

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN, CT
EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

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

**ALSO PRESENT: MR. ANTHONY SERIO, SUPERINTENDENT
MR. FRANK MEOLI, ASSISTANT SUPT.
MRS. MARY ACQUARULO, DIRECTOR OF PUPIL
SERVICES
MR. JASON LATHROP, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
MR. JOSEPH TRAVAGLINO, DIRECTOR OF
BLDGS. & GROUNDS**

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 auditorium at the high school. Mrs. Vitale asked Janice Ball to do a roll call.

Mrs. Vitale – present
Mr. DeNuzzo – present
Mr. Finkle – present
Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio – present
Mr. Hammell – present
Mr. Hennessey – present
Mr. Inglese – present
Mrs. Padua – present
Mrs. Vineyard - present

2. MINUTES

Mrs. Vitale asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes for the Regular Board meeting of September 22, 2009.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no objections or abstentions made to the motion. Motion carries. The minutes were approved.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Chairperson, Mrs. Marilyn Vitale**

Mrs. Vitale had no correspondence this evening.

- **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 reported that Mrs. Reale had sent a letter home to parents regarding conduct from some parents and students at athletic events. He wanted to commend her for addressing the situation.

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

Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio reported on the flooring at the Middle School and the alarm system being tested on at the High School. She then asked Mr. Joseph D'Albero to give a report on the roofing projects at the schools.

Mr. D'Albero reported that the roofs were almost 100% complete. The projects were moving along and the gym floor was completely done. They had added the second coat of sealant and the lines would be put on tomorrow. There were a couple of problems at some of the schools but no leaks.

Mr. Hammell asked if the gym floor damages were covered under insurance. Mr. D'Albero stated they were and Mr. Travaglino had worked with the contractor on that to make sure. He hoped by the end of the week the work would be completed.

Mr. Hammell said it was his understanding that the State did not give them the okay for the solar panels. Mr. D'Albero stated they did not. He asked if the School Building Committee committed to those panels. Mr. D'Albero stated they did not go out to bid. There was a timeline they were looking at right now. They would be addressing this problem at their next meeting. He did not have the authority to stop the project. Mr. Hammell asked who had the authority to stop those panels from going up right now. Mr. D'Albero responded that a letter was sent to the Superintendent from the State on September 15th and it hinted at the fact that they knew it had gone out to bid. The State said if the bidding issue was not resolved with special legislation, these projects would be treated as "Town Funded" and the project files closed. Mr. D'Albero stated he received this letter two days later.

Mr. Hammell questioned whether they had received the okay for the roofs when they applied for the roofs and solar panels. Mr. D'Albero stated that was right. They did not get approval for the solar panels? No. Mr. Hammell wanted to clarify whether the Board of Education or the Building Committee approved going out to bid or signing off on anything to do with the panels before they got approval. Mr. D'Albero stated no.

Mr. Finkle had had some conversations with Mr. D'Albero and wanted to shed some light on this. First he wanted to thank Mr. D'Albero and his committee for completing four major renovations in less than two months with no interruptions for the start of school. It was a huge accomplishment.

Mr. Finkle stated when he received the letter he did some homework because it was sort of a red flag. He started by asking Mr. D'Albero about the status and he updated him on the roofs. The solar panels were actually a part of the roofing specifications that went out and were handed out as contracts. Mr. Finkle then put a timeline together to make sure they followed all of the guidelines. This was a concern because of the third paragraph in the letter that Mr. D'Albero just read. Should the State close the files on us because we did not follow the timelines, this would then become a \$2 million taxpayer-funded project.

Mr. Finkle then handed out copies to the Board Members of the information he had gathered. One of his biggest concerns was if they went all the way back and looked at the original paperwork for this project which was bonded for \$6 million for the solar panels. This dated back to the original scope of the project that came before this Board. On May 19th, the School Building Committee representative, Mr. Serio, Mr. Mauro, Mr. Meoli and a contingency went up to the State to get their roofing project approved by the State. According to the paperwork, they might have had issues from Day 1 on this. While they were up at the State on May 19th, on that same date at 9 o'clock, the bid openings were going on for the roofing projects. The bid specifications were included in there as well. On June 3rd, the Mayor signed the contract awards to the winning bidders. On June 7th, we received the letter from the State telling us we were approved to now go out to bid on the roofing project.

Mr. D'Albero stated right, we had already gone out to bid. He stated that Mr. Serio, two people from Town Hall, himself, the architect, Mr. Martorella and Mr. Meoli had attended the meeting. He stated it was said to them if they found out that they had already gone out to bid on this project, they would lose it. They had a feeling we had already been out to bid. Everything was being pushed because of the June 30th deadline. They knew then that we had problems.

Mr. Finkle asked if it was the School Building Committee that put it out to bid and Mr. D'Albero stated it was the Town who had gone out to bid. Mr. Finkle reported they did find out that contained in the award of the contracts for the roofs were the

specifications for the solar panels. He asked them to remember that the State still did not believe they had gone out to bid. On April 16th, the reality was DBS Energy presented Mr. Mauro with the costs for the four schools. Looking back, that cost comes to \$1.9 million. Another concern arises because who signed this from DBS Energies? It was Eric Bartone. Mr. D'Albero stated the Town had hired Eric to do stuff around the Town and then he got in on this. Mr. D'Albero stated the School Building Committee was left out of the loop. They were revising their booklet on the proper way of doing this. They had asked Eric Bartone for some information and as of today, they had not received anything. Mr. Finkle stated they had asked Mr. Bartone about the status of the solar panels and they were told that they were basically ready to go in and they were in his warehouse ready to go.

