

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN, CT
EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: MR. PALLADINO, MRS. DEPALMA, MR. DENUZZO,
MR. HENNESSEY, MRS. KLUTH, MRS. MAISANO and
MR. POMPARNO

ABSENT: MR. SCALESSE and MRS. VINEYARD
MRS. KAREN SCHMIDT, ADMIN.

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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Palladino called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Boardroom at the High School. He then asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES

Mr. Palladino asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board meeting of July 27, 2010.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no objections to the motion. There was one (1) abstention which was Mr. DeNuzzo. 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**

Mr. Pompano had no report.

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

Mr. Pompano spoke about the solar panels at the different schools. There would be some savings coming up. The move according to Mr. Travaglino was going smoothly and they should be all set for the opening day of school.

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

Mrs. DePalma had nothing to report on for curriculum. They had met this evening to give an update on negotiations.

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

Mrs. Maisano had no report for finance. **A grants subcommittee had been planned but was cancelled. A grants subcommittee would be set up sometime in September.**

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

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

- **Legal/Ronald DeNuzzo, Chair**

Mr. DeNuzzo stated they had met with Attorney Dolan 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**

The student representatives are not present during the summer. They did have the names of the two representatives that would start in September.

- **Superintendent and Central Office Administration**

Mr. Serio introduced the new principals to the Board. At Momauguin it was Joanne Manginelli; Jackie Bacon at D. C. Moore; and Paul DeBernardo at Ferrara School. Steve Anderson was not available this evening, but he was the new principal at the high school. He would be here starting on August 16th because his district had held him an additional week. Mr. Serio stated he was sure they would all be proud of their selections and thanked them all.

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

Mr. Palladino apologized for not being able to attend the last meeting due to illness. He had not made the breakfast this

morning for personal reasons and he apologized to the new principals regarding this.

6. COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC

Laurie Bradley, was currently an ELL instructor at D.C. Moore in the Family Resource Center. She had worked there for the past five (5) years and stated she felt she had the job qualifications and experience for the position they were hiring for tonight as the Lead Teacher. She had heard various things in Town regarding this position and that who they were hiring was already predetermined. She also heard that they were waiting for her to show up for her interview which she had never been asked to interview for this position. So she had never cancelled the interview. She felt she should have received a “fair shot” at the job she had applied for.

Laura Dellarocca, was the President of Deer Run PTA/PTO. She spoke about how there used to be liaisons that came to listen to them at each of their schools. Mrs. Vineyard and the Board had said several times that there were going to be meetings for the PTA’s and nothing had ever happened. Ms. Dellarocca spoke about previous Board meetings when Mrs. Vineyard had said they were going to have meetings and they never met. She felt that Mrs. Vineyard did not attempt to get in touch with them and that the Connect Ed system could have been used. She had heard that there might be another meeting on August 17th to go over stuff. She also felt that the Board did not have the right to tell the PTA/PTO’s how to spend their money.

Mr. Palladino assured her this was not the case and it had not been said at the last meeting. He stated it was hearsay and that their meetings were posted with the Town Hall and on the website and they follow all of the Freedom of Information rules. There was discussion about a meeting that had been posted on Face Book. It did not say it was a Board of Education meeting but a PTA/PTO meeting in the Boardroom. **Ms. Dellarocca would like to be notified of the meetings like they had been in years past.** There was discussion on the \$3,000 amount that Mr. Lathrop had stated each PTA/PTO may get to have the community for each school get together for what some thought was a “party”. Ultimately, it was thought this money could be put to better use. Mrs. Kluth stated that

the parents raise their own funds and she would like to see them hire a reading aide that could go to each school for the \$24-25,000. It was a nice thought. Mr. Lathrop felt it was up to the Board what they wanted to do. Mr. Palladino felt they would see how things rolled out with the PTO's and if they needed help, they could see if there was money in the grant for that seeing as that grant was specifically for those types of things.

Ms. Dellarocca was curious about where those monies in the grant were spent prior to this. Every year Deer Run parents buy the students planners, pencil boxes, etc. and she would rather see the money spent on these types of items.

