

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN, CT
EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 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

ABSENT: MR. JOSEPH TRAVAGLINO, DIRECTOR OF
BLDGS. & GROUNDS

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Vitale, Chairperson of the Board, called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:15 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 revised minutes for the Regular Board meeting of September 8, 2009.

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

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 correspondence from CAFE which she had given to Mr. Serio.

- **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 stated they had one appointment this evening.

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

Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio reported they would be having an update on the solar panels this evening.

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

Mrs. Vitale asked Mr. Finkle if he had given the information to Mrs. Forti regarding on-line instruction. Mr. Finkle was getting

all of the information together and there would be a presentation in the near future.

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

Mr. Hennessey had no report this evening.

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

Mrs. Vineyard reported they would be voting on Whitson's Contract this evening.

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

No report this evening.

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

Mr. Hammell asked Mr. Serio to give them an update. Mr. Serio stated they had mediation with their Administrators' Association which was currently on-going. He had no information to share this evening.

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

Mr. DeNuzzo stated the policies they had approved at their last meeting were finalized in their packets.

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

Mr. Hammell stated they had met earlier to talk about the Superintendent's goals for the upcoming year.

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

No report this evening.

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

No report this evening.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

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

Albert DeCaprio gave a very brief update on the events happening at the high school. He would give a more in-depth report at their next meeting.

- **SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Serio thanked all of those people who were here this evening. He knew there were concerns about the issue that had transpired with their athletic program over the past week. He asked that they had representatives for their groups so there wasn't too much repetition of the same comments. He felt they would get the message without that happening. They had set up this forum in order to accommodate them. He would like this done in an orderly fashion. Then they would move on from there as far as anything they could do in the future.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mrs. Vitale said the Board was here to listen. This issue was really an administrative decision and the Board gets involved when it concerns a policy. The Board adheres to the policies. They were here to listen to them and to hear what they had to say.

Mrs. Vitale then opened the meeting up to public comment.

Teri Kasperzyk, wanted to address the Board and Mr. Serio and wanted to know why Mr. Serio had not returned her call, but she had received a call from Mr. Meoli regarding her son and the other football players and cheerleaders. Some were removed from the team just for an alleged offense. Twenty-three students were issued citations for alcohol possession. The ones that were removed from the teams for consuming or in possession of liquor, all of them denied they had drank alcohol. Only the students know the absolute truth. As parents, they were restricting many of her son's privileges not because they were certain he was drinking, but he should not have been there in the first place. She wanted them to keep this in perspective. The alleged charge was for a fairly minor transgression. They deserved their right to be innocent until proven guilty.

Mrs. Kasperzyk was asking the Board to review and revise, retroactively, this district policy. They were punishing these children

harder than any other district. She also urged the Board to be sure the policy they adopted was executed fairly and equitably. Mrs. Kasperzyk spoke about how the policy had been used selectively in the past and how she felt this could affect their judgment in academics. What if one of them becomes distraught and hurts themselves or worse? She asked the Board again to revise the policy retroactively and bring it in line with the surrounding districts. She asked that they do the right thing and not keep these kids tormented with sleepless nights and unable to concentrate on their classes.

Mrs. Kasperzyk asked Mr. Serio to explain why he had not returned her call. Mr. Serio stated he had several calls and had returned most. He had been working with the administration hand-in-hand regarding this issue and they had been really struggling with this whole situation. Mr. Serio spoke about how some of the students had come forward but others had not and how it was totally unfair. This was why they had struggled with it until the day of the game. They were following written policy and needed to enforce it until it was changed.

Mrs. Kasperzyk would like to know why if this policy was carved in stone, it took four days to give these kids a definitive answer.

Ms. Limoncelli, spoke about how her son Kevin was not at the party and was not given a citation and was not arrested. She could not find one person who could tell her he was at that party. He was babysitting his sister. He was thrown off the team. She apologized to her son and his teammates for losing her temper and getting arrested. She felt the players should be suspended for maybe two or three games with community service. They should not give up on them. The money they spent on certain things should be spent on drug and alcohol counseling for them. As a Town how proud were they of themselves?

Taivarr Pierce, spoke about how players had been removed from the team just hours before the game. The players were disciplined for making a bad decision and were at the wrong place at the wrong time. The crime did not warrant the punishment handed out. Every teenager makes a mistake. They had worked as hard as any other team in the State. All of the team players were susceptible to these

influences and the team players that were removed this year, they will never get it back.