Mr. Finkle referred to a document he had handed out which showed a letter from a company called the Garland Company Inc. This was handed out at the walkthrough for many of the roofing materials. It calls out the specifications and they were free to go where they wanted to get the materials as long as they followed the specifications. He had done some research and had asked how the contractor came up with the prices for the solar panels and that's where they had gotten this document. They were told what prices to use. The bottom says, "solar panel pricing from DBS totaling \$1.5 million. For the solar panels it included all materials, installation, labor, interconnect start up and regulatory files. Any questions, please call Eric Bartone."

Mr. Finkle stated they had a project that was roughly \$2 million that did not go out to bid. The gentleman who created the specifications for the job for our energy consultant, appears to be the owner of DBS Energies or affiliated with DBS Energies, signed all of the quotes that went to Ralph Mauro. Mr. Finkle stated he was confused about a few things such as whether State Statute was violated or the Town Charter was violated. The contractors were given the prices to include in the roofing part of this. He knew this was not part of the School Building Committee but asked Mr. D'Albero what he might know to help him figure out why or how or who authorized DBS Energies to be the

contractor to install the solar panels at a cost of close to \$2 million without going out to bid.

Mr. D'Albero stated he was left out of the loop. He stated he had the panels and people to install them. Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio asked who "he" was. Mr. D'Albero stated Eric Bartone. At their last meeting, Mr. Bartone said he had the panels and he thought they were in his warehouse. Mr. D'Albero stated they did not go out to bid. The reason they were given, and he talked to John and also made some calls to the Clean Energy people, was that the builders came from them and the prices which they had did not. They told us that they were like a Better Business Bureau and they say okay you can choose any one of these three. They would not recommend any one person or company. They found out after their last meeting that they could be liable for that – the Town would be liable for \$2 million. They knew nothing until this all blew apart.

Mr. Hammell asked if they might be in jeopardy over the way they did the roofs and the State being unhappy with the way the roofs were done under false pretenses or something. Mr. D'Albero stated they hadn't received anything in the mail yet. Mr. Hammell asked if the School Building Committee or the Board of Education ever made a commitment to these panels. Mr. D'Albero stated no, they were told they were being taken care of and that's what they found out.

Mr. Finkle explained that after a conversation with Paige Farnham in Hartford who was overseeing our projects, there were two issues. One, the State was still under the impression that it was a \$6.4 million project. As of April 16th, the Town Hall had not notified the State and revised the numbers. Second, based on the fact that the contracts were given out, and I asked her for something in writing, it says that if indeed the solar panels went out, the files would be closed and it would be a Town Funded project.

Mr. Finkle wanted to know if they rescinded the vote on our approval, was that a way to get this job stopped. He was going to ask the Superintendent or someone with experience with ED0 forms, what the process was to put a halt on this project until all of

the necessary approvals were in writing and in our hands to make sure the proper reimbursements were there and whether this Town was liable for \$2 million in construction projects with no reimbursement.

Mr. Lathrop explained that typically the approval or disapproval of a project was either a vote of the public or by a vote of a legislative body. The body would most likely be the Town Council that needed to put the brakes on this pending a review. In this case, it might be a request to your Town Council and though the reimbursement rate would have been 68%, they would be getting a zero, they might still want to move forward with it anyways.

Mr. Finkle asked where they stood with getting the solar panel job started. The date would be the March 21st deadline in order to keep the funding of \$731,000. Mr. D'Albero felt nothing had been done as of today, but he was not told what was going on. He made inquiries but got nothing back. He did not want this going in the paper that this had been done wrong.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked Mr. D'Albero from whom was he looking to get the answers from. Mr. D'Albero said the State kept saying look at the letter and Eric Bartone had not returned his calls. Ralph Mauro called him and told him the legislature that went through said it was tabled. He called the State and they said it was not. We owe a large amount of money. He was concerned about the panels getting put up on the roofs and whoever signed the packing lists, then the Town would be responsible. The State was going to say "zero" amount of money. Somehow they needed to stop it. Maybe there was a way of getting the Boards of Ed, Town Council, Board of Finance and the School Building Committee together to hash this problem out. He wanted to get it resolved by the March deadline and not lose the money. He did not want to blame someone.

Mrs. Vitale suggested to Mr. Serio that he set up a meeting. Mr. Finkle stated the Board would direct the Superintendent to draft something to the Town Council for immediate action. They needed to do something quickly. They needed to know if it required an action from the Board.

Mr. Serio stated he was confused. The ED049 was filled out and processed. He wanted to know what his role was as Superintendent at this point. They had said it was nothing; it was up to the Building Committee. Mrs. Padua asked who “they” was. Mr. Serio said he had asked Joe what could he do at this point and he had said no, nothing. The ED049’s were filed in four separate projects for the roofs and four separate projects for the solar panels. They knew they were approved for the roofs and went forward with it. Other than that, he had no knowledge of what the status of the solar panels was. They contacted Joe when they received the letter and they had linked these projects together. Mr. Serio stated he did not know why they linked them together when they filed them separately.

Mr. D’Albero stated they didn’t know anything about it. When they went up to Hartford, they only had the roofs. There was further discussion on drafting something from Mr. Serio so this issue could be resolved. Perhaps it should come in the form of a motion from the Town Hall. Mrs. Vitale asked Mr. Serio to draft something. She stated the Town was the keeper of the Charter and they created a School Building Committee. Those people had to get into this and find out what was going on. It was not costing the Board any money, but it was costing the taxpayers. They needed to get this problem resolved. The Council was very concerned about not getting that money. This was really a Council decision.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked Mr. D’Albero if the Town could accept the panels without his committee’s approval. Mr. D’Albero said he did not know because he did not know what their authority was. This was the problem. Their rules were very vague.

Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio thought that once they accepted the panels, they owned them. She thought it was easier not to take possession of them than to give them back. Mr. D’Albero stated if they take possession of them, they own them. If they put them on the roof, it becomes town-owned.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked him if he knew where the panels were at this point. Mr. Finkle responded that they were led to believe they

were in the warehouse of DBS Energies. They needed to show some urgency. They needed to get a letter out to the Town Council expressing the Board's concern and give a package to the Superintendent and ask for immediate action before the Town bonds themselves to something they cannot get out of. They needed to find out with some diligence where they stood with some of these commitments.

Mr. D'Albero stated even if they had the money to put these panels in place, there would be no reimbursement. They would not get back the 68% reimbursement. **Mrs. Vitale wanted to make sure that the Board of Finance, the Town Council and School Building Committee all received a copy of it.**

Mr. Hennessey thought this was never right and it never made sense. He remembered reading this memo dated in June like it was yesterday. The fact that they approved this stuff just blew his mind. They were going to get free electricity forever! You might save 5% on your electric bill. They approved as a Board, free forever – 100%. Mr. Hennessey stated they were not involved in doing it and then find out we didn't even go out to bid on it. They fire Board employees for not going out to bid on a vacuum cleaner, but \$2 million on solar panels was okay.

Mr. D'Albero understood where he was coming from. Once they received it, they had complete control. They did not have complete control. Mr. Hammell stated they were not laying any fault on him. His main goal was to reinforce that this Board and the Building Committee were not liable for any of the \$1.9 million. Mr. Finkle stated they were still taxpayers. Mr. Hennessey stated his whole pitch was that the Board and Board members have to learn that they can't approve things unless they have some detailed knowledge of what was going to happen. They had to remember that after the panels, they had received a half-page written note where they tried to approve \$40 million for a school project. This was chicken feed compared to that.

Mrs. Padua felt they should fix this problem --Mrs. Vitale asked for some order. Mr. Hennessey stated they could not approve major league funding without knowledge or details. They needed to know who was responsible; how was it going to work; how and

why. Mr. D'Albero would just like to see this resolved by getting the four committees together.

Mr. Hennessey told Mr. D'Albero that he needed to say something here. He felt they needed to start blaming when it came to \$2 million and they didn't go out to bid.

Mr. Finkle stated the Board would take the initiative to draft a letter. Mr. Serio would do that and copy all of the commissions. Mrs. Padua stated the Board should be included on all of these things and not just a few select people. Maybe if everyone found out what was going on and we wouldn't be dumped on right now and not knowing what is going on. Mr. D'Albero stated he had only found out when the legislature went through and they said no. It was a week later that he found out the funding did not go through. Mrs. Padua stated she didn't know about anyone else, but this was the first time she was hearing about this. Mr. Finkle responded that he had received a copy and had done his homework as a Board member concerned that the taxpayer was going to get stuck with a \$2 million bill. Mrs. Padua stated he at least got a phone call from someone who told him about the problem; she didn't know about this until tonight. Mr. Finkle stated the Board members received a copy of it in their Board packets of the letter of September 15th from Paige Farnham at the State of CT. It was the last paragraph. That's where he started. Mr. DeNuzzo stated this item had been included in a previous Board packet of September 22nd.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked Mr. D'Albero before school's had their roofs put on, it had to be at least 20 years old for the reimbursement. Mr. D'Albero stated right. Mr. DeNuzzo said one of the questions that had been asked last year about the Momauguin roof was if it was 20 years or older. Mr. D'Albero responded that he had heard that comment also. He had told the architect that it couldn't be 20 years old. He was told the State said it was. Mr. DeNuzzo asked who told him that. Mr. Mauro had told him that. That's how far it went? Mr. D'Albero said he knew when it was renovated, but the old part and the gym and the long wing were not done. Mr. DeNuzzo asked if the State comes in and confirms the roof was not 20 years old, they were not reimbursed the 68% to put that roof on the school, was that correct? They would give you a

percentage of it. He went up on that roof and there were a lot of problems when that new roof was put on. Originally that roof was given out to the Town to do and it was given to the School Building Committee after the fact.

They gave us an architect and an amount of money to spend. It was not what they needed to get that building to where it should be. They had spoken to Mr. Lathrop about the warranties person going to have it. Everything was on computer now. If anything went wrong with those roofs, they could call those vendors and they would fix that roof and they have "x" number of years. They will also come out and inspect the roofs once or twice a year for us at no charge. Once the roofs were done, the warranties would go to the proper people and that would be on their computer. They also have to form a letter to this company and they would come out and look at those roofs at no charge to the Town.

Mr. Lathrop stated a roof had to be at least 15 years old before it was eligible for reimbursement. Anything from 15 to 20 years old was prorated on its reimbursement. Anything over 20 years was 100% and anything below 15 years was not eligible. The chance of an entire roof being ineligible was relatively slim.

Mr. Hammell asked who would come to do these inspections for free. Mr. Travaglino stated the warranty would be by Garland who was the manufacturer of all of the roofs and materials that were supplied. They were on the job from Day 1 and oversaw the job. They set up a website we could go to. If we had an issue, we could record it on the website and they would come down and fix it for free. Mr. Hammell asked who the people were that were responsible for the roof. Who was responsible for the repair? Mr. Travaglino responded that Garland would take care of that. Were the same people inspecting it? Yes, they may call someone in to do it. Mrs. Padua explained they were not the contractor, they were the manufacturer. Then she would assume they approved only certain contractors who followed their specifications and they were willing to back the work of these contractors. Mr. D'Albero explained once someone touched that roof that was not one of their people, then it was no longer under warranty.

Mr. Hennessey asked Mr. Lathrop if they paid anything if it was a Town project. Mr. Lathrop stated we request a reimbursement from the State and file the paperwork on behalf of the Town for final reimbursement. We can't say hold up the payment? Mr. Lathrop stated no, he moved information from the Town to the State. Mr. D'Albero stated the bills had to come to the School Building Committee first and then the architect approved the forms. Then his committee looked them over and signed off on them and gave them to the finance department to pay them off. That was the way it was supposed to go. They had found some bills that were not done that way and they were in the middle of doing that also.

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

Mr. Finkle reported that there would be two presentations this evening. The first report was from the high school staff on the CAPT scores and Standards-Based Initiatives at EHHS. The second one was to be given by Erica Forti on On-line Instruction.

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

No report this evening.

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

Mrs. Vineyard stated she would like either Debbie Spaziani or Janice Ball to contact all the principals about Debbie meeting with the kids in their student councils to discuss food service. An email would be sent.

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

No report this evening.

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

Mr. Hammell stated there was an administrator's contract that was completed and on the agenda for approval.

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

No report this evening.

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

Mr. Hammell reported that they had a couple of appointments this evening.

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

No report this evening, but perhaps the PTO's could be involved in Kristen's conversation with Whitson's.

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

No report this evening.

5. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

- **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE/S (Gabrielle Caruso/Albert DeCaprio)**

Gabrielle Caruso gave an update on the different activities and clubs at the high school. They were happy that many of the clubs were going to be happening this year. They were hoping to raise the same money with the talent show and the fashion show. The school newspaper was a big hit. Kids were interviewing teachers about different things. The seniors had their first meeting for Homecoming which she believed was on November 20th. They had not picked a theme yet. The Powder Puff Game was also coming up.

- **SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Serio wanted to personally, and on behalf of the Board of Education, thank Clem Laurello for his very generous donation of \$10,000 to the high school marching band. This generosity was above and beyond what they normally see especially with these economic times. **On behalf of the band, Mike Martino, Central Office and high school administration, they would like to publicly acknowledge Clem Laurello during a presentation to thank him.**

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Barbara Spears, parent at Carbone School, asked when they could set up a meeting with the PTA/PTO's to go over things like hours and things they can do in the schools. **Mrs. Padua stated they could set that up under a subcommittee. Janice Ball will send names and information to Mrs. Padua.**

Robert Parente, 7 Farms River Road, stated he was in awe and flabbergasted. Eric Bartone was a paid consultant for this Town and he was storing panels in the Eric Bartone warehouse without going out to bid. He could not believe this Board did not know what was going on as they did approve it. Mr. DeNuzzo stated that it was not a unanimous vote. Mr. Parente stated the Board voted to go ahead so they could get it in by June 30th. Look where it got us. The Town of East Haven does not deserve this.

Any further public comment? There was none.

Mr. Finkle left the room at this point. It was 8:00 p.m.

7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 *CAPT/Standards-Based Initiatives Presentation – High School Staff*

Mrs. Reale and her staff, Vin DeNuzzo, Jen Bauer and Marilee Noonan gave a presentation on the CAPT scores and Standards-Based Initiatives. They were extremely proud of their CAPT scores and they were proud of the students' accomplishments. This was one piece of a larger, complex set of issues and initiatives at the high school.

Mr. Finkle returned to the meeting at this time. It was 8:02 p.m.

Mrs. Reale started the presentation by going over the Standards-Based Initiatives. They had developed a set of common expectations within all mandates and initiatives which included things such as rigor, differentiated instruction, engagement and active participation. They sought to increase

rigor in all courses through curriculum and assessment revision based on NEASC standards. They revised placement standards for incoming freshmen. Mrs. Reale spoke about the changes in the honors program and the new criteria. Students that were not selected had the opportunity to have their placement revisited. Some additional initiatives included greater focus on collaborative data-driven decision-making, professional learning communities, discipline, and mission and school climate.

Mr. Vincent DeNuzzo then gave a report on the 2009 CAPT Scores. He spoke about the increases in East Haven High School's scores compared to the State averages. The scores in each of the four (4) areas were as follows:

Interdisciplinary Writing

EHHS increased from 90.4% proficient in 2008 to 93.4% proficient in 2009
State average was 88.2% in 2008, and it dropped to 86.5% in 2009

Reading Across the Disciplines

EHHS increased from 79.1% proficient in 2008 to 86.9% proficient in 2009 (Above AYP Targets)
State average was 82.7% in 2008, and it dropped to 81.8% in 2009

Science

EHHS increased from 79.4% proficient in 2008 to 85.7% proficient in 2009
State average was 80.5% in 2008, and it dropped to 78.4% in 2009

Math

EHHS increased from 72.5% proficient in 2008 to 81.1% proficient in 2009 (Above AYP Targets)
State average was 79.7% in 2008, and it dropped to 78.4% in 2009

East Haven High School has exceeded State of Connecticut averages in proficiency in each of the four areas of the CAPT.

What is even more impressive was that our test scores saw gains in proficiency in all areas, while State averages decreased in every area. East Haven High School students also exceeded State of Connecticut averages at the goal level in Interdisciplinary Writing. EHHS numbers were 56.5% at/above goal, while the State of Connecticut numbers were 55.1% at/above goal.

