

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN, CT
EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011
7:00 P.M.**

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

**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

Chairperson Nick Palladino called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. in the Boardroom at the High School. Mr. Palladino asked that the student rep lead them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES

Mr. Palladino asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Board meeting of February 7, 2011.

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

There was no discussion, objections or abstentions 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.

Mr. Pompano made a motion to move to their guests this evening instead of going into the subcommittee reports at this time. It was seconded by Mrs. DePalma.

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

5. REPORTS/COMMUNICATION

- **Superintendent and Central Office Administration**

- ***Tuttle School News Team Presentation***

Mrs. Amato, principal at Tuttle School, formally introduced herself and thanked the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Board for inviting her into this incredible educational community. She spoke about the Tuttle News Team and how the kids had a voice and a choice. It was all about communication and they were going to follow in the footsteps of the Board in relation to that. Their philosophy was to be a Tuttle citizen. The children handed out folders. The children then gave a presentation on how to be a Tuttle citizen. They reported on all kinds of things such as the weather and the CMT's. Mrs. Cathy McGarry, art teacher, talked about the students' artwork that had been hung up in the Boardroom and how it was intertwined with math and science and other areas of education.

The Board thanked the children and everyone involved in the presentation and thought they had done a great job.

At this point in time (7:30 p.m.), there was a 5-minute recess. The meeting was reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

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

Kelianna gave a report on the happenings at EHHS. She informed the Board that Rob Fucci was in the Dominican Republic for the dental program there. The school was currently taking the CAPT test and it was going well and they had the Spring Fling coming up on March 18th.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Mr. Pompano reported there were quite a few appointments this evening.

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

Mr. Pompano stated they had a subcommittee meeting this evening and had spoken about All-Day K. They were putting a request together to send it to the Town to offset the cost of the Capital Building projects. They would be approving this later on in the agenda.

Mr. Palladino wanted the public to know that when there was a subcommittee, it was open to all who wanted to attend. It was not a closed meeting.

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

Mrs. DePalma informed the Board that negotiations for non-certified contracts were still ongoing. The Teachers' Contract was complete. She spoke about the Curriculum Subcommittee where they received some of the School Improvement Plans and discussed the Credit Recovery and Attendance Recovery Programs at the high school. She thanked Mr. Anderson for his awesome presentation. She would like to see the program modeled at the Middle School. **Mrs. DePalma would like to schedule another subcommittee in the very near future.**

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

Mrs. Maisano informed everyone she had written something this evening that she would like to read and have go on the record with her feelings regarding the audit and some financial issues that had to be addressed. She then read the following:

“As the Finance Committee Chair, I feel compelled to share my thoughts with you the Board, the Superintendent, Mr. Lathrop our Finance Director, and members of the community who are watching this meeting.

It is no secret that since being elected to the Board, both Mrs. DePalma and I have been the recipients of some harsh criticism for questioning the workings of the Finance Office. While I will not speak for Tia, I will say that we have been persistent and passionate in fulfilling our goals to the residents of East Haven by asking questions, requesting information and demanding answers to all matters related to the Board of Education finances and accounting procedures. To recollect my exact thoughts on this, I have determined that on over 100 occasions I have asked Mr. Lathrop to provide me and the Board with information related to accounting procedures and records. To date, this information has not always been provided, and I am appalled and outraged that as a Board of Education member and Finance Department Chair, I find out through an outside auditor’s report that our accounting practices have been unacceptable, misleading and inaccurate. With a staff of seven (7) individuals supervised by a full-time Director of Finance, I cannot understand why records are not current and complete, why information cannot be provided to the Board who should be overseeing these matters, and why Mr. Serio appears to always be in the dark when it comes to errors being found or tasks not being accomplished. As the Educational Leader of this District, all matters related to Finance and Education are the responsibility of the Superintendent; therefore, any problems and inaccuracies that are detected, Mr. Serio is ultimately responsible.