Pam CoFrancesco, stated she was not looking for publicity at these meetings. She was not here for that and did not play politics. She was here for the kids in Town. Ms. CoFrancesco spoke about all of the meetings where Mrs. Vineyard spoke about having a meeting. She then proceeded to list each date and what was said about each PTA/PTO meeting that might take place. They never had a meeting.

There was discussion on a meeting that would be set up for August 17th. A Connect Ed message would be sent out regarding the meeting. One would be sent out this week and then one the Monday before the meeting. The Board members wanted to make sure this happened and that there would be a meeting. Mr. Palladino stated that Mrs. Vineyard would be back on Friday.

Mrs. Forti wanted to let all of the parents know that there was a new feature that would allow them to register their emails on the district website so they could receive communications from the Superintendent and herself. Mr. Serio stated it would also allow the school administration to contact the parents through email. This was being done through Power School.

Amanda Nacca, wanted to share her experience with the Superintendent's Office. She was a first-time parent of a child going to Pre-K at DC Moore. She had called the Superintendent's office five times and on Tuesday, she called and let it ring 26 times. There was no voice mail and this was at 1:30 p.m. Then she called the next week regarding start and end times. She needed to know when

she had to pick him up and drop him off so she knows when she can go back to work. No one ever called her back and she never heard back from anyone. She called the next week and asked to speak to the Superintendent and never heard anything back.

Mr. Serio stated he had never received a message that she had called. They were still working on things for Pre-K.

There was discussion on the starting times and Mr. Lathrop suggested that he go downstairs and get a “Draft” copy of the times which he proceeded to do. The Board felt that the parents needed a definite answer. Mr. Lathrop explained that the bus routes would be posted on the website by next Friday. Not this Friday, but the following one. They could post the schedules by the beginning of next week. They wanted to make sure the information was in the new principals’ hands.

Mr. Serio stated he would call Mrs. Nacca regarding the times for Pre-K. Mr. Serio explained that the starting times were driven by the bus company. They needed to make sure the runs work. Every year they monitor the buses for at least two weeks. They had been working on this for several months now and it was one of the more complicated things they do. Mrs. Kluth asked that they move quickly on getting the times out.

7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS – None.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Any questions or comments on the Board Briefs (7-27-10)

There were no questions or comments this evening.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Ratification of Appointments

- **Tech/Engineering Teacher @ EHHS**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Tracey Ormond as the tech/engineering replacement teacher at EHHS with a Masters +1; Step 6.

There was discussion on the Stem position at the Middle School which had been filled. Mrs. Forti explained the person who was in this position had taken the instruction necessary to teach that course.

Mrs. Noonan spoke about the interview process regarding the tech/engineering position and how this person was highly recommended.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

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

- **Special Education Psychologist @ East Haven Academy**

Mr. Serio asked Mrs. Acquarulo to present the two special education hires.

Mrs. Acquarulo recommended the Board approve the appointment of Stephanie Matarese as a .6 special education psychologist at East Haven Academy.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

How many applicants did they have? There were 30 and they interviewed 11.

Any further discussion? There was none.

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

- **Special Education Psychologist @ D. C. Moore**

Mrs. Acquarulo recommended the Board approve the appointment of Jennifer O'Dwyer as a special education psychologist at D. C. Moore School.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

How many applicants were for this position? Mrs. Acquarulo responded there was a pool of 30 applicants for these two positions. Who was on the committee? Mrs. Acquarulo responded herself, Connie Falcone and Julie Gordon-Buccitti.

Any further discussion? There was none.

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

- **Family Resource Center Lead Teacher**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Maryann D'Auria as a Lead Teacher at the Family Resource Center.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. DePalma thought there needed to be further discussion on this matter and that they needed to look at the procedures for hiring new personnel. She recommended they table this.

Mrs. Kluth stated there was no CT certification and Mr. Serio responded the position was not a certified position.

Mrs. Maisano asked how many applicants there were and it was stated there were 28. They only interviewed three.

There was further discussion on looking at their hiring practices.

Mrs. Kluth wanted to know who decides who gets interviewed. Mrs. Forti responded it was the person who chairs the committee. The interview committee consisted of Mary Varunes, Karen Schmidt and Jen Sicigiano. The process included a paper screening to see if they held the proper credentials.

Motion to table this item was made by Mrs. DePalma and seconded by Mrs. Maisano.