Greg Volpe, Head Football Coach, said he was here for no other reason than to support this team. He did not promise a certain amount of wins, but he did promise better attendance and better grades. He did promise they would do better in school and act better and treat people better. He felt the football team should be given some respect for that. Mr. Volpe said if they were going to take the last year of the high school year away from somebody, they needed to be darn sure of what they were accusing them of doing. If you go to court and you don't kick them off the team if they are found guilty, he would throw them off. Mr. Volpe stated he was saying these things because it was his only time to say it. He was not privy to any meetings. He had heard about it when the kids heard about it. That was an argument for another day. He stated they had something to do here. They needed to fix it and make it right. That was his opinion.

Ronald Toothe, Town Council, District 2, stated his son was on the football team and it pained him to not see more elected officials here tonight. He felt the coach had molded these children into a family. He stated that it seemed to him that the presumption of innocence was a basic right if you were an American and it seemed that they were holding the kids to a different standard. He felt the policy should be changed. He did not blame the policemen, they did their job. But he did want to know if anyone was caught with a beer in their hands. They had made a decision on their interpretation of possession. Mr. Toothe also wanted to know if the coach was involved in this decision. He said prior to making the decision, he was not involved. He was asking the Board to revisit the policy. He would like to see them say it was okay for the kids to play tomorrow. He would like some discussion on this and get some clarification on possession. Perhaps they rushed to judgment and maybe they should review this and make sure the punishment fits the crime.

Jonathan Allen, stated he had a daughter that was involved in this. She had told him she wasn't doing anything wrong. He stated she had gone to the coach and told them she had a problem and she was rewarded with being kicked off the team. She felt she should have just run away like the rest of the kids. The message being sent to

these kids was if you don't get caught, you won't get in trouble. Was this what they were trying to tell them?

Lenore Salvati, stated her son was on the football team and she felt the football team was getting a raw deal since Day 1. She spoke about how the coach meant the world to these kids. She stated the administrative staff has made it miserable for him. Mrs. Vitale said she did not want to get into personalities. Mrs. Salvati felt that the policy that was in place needed to be used across the board for every child. She then spoke about a couple of incidents that had happened in the past. She wanted them to look at and revise the policy and make sure they all do the right things for these kids.

Frank Swan, said he had no axes to grind here. He spoke about shows on television where the criminal runs and once caught, the police ask them, "Why did you run?" "If you didn't do anything wrong, why did you run?" These kids didn't run; maybe they didn't do anything wrong. They were in the wrong place at the wrong time. This decision would have serious effects for the rest of their lives. He wanted to know if others that were not necessarily involved in athletics were treated the same. Were they out for the rest of the year? He felt they could be in a place and not be involved in the mess. They were young adults and we need to respect them. If they were not drinking, you cannot take away the last year of high school from them. Just because this was a rule, did not mean it was a good one. He wanted them to fix this for our young people; they deserved it.

Lou Pane, hockey coach for the last 23 years. He had heard about the situation last Thursday. It certainly did not give the kids the right to be at an underage party. He felt they should sit back and evaluate the bylaws that we had for our athletes. He said the football kids made a mistake but they have not been found guilty or had their day in court. He spoke about a story of how a coach had come to his school back when he was captain of the East Haven hockey team and how a coach from Quinnipiac College wanted to see him. He attended college for four years. If that coach had not come to visit, he did not know whether he would have gone to college. This afforded him the opportunity to play there. He asked that they take a look at the policy and change it to the two-game suspension for these kids here.

Mrs. Vitale asked if there was any further public comment. There was none. She thanked everyone for being so orderly and for having the courage to get up and speak for their conviction. They would take everything into consideration.

The meeting at this point was moved upstairs to the Boardroom. The time was 8 p.m.

Mrs. Vitale reconvened the meeting in the Boardroom at 8:22 p.m. All Board members were present.

7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Update Regarding the Roofs & Solar Panels – Joe D’Albero

Mr. D’Albero, School Building Committee, updated the Board on the roofs and solar panels. The roofs were about 100% completed as of now. There had been two leaks which were at Momauguin because the down drains had not been put in place and at the Middle School the flashing had not been done. The contractors were called and everything was taken care of.

There was a meeting this week for the approval of the panels which would give them the okay to move forward and get the panels put in place. They needed to be up and ready to work by March. He asked if they had any questions.

