

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN, CT
EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011
7:00 P.M.**

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

**ALSO PRESENT: MR. ANTHONY SERIO, SUPERINTENDENT
MRS. ERICA FORTI, ASST. SUPT. OF
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
MRS. MARY ACQUARULO, DIRECTOR OF
PUPIL SERVICES
MR. JOSEPH TRAVAGLINO, DIRECTOR OF
BLDGS. & GROUNDS
MR. JASON LATHROP, BUSINESS ADMIN.
MRS. PATRICIA LEWIS, BUSINESS MANAGER**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Nick Palladino called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. in the Boardroom at the High School. Mr. Palladino asked that everyone rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Palladino requested a motion to go into Executive Session at this time to discuss a contractual matter. Attorney Michael Dolan was present for this session.

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

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. Those in attendance for the non-certified contracts were Mr. Serio, Mr. Lathrop, Mrs. Acquarulo and Mr. Dolan. Mr. Travaglino would be included for the custodial grievances.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

11.1 Non-Certified Contracts

Review of handouts from Attorney Dolan regarding cafeteria negotiations/contracts.

11.2 Review of the Following Custodial Grievances

Discussion regarding the following custodial grievances:

- Denial of Extra Work (2010-1227;2011-0113;2011-0126; 2011-0126A and 2011-0126)

Motion to adjourn Executive Session was made by Mrs. DePalma and seconded by Mr. Hennessey.

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

Reconvened the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

2. MINUTES

Mr. Palladino asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board meeting of January 25, 2011.

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

There was no discussion, objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries. The minutes were approved.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Chairperson, Nicholas Palladino**

Mr. Palladino stated he had already shared a letter from the Mayor's Office.

- **Superintendent, Mr. Anthony Serio**

Mr. Serio asked if the Board had any issues with letting the Girl Scouts use the JMMS parking lot to sell cookies on March 6th. This had been done the last six years. The Board did not have a problem with this.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Mr. Pompano reported that because of all of the snow, the CIAC approved contests to be held on Sundays if districts wanted to hold them on this day. They did not have to allow it if they did not want to.

Mr. Pompano reported that the rink had a leak and the Town's people came in and fixed everything for the next afternoon's hockey game. They had a great turnout and Coach Pane and their team did a great job.

Games would be held after 12:30 p.m. if they were on a Sunday. **Mr. Pompano stated the request for a Sunday would go through the Athletic facilitator and then to the Superintendent who would then bring it to the Board for approval.**

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

Mr. Pompano stated they had been dealing with a lot of snow and taking snow off the roofs. The situation at Momauguin School was okay. The Superintendent put a team together that went down there and evaluated it. It was given a clean bill of health. The building inspector was there as well.

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

Mrs. DePalma stated they would have one contract done soon and she would keep everyone up to date on the other non-certified contracts. **There was discussion regarding having a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting on Thursday, February 10th.**

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

Mrs. Maisano stated they had just completed their fourth subcommittee and they were about to propose a budget to the Town of a 2.17% increase which represented a full-day kindergarten and some additional regulatory fees. They would continue with their meetings until they received notice from the Town.

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

Mrs. Vineyard had no report this evening.

- **Legal/Ronald DeNuzzo, Chair**

Mr. DeNuzzo reported they had an Executive Session with Attorney Dolan where they discussed how they were progressing with non-certified contracts.

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

Mr. Scalesse had no report this evening.

- **Personnel, Laura Kluth, Chair**

Mrs. Kluth stated she would like to be brought up to speed on the security issue. Mr. Palladino stated they had instituted Plan B. Mr. Anderson explained they had moved forward with Plan B and they had hired a substitute who had started work today. They would be conducting formal interviews within three

weeks. There was someone at the guardhouse and there was more than one security guard for coverage.

5. REPORTS/COMMUNICATION

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

The student reps were unavailable this evening.

- **Superintendent and Central Office Administration**

Mr. Serio stated that Mr. Pompano had covered the Momauguin incident.

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

Mr. Palladino had nothing to report.

6. COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC

Mr. Palladino asked if there was any communication from the public. There was none.

7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS – None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Ratification of Appointments – None.