Mr. DeNuzzo spoke about the comparisons in DRG and how East Haven High School outperformed the DRG average. The scores in each of the areas follow:

In Math, 81.1 (EHHS) compared to 73.4 (DRG)

In Science, 85.7 (EHHS) compared to 75.5 (DRG)

In Reading, 86.9 (EHHS) compared to 77.3 (DRG)

In Writing, 93.4 (EHHS) compared to 82.3 (DRG)

Schools in our DRG:

Bloomfield, Bristol, East Haven, Groton, Hamden, Killingly, Manchester, Middletown, Naugatuck, Plainfield, Putnam, Stratford, Torrington, Vernon

Some additional achievements were in Advanced Placement and UConn Early College Experience. Some of these achievements were attributed to ongoing curriculum review and revision, data teams, increased rigor and more meaningful professional development.

The Board members asked questions regarding the program and thanked them for their presentation. The Board members congratulated them and expressed their appreciation that they were a part of this.

Mr. Hammell commented on the enthusiasm that has come into play for the last 7 to 8 years or better and just kept coming. It was refreshing to see. Mr. DeNuzzo stated that what blew his mind was how they surpassed their district reference groups in leaps and bounds. Mrs. Vitale stated they were at the bottom when they began. Mr. Hennessey thought the scores were great and they did a great job. He also felt they should fill the fourth job because this really worked.

There was some discussion on this trickling down into the lower grades. Mr. Serio stated that was already taking place and that Mrs. Forti has been helping to drive this initiative. Even with all the interferences in Central Office, education was still happening. Mrs. Forti also worked closely with the instructional leaders and principals putting it on paper and following up with professional development. They had data teams and formative assessments and Mrs. Forti came in and knew what she had to do with it. They were delivering a better student to the high school and down the road they needed somebody to take the bull by the horns and make sure this did not slide backwards.

Mr. Hammell felt the Board had been criticized because their focus wasn't always on education all the time. He felt their focus was on improving the chances of students for the best education possible. It was with great satisfaction to know that what they put in place was finally helping and test scores were improving.

Mr. DeNuzzo commented on the previous meeting when Mrs. Forti reported on the CMT scores and how across the board they went above the State average and in most cases above the DRG. He felt district-wide it was a homerun for the whole district with the trickledown effect.

Mr. Finkle felt it was especially rewarding for him with only one more meeting left. He wanted to thank the high school staff, specifically tonight the curriculum leaders. They get their just reward for the hard work they put into the programs over the years. They took ownership in this program and were committed to the program. It finally gave credit to why those positions were so valuable. As the State declined in areas, we went up and significantly.

He thanked them for their efforts. If there was some one thing about replacing the English component of this program, the Board was taking a lot of steps to solidify what they were talking about regarding the three branches of this program. They were aligning themselves from an operational standpoint

and also from a financial standpoint with Jason Lathrop who was a tremendous addition to the program. Mr. Finkle stated he would like to see them take this one step further. One thing they had not accomplished was putting curriculum in this system at the same level they put the thirds. Where he was going with this was they needed to fill the last third and put the true focus on, from top to bottom, curriculum. In every case where they focused they got better. With math coaches, they improved math scores. Math, reading, writing and science at the high school, they had become better at it. He could not be happier as he came to the end of his run on the Board of Education. He was able to say they accomplished much of their goal. He thanked them very much.

Mrs. Vitale thanked Mr. Finkle.

At this point there was a two-minute break. It was 9:00 p.m.

Meeting was reconvened at 9:04 p.m.

7.2 *Presentation for On-line Instruction – Erica Forti*

Erica Forti presented information about an online learning environment called the CT Virtual Learning Center. The Center was launched by Governor Rell in 2008 and now offers thousands of high school students the opportunity to take online courses. The courses offered are for both credit recovery and electives that schools currently are not offering.

Mr. Hammell asked if any schools were currently using this. No. This was announced in 2008 and it was fairly new. They do not provide you with a list of districts that were actually using it. **Mrs. Forti stated she could tap into some of her resources in other districts and get some information back to them.** Mr. Hammell asked if the cost was to the student themselves. Mrs. Forti responded yes.

Mrs. Padua stated her concern would be the recovery end of it. If the students were not motivated to do their work here, and we allow them to do it at home, and not know who was doing the work for them and who was getting the credit. This was

one of her concerns, but otherwise, it sounded like a great, you know, win win.

Mr. Finkle asked if it would be possible because it was online, could they do something collaboratively with another district like Branford where we may have four students and they have five or six students. Mrs. Forti stated as a district they could communicate with other districts in the State to see if there was interest in exploring this so they could create a bank to see if there were enough students in order to run the program. Mr. Finkle felt that down the road with technology as it is, this would become much, much bigger. Mrs. Forti suggested they look into it beginning maybe with homebound and then credit recovery. It needed to be paced appropriately with the proper policies and procedures behind it. This would involve a lot of technology support as well.

There was some discussion on supervision if courses were held at the high school. Mrs. Vitale suggested that Mrs. Forti speak with Jay Miles because her granddaughter was homebound and he gave her an online course and she did better than any of the kids that attended the class. She thought maybe it was the one-on-one that did it. Mrs. Forti stated that Jay Miles was involved in another whole level of technology which included moodle environment that kids access and conference with kids from other districts and work on projects together. There was some discussion on these courses being used on the college level.

The BOE has requested additional information, such as other districts that were currently using the Learning Center and the technology requirements needed to run the program.