With regards to Mr. Lathrop. I must say that I find it insulting that in spite of requests made to him at each meeting there is a blatant

disregard to provide the Board of Education with the information they need to do their jobs for the citizens of East Haven. These actions have a direct impact on the children of East Haven, the reputation of East Haven, and on the members of the Board of Education. As an elected official, I am responsible, and we the Board of Education are responsible for the appropriation of funds and their accuracy.

Mr. Lathrop never once asked for additional help or conveyed any problems to the Board of Education and assured us that all was well. Lastly, I would like it known that I am embarrassed to be part of a Board who is now in the position where they are being asked to present a budget to the Town which, at this point in time, has no financial credibility. As a Board member, my hands have been tied and the Board of Education hands have been tied. I demand answers as to how this has been allowed to happen. Mr. Serio and Mr. Lathrop, I am calling for a complete investigation of the Finance Department. Mr. Serio, as the Financial and Educational Leader of this District, the Board of Education deserves to know why and how we have been put in this position.

My hopes are that the entire Board of Education, as a whole, can come together and develop an immediate plan of action to ensure that we set in place an accounting system that is accurate, up to date and informative. This needs to begin tonight. In fact, I will be asking for an agenda item to be added to discuss such.

Christine Maisano”

Mrs. Maisano would be requesting an Executive Session later on this evening.

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

Mrs. Vineyard reported that Nutri-Kids was up and running. You could sign up and prepay your child’s lunch and put money onto their account so they did not have to bring cash to school anymore. You could log on to see what they had eaten for lunch. She wanted to thank Mrs. Forti, Mrs. Bacon and Mrs. Amato for getting the President’s Council up and running.

The first meeting would be held on April 5th at 6 p.m. here at the high school. Mrs. Forti stated it would be held at 5 p.m. only if there was a subcommittee meeting planned for that evening.

- **Legal/Ronald DeNuzzo, Chair**

Mr. DeNuzzo stated in previous meetings they had discussed whether or not the maintenance could be outsourced by the Town. He had taken the liberty to check into some of the State Statutes which he referred to and read. CT General Statutes 10-20 talks about duties of the Board of Education and states each local or regional Board of Education has the proper maintenance of facilities, shall have the care, maintenance and operation of the buildings, land, apparatus and other property use for school purposes. This was also in their Bylaws under 9012(b), under Item 15. Mr. DeNuzzo also referred to CT General Statutes 10-222 talks about appropriations and budgets. The money appropriated by any municipality for the maintenance of public schools shall be expended by and at the direction of the Board of Education. CT General State Statute 10-248 states that payments of school expenses and that talks about expenses of maintaining public schools in each Town and it shall be incurred and approved by the Board of Education. He just wanted to set the record straight as far as the State Statutes were concerned.

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

Mr. Scalesse said the last subcommittee was held on November 23, 2010. There were a number of policies they needed to add and they would meet after the budget process was complete. There was one big policy regarding Cyber Bullying which they needed to make changes to in their policy book.

- **Personnel, Laura Kluth, Chair**

Mrs. Kluth had no report this evening.

5. REPORTS/COMMUNICATION

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

Mr. Palladino spoke about the evaluation of the Board and the Superintendent and handed out forms he had received from CABE. He asked that they take the self-evaluation home and complete it and then they would have a Special Meeting on it. The Superintendent's Performance Evaluation they would work on together during a Special Meeting in Executive Session.

There was some discussion on the process of evaluation and goals.

- **Superintendent and Central Office Administration**

Mr. Serio stated this was not in response to Mrs. Maisano's report, but he had planned to have a financial report given to them by Joe Centofanti regarding the audit that related just to the Board of Education. They could prepare questions and ask questions. There was discussion as to whether to hold it on March 14th or prior to the next Board of Ed meeting on March 22nd. **It was decided they would have a Finance Subcommittee meeting on March 14th at 6 p.m. to set things straight.**

He wanted to thank Mrs. Amato and all of the children tonight and the parents that attended and also thanks to Cathy McGarry for her display work tonight.

