

**EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008  
7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** MRS. VITALE, MR. DENUZZO, MR. FINKLE, MRS. GERACI-ANASTASIO, MR. HAMMELL, MR. HENNESSEY, MR. INGLESE, MRS. PADUA and MRS. VINEYARD

**ALSO PRESENT:** MR. ANTHONY SERIO, SUPERINTENDENT  
MR. FRANK MEOLI, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
MR. ARTHUR MARTORELLA, ADMIN. CONSULTANT TO SUPT.  
MRS. MARY ACQUARULO, DIRECTOR OF PUPIL SERVICES  
MR. JOSEPH TRAVAGLINO, DIRECTOR OF BLDGS. & GROUNDS  
MR. PAUL RIZZA, FINANCE DIRECTOR  
MRS. PATRICIA LEWIS, FINANCE MANAGER

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Vitale, Chairperson of the Board, called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. in the Boardroom at the high school.

**2. MINUTES**

Mrs. Vitale asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes for the regular Board meeting of August 26, 2008.

Motion was made by Mr. Finkle and seconded by Mr. Hammell.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Any objections to the motion? There were none. Any abstentions to the motion? There was one (1) abstention which was Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio.

Vote was eight (8) in favor with one (1) abstention. Motion carries. The minutes were approved.

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Chairperson, Mrs. Marilyn Vitale**

Mrs. Vitale had received a letter that had been hand-delivered by the Honorable Mayor Capone Almon and she had requested it be read under correspondence. Mrs. Vitale then read the letter to the public (letter attached to minutes).

- **Superintendent, Mr. Anthony Serio**

Mrs. Vitale stated she would like Mr. Serio or Mr. Meoli to respond to the letter that was just read. Mr. Serio stated before receiving that letter late this evening just prior to the Board meeting, he had put together a report to go over under reports and communications. Mr. Serio spoke about the professional development for principals/administrators and secretaries that was happening tomorrow to go over purchasing procedures; he spoke about the residency hearing tomorrow night; **this evening he was going to request a subcommittee for Buildings & Grounds at their next meeting in the month to go over some investigations they had been doing in order to get information on how they could better utilize their facilities in East Haven.**

They had secured some information from NESDEC and they would gladly survey their buildings for a fee. He wanted to find out what would be the best reconfigurations of their schools or possibly re-appropriation of how they use their buildings in the district. **He had asked Mr. Meoli to formulate a committee to try to get this going with input from administration and school personnel as well as information on how this would affect the community because it could affect the community schools.**

He had secured an application for the possibility of investigating putting a magnet school in 200 Tyler Street, not only East Haven students, but others along the shoreline. Mr. Serio spoke further about magnet schools. The intention was not to de-house the Academy – that was not the plan. Mr. Serio spoke about a couple of options. Reimbursement was based on the number of students per square foot that would be housed in that building.

Mr. Serio stated the ED049's and roofing projects should be moving forward. There were four roofs and solar panels that would be coming up during this coming summer. The ED049 for Tuttle School was being processed. They would be securing a new roof for Tuttle School or at least repairing it; whatever they could get reimbursed for.

Mr. Meoli stated that Mr. Serio had asked him to assemble a committee in consultation with him and the Chairperson. He would be inviting people within the next seven days and then set up a meeting. Mrs. Anastasio stated she would not be here and asked if they could hold that subcommittee until after she returned on the third. Mrs. Vitale stated she did not think they could put it off. Mr. Serio stated one

of the most important things to do, it was vital that this Board be the first to know what initiatives the Board of Education and Central Office had investigated. He had not shared a lot of these investigations and he wanted the Board to know he had taken it upon himself to look at them. East Haven had been an area of high tech for many, many years. He felt this was a direction they could look at and somehow incorporate some of the trades that would go along with high tech.

Mr. Serio spoke about the opening of schools on the first day and how “eerily” quiet it had been.

**There was further discussion on the meeting and Mr. Meoli stated they would invite committee members and Board members. Mrs. Vitale asked that he make sure they invite all the proper people such as members of the Mayor’s staff and town.**

Mr. Serio explained that to make these kinds of changes, the first thing you had to consider was the educational soundness of the program/s you wanted to put in or establish in East Haven. It was not about securing funding to do a building project. They needed to do a reconfiguration for a dual purpose. The main thing they wanted to do was make sure they were educationally sound programs and then that they benefitted kids. These were very sensitive issues. Redistricting could be upsetting to the parents. There would be people that would rebel against it.

Mr. Serio stated he was willing to seek this type of information and share it with the Board and move forward. It was not always as fast a process as you would like it to be. If it was not done properly, it could be very disastrous for the Superintendent of that community or for anyone that runs for political office in that community. They needed to follow State and Federal guidelines. They also needed to make sure it was something they really wanted to do and move forward.

**Mr. Hennessey stated they needed to come up with some guidelines regarding the number of students, teachers and budget size.** He didn’t want it to be a “free for all”. There was further discussion on this. Mr. Hennessey stated they had 3,700 kids and you should need about 150 teachers. They probably had 300. He felt this was really distorted. Mr. Hennessey also spoke about Mr. Serio and Mr. Meoli focusing on this big project and how other things tend to get pushed to the wayside. He didn’t like that. They should be checking on principals and schools instead of spending their time on rehabbing a school. Mrs. Vitale stated that Mr. Meoli was going to get a committee together.

#### **4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Athletic Oversight, Mr. Inglese, Chair**

Mr. Inglese had no report this evening.

- **Building and Grounds, Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio, Chair**

A subcommittee meeting would be held on September 23, 2008. Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio asked them to let her know the availability of information from NESDEC. Mrs. Vitale asked if this subcommittee would be held prior to the regular meeting or after. The meeting would take place after the regular meeting.

- **Curriculum & Instruction, Mr. Finkle, Chair**

Mr. Finkle stated he would like to have a meeting about their reading in the district and what they were doing and possibly tying that in some way to some of the successful programs they had done in math. **Mr. Finkle stated he would like to have this meeting no later than the meeting after next which was October 14<sup>th</sup>.**

- **Finance, Mr. Hennessey, Chair**

Mr. Hennessey had no report this evening.

- **Food Service, Mrs. Vineyard, Chair**

Mrs. Vineyard stated that she and Mrs. Padua met tonight in subcommittee in order to get some information to the ladies that were there tonight.

- **Grants, Mr. Hammell, Chair**

Mr. Hammell had no report this evening.

- **Legal/Negotiations, Mr. Hammell, Chair**

Mr. Hammell stated they would have a special meeting tomorrow night and Thursday night. **Mr. Serio explained there would be a residency hearing tomorrow night and a Special Board meeting Thursday night at 7 p.m. to review a legal matter as it pertained to the Carbone retired administrators litigation.** All Board members were asked if they could attend. Mrs. Padua was unsure.

- **Policies and Bylaws, Mr. DeNuzzo, Chair**

Mr. DeNuzzo asked Mr. Martorella if they were going over the policies yet. Mr. Martorella stated he had not begun that at this time. There was some discussion on how some of the policies had been changed over the years. **Mrs. Vitale stated she would like to see the policies in a separate book and the bylaws in another. This way they could have a small compact book of the policies.**

- **Personnel, Mr. Hammell, Chair**

Mr. Hammell stated they had several appointments this evening to approve.

- **PTA / PTO Advisory Committee, Mrs. Padua, Chair**

Mrs. Padua had a joint subcommittee with Mrs. Vineyard and they would be reviewing and possibly revising the protocol.

- **Special Education, Mr. Inglese, Chair**

Mr. Inglese stated he had no report.

## **5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

- **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE/S**

The student representative was unavailable this evening.

- **SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Serio stated he had gone over everything under correspondence.

## **6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Any communication from the public? There was none.

## **7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – None.**

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Any questions or comments on Board Briefs of 8-26-08**

Any questions or comments?

**Mrs. Vitale asked about the dates from ACES. Janice Ball will send them to her.**

Any other questions or comments? There were none.

## **9.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Ratification of Appointments**

- **JMMS Cheerleading Coach**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Heather Douglas as the JMMS Cheerleading coach.