Mr. Finkle wanted to thank Mrs. Vitale for researching this topic for sometime. The Board thanked Mrs. Forti for her presentation.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Any questions or comments on Board Briefs of 9-22-09.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked Mr. Serio to give them an update on the School Resource Officer and why they did not have one this year. Mr. Serio explained they had met with principals during the budget process when they were in the process of laying staff off. Mrs. Reale indicated to him in writing that if it meant losing a teacher vs. the resource officer, she would prefer to keep the instructional teacher. Currently, the person they had would not be here for most of the year because of her service time that had to be put in. They did not have another trained resource officer. He had met with Mr. Meoli, Mr. Hongo, the Mayor and high school administration and decided this would be revisited for the next school year. They would look at this and see if it was something they wanted to build into the budget and whether it was funded.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked if they were satisfied with the SRO, but because of the funding we don't have one so they could keep the teacher? Mr. Serio stated pretty much so.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Ratification of Appointments

- **FRC Assistant Child Care Instructor @ DC Moore**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Pamela Longley for the FRC assistant child care instructor at DC Moore.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

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

- **FRC Parent Educator @ DC Moore**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Marlo Giangrande as the FRC parent educator at DC Moore.

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 to the motion.
Motion carries.

- **Special Education Paraprofessionals (2)**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Dana Proto and Andrew DaCorte as special education paraprofessionals both at DC Moore.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

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

Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

- **Stipend Positions**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the following stipend positions as given to them this evening:

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Finkle stated he was just looking this over and he would like to see numbers and what was cut out of this. Were any of these stipend positions eliminated? Mr. Lathrop stated it was around \$382,000

which was his best estimate. The goal was recognizing that each position cut would impact students. So the positions brought forward were approximately \$380,000. Mr. Serio stated he went over the figures with Janice today. These were the ones they were filling this evening. They had reduced some activities and clubs. The principal at the high school prioritized the clubs they wanted to run at the high school. Mentors were not included but they might have to bring them back for a couple of positions. Mrs. Forti was working on that with the State. Chorus and elementary band were cut out and performances would be held during the school day.

Mr. Hammell asked if there was any way they could get a comparison to see what had changed. Mr. Finkle stated he was hoping to get a spreadsheet of all of them showing which ones were moving forward and which ones were not. He asked if that could be provided to them.

Mr. Lathrop and Mr. Serio explained some of the things they were not approving were the Spanish and French clubs, the mentors, and the Choral A level positions were being changed to Choral C level. They reduced two team leaders at the high school and some curriculum facilitators at the Middle School. The instructional leaders run those meetings for the Middle School except for the language arts position which was vacant. **He would get a copy of the spreadsheet to the Board. He did not believe that in the past he had put numbers to them. Mr. Hammell asked that they have that by the next Board meeting. He would like to move forward with the current ones.**

Mr. DeNuzzo asked what the savings were between this year's and last year's stipends. Mr. Lathrop stated last year it was \$450,000 last year, but he could not confirm whether they were all from stipends because he did not know if something else had been coded to that account. Right now they were around \$385,000 depending on what Mr. Serio submitted to them. They were talking about \$70 – 85,000 less. Mrs. Vitale asked if they had added any new positions. Mr. Serio stated they had added curriculum facilitator for reading elementary, now they had a reading teacher in every building. They were adding a stipend for an ELL Facilitator. This person did State reporting and testing.

Mrs. Vineyard asked if a teacher, out of the goodness of their heart, wanted to run a club, was it something that the union allowed.

Mr. Serio stated yes. It was difficult to cut any of these because the students needed them on their college applications. It was vital that these programs were funded adequately.

Mr. Inglese asked about the four positions on the last page for the marching band. It had next to them they were purchase orders. Mr. Lathrop explained those services were provided by entities other than employees that worked for the Board of Education.

Mr. Finkle asked why they were not looking at the curriculum position to be a district-wide position. Mr. Serio explained this had been placed under the school the person was currently at. It could fall under district-wide. Mr. Hammell asked if they needed it. Mr. Serio stated yes. Even though you have a curriculum person? Mr. Serio explained they were hurting now because of the lack of instructional leaders in Language Arts. It had jumped to a higher level because of the RTI piece. The principals were looking for a go-to person. Who was going to make the decisions on this? Mr. Serio stated he had checked with Erica and she seemed to be in agreement and Mary Acquarulo also. This streamlines the elementary piece. They were probably going to put a math coach down there also.

Mr. Finkle stated they had a reading consultant in each building right now, right? Yes. So in essence they would be taking a person out..? Mr. Serio said they would not be taking them out and right now they met once a week at one of the schools. They just needed someone to coordinate their efforts and make sure they were all doing the same thing. Two of them were new and needed some mentoring/coaching. It would not be a forever position. When it was not needed anymore, they would absorb that instructional leader in language arts. It was happening at the Middle School and once they had one at the high school... this was temporary for one year.

Mr. Finkle explained he was looking to have that piece tucked into one district-wide curriculum piece. He wanted one centralized person for handling curriculum, reading, math, and science district-wide so each building had their own focus and were ultimately the focus of one centralized body as to what happens district-wide. He wanted to see them bring curriculum to a level that was on par with what they had done with operations and finances. He would like to see someone accountable for district curriculum. He didn't want it

broken down into individual pieces, but stay focused on district-wide. He wanted what happened at one school to happen at every school.

Mr. Serio explained that those individual pieces would be doing the legwork for that individual or person that was in charge of curriculum district-wide. Mr. Serio said they did not have that piece that overlooks everyone. It was kind of a weak point right now. Mr. Serio stated he would put something together for next week.