Mr. Hammell asked if we were getting the finances for the panels. Mr. D’Albero stated that that was going to be approved sometime this week for the panels.

Mr. Finkle stated that the ED0 form was sent up and did not make the priority list of projects to be approved. Mr. Lawlor, and our representatives, were trying to get a special appropriation and he believed it would be voted on tomorrow. Then they would find out and it would not be up for approval until the next session. Hopefully, their State Representative would get the funding for them.

Mr. D'Albero stated they needed their approval, if not, we pay for it. The Town would have to pay for it. Mr. Finkle thought this would be approximately \$1.2 million plus the \$700,000 they were supposed to receive. Mr. D'Albero stated they thought it should be passed, but because it was placed on Step 3 instead of Step 1. Three was a lesser priority and so they held it up.

Mr. Hammell stated he was asking if they had put any money out or bought these panels yet. Mr. D'Albero explained no they were in a warehouse waiting. Did they have an obligation to purchase them in the event that they don't get the full funding? Mr. D'Albero stated that they did not sign anything for them. Mr. Hammell asked if they didn't get the State funding for that project, it won't go through? It would have to go back to the Town Council and everyone else, to get some bonding money. If they were not in by March, they would have to wait another whole year. They would be looking at the solar panels at their next meeting. Mrs. Vitale thanked Mr. D'Albero for the update.

Mr. Finkle stated four roofs in one summer -- you guys did a great job.

Mr. D'Albero stated they had a lot of help. Thanks.

7.2 CAPT and Standards-Based Initiatives – High School Staff

Mrs. Reale requested that they postpone this until the next meeting; they had nothing but good news. This was the first time in the history of East Haven that they had scored above proficiency in all of the CAPT areas. They would go into detail when they gave their report. When Mr. Zaretsky entered the room, the information that was stated previously was repeated.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked in the four categories, did they exceed goal? Mrs. Reale stated in some areas they did and others they did not. Mr. DeNuzzo asked so besides reaching proficiency in all four, they also achieved goal in some. Mrs. Reale stated yes. Mr. DeNuzzo asked for the record what the four

disciplines were. Mrs. Reale explained they were English, science, math, and social studies.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Any questions or comments on Board Briefs of 9-08-09.

Mr. Hennessey asked Mr. Serio how they move forward on the issue that took place during public comment tonight. Mr. Serio stated he had been in contact with their legal counsel on this issue and it was hard to get a definitive answer.

When looking at their athletic handbook, which had been around for many years, it had been brought before the Board and the Board approved it. The handbook stayed the same for several years. However, it was an administrative handbook done by the Athletic Director and high school administration. It was a handbook they do every year and make adjustments. This was similar to the last meeting where they discussed academic and behavioral issues to participate in extracurricular activities.

Mr. Serio explained that he would prefer to have the high school, along with the athletic director, put together, if they so please, to make any changes to the policy and share it with us -- he meant Central Administration, and after they review it, he would be glad to share that proposal with the Board. If the Board so wished to allow the administration move forward in making that decision, that was a possibility also.

Mr. Serio explained they do have a Board Policy that deals with alcohol and drugs, which was 5114.2 (a), talks about the definition of athletic removal from further participation in a particular athletic program for a period not to exceed the playing season. Under No. 3, of athletic suspension, it did mention drinking of alcohol or use of drugs or smoking as a complete exclusion which would result for the duration of the particular season from that team when ample proof was given during the term of the season.

Mr. Serio stated they had discussed this with the high school administration and they had done some research and received some information from SCC schools with whom they compete in the Southern Connecticut Conference. Most of the schools had a different perspective as to the consequences of violations, not the zero tolerance, but for the first offense which were quite a bit less than the entire season like ours.

This was difficult for all of us to swallow because with a rule that as long as most of our students don't turn 18 until the end of their careers in high school, if there were any violations outside of school that we're not aware of, that information was not forthcoming to us, unless it is a Class A misdemeanor or a felony. Twenty-three citations were given to students and those students that came forward and informed the coach were the ones that were dismissed from the team and they still had 15 students that they just didn't know about and may never know about.

Mr. Hammell asked Mr. Serio to clarify something for him. He thought about what he just said it was up to the administration to do whatever you want to do with this? Was this correct? Mrs. Vitale asked if they wanted to have a Special meeting because it was two weeks until their next one. Mr. Hennessey said he thought they should do it this week. One thing they owed the taxpayers of this Town was a decision and quickly. The longer it festers, or was in limbo, it was not good.

