

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN
BOARD OF EDUCATION
35 WHEELBARROW LANE
EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06513**

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
APRIL 1, 2009 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mrs. Vitale, Mr. DeNuzzo, Mr. Finkle,
Mr. Hammell, Mr. Hennessey, and Mrs.
Vineyard

ABSENT: Mrs. Padua, Mr. Inglese and Mrs. Geraci-
Anastasio; Mr. Travaglino, Director of Bldgs. &
Grounds

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Serio, Superintendent; Mr. Meoli, Assistant
Superintendent; Mr. Martorella, Admin.
Assistant to the Supt.; Mrs. Acquarulo, Director
of Pupil Svs.; Mrs. Lewis, Finance Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Vitale, Chairperson of the Board, called the Special Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at the high school.

2. Approval of Regular Board of Education Minutes from 3-24-09

Mrs. Vitale asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes for the regular Board meeting of March 24, 2009.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

There were no objections or abstentions made to the motion.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries. The minutes were approved.

3. Ratification of the Following Appointments:

- **JMMS Boy's Track Coach**
- **JMMS Baseball Coach**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board ratify the appointments of Nick Gargano as the JMMS Boy's track coach and Frank Lyon as the JMMS baseball coach. Nick Gargano would be replacing Chuck Turcio who was appointed on March 10, 2009 and Frank Lyon would be replacing Chris Bonagiuso who was appointed on March 10, 2009.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vineyard asked if the coach at the Middle School was a boys' track coach or just a general track coach. Mr. Marone stated the coach was for girls' and boys' but there were two coaches. They worked together.

There were no objections or abstentions made to the motion.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

4. Permission for Superintendent to Pay Bills Prior to the 4-28-09 Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Serio requested permission from the Board to pay bills prior to the 4-28-09 Board of Education meeting because there was no regular meeting prior to this one. **He would send the bills out for Board review and they would be brought back for formal approval at the 4-28-09.**

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vitale stated from this point on she would like to have an analysis of all of the expenses as of 3/09 to 6/09 in their packets.

There were no objections or abstentions made to the motion.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries. The bills were paid.

5. Discussion and Possible Approval of Durham Bus Company Contract

Mr. Serio spoke about the bus contract and the discrepancies as far as the length of time it was actually approved for. He had negotiated with the bus company and they had come back with a half percent increase for 2009-10. There was a caveat to this which included two things. The first was he wanted to strike the clause that the buses had to be ten (10) years old. But the buses would be safety inspected and approved; and two, they would extend the contract for one more year to 2010-11 for a total of two years with a total increase of 3% which was still lower than the one-year extension originally requested.

Mr. Serio stated he asked that this be put on the Town Council agenda for April 6th. He would be asking the Town Council to waive the bidding process. By going into the 6th year it might cause us problems with not going out to bid. These were hard economic times and by extending it two years, he felt they would be on sound footing. He asked the Board for some feedback. Mr. Hammell asked if they were in a contract with them until 2010. Mr. Serio explained that the RFP and the bid came back with five (5) years of prices. The agreement signed by the Superintendent and Double A in an addendum letter said it ends in 2009. He felt it was a safer route to go through the Town Council and ask them to waive the bid. Mr. Hammell asked if they had in fact gone out to bid for the buses at all. Mr. Serio stated five (5) years ago. If this did not go through with Town Council, they would have to go out to bid quickly.

Mrs. Vitale stated they needed the Town Council's permission to waive before they could go into the agreement anyways.

Mrs. Vineyard asked if they were under any kind of agreement to have certain prices broken down by hours. Could they configure buses and use other buses? Mr. Serio stated the lowest number of hours was six (6) hour buses by contract with the drivers. They would bank the hours if he needed buses for less than that and use it for field trips and things of that nature. They would be looking at the routes to see if they could cut down on buses.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked if there were a number of hours they were contracted for and if there was one less bus, would they still have to pay "x" number of hours per day. Mr. Serio stated no, they pay by the number of buses they run. They were currently running only two 10-½ hour buses right now. Mr. Hennessey felt this was a great deal because of the small increase and they pay for the fuel. The fuel could be twice what it is now.

Mr. Serio said if they received permission from the Town Council, he would get all of the paperwork together and bring it back at the next Board meeting for their approval. No action would take place on this item tonight.

6. ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Finkle and seconded by Mr. DeNuzzo. There were no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**MARILYN VITALE, CHAIR
EAST HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION**