

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

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

ARRIVED LATE:MR. FINKLE (7:02 p.m.)

**ALSO PRESENT: MR. ANTHONY SERIO, SUPERINTENDENT
MR. FRANK MEOLI, ASSISTANT SUPT.
MR. ARTHUR MARTORELLA, ADMIN. CONSULTANT
TO SUPT.
MR. JOSEPH TRAVAGLINO, DIRECTOR OF
BLDGS. & GROUNDS
MRS. MARY ACQUARULO, DIRECTOR OF PUPIL
SERVICES
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 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at the high school. Mrs. Vitale asked the Board Clerk to do a roll call of the Board.

Mr. DeNuzzo – Present
Mr. Finkle – Not Present
Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio – Present
Mr. Hammell – Present
Mr. Hennessey – Present
Mr. Inglese – Present
Mrs. Padua – Present

Mrs. Vineyard – Present
Mrs. Vitale - Present

2. MINUTES

Mrs. Vitale asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes for the regular Board meeting of November 25, 2008.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no abstentions or objections made to the motion.

Motion carries. Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. The minutes were approved.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Chairperson, Mrs. Marilyn Vitale**

Mrs. Vitale had a letter/bill from an attorney that went to the Town Hall, but was ours relative to a lawsuit. She would give to the Board Clerk to give to Mr. Serio. Mrs. Vitale stated she had also received a Christmas card from the Family Resource Center and handed it around to the Board.

- **Superintendent, Mr. Anthony Serio**

Mr. Serio had no correspondence this evening.

Mr. Finkle arrived at 7:02 p.m.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Vitale asked if there were any subcommittee reports this evening.

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

Mr. Inglese had no report this evening. He would schedule a meeting.

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

Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio stated she needed to schedule a meeting as well.

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

Mr. Finkle had no report this evening.

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

Mr. Hennessey had no report this evening. Mrs. Vitale stated they had received the quarterly report and **asked Mr. Hennessey if they would be setting up budget hearings pretty soon.** Mr. Hennessey stated yes.

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

Mrs. Vineyard had no report this evening.

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

Mr. Hammell had no report this evening.

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

Mr. Hammell had no report this evening.

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

Mr. DeNuzzo asked Mr. Serio if they were still working on the by-laws. Mr. Martorella stated they were just about finished. Mrs. Vitale stated that Mr. Martorella would then begin working on the policies.

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

Mr. Hammell stated there would be a couple of appointments.

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

Mrs. Padua had no report this evening.

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

Mr. Inglese had no report this evening.

5. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

- **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE/S**

The student representative, Gabrielle Caruso, was unavailable to give a report, but the alternative representative, Albert DeCaprio was present and spoke about himself briefly. He spoke about the metal detectors and how the students were skeptical at first but he felt that how it was being handled randomly was very good.

- **SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Serio thanked the Police Chief, the Mayor and the high school administration for their cooperation during the past week and a half with the situation at the high school. He also wanted to thank the staff and students for their cooperation. They revisited the situation with the police on a daily basis. **There would be some discussion in Executive Session as to how they move forward from this point and he would inform the public and let everyone know what they intended to do.** The metal detectors were still up but not being run on a daily basis. This week they would probably be run randomly where the students would not know if they were on or off. The Chief of Police thought they could begin reducing the use of the metal detectors in the school.

Mrs. Vitale had received a lot of feedback and there was nothing but praise and good things. All of the lockers had been searched and nothing was found. She thought their students were the greatest. There had not been one phone call on how they handled the situation. She was very proud of everyone.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Any communication from the public?

Matthew Fallon, 17 Pershing Avenue, and Joe Costanzo, students who were on the high school football team, stated they were there this evening representing the whole team that was in attendance at the meeting to support him. They were there because of the head coaching vacancy for football. He stated that Coach Chuck Turcio was liked by all of the players and was already trying to build up their football team by having them weight lift three times a week. They believed efforts like Coach Chuck's showed true concern. He thanked the Board for listening.

