

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN, CT
EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 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 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. She asked for a 5-minute recess so the Board could have their Yearbook picture taken. Meeting reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

2. MINUTES

Mrs. Vitale asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes for the regular Board meeting of October 28, 2008.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Motion carries. The minutes were approved.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- **Chairperson, Mrs. Marilyn Vitale**

Mrs. Vitale had no correspondence this evening except for some information on a CABE workshop.

- **Superintendent, Mr. Anthony Serio**

Mr. Serio had no correspondence this evening.

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.

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

Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio had no report this evening.

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

Mr. Finkle reported they were going to have a presentation this evening.

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

Mr. Hennessey had no report this evening. Mrs. Vitale asked where their quarterly report was. This would be given at the next Board meeting.

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

Mrs. Vineyard stated there would be a cafeteria financial 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 stated they had a subcommittee last week where they went over the bylaws of the Board. He thanked the Board members, Mr. Serio, Mr. Martorella and Mr. Meoli. They compared them to the suggested CABA bylaws. They modified some, replaced some, and kept some as they were. They did add some as well. **They would meet again after the Superintendent looked over some more bylaws.**

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

Mr. Hammell stated there would be several 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.

- **SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Serio spoke about the campaign for the food pantry and food drive for the holiday, Stuff-A-Truck, and how successful it was. They had the School Readiness Awareness Breakfast which was well-received by community leaders, educators, and Board members. They held the Freshmen Open House and invited 8th graders who were undecided on whether they were going to come to the high school.

Mr. Serio spoke about a grant that Rob Becker had applied for. Rob Becker spoke about the grant he had applied for Public Access to increase educational programming in Connecticut. The grants were worth anywhere from \$5,000 - \$200,000. They received just over \$36,000. The monies would be used for various pieces of equipment.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Any communication from the public?

Mayor Capone Almon wanted to address the Board on the events that took place today. She spoke about the arrest of two students off of school property for stolen firearms. Currently, there were firearms that were not accounted for. The lockers and the entire school and property had been inspected with dogs. The inspection had failed to find any guns inside or outside of the high school. They had not found any illegal substances either which was very impressive. The investigation was ongoing.

The Town has a zero tolerance for violence in any school. Anyone or everyone would be held strictly accountable. The police department had established a tip line which was 468-3371 for the public to use if they had any information concerning the identity of anyone who may have the guns with no questions asked. Mayor Capone Almon then spoke about the metal detectors. It was a well-thought out, carefully executed decision for the safety of all of our children. **She asked the Board of Education to review all safety measures for all of our schools and return their findings and recommendations to her within the next 30 days.**

The Mayor thanked the members of the Board for allowing her the time to address them this evening.

Lenore Salvati, 30 Canna Drive, stated she had a problem with a coach. Mrs. Vitale asked her to explain the procedure she had gone through because they had a procedure. Mrs. Salvati stated she had gone to Mike Marone and addressed the situation with him and she spoke to Mr. Serio and she was told things would happen which didn't happen. **She was there to ask them to help the process along. She asked them to take a look at the situation and hopefully come up with the same feelings she had. Mrs. Vitale stated the Board would look into it and Mr. Serio would inform them of the situation and they would discuss it. They would get a resolution.**

Any other comments or questions? There were none.

Mr. Serio stated he had forgotten to mention the festivities for this weekend. There would be the Pep Rally, Fireworks and Bonfire. There would be the Powder Puff Game in the afternoon with the juniors against the seniors. There would be the Thanksgiving Game against Branford. This was a home game.

7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Philip Gauvin, Fireworks Donation for EHHS Pep Rally

Mr. Serio stated he would like to recognize Philip Gauvin for his fireworks donation to the EHHS Pep Rally. Mrs. Vitale presented Mr. Gauvin with a plaque stating the Board's appreciation for his generous donation.

7.2 Presentation on Statistical Data and Tracking of Reading Program

The Language Arts Consultants gave a presentation on data generated from the 2008 CMT. They discussed how they use the summative CMT data and district formative data to make decisions about curriculum, instruction and assessments. They also discussed the Reading First Grant

that was awarded to Tuttle School and the district's reading initiatives that must be done to adhere to the grant requirements. Some of the requirements include a reading intervention plan for all students who need literacy support given by the literacy aides, and the formation of school-based and district literacy teams. The presentation concluded with highlighting subgroup CMT data that indicates the changing demographics of the town and influx of ELL students. The Board members asked a few questions regarding the presentation.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Any questions or comments on Board Briefs of 10-28-08

Any questions or comments? There were none.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Ratification of Appointments

Mr. Serio stated he needed to add some appointments to the agenda. He would like to add a Little Jackets Head Caregiver at Overbrook, a Little Jackets Assistant Caregiver at DC Moore and a Special Education Paraprofessional at EH Academy.

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

Any discussion on 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.