Mr. Palladino also wanted to extend thanks to everyone.

6. COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC

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

Rebecca Smith, wanted to address a rumor regarding the Little Jackets Program and get some clarification on it. A number of them here tonight heard that the Little Jackets Program may become part of the recreation department. She spoke about her 13 years of

experience in education and her current job as a Literacy coach in New Haven. She had concerns about the Little Jackets being moved over to the recreation department and it ceasing to be educational and only being a daycare center. She was very happy with the Little Jackets Program and its educational program. If they changed this program, it was too late for parents to be part of the New Haven lottery system for kindergarten and they had lost the opportunity to get spots in private placements. She wanted to know what the necessity was for the change and what the interest was in the benefits of moving Little Jackets over to the recreation department.

Mr. Palladino appreciated her coming here because the Town did run on rumors and innuendos. He had received a call from Mrs. Finkle and it had been mentioned occasionally, but they were not planning on any changes in the Little Jackets Program whatsoever. It was a successful program and they received no complaints. There were plenty of things they needed to fix and they did not need to tamper with something they didn't need to fix. It was a program that could be run by the recreation department because it was not truly a pre-kindergarten and it was basically a daycare situation that worked very nicely. Mrs. Smith stated she did not agree with that. She did not think Little Jackets was just a daycare. She then elaborated on her experiences in other daycare situations and spoke about how her daughter had flourished in the educational environment of the Little Jackets.

Mr. Pompano stated he appreciate everything she had to say here and he had looked into Little Jackets himself and it provided a tremendous service to the Town and residents and the only discussion on this Board was based on if they to all-day kindergarten where they were going to house everybody. Any rumors were not coming from up here; they provided a great service. Mrs. Smith did not want to get a letter in July saying this had changed. Mrs. Kluth stated there was no intention of wanting it to go anywhere.

Leticia Marreiros, agreed that rumors do run in East Haven and they did not start from any of the parents. She was a life-long resident and wanted to express her hope that the Board of Ed continue to support the Little Jackets Program. It was founded on the basis of education and Superintendent Serio had worked hard to

establish the Little Jackets Program as an academic program and he had an extensive background in education. She invited the Board members to visit a classroom to observe circle time or listen to one of the teachers read a theme-related story while engaging the students. She spoke about all the things the children learned and how playtime was organized and designed for the children to develop social and emotional skills so they can interact with one another. She was also concerned about transportation if it was no longer housed in their schools. She felt it might pose unnecessary safety issues and did not know how their children would benefit if the support of the Board of Ed was withdrawn. Mrs. Morreros then submitted some letters to Mr. Serio from parents that could not come tonight.

Karen Goclowski, stated her letter was in that pile. She had gone through the East Haven School District and had three students in three different schools in the Town. Her daughter was in the Little Jackets Program. She felt it would not be educational if it was moved to the recreation department and was in complete disagreement with this proposal. She spoke about how her daughter was learning more in the Little Jackets Program than at the other programs she was involved in before. The program mirrored Branford's Pre-School district's program. There would also be many costs involved in moving the program and asked that they reconsider their program.

Mr. Palladino stated there were going to be no changes so she did not have to continue to read and ask that they reconsider. They were not changing anything. Mrs. Maisano stated she was enjoying listening to her. It is what it is. You have the right to speak. Mr. DeNuzzo stated he wanted to say this was very informative and very articulate and very compassionate. He would never vote to take the Little Jackets out of wherever they are and put them anyplace other than where they were. Mrs. Maisano stated she loved having the parents here and having them talk about their children. It was important for them to hear from them and they could talk as long as they wanted.

Mr. Palladino asked if there were any other communications from the public. There were none.

7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Permission to Fundraise for New D.C. Moore Playground

Mr. Serio explained there had been correspondence going back and forth between the principal and Mr. Travaglino. There were things in need of repair and they were coming to the Board to request permission to move forward with this. He was requesting the Board's permission for D.C. Moore parents to fundraise for a new D.C. Moore playground.