Ralph Mauro, Mayor's Office, stated he would like to read something into the minutes and make the document part of the minutes in its entirety. He wanted to clear up some misunderstandings about what happened at Overbrook School. Mr. Mauro then read his letter. (Letter attached to minutes.)

Mr. Mauro then asked how they were going to pay the people who did the work. He stated the Town had approximately \$7,000 for the project and he hoped the Board could come up with the rest of the money to get the people paid. They had been going back and forth from the Mayor's office to the Superintendent's office and back to the Mayor's office. He stated there needed to be a resolve in this matter. If there were any questions, Mr. Trivedi was here to answer them.

Mrs. Vitale asked Mr. Rizza if there were any monies in Capital Improvement for the Board of Education to take care of this. Mr. Rizza stated there was roughly \$7,500. Mrs. Vitale asked if there was enough to take care of all of it. Mr. Rizza said they did not have enough to cover all of it. Mrs. Vitale stated he was in charge of both sides so it was his job to find that money. Mr. Rizza stated he would be very happy to take that assignment. **Mr. Mauro said he would like to see a resolve to it. They did the work and have to get paid. Mrs. Vitale stated it would be done.**

Any further public comment? There was none.

7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Recognition of Logan Hamilton, 1st Grader at Carbone School, 1st Place Winner in American Red Cross Holiday Card Design Contest

Mrs. Goodison had Logan Hamilton come forward to congratulate and introduce him to the Board. Mrs. Goodison explained what the award was for and Logan showed his card and explained what the card represented which was neighbors helping neighbors. The card represented him and his friend, Andre, shoveling each other's driveways and putting the snow somewhere else. They were very proud of Logan. A certificate was then presented to Logan by the Chairperson of the Board, Mrs. Vitale.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Any questions or comments on Board Briefs of 11-25-08

Any questions or comments?

Mrs. Vitale stated that the Mayor had asked us to review all of our safety measures. Were they working on this? Mr. Serio replied yes, they had dedicated their last Principals' meeting to it. All of their schools have safety plans. They were in the process of compiling those and making sure they were up to date.

Any further questions or comments? There were none.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Ratification of Appointments

- **Hall Monitors at EHHS**

Mr. Serio stated he would like the Board to ratify the appointments of the following hall monitors at the high school. Some of the positions were replacements and some were new. They had started as substitutes during the last week because of the situation:

- Jackie Ferretti
- Nicholas Gargano
- Dominic Milano

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

Any discussion on the motion?

There was a question as to which ones were new. Jackie Ferretti was a replacement for someone who did not return; another left on medical and there was one security guard leaving for a full-time job. Mr. Proto spoke about Rob leaving to take a new position. They would miss him and the great job he has done, but they were happy for him. He was a very dedicated employee.

There were no abstentions or objections made.

Mr. Finkle asked if they were up on the vacancies. It was stated it was just a “wash” at this point.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

- **Co-Drama Club Advisors at JMMS**

Mr. Serio recommended that the Board ratify the appointments of Lauren Meyers and Lauren Wnek as the co-drama club advisors at JMMS.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vineyard thanked Mr. Serio for finding the money to put this in at the Middle School.

There were no abstentions or objections made.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

Mr. Serio stated he would like to add some new appointments under 9.1. He would like to add a literacy aide at JMMS and a social studies teacher at JMMS.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Finkle asked if these were new positions. The social studies teacher was a replacement. The literacy aide was new.

Any further discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no abstentions or objections made.

Vote to add was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

- **Literacy Aide at JMMS**
- **Social Studies Teacher at JMMS**

Mr. Serio requested the Board ratify the appointments of Nicole Kras as a literacy aide at JMMS and Andrew DaCorte as a social studies teacher at JMMS.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no abstentions or objections made.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

9.2 Request for Approval of Payment of Invoices:

- **Dated December 10, 2008 for Fiscal Year 2008-09 in the Amount of \$426,675.23**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the payment of the invoices dated December 10, 2008 for Fiscal Year 2008-09 in the amount of \$426,675.23.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

There were no abstentions or objections made to the motion.