Motion made by Mr. DeNuzzo and seconded by Mr. Inglese.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

- **Custodian at EH Academy**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Robert Quartiano as the custodian at EH Academy per the contract regarding his salary.

Motion made by Mr. Hammell and seconded by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vineyard stated she needed to speak her mind. She said that this was no way a vote against the person who was taking the job. As one of the people that took the Civil Service test and passed over by the temporary job becoming permanent, it was a slap in the face for those who took the test and were not able to apply for that job.

Mr. Inglese asked that they make a motion to table it and look at the contract.

Motion to table was made by Mr. Inglese and seconded by Mr. Finkle.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

Mrs. Padua asked if she could ask a question. She stated there was nothing on here about the criminal history.

Mrs. Vitale asked if she wanted a copy of the contract too. **Mrs. Vitale asked Janice to make a copy of the custodians' contract for everyone.**

- **Special Education Paraprofessionals (Reappointments)**

Mr. Serio asked Mrs. Acquarulo to make the recommendation regarding the special education reappointments and appointments. Mrs. Acquarulo

requested the Board approve the reappointments as put in the Board packet. The following list depicts those hires:

**EHHS:**

Dave Augustine, Steve Bethke, Shey Brenker, Ray Curren, Darby Robinson-Rose and Judith Tsou

**JMMS:**

Susan Alberino, Roseann DiBlasi, Louise Gavigan, Robert Von Allman, Marisa Ceneri and Ralph Cannici

**Elementary/Early Learning Centers:**

Kelly Clough – ABA – Overbrook  
Marisol Hanlon – ABA – Overbrook  
Kathy Augustine – ABA – Overbrook  
Lisa Garguilo – ABA – Overbrook  
Kelly Vaughn – ABA – Overbrook  
Peggy McIntyre – ABA – Overbrook  
Will Mangine – ABA – Momauguin  
Marge Venice – ABA – Momauguin  
Marianne Hall – ABA – Momauguin  
Sue Balakrishnan – Deer Run  
Debbie DeFilippo – Deer Run  
Lisa Hollingsworth – Deer Run  
Barbara Mannion – Deer Run  
Sue Parker – Deer Run  
Jane Chick – Momauguin  
LeeAnn LaRock – Momauguin  
Phyllis Palladino – Momauguin  
Barbara Wilcott – Momauguin  
Peg Cuticello – Carbone  
Sue O’Connell – Carbone  
Cindy Rivera – Carbone  
Megan Vernon – Carbone  
Dana Cuzio – Carbone  
Diana Draper – Ferrara  
Judith Myers – Ferrara  
Carol Rubino-Flowers – Tuttle  
Cindy Brown – Hays  
Cathy Schneider – Overbrook  
Maryann D’Auria – DC Moore  
Cheryl Luzzi – DC Moore  
Pam Longley – DC Moore

Gina Parillo – DC Moore

Motion made by Mr. Hammell and seconded by Mr. Inglese.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

- **Special Education Paraprofessionals (Appointments) (4)**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of the following special education paraprofessionals:

- Samantha Pacelli           \$15.45           Carbone
- Michael Casale           \$13.39           Tuttle
- Lauren Albis           \$11.33           Overbrook
- Andrew DaCorte           \$15.45           EHHS

Motion made by Mr. DeNuzzo and seconded by Mr. Finkle.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

- **Little Jacket Caregiver & Assistant Caregivers (4)**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the following appointments of the Little Jacket caregiver and assistant caregivers:

- Tracey Acerra           \$8.50           Hays (Caregiver)
- Bianca Lucatino           \$8.00           Hays
- Rosamaria Didiano           \$8.00           Overbrook
- Marguerite DeLucia           \$8.00           Overbrook

Motion made by Mr. Hammell and seconded by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion? There was one (1) abstention which was Mr. Finkle.

Vote was eight (8) in favor with one (1) abstention. Motion carries.

- **Secretary I, 12-Month, Grade 9 in Central Office**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Valerie DellaCamera for the Secretary I, 12-Month, Grade 9 in Central Office.

Motion made by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio and seconded by Mrs. Padua.