Mrs. Vitale stated that this really lies with Mr. Serio and the high school staff. Their role was just to make sure they get the policy revised if they were going to revise it. It was an administrative decision; not a Board decision.

Mr. DeNuzzo stated there were six students that admitted to what they admitted to. Does it comport with what our athletic policy says or did they admit to something else? Mr. Serio stated he did not do the investigation so he would have to refer that to Mrs. Reale.

Mr. Inglese asked when he says the six students, was he referring to the four football players? Mr. DeNuzzo said and

the two cheerleaders. Mr. Inglese thought three had come forward and one of them was not given a citation. Mrs. Vitale stated she did not want this misconstrued to the people that left that they were taking an action behind their backs. They were not taking action tonight. They were discussing this and it was not even on the agenda. They needed to talk about it and act on it swiftly this week.

Mr. Marone said the athletes came to his office and spoke with him and this was why the decision was delayed because everybody ran. They had come to him and never admitted once to him that they had a beer in their hand or that they were drinking. The football players and cheerleaders came to him and said they were at the party and the police came and everyone ran. They said they did not run because they were not doing anything wrong. That was why they were torn about this. In athletics they want to teach all students honesty, integrity, and character. Those were specific attributes that these kids showed. It was everything in athletics that they did and we cut them for the rule.

Mr. Serio said not to discount the fact, and he was not saying that Mr. Marone was wrong, they were in a place where they should not have been. All of the people in the auditorium admitted to that. He thought they should ask the administration to look at our policy and to put them in more compliance with the rest of the league. Mr. Serio stated that it has happened for as long as he could remember that people had been in the wrong place at the wrong time. Was our policy too stringent? Everyone knew about this policy and they knew they were in the wrong place and we enforced the policy as written. He commended the high school administration for doing that. It was the only way to go at this point in time.

Mr. Serio stated if they were given permission to re-examine that policy and do something about it – he was more than glad to entertain a special meeting this week. There was discussion on the availability of Board members for a meeting on Wednesday or Thursday. It was determined that there would be a meeting on Thursday night at 7 p.m. Mr. Hammell felt if Mike Marone had an obligation for that night and had already

had his input into this, perhaps he did not need to attend. Mr. Marone felt he should be at the meeting.

Mr. Hammell wanted an explanation to the allegations that were made downstairs and other indiscretions that were brought forth. He would like to get some information as to what went on. If they were true or they weren't true. Mr. Marone stated he would get that information.

Mrs. Vitale spoke about their next Curriculum Subcommittee meeting and would like input from Mrs. Forti on on-line instruction. Mr. Finkle stated they could put that together with the CAPT presentation.

Mr. Hammell felt they should include the coach in the meeting on Thursday night.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Ratification of Appointments

- **Little Jacket Assistant Caregivers (3)**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the following Little Jacket Assistant Caregivers:

- Leanna Maffeo 15 hrs./wk. \$8.25/hr. (replacement)
- Vincent Costanzo 15 hrs./wk. \$8.25/hr. (new)
- Veronica Kirby 15 hrs./wk. \$8.25/hr. (replacement)

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no objections and one (1) abstention to the motion which was Mr. Finkle. Motion carries.

- **Special Education Paraprofessional at Carbone**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Kaitlyn Seipold as a paraprofessional at Carbone School.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Padua noticed that none of the hires they have seen lately have had background checks. These were still being done. A copy will go in the next Board packet.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked if all of these positions were replacements. All but one were replacements.

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

- **High School Head Basketball Coach**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of James Reynolds as the high school head basketball coach.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Inglese wanted to thank Mr. Marone for moving this along quickly. They had quite a few qualified candidates. They were all very qualified. They used the forced choice and they believed they picked the best person for the job.

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

Mr. Serio asked for the Board's permission to add the reinstatement of the library aides to the agenda for approval.

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

Any discussion of the motion? There was none.

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

- **Library Aides (Reinstatement from Termination)**

Mr. Serio asked for the Board's approval for the reinstatement of the following library aides:

- Lynne Celentano
- Kimberly Lendroth
- Marilynn Petrafesa
- Mary-Ann Ruggiero
- Mary Ruocco
- Susan Scoopo
- Cindy Travaglino
- Diane Deko

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

Any discussion of the motion?