Motion to accept was made by Mrs. Vineyard and seconded by Mrs. Maisano.

Any further discussion? The Board wished them good luck.

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

7.2 STEM Presentation Update – E. Forti, M. Noonan and Taylor Auger

Marilee Noonan, Taylor Auger, and Erica Forti provided the BOE with a STEM project update. There had been much technological advancement, such as 16 interactive whiteboards, 2 laptop carts, fiber optic wiring, increase wireless access at JMMS and EHA, and a robotics STEM lab. Teachers had engaged in many hours of PD and were now prepared to have students working in their Moodle-blended learning environment when the challenges were released to each grade level. There is an active STEM website with a video trailer and details on the program. Taylor Auger would be digitally documenting students as they make their way to the finals and will provide a documentary on the STEM project. Marilee Noonan was prepared to launch the first challenge to grade 8 students on March 18th. The STEM competition finals would take place on May 19th.

7.3 Presentation of Results of High Speed Optical Network Bid and Possible Approval of Vendor Contract – Randel Osborne

Mr. Osborne gave a presentation regarding the high speed optical network bid and introduced the vendor who they were requesting be awarded this contract. He informed the Board that the Tech Department had been very busy with handling the responsibilities of these operations. Mr. Osborne spoke about the current network and how it was based on DSL and had met their needs for many years. Their needs had grown tremendously over the past few years and they had put out a bid for optical network to connect all of the buildings in the East Haven schools. This was 250 times faster and they continued to have initiatives each year. They had the bid opening this morning and there were only two bids that were accepted and he was recommending Fiber Tech Network. He felt they best suited their needs and it was the lowest cost product.

Mr. Osborne spoke about the reimbursement from USF Funding of 56%. The Board asked questions and the following information was provided: the monthly amount of approximately \$10,000 was discounted to approximately \$4,000. If free and reduced lunches went up then this went up also. This was re-evaluated every year. The rate they currently paid annually was \$68,190 and it was discounted \$38,187 for a total cost of \$30,003. The proposed contract was \$125,786 with an annual discount of \$70,445.76 for a total cost of \$55,540. This was well within the budget for our technology.

Mr. Osborne introduced Bob David who spoke about the company which was based in Rochester, NY and informed the Board that 25% of their business was located in CT. They had offices in Stamford, New Haven and Hartford. They were located in many school districts in CT including Branford, West Haven, New Haven and Ansonia to name a few. There was discussion regarding the timeframe for completion and what was covered under the contract. Basically everything was included and the timeframe for completion was around 180 days. The contract was for 60 months. After the 60 months, they could opt out but the renewal rate was less than the 0-60

months. There was no increase in the rate over the 60 months and there were no upfront costs associated with it that they had to pay right now. The renewal rate would go down to \$9,500 and it depended on your reimbursement.

There was discussion on the ever-changing technology and it was determined that five years was adequate time prior to reevaluating it. It would be tough to know what initiatives they would have in place at that time right now.

Mr. Palladino asked if Mr. Osborne was comfortable with this and he stated he was indeed. He asked that they give Mr. Serio permission to sign the contract.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Maisano asked when they would be starting and Mr. Osborne stated tonight.

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

Mr. Palladino asked that they move 8.3 up on the agenda and have Mr. Brow come up first.

8.3 Discussion and Possible Waiver of D. C. Moore Building Rental Fee for Shoreline Greenway Trail

Mr. Brow stated he was there on behalf of his wife Barbara Brow and they were respectfully requesting the Board waive the D. C. Moore rental fee for the Shoreline Greenway Trail. They were a non-profit organization and they were working in collaboration to establish a 25-mile trail along the shoreline. The annual meeting would be held at D. C. Moore School. Two segments of the trails were held at D. C. Moore. He extended an invitation to attend the meeting on April 30th at D. C. Moore School from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Motion to waive the fee for rental 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.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Ratification of Appointments

- **Special Education Paraprofessional @ JMMS**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the appointment of Larry Dublin as a special education paraprofessional at JMMS.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

This was a new appointment; it was something they put in place last October and just organized it now. Grant money would cover the salary for this position.