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

- **Family Resource Center Teacher Assistant (Part-time)**

Mr. Serio stated there was no action required on this item tonight.

Mr. Serio requested the Board add another hire to tonight's agenda for a district ELL teacher.

Motion to add 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.

- **District ELL Teacher**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Dyanne D'Angelo as a district ELL teacher. This was a replacement for Paul DeBernardo who had taken the position of principal at Ferrara School.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

How many applicants were there? Mrs. Forti believed there were two qualified applicants and both were interviewed. A third candidate had dropped out.

There was discussion on the new law that would take place in 2011 regarding ELL aides teaching classes. This would no longer be allowed. They would probably need another three teachers next year. Mrs. Forti did not believe they would allow foreign language teachers to teach this either. The interviews for this ELL position took place on Monday.

Any further discussion? There was none.

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

Mr. Lathrop had not returned to the meeting by this time so the Board decided to go ahead to item 9.4 and go into Executive Session.

Motion to go into Executive Session was made by Mr. Pompano and seconded by Mrs. DePalma.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

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

Adjourned Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.
Convened Executive Session at 8:02 p.m.
Adjourned Executive Session at 8:54 p.m.

The Board took action on 9.4 coming out of Executive Session.

9.4 Possible Action on Principal Position at Tuttle School

Mr. Serio requested the Board ratify the appointment of Anita Ruff to the temporary principal ship position not to exceed 60 days at Tuttle School.

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

Any discussion on the motion? 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 August 11, 2010 for Fiscal Year 2009-10 in the Amount of \$190,808.89**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the payment of invoices dated August 11, 2010 for Fiscal Year 2009-10 in the amount of \$190,808.89.

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

(Mrs. Kluth left the meeting at 8:55 p.m.)

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Maisano questioned some of the invoices. The purchase orders for this past year should be complete by August 31st. There would be another set of bills for August 24th. There were outstanding bills for approximately \$900,000. One of the payments was to the Town in the amount of \$664,000 for medical. They had not finalized the bills last year until

September. Mr. Lathrop expected that the only thing that might be outstanding would be maybe an order for textbooks that might not have been checked into a building.

Durant, Nichols, Houston - There was discussion on the Durant bill for March in the amount of \$13,465. There was a June bill that would be coming to the Board for around \$16,000 for Durant as well. Mrs. Maisano stated that even though the cases were gone, they were still paying on them because of the settlements. They would be paying over \$30,000 a year for the next five years on this one case.

Mr. Hennessey felt that sometimes they were spending \$10,000 on a case for something that was \$500. The Durant bill had been held by Mr. Serio to see if he could get it reduced and he had not been successful. Mr. Lathrop stated they had agreed to reduce the April bill for the hours the two attorneys had shown up by half.

There was some discussion on the cost of the case with CHRO. This case had finally been settled.

Mr. DeNuzzo said his issue with this bill was that they charged the Board for emails that they send us and bill us every time there was a call for a few minutes. He had a problem with that. Mr. Serio stated there were several bills that they had reduced over time.

Seward & Monde - There was discussion on the Seward and Monde bill (\$6,600) for the Medicare error. Mr. Lathrop explained that this issue had been addressed during the budgetary process when the Superintendent had presented his Board of Education budget and \$300,000 had been put there to cover that. Mrs. Maisano wanted to know why this purchase order had not come to the Board especially with it being over the \$4,000 amount. Mrs. Maisano wanted to know who had picked Seward and Monde and Mr. Lathrop replied that it was Tom.

Mr. Pompano was not in the room at this time (9:11 p.m.).

Mrs. Maisano wanted to know when this PO was approved and Mr. Lathrop stated it was in June. Mrs. Maisano did not recall seeing it at all. There was further discussion on this and Mr. Lathrop stated he had agreed with Mr. Thompson to accept the liability of \$6,600 for this. Mrs. Maisano asked Mr. Serio if he knew about Mr. Lathrop assuming the financial impact for the Board because they had not been told about the \$6,600 PO. Mr. Serio stated he did know about the Medicare liability. Mrs. Maisano asked if he knew about the cost of his handling for this. Mr. Serio stated he did not know about the PO but he probably pushed it through, yes, so he must have had that discussion with him. Mrs. Maisano asked Mr. Lathrop if the Town had refused to share any liability of this and he responded that it was our mistake. Mr. Serio stated someone made this mistake many, many years ago.