Any discussion on the motion?

Was this a Civil Service position? Yes.

Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

Mr. Serio requested the Board add an appointment under 9.1 which was the literacy aides.

Motion to add was made by Mr. Hammell and seconded by Mrs. Vineyard.

Mr. Serio requested the Board ratify the following literacy aides:

• **Literacy Aides (Reappointments)**

- Barbara Naylor Carbone
- Laurie Bradley           DC Moore
- Maryann D'Auria       DC Moore
- Gigi Lombardo         DC Moore
- Pat Conte               Ferrara
- Robin Clark            Ferrara
- Brittany Jones         Momauguin
- Aida Cupo               Hays
- Dana Murphy           Overbrook
- Barrie Shames         Deer Run
- Pattie Supowitz        Deer Run

Motion was made by Mr. Finkle and seconded by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

Mr. Serio requested the Board add another appointment under 9.1 which was the Pre-k and kindergarten paraprofessionals.

Motion was made by Mrs. Vineyard and seconded by Mr. Finkle.  
Motion carries.

Mr. Serio requested the Board ratify the following paraprofessionals for Pre-k and kindergarten:

- **Paraprofessionals for Pre-K and Kindergarten (Reappointments)**

- Joelle Comesanas      Overbrook      Kindergarten
- Kara DelGuidice      Overbrook      Kindergarten
- Dina DeMaio      Overbrook      Pre-K
- Annette McCurley      Hays      Pre-K
- Marianne Cesare      Hays      Kindergarten
- Ana Ferrucci      Hays      Kindergarten

Motion made by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio and seconded by Mr. Finkle.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion?  
There was one (1) abstention which was Mrs. Vineyard.

Vote was eight (8) in favor with one (1) abstention. Motion carries.

## 9.2 Request for Approval of Payment of Invoices:

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the following payment of invoices:

- **Dated September 10, 2008 for Fiscal Year 2007-08 in the Amount of \$60,527.88**
- **Dated September 10, 2008 for Fiscal Year 2008-09 in the Amount of \$896,221.97**

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Hammell and seconded by Mr. Finkle.

Any discussion on the motion?

**Dalton Contracting, \$45,000** – This was for the track at high school.

**UNH, \$11,499** – This was for interns' tuitions.

**Mrs. Vitale asked whether it was possible to identify the buildings when they do the water and electricity. Mr. Rizza explained that the last two digits identified the schools. It was requested that the Board be provided with the codes and what they mean.**

**D'Amato, Peter, \$6,055** – This was for the gym floors. Was this an open order? Mr. Rizza stated it was the balance in the account it was charged to.

**GLLC Services, \$360.84** – That was the balance of that same account.

**Home Depot, \$48.59** – This was the same thing.

Mr. Hammell asked if the money was by vendor and Mr. Rizza stated it was more by function not vendor.

**All American Construction, \$9,750** – This was for the cleaning service. This had been bid.

**Ben Mazzucco, \$1,380** – This was for residency. This was paid how? Per investigation? This was paid by an hourly rate.

**Mrs. Vitale stated she would like to know the number of investigations and how many of them were out-of-district and how much money they were saving.**

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

## **10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Any questions or comments on the informational items?

Mr. Serio stated he had some information from their last subcommittee meeting that he wanted to share with the Board. They could take it and review it. It was the job description for the Director of Finance. If they had any questions, they could give him a call prior to their next meeting.

### **10.1 Correspondence**

**10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements – None.**

**10.1.2 School Newsletters**

**10.1.3 School Calendar for September 2008**

**10.1.4 School Enrollment Report for September 2008**

**10.1.5 “*The Condition of Education in Connecticut*” from CT State Dept. of Education – August 2008**

**10.1.6 EHPS Professional Staff Handbook – August 2008**

**10.1.7 EHPS Parent/Student Handbook – 2008-09**

## **11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.**

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

**THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION – SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 – EAST HAVEN HIGH  
SCHOOL, 35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, at 7:30 p.m.**

**13. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio and seconded by Mrs. Padua. Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**MRS. MARILYN VITALE, CHAIRPERSON  
EAST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**