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the following appointments:

- **Assistant Parent Educator – FRC**

- Marisa Corso \$13.39/hr. 10 hrs./wk.
- **New Wrestling Coach Assistant at EHHS**
 - Stephen Tarquino Stipend Per Contract
- **New Head & Assistant Coaches for JMMS Basketball & EHHS Track**
 - Marisa Ceneri JMMS Girls Basketball
 - Frank Lyon JMMS Boys Basketball
 - Joe Tamagni EHHS Assist. Track
- **Intramural Stipend Position at Deer Run School**
 - Michael Archambault Stipend Per Contract
- **Little Jackets Head Caregiver at Overbrook**
 - Kate Fahey \$11.50/hr. 35 hours/week
- **Little Jackets Assistant Caregiver at DC Moore**
 - Amanda Houyar \$8.00/hr. 15 hours/week
- **Special Education Paraprofessional at EH Academy**
 - Lianne Soucy \$15.45/hr. 27.5 hours/week

Motion was made by Mrs. Vineyard 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 was one (1) which was Mr. Finkle.

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

9.2 Request for Approval of Payment of Invoices:

- **Dated November 12, 2008 for Fiscal Year 2008-09 in the Amount of \$1,287,986.68 (Previously Sent to Board Members)**
- **Dated November 26, 2008 for Fiscal Year 2008-09 in the Amount of \$767,022.74**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the payment of the invoices dated November 12, 2008 for Fiscal Year 2008-09 in the amount of \$1,287,986.68 and invoices dated November 26, 2008 for fiscal year 2008-09 in the amount of \$767,022.74.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vitale asked about the bill for Reliable Detections. This was for the security cameras which had gone out to bid and they were the successful bidder.

Any other questions? There were none.

There were no abstentions or opposition made to the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion carries.

9.3 Permission to Post for Head Football Coach for 2009-2010

Mr. Serio requested the Board's permission to post for the head football coach for 2009-2010. Mr. Marone asked that they post this in order to get a jump on finding someone.

Mr. Inglese asked that they table this item until the last game of the season was over and give Mr. Marone and the team the respect until after the last game was over.

Mr. Serio asked the Board to table this item until the next meeting. There was discussion on items not needing to come to the Board to request permission to post. Since this did not

need to be on the agenda to request posting, it did not need to be tabled.

9.4 Cafeteria Financial Report – Debbie Spaziani

Mr. Gersbeck and Mrs. Spaziani gave a cafeteria financial report ending October 31, 2008. There was discussion and questions from the Board regarding where they were financially last year compared to this year. The Board currently had a profit of \$31,268.74.

The deli and the Mexican stations were still the favorites at the high school. Mr. DeNuzzo asked about the number of stations and the POS card systems they had discussed in the past. The units were approximately \$5,000 per unit. **Mr. Gersbeck will provide information on POS to the Board members.**

Mr. Finkle would like to see the report reflect the comparisons from last year's figures to this year's figures so they could easily see where they were from one year to the next. Mr. Gersbeck stated he could provide the information to the district and they could implement the information into the financial document. They could not do it themselves and show the differences but the district could set it up how they would like to see it. Mr. Rizza and Mrs. Lewis could put in the information.

There was discussion on the menus and Mrs. Vineyard stated they had improved somewhat. The Board would like to see better food choices and some healthier choices as well. Mrs. Vineyard had a letter from her son which she gave to Mr. Gersbeck about the food at school. **A meeting would be scheduled with the principal and some of the students at Tuttle School.**

Mr. Serio spoke about the increase in repairs for kitchen equipment. Mrs. Spaziani to go to all of the schools and see what needs to be upgraded.

9.5 Request Approval to Waive the Second Reading of Policy #5131.911 Hazing/Bullying

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

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vineyard asked if they were supposed to read these. Mrs. Vitale stated they could waive it. Mrs. Vitale asked if there were changes on this. Mr. Martorella stated yes. **She asked that the changes be highlighted. Mr. Finkle suggested using strikeouts. Mrs. Vitale asked that the work they had done on the bylaws last week be done the same way. Mr. Martorella will use that format.**

Any further discussion? There was none.

There were no abstentions or oppositions made to the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion carries.

9.6 Update on GPS Tracking Equipment for Maintenance Trucks (Joe Travaglino)

Mr. Travaglino gave a short report on the GPS tracking equipment he had looked into. There was discussion on the cost and number of vehicles. Depending on what the Board wanted would determine the cost. It would cost probably \$60 per vehicle per month. There was discussion on how the units worked. **Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio will have a subcommittee in order to discuss the plan they would like to implement and what their goals were.**

9.7 Request Approval of List of Regular Board of Education Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2009

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the list of regular Board of Education meeting dates for calendar year 2009.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vitale asked what happened to the first meeting in April. This was during a vacation week.

There were no abstentions or oppositions made to the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion carries.