There was further discussion on the costs involved in this matter. This was for a time period of approximately three years encompassing 12 quarters. The amount was about \$175,000 for three years of liability and interest from a liability standpoint.

Mr. Pompano returned at 9:16 p.m.

Mr. Lathrop explained that the second impact of this was the handling of the correspondence with the IRS which was voluminous. If they missed one piece of correspondence, they were on the hook for the liability of the penalties. Involving a CPA would help to get the penalties waived. Mr. Lathrop did not know yet if Seward and Monde was successful in eliminating the penalties of interest. He would know that most likely during the fiscal year. Our liability number was \$175,000 based on three full years of quarters for 26 employees.

Mr. Hennessey asked who was paying the employees' portion. Mr. Lathrop explained that \$175,000 was budgeted for both the employees and employer. Mr. Hennessey stated that it did not sound right to him because the employee portion did not have a statute of limitations. Mr. Lathrop stated it was for Medicare

quarters, not Social Security. Mr. Lathrop stated he felt they had the right people doing this.

Mrs. Maisano wanted to know if she was right saying that anything over \$4,000 should have been brought to the Board. She stated she would like clarification on this. Mrs. DePalma wanted to know if Mr. Lathrop was advised not to come to the Board with this. Mr. Lathrop explained that he had met with Mr. Thompson and discussed what vendors they would choose to do this service.

Mrs. DePalma asked Mr. Lathrop whether he was advised not to bring this to the Board and he responded no. He did not think he had to bring this before the Board of Education.

Mrs. Maisano stated that \$175,000 worth of liability and hiring Seward and Monde to be our advocate to make this better – than she did think the Board had every right to know this was happening and did, in fact, believe that there was a policy in place that a PO over \$4,000 should have been approved.

Mrs. Maisano did believe that Mr. Thompson brought this to the Board of Finance if this was a Town issue.

Mr. Palladino wanted to make sure that things like this come to them in the future. There were some State Statutes that dictate that a Board of Education, if monies are misappropriated, they could be held liable for that. In the future, make it a point to bring it to the Board's attention before taking any action on it.

Shipman & Goodwin dates their invoices 15 days after they bill for it.

Any other questions? There were none.

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

- **Dated August 11, 2010 for Fiscal Year 2010-11 in the Amount of \$2,316,163.89**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the payment of invoices dated August 11, 2010 for Fiscal Year 2010-11 in the amount of \$2,316,163.89.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Blackboard Connection – This was for the Connect Ed system and it was at a cost of approximately \$3 per student.

East Haven Athletics – Why were they transferring \$11,500 into this if there was already \$8,000? There was discussion regarding this and it was decided to transfer the funds into the account which was used to pay officials.

Piscatelli – Why was there two month's worth of payments? They were not paid in July. This lease was up in December. They needed to be notified in February. Mr. Palladino stated we would rather use our own buildings because it is cheaper right now.

Ikon – This was a request to use the monies, \$2,600, to buy approximately six (6) network interface cards.

Mr. Serio left the room at this time (9:34 p.m.)

Mr. Serio returned at 9:36 p.m.

Pens R Us – This was for positive behavior support at the Middle School. They give them out as rewards to students.

Any further discussion? There was none.

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

9.3 Discussion and Approval of Whitson's Contract Extension

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve Whitson's Contract extension.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Lathrop explained this was a 5-year contract with four one-year extensions. They were executing one of one-year renewals with an increase of 1.7% on both the management fee and the administrative fee. The CPI increase was according to the Northeast CPI factor.

Mrs. Maisano asked what the contract period was. Mr. Lathrop stated one year starting July 1st which was retroactive.

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

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no informational items on the agenda.

10.1 Correspondence (None)

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1 Discussion of Principal Position for Tuttle School

There was discussion on the position of principal for Tuttle School.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session was made by Mr. Pompano and seconded by Mrs. DePalma.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

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

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – AUGUST 24, 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 Mr. Pompano and seconded by Mrs. DePalma.

There was no discussion on the motion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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