8.2 Request for Approval of the Payment of Invoices:

- **Dated February 9, 2011 for Fiscal Year 2010-11 in the Amount of \$1,295,793.13**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the payment of invoices dated February 9, 2011 for Fiscal Year 2010-11 in the amount of \$1,295,793.13.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

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

8.3 Discussion and Possible Approval of Preventive Maintenance Plan for Solar Panels

Mr. Serio stated this item was open for discussion as to the direction the Board wanted him to proceed to go out to bid with this with specs or accept the offer the Town offered. There was discussion as to whether this should be tabled or not.

Motion to accept the proposal from the Town to pay the \$4,300 for the maintenance for the solar panels was made by Mrs. DePalma and seconded by Mr. Scalesse.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. DePalma stated the School Building Committee had put forth their recommendation. Mr. DeNuzzo thought that they should modify the motion so that whatever the fee was because it could go up next year.

Any further discussion? There was none.

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

8.4 Possible Approval of Durham School Service Transportation Contract Proposal

Mr. Serio stated this was up for possible approval of the Durham School Service Transportation contract proposal.

There was discussion on how they had changed from 30 days to 45 days to pay the invoices vs. adding a 1% charge if they were not paid on time.

Mr. Palladino asked Mr. Serio if it was his recommendation they accept this. Was he comfortable with the language of the contract? Mr. Serio responded that he believed after the Board

accepts it, they had to bring it forward to the Town Council. Mr. Lathrop stated that technically they don't have to. He stated it was the Board of Education's contract for the transportation of kids. Mr. Palladino stated he would rather they have more information than not enough. He asked Mr. Lathrop, as Business Manager, was he comfortable with this contract. Mr. Lathrop stated he was. Mrs. Maisano stated there was no set amount of money they were voting on.

There was discussion on whether or not full-day K would affect the amount and Mr. Lathrop explained that they were trading off full-day buses for a number of additional hours. It would not be a big cost with the all-day K. **Mr. Serio would get clarification on the charge for field trips in district vs. out of district.**

Motion to accept the contract proposal was made by Mrs. DePalma and seconded by Mrs. Kluth.

Any further discussion on the motion?

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

8.5 Discussion and Possible Action on Dodge Avenue Leases for Pathways and Adult Education

Mr. Serio informed the Board that he had met with the owners of the Dodge Avenue leases and they had given the Board a proposal that allowed them to switch the lease of the Pathways which had one more year and the Adult Ed which was due this June. They would prefer to keep Adult Ed in the current building and release Pathways which we would take over and possibly house in Hays and reduce the Adult Ed cost from \$268,000 to \$201,000 per year; they were asking for a 3-year deal. One year was level with two additional years and to stay in the same facility.

There was discussion on whether this was their best offer with a monthly cost of \$16,780. There was discussion on the

buildings and the cost per square foot and how that compared in today's economic times. Mr. Palladino thought that \$15,750 dollars a month was too much. Mr. Pompano felt if they flip flopped the leases, the savings to the Board would be a little greater. Mr. Palladino did not want to go with an extension. His goal was to get out of the leasing business of the buildings. Mr. Serio explained the reimbursement rate of almost 52% with the Adult Ed lease and what was covered by it. Mr. DeNuzzo stated it would be around \$100,000.

Mr. Pompano stated that flip flopping them was fine and staying at this current rate, that's our benefit to him; but they were not extending it. Mr. Serio asked if they wanted him to come back to them on that proposal for one year. There was discussion on what they would do with Adult Ed after that. Mr. Hennessey stated they could not get electricity, heat, and a custodian in a building for \$8,000 a month. It would cost them \$100,000 with no problems or headaches and they don't have to move anything. He stated that the educators told us they don't want to move Adult Ed. There was discussion on whether it was said or not and Mr. Hennessey asked Mr. Serio to tell them that they wanted to stay on Dodge Avenue.

Mr. Serio explained that the recommendation of the administration was that they did not feel it was an educationally sound move to put Adult Education in this building. If they were filling Hays with Pathways, there was no other space that we own unless we look to rent somewhere else. There was discussion on whether the Adult Ed Program was considered an alternative high school and whether it was for kids ages 17-19.

Mr. Hennessey asked if Mr. Serio would rather they be in Hays or Dodge Avenue for the same money for Adult Ed. Mr. Serio responded that he believed Adult Ed was very comfortable and successful in the facility they were in. He spoke about some of the cons of moving Adult Ed into the Hays building. His recommendation would be to keep Adult Ed where they were until they could secure a better facility for them.