Mrs. Padua asked if they would be going back to their original schools. Mr. Serio responded yes.

Mr. Hammell thanked Mr. Lathrop.

Mr. Inglese asked if they were going to start Monday. The answer was yes.

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

9.2 Request for Approval of the Payment of Invoices:

- **Dated September 23, 2009 for Fiscal Year 2009-10 in the Amount of \$750,467.30**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the payment of invoices dated September 23, 2009 for fiscal year 2009-10 in the amount of \$750,467.30.

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

Any questions on the invoices? There were none.

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

9.3 Possible Approval of the Following Contracts:

- **Whitson's Food Service**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the contract for Whitson's Food Service.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Serio stated that Mr. Lathrop had worked with these companies and they had gone over them together. Mr. Lathrop went over the contract and explained what he had done. He had worked with Paul Whitcomb and John Gersbeck and they were comfortable with this. Once they had Board approval, they could submit it to the State of Connecticut for their approval. They had modified very little of the language and expected their approval. They needed approval by October 1st in order to be in compliance with the National School Lunch Program to get their reimbursement for 2009-10 in the amount of \$600,000.

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

- **O, R & L's Maintenance**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the maintenance contract for O, R & L.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vitale asked for some history on this. Mr. Lathrop explained it was directly in order with the bid specifications sent out by the Town on behalf of the Board of Education. The financial summary was exactly what the bid specifications were. The first three pages were for bid specification correspondence and the last six or seven pages they had cleaned up the language on what was bid and what was in the contract. What was actually bid by the Town on behalf of the Board of Education was a little bit different than last year.

Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio asked if the initial problem was resolved. Mr. Lathrop believed that this was okay.

Mr. Hammell asked if this was a one-year contract. It was a one-year contract with a one-year renewal option. There was also the option to terminate with 30 days notice without cause.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked if they were using the same personnel they have had. Mr. Lathrop responded that was correct. Before the contract was brought forward for their approval, he had met with the sales rep and Mr. Travaglino and discussed what was working well and not working well.

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

- **Comp-U-Wise**

Mr. Serio requested the Board's approval for the Comp-U-Wise contract.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Padua asked if this had anything to do with the maintenance of the website. Mr. Meoli stated this was for tech support and support for things like the student information system, PSIS. We had done business with them for several years and we're very happy with the service they provide.

Mrs. Vitale stated she would like to see some work done on the website. Mr. Meoli stated they had done a lot of work on the website and they would continue to see significant improvements.

Mrs. Padua stated the last time she was in the site there was a calendar for 2007-08. Mr. Pompano stated there was a pointer from the Town of East Haven website to a place where the old calendar resided. The 2009-10 calendar was in there and it was updated.

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

9.4 Report Regarding Fiscal Year 2009-10 Operating Budget

Mr. Serio explained that Mr. Lathrop would be presenting a projection that he had prepared. This would show that this was one of the reasons Mr. Lathrop was able to explain to you why the library aides were added to the agenda this evening. Not that they were running status quo from where they were last year. They were currently operating without teachers and without programs. They had significant loss at the Middle School with staff eliminations and a couple of programs that were eliminated such as Home Economics and Industrial Arts. They had substituted them with other electives with the staff that was already on board. They were operating with 23

fewer teachers than they did last year which had some impact on class sizes. He didn't want people to feel that there was no impact; there was an impact. They had saved close to \$1.5 million through retirements. They had 14 teachers take the Medical Incentive Plan and three others retired after that and one other resigned. There were 18 people that left.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked if they could talk about one of the informational items, 10.1.4. He thought maybe this fell under 9.4. It was decided to talk about that under informational items.

Mr. Lathrop explained that because of the delay in adopting the budget, there was a delay in their hiring process. They currently stand at a forecast deficit position at the end of the current fiscal year 2009-10 in the amount of \$44,000. There were significant encumbrances in electricity and heat, but he felt comfortable being able to move from a deficit position to a positive position given the information he had right now.

Mr. Lathrop stated the administration had been working very closely to try to get our stipend positions approved and the \$360,000 would impact students too much. Through the budgetary forecast, they were able to loosen up to an amount of \$440,000. Last year the total expenses were \$459,000, so they were going backward from where they were last year.