9.8 Request Approval of the Following Field Trips:

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

- **EHHS Field Trip to Smuggler's Notch, VT on February 6-8, 2009**
- **EHHS Field Trip to Boston Museum of Science, MA on December 11, 2008**

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 oppositions made to the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion carries.

9.9 Discussion and Possible Permission to Post for Position of Secretary, Buildings & Grounds Department

Mr. Serio requested the Board discuss the position of secretary for Buildings & Grounds and how they would like to post it. There was discussion on whether it would be a part-time or full-time position and that there should be a job description. The Board was in favor of a part-time secretarial position.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked to hear from Mr. Travaglino on what he thought. Mr. Travaglino spoke about how he had to get help from the Business Office to get his work done which took away from that department. There was also the issue of the budget. There was discussion on whether they should wait until after the budget was done or not. Mr. Hammell felt they should move forward because of implementing new procedures that took up a lot of time and because of accountability.

There was discussion on whether this was in the budget and where the money would come out of. Mr. Rizza stated they needed to know how many hours the person would work, whether it was a 12-month position or an 11-month position. These questions needed to be answered first. There was only about 6 months left in the year. Mr. Serio stated they were also going to have significant increases in security salaries and police and those were not budgeted for either. This position would not have benefits because it was part time.

Mr. Finkle suggested that Mr. Rizza come back to them with a dollar amount by the next meeting. They needed to know what account to take it out of.

9.10 Request to Cancel Regularly-Scheduled Board of Education Meeting of December 23, 2008

Mr. Serio requested the Board cancel the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting of December 23, 2008.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no abstentions or oppositions made to the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion carries.

9.11 Discussion of Recycling Program Proposal

Mr. Serio explained there had been some discussion about the implementation of a recycling program proposal. Mrs. Vitale introduced Mr. Loffredo. Mr. Loffredo spoke about when he was hired and that he was hired for strategic initiatives such as the recycling program and also as a liaison between the Town and the Board of Education. This would give them all a direct link to the Mayor's office. Mr. Loffredo spoke about his ideas for the recycling program proposal and the different models.

Mr. Loffredo stated he was looking forward to working with the Board.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

Any questions or comments on the informational items? There were none.

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements

- **JMMS Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher, George DeMaio (Resignation)**

10.1.2 FYI – Final 2007-08 Strategic School Profiles

10.1.3 School Enrollment Report for November 1, 2008

10.1.4 School Newsletters

10.1.5 Thank You from EHHS SADD Advisors to Mrs. Goodale, Principal at Momauguin Re: Stuff a Truck

10.1.6 Thank You from Teachers at Momauguin to Mrs. Reale Re: "Week of Caring" Food Drive

10.1.7 Letter from Mayor April Capone Almon to

Superintendent Anthony Serio

10.1.8 FYI – Confidential Fingerprint Report for November 2008

10.1.9 *Register* Article on Literacy Written by Cheryl Manciero

Mr. Serio stated at this time he would like to table 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3 and bring those back to the next meeting and he would like to add 11.4 to the Executive Session to have “Discussion Concerning Security Strategy and the Deployment of Security Personnel and/or Security Devices.”

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no abstentions or oppositions made to the motion. Motion carries.

Mr. Serio requested that Mr. Meoli join him in Executive Session. It was decided that the administrators would stay for part of this session.

Motion to go into Executive Session was made by Mrs. Vineyard and seconded by Mrs. Padua. There were no abstentions or oppositions made to the motion. Motion carries.

Out of Regular Session at 9:00 p.m.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1 Legal Update (Tabled)

11.2 Custodial Grievance on Boiler Work at JMMS (Tabled)

11.3 Secretarial Grievances Regarding Discipline Work, Written Warning, and Verbal Reprimand (Tabled)

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

Executive Session convened at 9:12 p.m. with the following people in attendance:

All 9 Board members

Anthony Serio

Frank Meoli

Art Martorella

Janice Ball

Paul Rizza

Robert Proto

Vanessa Reale

Elizabeth Mazzu

Marilee Noonan

Karen Schmidt

Karen Goodale

Vin DeNuzzo

Marianne Johnson

Jen Bauer

Bill Grimm

Phyllis Savo

John Prato

Erica Forti

A brief discussion ensued regarding the security of schools throughout the district in light of recent events.

Most of the school administrators and Janice Ball left Executive Session at 9:34 p.m.

Mrs. Reale, Mr. Proto, Mrs. Mazzu, Mr. Rizza, the three central office administrators, and the full Board remained for the remainder of the Executive Session.

There was a discussion of the steps to be taken with the security measures at East Haven High School.

Executive Session was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

The regular session of the Board meeting was reconvened at 10:15 p.m.

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – DECEMBER 9, 2008 – EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL, 35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Mrs. Vineyard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Padua. There were no abstentions or objections to the motion. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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