Discussion regarding Adult Education in other surrounding Towns was discussed. East Haven offers Adult Ed during the day and evening while other towns offer an Adult Ed program during the evening only. Mrs. DePalma spoke about North Branford offering some Adult Education classes in the evening but was very supportive of the program in East Haven because they could save those children who just did not fit in. They were supposed to be supplying education for every child in every situation. Mrs. Acquarulo stated that East Haven's alternative program was the Adult Ed Program. Some other towns had alternative high school programs, but no Adult Ed program. Mr. Palladino explained his concern was that they could not afford to have a day program anymore.

Mr. Pompano did not understand how the conversation went in this direction. They were not doing anything to the program. He did not think it was the will of this Board; it was about the rent of the Pathways Program and how it was better to have them go over to the Hays building and being under the lease agreement at Dodge Avenue. He stated if they were not opposed to flip flopping the leases, they would be willing to add in the extra \$6,000. It was up to them (Piscatelli) if they wanted to flip flop. They were held by a legal document. Mr. Pompano stated that Mr. Hennessey made a great point. They were seeing significant savings and they did not want to entertain going into our own buildings. Perhaps they could get Eblen's old building or they could go out and bid around.

Mr. Serio asked if the Board would give him permission to go back and find out if they could secure the lease for one year.

Mr. Palladino was having a problem with Adult Ed. He did not believe that our Adult Ed was really being used as Adult Ed but as an alternative high school, and if they were, he would like to know why and how they got into that.

Mrs. Mazzu was asked to speak about the program. It was a place for students who were high school age during the day. Mr. Palladino wanted to know if the school was being used as an alternative high school when it was truly an Adult Education

Center. Mrs. Mazzu said that many students between the ages of 17 and 19 went there and they also had an evening program as well for people to get their GED and for English Language Learners looking to acquire a diploma. They had quite a few things going on there. Mr. Palladino asked if it was more or less an alternative high school. Mrs. Mazzu stated when it was started, that was not necessarily the way it was planned. It happened over the years, and that was what it had become.

Mrs. DePalma thought that was a concern and they could discuss it in the Curriculum Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Pompano would like to make a motion to give the Superintendent the ability to agree to a flip flop on the leases and then report back to them. Mrs. DePalma stated they had done that three weeks ago. Mr. Serio stated they had given him a counter proposal by lowering the rent and offering a contract extension for three years. He would go back and find out from them if they would accept the one year offer.

Mr. Pompano made a motion to have Mr. Serio go back and agree to a flip flop but with a one-year lease and it was seconded by Mrs. Maisano.

Any further discussion?

Mrs. Kluth asked if he was going to ask them to flip flop the leases and then report back to us. Mr. Serio stated they were asking for a new one-year lease and asking them to dismiss us from the one-year obligation currently in place.

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

8.6 Discussion and Possible Adjustment to 2010-11 School Calendar

Mr. Serio explained that this had been on his mind a lot and he had had discussions with administrators, surveys had been done with the teachers' union, and they had asked other school

districts what they were doing. There was extensive conversation regarding the calendar and which option the Board and the Superintendent wanted to implement and the cost factors that might be involved.

Mr. Palladino asked if Mr. Serio for his recommendation. Mr. Pompano stated they were not adhering to the contract language to the end of June, they could still hold us to the fire. Mrs. DePalma thought he had a point because our Teachers' Contract says to the 30th and then take April vacation. Mr. Serio stated they could revisit this. The Board asked for a principal to give their opinion of what should be done. Both Mr. Anderson and Ms. Amato gave their opinions.

Mr. Palladino stated correct me if I am wrong. We will opt to stay with the calendar as it states to June 30th and if we still had to take it out, it would be out of the April vacation. Mr. Scalesse asked if the date at this point was to the 28th and was May 6th included in this. Mr. Serio explained that they were currently at the 29th and by taking May 6th it brought them to the 28th.

Mr. Palladino asked that Mr. Serio clarify what he was recommending at this point.

Mr. Serio stated he was recommending that we make up snow days up to the 30th of June and then after the 30th of June, we will cut into the April vacation and take any additional days after that for inclement weather out of April. Also with the Board's permission, he would like to make May 6th a student day. This would allow him to bring the last day of school for students to June 28th provided they did not have any additional snow days.

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

Any further discussion?

There was discussion on the last days at the end of the year being half days. They should be able to do this. They would add that it would be left to the Superintendent's discretion for half days if they met the minimum hours in June.

