stated she had read the letter to Mr. Travaglino from Meyer's Moving Company and stated it was a much deserved letter. She thanked Mr. Travaglino and the custodians for a great job.

Mrs. Kluth returned to the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements

- **Grade 3 Teacher, Ruth McDonald @ Ferrara (Retirement)**

10.1.2 School Enrollment Report for September 2010

10.1.3 School Calendar for September 2010

10.1.4 IRS Audit Notification of Town

**10.1.5 Letter from Joseph Travaglino to William B. Meyer
Moving Company**

10.1.6 FYI – New Hire List for 2010-11

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

**THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION – SEPTEMBER 28, 2010 – 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 8:38 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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