Mrs. Maisano asked if Mr. Lathrop brought the grant report with him tonight. Mr. Lathrop was not in the room and Mrs. Lewis responded that he did.

Any further discussion? There was none.

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

- **Spring Coaching Appointment-Head Boy's Tennis**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the appointment of Johnathan Fetzner as the boy's head tennis coach.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Marone spoke about the coach's experience.

Any further discussion? There was none.

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

- **Spring Coaching Reappointments**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the following spring coaching reappointments:

- Raymond "Butch" Johnson EHHS Head Baseball
- Fred Parcesepe EHHS Ass't Baseball
- Gary Brasile EHHS Freshman Baseball
- Chris Bonagiuso JMMS Baseball
- Ed Crisafi EHHS Head Softball
- Dave Spano EHHS Ass't Softball
- Kristen Varunes EHHS Freshman Softball
- Karen O'Leary ½ JMMS Softball
- Kathy Doheny ½ JMMS Softball
- Rusty Dunne EHHS Head Boys Track
- Jeffrey Smith EHHS Ass't Boy's Track
- Anthony Russell EHHS Head Girls Track
- Jeffrey Cretella EHHS Ass't Girl's Track
- Chuck Turcio JMMS Boys Track
- Chuck Turcio Jr. JMMS Girls Track
- Dave Augustine EHHS Head Golf
- Jason Soares EHHS Head Girl's Tennis

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

Any discussion on the motion? There as none.

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

- **Part-time Hall Monitors (3)**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the following part-time hall monitors at EHHS:

- Jacqueline Stevenson-Square
- Jeffrey Smith
- Frank Buskey III

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Kluth asked why all three previous employers were not contacted.

Mr. Anderson informed the Board that two of the people worked in the corrections area and worked as substitutes here for a period of time. They did not get letters, but they did have contact with those people who were references. Mr. Smith worked for them as a track coach and worked as a substitute teacher in the school. They had been observed while they were substitutes as far as their interactions with children in difficult situations and if they maintained a positive repertoire during the course of the day. To his observation, they had been successful in doing that.

Mrs. Kluth was concerned that they were now working with school children. Mr. Anderson stated that was why they had observed them before they hired them.

These were new hall monitors and there was discussion regarding hours and how many monitors there were. Mr. Anderson explained they were part-time monitors so there was flexibility with their schedule if someone could

not work for any reason. There was a 31.5-hour level that was discussed with the Board.

Mrs. Kluth asked if they had observed any confrontations involving them and Mr. Anderson responded yes.

Mrs. Kluth meant no offense, but why was a secretary included in interviews. As a committee to hire, they needed someone able to listen to what somebody said and who knows the students well and works with administration well. She was also present when many of those things happen.

There was discussion on how many guards they currently had and Mr. Anderson thought it was five. This satisfied their Plan B and guards were on duty from 6:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Then Murphy comes in. Hours for guards varied as to how many were on duty at one time. Sometimes there were three or four and sometimes only two. Mr. Lathrop stated during lunchtime there could be six on at that time. He thought there were seven people who worked to fill those needs.

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

8.2 Request for Approval of the Payment of Invoices:

- **Dated March 8, 2011 for Fiscal Year 2010-11 in the Amount of \$2,455,214.15**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the payment of invoices dated March 9, 2011 for Fiscal Year 2010-11 in the amount of \$2,455,214.15.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Maisano questioned the following:

Unencumbered balances; they needed to do transfers which had not been brought to the Board.