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

8.7 Discussion and Possible Approval of Education Specs for Portable Classrooms

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the education specs for portable classrooms.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Palladino suggested they table this until they knew where they were going with this. Mr. Lathrop explained there was a timeline associated with it. He hoped the Board would approve the budget requests for all-day kindergarten and approve the specs at the same time. It allowed them to get this motion to the School Building Committee and put it out to bid. If they waited, there was not enough time to follow the State reimbursement procedures for 68% plus the 10% bonus for going to all-day kindergarten. There was discussion on the amount they would expend on architectural fees. It would be under \$15,000. They would need three portables at Overbrook and one at Ferrara for a total of four.

Mrs. Maisano asked if the Town would cover the cost for the specs and Mr. Lathrop stated he believed they paid for the architectural specs when we did the Middle School. Mr. Palladino stated the Town has money allocated for things like that. Mr. DeNuzzo thought that if no one wanted to pay for it, the bill would come here.

Mr. Hennessey was disenchanted with the whole thing. They closed Hays because they were going to save money, and didn't hire a principal at Overbrook because they were going to close that this year. Now, all of a sudden, they need more classrooms and this school is still half full. There was no long-term plan.

Mrs. DePalma felt this should be discussed in the Curriculum Subcommittee meeting. The Board of Education did not have goals and they needed to look at their goals.

Mr. Serio stated they had a copy of his goals and the problem was they were very non-productive and everything was confrontational and argumentative. He thought they could reestablish a long-term planning committee with community and parent input.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked what the motion was again. Mr. Serio stated it was to approve the educational specs for the portable classrooms. Mr. DeNuzzo asked that the motion be amended to read at no cost to the Board of Education and let the School Building Committee or someone else. Mr. Palladino was not for throwing \$10,000 out the window. He thought they could amend it to say, "We approve the specs regarding that the Board does not incur any expense with this and that it goes to the School Building Committee to secure the funding through the Town or whoever." Mr. DeNuzzo asked Mr. Pompano if he would amend his motion.

Mr. Pompano thought if they did not approve the portables then the idea of all-day K in the budget was null and void. Mrs. Maisano thought they should go ahead with their operating budget pursuing all-day K. Mr. Hennessey commented that the educational specs was opening the door to the vault. They had no input once they have these specs.

Mr. Pompano stated he liked his motion and wanted it voted on and let it be voted down.

Mr. Palladino requested a roll call vote.

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

Vote was three (3) in favor with five (5) opposed. Motion fails.

Mr. DeNuzzo stated he would like to make a motion they approve the educational specifications for the portable classrooms at no cost to the Board of Education and it was seconded by Mrs. Kluth.

Mr. Palladino asked for a roll call vote.

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

Vote was seven (7) in favor with one (1) opposed. Motion carries.

8.8 Approval of Proposed Operating Budget for 2011-12

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the Proposed Operating Budget for 2011-12 as discussed in subcommittee that would equal a 2.17% increase.

Motion to accept a 2.17% increase with a request of \$45,010,464 to go to the Town was made by Mrs. Maisano and seconded by Mrs. DePalma.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Mr. Palladino requested a roll call vote.

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

Vote was five (5) in favor with three (3) opposed. Motion carries.

8.9 Possible Action on the Following Custodial Grievances:

- **Denial of Extra Work (2010-1227; 2011-0113; 2011-0126; 2011-126A; 2011-0126B)**

Mr. Serio requested the Board deny the grievances that were discussed in Executive Session regarding the Denial of Extra Work (2010-1227; 2011-0113; 2011-0126; 2011-126A; and 2011-0126B).

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

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

There was discussion regarding the subcommittee meeting on Thursday and the possibility of a Special Board meeting for just

that one item. Mr. Palladino thought they should reschedule the Curriculum Subcommittee so that the three teachers on the Board could attend. It was decided to leave it on Thursday night. Mr. Lathrop stated that Food Service could vote first and then we could bring it back for a vote.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Any questions or comments on the Board Briefs (1-25-11 and 1-31-11)

Any questions on the Board Briefs? There were none.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements

- **Darby Robinson-Rose, Special Ed Paraprofessional @ EHHS (Resignation)**

10.1.2 School Newsletters

10.1.3 School Enrollment Report for February 1, 2011

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – MARCH 8, 2011 – EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL, 35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. DePalma and seconded by Mrs. Maisano.

There was no discussion on the motion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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