Overbrook ELC

Head Teacher

Karen Rybak

Hays ELC

Head Teacher

Cindy Coppola & Norma Pelliccio

Webmaster for both ELC's

Karin Aldridge

Deer Run

Webmaster

Leslie Primus & Michael Archambault

Head Teacher

Kathleen Pyne

Tuttle

Head Teacher

Cheryl Syc

Webmaster

Sandi Ridley

Momauguin

Head Teacher

Sharon Villano & Nadine Vaspasiano

Webmaster

Patricia Robinson

Carbone

Head Teacher

William Tomassi

Webmaster

Julie Oca

Ferrara

Head Teacher

Patty Gambardella

Webmaster

Patty Gambardella

DC Moore

Head Teachers (shared)

Joanne O'Connell & Chris Brown

Webmaster

Jennifer Sicignano

Curriculum Facilitator

for Reading (Elementary)

Cheryl Manciero

EH ACADEMY

Head Teacher

Janice Staires

Webmaster

Geralyn Nelson

Band Advisor B

Shawna Coste

Orchestra Director

Shawna Coste

Choral Director (Musical)

Judy Weber

Class Advisor

Janice Staires

Yearbook Advisor

Janice Staires

Drama Director

Suzanne Frederick

Honor Society

Geralyn Nelson

JMMS

Yearbook

Kathleen Doheny

Webmaster

Mark Curcio

Band Director C

Edward Piechota

Choral Director C

Denise Martino

Class Advisors (Gr. 8)

Denise Serio & April Martindale

Jr. Honor Society

Denise Serio & Patty Scalesse

Student Council

Amy Holt & Mark Curcio

Curriculum Facilitators

Denise Serio & Kathy Doheny

Co-Drama Club Advisor

Lauren Myers and Lauren Wnek

District-Wide

ELL Facilitator

Paul DeBernardo

East Haven High School
2009-2010
Clubs and Advisors
Stipend Positions

First Name	Last Name	STIPEND POSITION/TITLE
Jamie	Gaudio	Best Buddies Advisor (Unified Yellowjacket Club)
Haley	Lutar	Best Buddies Advisor (Unified Yellowjacket Club)
Fred	Parcesepe	Best Buddies Advisor (Unified Yellowjacket Club)
Emily	Hamar	Choral Director - EHHS
Emily	Hamar	Choral Director - Musical
Emily	Hamar	Choral Orchestra Director
Diane	Conradi	Class Advisor - Freshman (Class of 2013)
Maria	Pompano	Class Advisor - Freshman
Kathy	Gavigan	Class Advisor - Junior (Class of 2011)
Joe	Marangell	Class Advisor - Junior
Luisa	Spadacenta	Class Advisor - Senior (Class of 2010)
Sue	D'Amico	Class Advisor - Senior
Pam	Beaudette	Class Advisor - Sophomore (Class of 2012)
Doug	Gardner	Creative Writing Club Advisor
Lisa	Nuzzolillo	Drama Director
Jeff	Pascale	Environmental Club Advisor(s)
Diane	Ruggiero	Environmental Club Advisor(s)
James	Newton	Environmental Club/Alternative Energy Advisor
Loretta	Kelley	FBLA Advisor
Renee	Seufert	Gay-Straight Alliance
Nancy	Tipping	HOSA Advisor
Michael	Martino	Marching Band Advisor A
John	Moynihan	Marching Band Percussion Coach (purchase order)
Raymond	Clark	Marching Band Coach (Drill Design - Marching Technician) (purchase order)
Maryann	Robertson	Marching Band Colorguard Coach (purchase order)
Matthew	Laudano	Marching Band Percussion Pit Coach (purchase order)
Nick	Picciano	Math League Advisor
Rita	Smith	Math League Advisor
Rocco	Crocco	Multicultural Club / ASAP
Tony	Vaspasiano	Multicultural Club / ASAP
Mike	Cassone	National Honor Society Advisor
Diane	Ruggiero	National Honor Society Advisor
Rocco	Crocco	SADD Advisor
Tony	Vaspasiano	SADD Advisor
Karen	Perrella	State of the Arts Advisor
Gladys	Knudsen	Student Activity Fund Coordinator
Kathy	Yuse	Team Leader - Business / Technology
Lisa	Veleas	Team Leader - English
Michele	Madonna	Team Leader - Guidance
Ava	Sorensen	Team Leader - Special Ed
Haley	Lutar	Unified Sports Coach(es)
Fred	Parcesepe	Unified Sports Coach(es)
Jason Karl	Miles	Video Club Advisor
Rob	Becker	Video Club Advisor
Renee	Seufert	Website Administrator
Joe	Marangell	Yearbook Advisor
Lindsay	Wright	Yearbook Advisor
Nettie	Rank	Young Educator's Society (Y.E.S.) Advisor

10/13/2009
2:10 PM

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

9.2 Request for Approval of the Payment of Invoices:

- **Dated October 14, 2009 for Fiscal Year 2009-10 in the Amount of \$1,325,020.19**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the payment of invoices dated October 14, 2009 for fiscal year 2009-10 in the amount of \$1,325,020.19.

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

Any questions on the invoices?

Mr. Hammell asked about the bill for Dornfeld. He noticed there were a couple of simple things like changing filters and wanted to know if we didn't have people that could take care of something like this. Mr. Travaglino stated they were short-staffed and they could not keep up with things that were breaking down. They did not have an HVAC person. Mr. Hammell asked if they had a schedule for maintenance for changing filters. Only a couple of the schools had filters. Besides the HVAC person, was this something the custodians could do? It was something they could do, but he did not have a full complement of men. Of custodians or maintenance men? The custodians can't do that. Why not? That's what he was asking him. Mr. Travaglino stated sorry. Was it in their job description? Their workload was heavy enough without having them do that and there were only two schools that fell into that category and one of them the filters were on the roof. This school was DC Moore and he was not going to pull a custodian to change a filter.