Kostin & Ruffkess – Bill for \$5,000 which she assumed was for part of the audit. There was discussion on what the legal expenses would come to and the unencumbered balance of \$15. **There was discussion on how many progress payments were made to Kostin & Ruffkess. Mr. Lathrop to get them the details on that.**

Shipman & Goodwin - How far were they over on legal? It was believed that they had budgeted \$170,000. **Mr. Lathrop to get a forecast on that.**

Wage Overpayment Issue – She did not believe the Board was notified regarding this. Mr. Lathrop explained that the employee was reimbursed for a worker's compensation rate above what he was contractually entitled to. When they caught it, they contacted Zacardi and the union was doing research on behalf of the employee. They were working on a repayment schedule. The employee was overpaid \$9,000 in their paycheck for approximately five months. **Mr. Lathrop stated he could get them that information. They had made a mistake.**

Mrs. Maisano stated Mr. Serio, this is my point. This cannot continue to happen. Mr. Serio explained the employee was put on notice of the mistake and it is in their file. Mrs. Maisano stated that it was not the employee's fault. Mr. DeNuzzo asked if there would be reimbursement in this physical year for that \$9,000 and how was it going to be recalculated. There was further discussion on how the employee would be able to pay back the money and that this needed to be done with a written agreement and a wage and garnishment agreement. Currently, it had cost \$348 in legal fees and Mr. Lathrop did not believe they would incur any further fees and that it was in the union's hands. There was further discussion on possible legal action taking place.

Mr. Hennessey questioned Mr. Lathrop regarding the personal names in the bills. Mr. Lathrop explained that it was for insurance premiums and what had transpired regarding this.

Mrs. DePalma asked Mr. Lathrop to explain the situation regarding overpayment for all staff with an insurance that came back at a different rate or something. Mr. Lathrop explained that it had occurred during teacher negotiations with the contract and medical proposals going back and forth during arbitration. It was researched and found that employees' deductions were coming out incorrectly because the Board of Ed had not received the modified retention schedule from the Town and the renewal deductions were based on the renewals we had. Mr. Lathrop stated they then modified the deductions downward for the final eight (8) periods for hourly employees and the final 15 periods for teachers. There was further discussion on the process.

Mr. Lathrop stated he had met with the five (5) union stewards to describe the mistake. The change would go into effect this Friday. This would be the first pay period. Mrs. DePalma asked Mr. Lathrop if they had information in their packets regarding this. Mr. Lathrop responded no. Mrs. DePalma stated she was asking about the last thing they were talking about. Mr. Lathrop explained that the medical premium cost share was reflected downward. Calculations were provided to the unions. Mrs. DePalma asked how the error had happened. Mr. Lathrop explained that the Town had readjusted the retention schedule and did not notify us. Mr. Palladino stated that's been the Town's way of doing it. He had argued with them years ago. They were overcharging us. They had not received the actuaries.

Mr. Lathrop spoke about retention components and how the teachers' had pointed out the potential overcharging. We did the research and presented it to the unions. Mrs. DePalma felt that the Board should have been notified and that they should not be the last people to find out things like this.

Mr. Serio stated he was confused. It seemed like the Board wanted to know the day-to-day operations as they occurred. He stated if something happens to the Board that he thinks would cause harm to the Board or to the budget in a significant way, he would bring it to them. They had worked diligently to correct this. They were the largest department in Town that carried medical insurance for our employees, and he had asked the insurer, specifically, how much effort would it be for them to send us the same information the Town gets when a change in the co-pay rate changes. The person did not have an answer. We have always done it that way; there was some kind of a mix up that that information was not getting forwarded to the Board of Ed. Mr. Serio did not think it was a big deal to have a letter sent to them as they sent to the Town. **He was still going to try and pursue that they did not get that update on the amount of money.** There had only been one grievance initially, but a solution was put to it. If they wanted him to bring things to them, he would.

Mrs. DePalma stated they were looking at being transparent here. She received a phone call about this. **If they (the Board) had received a call, they wouldn't have to bring it up. Mr. Serio stated he could do that.**

Mrs. Kluth asked about the bill for Complete Sewer and Drain. This was for a significant back up problem at Deer Run.