As far as from the medical standpoint, they were on track to deliver our payments to the Medical Self-Insurance rate. There were really no worries as far as the slight deficit for medical care and social security. Unemployment was \$12,000 for the month of August. As they brought people back, this number would trickle down.

Repairs, maintenance and support services were contractual obligations. The largest amount was electricity and heat. As far as purchase services, regular education transportation was right on target and special education transportation was under budget. It would change as student enrollment changed. Mr. Lathrop mentioned that the enrollment for Lyman Hall was up from 27 to 37 students this year and at \$8,000 a student, this was a lot of money. Special education tuitions were under budget both in public and non-public.

Mr. Lathrop discussed that in October they would be able to determine whether they needed to do a freeze. He was not anticipating it at this time. He would apprise them if they needed to start slowing down. From a capital item standpoint, the repairs and maintenance account was fully expended. They would use \$70,000 of cash receipts from the rental fees to offset fees in that account. In October, he would approach the Board to transfer some funds into that account. There were many blanket purchase orders for vendors that supply services to us. This was one of the areas they would be revisiting together on a monthly basis knowing that there were big dollar items that occur with the repairs of maintenance, winter and the start of summer for HVAC issues. Overall he was pleased to have a modest deficit on a \$40 million budget.

Mrs. Padua said Mr. Lathrop had done great. The font was a little small. Mrs. Vitale stated it was the best report in all of her 10 years of service. It was the most in-depth and well-explained report in a long time. Thank you.

Mr. Finkle asked for a final draft of the stipend positions. Mr. Meoli stated he had the draft and they could be posted tomorrow. The Superintendent wants to look at it tomorrow. Mr. Finkle stated he would like a copy.

Any other questions? There were none.

Mr. Serio stated before 9.5 he would like to go to 11.1 into Executive Session to discuss the Executive Secretary's contract.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

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

Mr. Meoli and Mr. Serio would join the Board in Executive Session.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked that the Board be enlightened on the 2008-09 and the 2009-10 withdrawals. It seemed like the total withdrawals from

last year were more than this year, and enrollments last year were less and more enrollments this year. Were there more students or fewer students? Mr. Serio responded the high school report should be referred to the high school administration. Mr. Serio explained that the withdrawals for last year were for the full year. They were looking at 117 to date of 9/15. It may be by the end of the year, that number may be higher than 142 depending on how many new students. They had received 63 new students to date vs. only 38 last year for the whole year. Mr. Serio asked if this was correct. Mrs. Reale stated yes, that Kathy Conner put it together. They had gotten a lot of registrations over the summer. This was a large number of 41 because they were not sure until the year started how many kids would come here from other schools. They had quite a few students coming in every day. They had a lot of international students.

Mr. DeNuzzo noted that our enrollment was going up. Mrs. Reale stated that it appeared to be. She believed their number right now was 975. Mr. DeNuzzo asked if she knew what it was last year. She would have to check but felt they were probably up 10 or 15 from last year. She could bring those numbers to the next meeting. Mr. Serio stated they had 41 students compared to last year; they did have 10 more students in Lyman Hall this year compared to last year. This was a significant jump and it was a significant jump they also had out-of-district tuition. Mr. Serio explained that the principals were sending up their enrollments for the first couple of weeks of school so they could see on a regular basis any fluctuations in enrollment in the last June to September. It was amazing to see how many of the transient population they had in town.

Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio asked Mr. Serio if she could get a residency report. Mr. Serio stated he could get that for her.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements - None

10.1.2 School Newsletters

10.1.3 Invitation to Dedication Ceremony at Deer Run School

10.1.4 FYI – List of High School Withdrawal

Destinations

Regular Session adjourned at 9:17 p.m.
Executive Session convened at 9:25 p.m.

In attendance: All Board Members, Mr. Serio and Mr. Meoli

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1 Discussion of Executive Secretary's Contract

There was a discussion regarding the extension and changes in the Executive Secretary's Contract to the Superintendent.

Motion to adjourn executive session was made by Mr. Inglese and seconded by Mr. Hammell.

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

Executive Session adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Mrs. Vitale called the regular meeting back to order at 9:37p.m.

9.5 Possible Approval of Executive Secretary's Contract

Mr. Serio requested the Board's approval of the Executive Secretary's Employment Contract and extension for the years 2010-2013. All other changes as discussed in Executive Session would be stipulated in the contract.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

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

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

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

13. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Inglese made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting.
Mrs. Padua seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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