Mrs. Padua felt it wasn't a very time-consuming task. Mr. Travaglino explained there were over 15 units up there and it was time consuming. Mr. Hammell asked so a maintenance man and a custodian couldn't perform this task. Mr. Travaglino stated that was not what he said, he did have maintenance men that could do that but he did not have anyone that was available. Where were

these people? Were they on comp? One guy had 7 or 8 weeks vacation due to him. They were trying to spread it out. If someone was out sick. Was anyone out on comp? There was no one from maintenance out on comp. He used to have 5, now he had 3 with 12 buildings to take care of. Changing filters was not the highest thing on the priority list. Mr. Hammell stated he might want it to be if it costs \$1,200 to change two stupid filters when somebody could do it for \$12. It might be something to think about. Mr. Hammell stated according to the bill he looked at, it was not specified that way.

Mr. Lathrop explained that they were down one man vs. the minimum manning clause in the contract right now. Some of the resources are being outsourced. They were working very closely with the union to make sure that the Board could meet its financial goals and at the same time try to respect the needs of the custodians and the contract they negotiated about four years ago.

Mr. Hammell responded that with all due respect to his explanation, this had been an ongoing problem; it was not something that had been going on just recently, but it had been going on for years. He was just pointing it out and he wanted to nip it in the bud. They were being charged a lot of money to do something their own people could handle. Mrs. Padua asked if they could schedule that kind of stuff when people were not on vacation. Mr. DeNuzzo asked Mr. Travaglino if he had five custodians instead of three today, would he have gotten that job done. Mr. Travaglino stated yes.

Any other questions on the bills? There were none.

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

9.3 Discussion of High School Internet Antenna

Mr. Travaglino spoke about the company, Clearwire US, and approaching them to see if the Board had an interest in placing an internet antenna on the roof of the school. They would receive \$1,250 a month if they were to decide they wanted to go ahead with

this. The checks go directly to the Town and provide about \$14,000 a year worth of revenue.

Mr. Hammell stated he would like to see the Board get a piece of the action. Mrs. Vitale asked about it being \$1,250 a month and then going to \$500 a month. Mr. Travaglinio stated they normally give \$500 but they were willing to give us \$1,250. Once he got the information he could then get Mr. Lathrop involved to negotiate what they wanted to do.

Mr. Hammell asked if someone would accompany him up on the roof. Absolutely. Mrs. Padua stated she had seen requests like this for cell towers and there were radiation concerns. Did they know if there were any concerns with this? Mr. Travaglinio stated he wasn't a scientist so he wouldn't know, but he was guessing that it was no different than a dish or router in our house that receives signals for antenna service.

Mr. Hammell stated that they needed to find out what the cost was to them for power to run it if they decided to pursue this. Mr. Lathrop stated it was 40 amp continuous service provided by the school system. So the \$1,250 was automatically knocked down. Mr. Hammell asked who put it in – was it their responsibility or ours? Again, where does the money go? Were they splitting it with the Town? If the Town takes the whole pie, then they were footing the bill and they would be in a hole.

Mrs. Padua asked if their installation would affect our roofing in any way. Mr. Travaglinio stated they would make sure it wouldn't. Mr. Hammell stated if they were going to pursue a contract, they needed to look into these questions.

9.4 Approval of the Following Field Trips:

- **EHHS, Grade 11 to Salem, MA on 10-29-09**
- **EHHS, Grade 11 to Newport, RI on 11-17-09**

Mr. Serio requested the Board's approval for the above-mentioned field trips. The date for the 10-29-09 trip had been changed to 11-12-09.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

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

9.5 Possible Approval of the Administrators' Contract 2010-2013

Mr. Serio requested the Board's approval of the Administrators' Contract for 2010-2013. Mr. Serio handed out information that summarized the changes in the contract.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Hammell questioned what was the language before as far as you requesting a medical verification? Mr. Serio stated it was non-existent; it was all new language. Do you think five is reasonable? Mr. Serio stated he thought it was. Mr. Hammell questioned what the Athletic Director's position was before it was clarified. Mr. Serio stated it was 12 months. How could he knock it down to 11? Because the Association felt that was where that position belonged and it was part of the negotiations of the contract. They felt it was negotiated out of the contract and wanted it reinstated into that category that it was in originally. It had been vacant for two years.

Mr. Inglese asked where it would fall in the salaries when it was it filled. Mr. Serio stated it would fall after the instructional leaders and coordinators. Mr. Serio then went over the chart that explained the years and percentages. There was no salary step movement increase for 2010-11; 2.25% salary increase for 2011-12; and 2.75% salary increase for 2012-13. There was a medical contribution over three years with an increase from 12% to 14% in second year of the contract and to 16% in third year of the contract.

Mr. Hennessey stated he thought it was very fair. Everyone worked hard on it and it was a good negotiation. It was fair for both parties involved.

There were no objections to the motion and there was one abstention which was Mr. DeNuzzo. Motion carries.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements - None

10.1.2 School Newsletters

10.1.3 School Calendar for October 2009

10.1.4 Athletic Department Checkbook – Regular Account – August 2009

10.1.5 Athletic Department Checkbook – Facilities Account – August 2009

10.1.6 Personnel Fingerprint Report (Confidential)

10.1.7 Invitation from EHHS to Honor CAPT Scholars

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – OCTOBER 27, 2009 – EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL, 35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Hammell made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Mrs. Vineyard seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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