Mrs. Kluth asked about the bill for Dr. Riccio. There has to be a physician that oversees the nurses and the district. He was their medical advisor.

Mrs. Kluth questioned School Supplies for \$750. This was not for supplies but for private speech. This person was not an employee here.

Mr. Lathrop informed the Board there were 27 pay periods next year. They were going over the procedures so no one gets overpaid incorrectly for worker's comp. He did not want this happening again because it was embarrassing.

Any further questions?

Mrs. Maisano said she sent out an email on Sunday to the entire Board with reference to reports she had requested. Mr. Lathrop stated he had brought those reports with him this evening. She asked that he distribute them.

Mrs. Maisano requested that Mr. Lathrop go up and bring down to her tonight the Adult Education Grant and the monies that come into that grant for Pathways and Adult Ed and the monies that go out. She wanted a complete register of deposits and checks. Mr. Lathrop asked with the tuitions or rentals of the buildings. Mrs. Maisano stated she would take both.

There was no discussion, objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries. The bills will be paid.

8.4 Discussion and Possible Approval of Healthy Food Certification Statement for National School Lunch

Mr. Serio requested the Board's approval of the healthy food certification statement for national school lunch.

Motion to accept was made by Mr. DeNuzzo and seconded by Mrs. Maisano.

Any further discussion on the motion? There was none.

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

8.5 Approval of 2011-12 Capital Project Requests

Mr. Lathrop stated they were looking for approval of the 2011-12 Capital Project Requests.

Mr. Pompano made a motion to request \$276,000 for the 2011-12 Capital Project Requests and it was seconded by Mrs. Vineyard.

Any further discussion?

Mrs. DePalma asked who was taking care of that money and Mr. Pompano stated they were asking for it from the Town. It was separate from their regular budgetary proposal. Mr. Palladino informed them that it was originally \$377,800 and they trimmed it down to \$276,000.

Mr. DeNuzzo stated the Board had asked for \$957,000 and it was the lowest amount of money the Board had requested. If they don't get it, then why were they looking at approving this at this point in time. Mr. Serio said this was not something they could go back for and ask for later. There was further discussion on what the monies were going to be used for. Mrs. DePalma felt that the portables would help them in the future and this did not say that all-day K was a deal. Mr. Serio agreed with her 100%.

Mrs. DePalma stated they had yet to vote as a Board for Hays. Mr. Serio explained they did not have a lease yet. Mr. DeNuzzo felt they were not utilizing the high school the way it should be. They were spending money on portable classrooms and looking at the whole picture the wrong way. There was further discussion on the portables and what schools needed them. Mr. Serio would only put the 8th grade up at the high school on a temporary basis if they were doing a renovation project at the middle school. He had been trying to protect the integrity of the high school because of the NEASC visit in September. He did not see a need for that in the upcoming 2011-12 year, but maybe in the future. There was further discussion on the portables and the Middle School.

There was discussion on the 75% reimbursement rate and Mr. Lathrop explained what was considered reimbursable. Mr. Pompano felt it was imperative that this request go out because they did not know what they were going to get on the operating side or the Capital Project request. Mr. DeNuzzo wasn't only concerned that it was not enough money, but what

about next year or the next year after that. Would they start all-day K, only to scrap it next year or the year after that? Mr. Pompano stated that was a good question, but the Town couldn't give them less money the next year. Mr. Palladino reiterated that the Town could not give them less money. Mr. Hennessey said that rationale does not work because this year the teachers were getting a zero percent increase, but next year they were getting an increase. Mr. Palladino stated they would be negligent not to put in for Capital Improvement because they could not come back and ask for it. Mr. DeNuzzo spoke about all of the increases they would need for salaries, busing and buildings and grounds to name a few.

Discussion continued regarding what amount they would be requesting for Capital Projects. Reimbursements were discussed and the Town's cost would be approximately \$100,000. Mr. DeNuzzo asked if they did not have all-day K, what would they do with the portables. Mr. Serio said take the kids off the stage and probably look at two portables for Overbrook and one at Ferrara.