Vote was unanimous. Motion carries.

9.3 Request for Approval of the Budget Transfers for Fiscal Year 2008-09

Mr. Serio requested Board approval of the budget transfers for fiscal year 2008-09 as presented in their packets.

Motion was made by Mr. Hammell and seconded by Mrs. Padua.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vitale asked if these were all of the transfers. Mr. Rizza stated that they would be receiving transfers more often and it made it easier to read them then with larger figures once in awhile.

There were no abstentions or objections made to the motion.

Vote was unanimous. Motion carries.

9.4 Request Approval for Policy #5131.911 Hazing/Bullying

Mr. Serio requested the Board's approval of Policy #5131.911 Hazing/Bullying.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no abstentions or objections made to the motion.

Vote was unanimous. Motion carries.

9.5 Request Approval of the Following Field Trips:

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the following field trip:

- **8th Grade EH Academy to Boston Museum in MA on May 15, 2009**

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no abstentions or objections made to the motion.

Vote was unanimous. Motion carries.

Mr. Serio stated he would come back to 9.6 after Executive Session.

9.6 Possible Action Regarding Security Personnel and Security Devices at EHHS

Mr. Serio requested the Board add 9.7 Permission to Pay Invoices Dated December 24, 2008.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no abstentions or objections to the motion.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

9.7 Permission to Pay Invoices Dated December 24, 2008

Mr. Serio requested the Board's permission to pay invoices dated December 24, 2008 because of the cancellation of the December 23, 2008 meeting.

Motion was made Mrs. Padua and seconded by Mr. Hammell.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no abstentions or objections made to the motion.

Vote was unanimous. Motion carries.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

Any questions or comments on the informational items?

Mr. DeNuzzo stated he would like to read the letter under 10.1.6 to the public. Mr. DeNuzzo read the letter to the public. **Mr. Inglese asked that a copy of this letter get placed in Mike Marone's personnel file.**

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements

- Diane Reynolds, Art Teacher at EHHS (Retirement 1-1-09)
- Gayle McCain, FRC Parent Educator (Resignation 12-31-08)

10.1.2 School Enrollment Report for December 2008

10.1.3 List of Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2009

10.1.4 FYI – Fingerprint List 2008-09 (Confidential)

10.1.5 FYI – Quarterly Financial Report

10.1.6 FYI – Letter to Mike Marone from Tom Murray, 1958 BHS Football Team

Mr. Serio stated besides the Board members, he would like to have Mr. Martorella, Mr. Meoli, himself, Mrs. Reale and Mr. Proto in Executive Session.

Mr. Serio stated that 11.1 would be withdrawn from the agenda because the issue had been resolved.

Adjourned Regular Session at 7:30 p.m. A 15-minute recess would take place before the Executive Session for a short holiday celebration.

Executive Session convened at 8:08 p.m.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1 Custodial Grievance on Boiler Work at JMMS (Withdrawn)

11.2 “Discussion Concerning Security Strategy and the Deployment of Security Personnel and/or Security Devices.”

A discussion ensued between the Board members and the administration concerning security strategy and the deployment of security personnel and security devices.

Mr. Finkle made the motion to adjourn executive session. Motion seconded by Mr. DeNuzzo. Motion carries.

Executive session adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Mrs. Vitale reconvened the regular meeting at 8:30 p.m.

9.6 Possible Action Regarding Security Personnel and the Deployment of Security Devices at EHHS

Mrs. Vitale stated that the Board did not need to take action on this item. It was the Superintendent's discretion to decide on the use of security devices. Mr. Serio stated that he would continue to work in cooperation with the Chief of Police and the Mayor to ensure school security.

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – JANUARY 13, 2009 – EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL, 35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hammell and seconded by Mrs. Vineyard. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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