Mr. Palladino asked for a roll call vote.

Mr. DeNuzzo	-	No
Mrs. DePalma	-	Yes
Mr. Hennessey	-	No
Mrs. Kluth	-	Yes
Mrs. Maisano	-	Yes
Mr. Pompano	-	Yes
Mr. Scalesse	-	Yes
Mrs. Vineyard	-	Yes

Vote was six (6) in favor with two (2) opposed. Motion carries.

8.6 Ratification of Food Service Contract

This was discussed at the last meeting in Executive Session.

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

Any further discussion? There was none.

Mr. Pompano left the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

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

8.7 Approval to Notify Non-Tenured Teachers of Non-Renewals

Mr. Serio requested the Board's approval to notify non-tenured teachers of non-renewals as of April 1st. There would probably be a few, but many of those teachers have an opportunity to resign prior to April 1st. If they don't, we as a Board have the right to non-renew non-tenured teachers.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

This was not for budgetary reasons and they were currently collecting names.

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

8.8 Discussion and Possible Approval to Add Grades K-2 to EH Academy

Mr. Serio explained that this was open for discussion and possible approval to add grades K-2 to the EH Academy.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Kluth stated she had wanted this on the agenda and had brought it up in the past. She felt this would help alleviate

some of the problems at the other schools. She had spoken a little bit to Mrs. Forti and Mrs. Johnson and thought about what they said and did not believe there was a sufficient reason to not do this.

There was discussion on this issue and both Mrs. Forti and Mrs. Johnson talked about their reasons for not wanting this to take place. Mr. Serio stated they had gone to K-2 schools to consolidate support services instead of splintering them off. He did not want to mess around with their primary grade configuration right now. They had a very good class size across the district.

There was further discussion on this matter. Mrs. DePalma suggested they take a vote or if they truly wanted to discuss this more, they should do so at a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Palladino suggested they make a motion to table this. There were many, many years of education telling him this was educationally sound and he had a hard time as a layperson saying I don't care. Mrs. Kluth stated she did not have a hard time with that. There was some discussion regarding why it should or should not be discussed further.

Mr. Palladino requested a roll call vote for approval of adding K-2 to the EH Academy.

Mr. DeNuzzo	-	No
Mrs. DePalma	-	No
Mr. Hennessey	-	No
Mrs. Kluth	-	Yes
Mrs. Maisano	-	No
Mr. Scalesse	-	No
Mrs. Vineyard	-	No

Vote was six (6) in favor with one (1) opposed. Motion to approve fails.

Mrs. Maisano requested they add to the agenda an Executive Session to Discuss and Review the Finance Department.

It was decided that they would do this on Monday at 7 p.m. after they heard from Joseph Centofanti regarding the audit at 6 p.m.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Any questions or comments on the Board Briefs (2-7-11)

Any questions on the Board Briefs? There were none.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Mr. Scalesse asked what the plan was for the self-assessment and evaluation. Mr. Palladino explained he would like to do the self-assessment during the next week and then set up a meeting to go over that. They would do the next one in Executive Session and go over that.

There was discussion on what was State mandated and what was not. Mrs. Forti offered any help or assistance she could to answer questions during the process.

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements - None

10.1.2 School Newsletters

10.1.3 School Enrollment Report for March 1, 2011

10.1.4 Board of Finance Budget Workshop Schedule for 2011-12

10.1.5 Invitation to 2011 Winter Athletic Reception on March 17, 2011

10.1.6 FYI – NESDEC 2010-11 Enrollment Projections

10.1.7 School Calendar for March 2011

**10.1.8 FYI – RFQ for Portable Classrooms at
Overbrook & Ferrara Schools**

**10.1.9 FYI – Nutri-Kids Online Prepayment
Notification to Parents**

10.1.10 FYI - January Financial Report

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

**THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION – MARCH 22, 2011 – 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. Maisano.

There was no discussion on the motion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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