

**EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

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

ARRIVED LATE: MR. DENUZZO (8:40 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: MR. ANTHONY SERIO, SUPERINTENDENT
MR. FRANK MEOLI, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
MR. ARTHUR MARTORELLA, ADMIN. CONSULTANT TO SUPT.
MRS. MARY ACQUARULO, DIRECTOR OF PUPIL SERVICES
MR. JOSEPH TRAVAGLINO, DIRECTOR OF BLDGS. & GROUNDS
MR. PAUL RIZZA, FINANCE DIRECTOR
MRS. PATRICIA LEWIS, FINANCE MANAGER

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Vitale, Chairperson of the Board, called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Boardroom at the high school.

2. MINUTES

Mrs. Vitale asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes for the regular Board meeting of September 9, 2008 and the Special Board meeting of September 11, 2008.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Any objections to the motion? There were none. Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

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

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Chairperson, Mrs. Marilyn Vitale**

Mrs. Vitale had received correspondence from CABA which she had turned over to Janice to give to the Superintendent. Mrs. Vitale stated they had received a nice thank you letter for the use of the auditorium that was sent to them on behalf of the Fall Festival Committee.

- **Superintendent, Mr. Anthony Serio**

Mr. Serio had no report this evening.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Vitale asked if there were any subcommittee reports this evening. There were none.

- **Athletic Oversight, Mr. Inglese, Chair**
- **Building and Grounds, Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio, Chair**
- **Curriculum & Instruction, Mr. Finkle, Chair**
- **Finance, Mr. Hennessey, Chair**
- **Food Service, Mrs. Vineyard, Chair**
- **Grants, Mr. Hammell, Chair**
- **Legal/Negotiations, Mr. Hammell, Chair**
- **Policies and Bylaws, Mr. DeNuzzo, Chair**
- **Personnel, Mr. Hammell, Chair**
- **PTA / PTO Advisory Committee, Mrs. Padua, Chair**
- **Special Education, Mr. Inglese, Chair**

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

- **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE/S**

The student representative was unavailable this evening.

- **SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Serio spoke about the 21st Century After-School Program Grant they had applied for this summer. It was for educational after-school programs. He was hoping they would get this grant because there seemed to be a lot of demand for this type of program in the community. The grant was around \$200,000 for a two-year program. **He would update the Board as to the status at the next Board meeting.**

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Any communication from the public?

Lucille Jessey, 39 Fisco Drive, spoke about what a small group of individuals could achieve with dedication and volunteerism. She with the help of Mrs. Reale, her staff, parents, and the support of the East Haven Chamber of Commerce were able to put together, at no cost to the Board of Education, student planners for every freshman. She just wanted to recognize the businesses and organizations that had contributed the funds to place ads in there. She then read the names of the companies and organizations. With such a small bit of time, they had so much success.

Any other public comment? There was none.

Mr. Serio stated at this time Mrs. Padua would like to recognize someone. Mrs. Padua wanted to congratulate Suzanne Goodison and Carbone School for showing up at the Fall Festival for the Fun Run. They won the trophy and she wanted to congratulate her and her students.

7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 “*Meeting the Needs of Children on the Autism Spectrum*” – Presented by JoAnne Reynolds, Kirsten Scillia and Karen Schmidt

Mrs. Acquarulo spoke about the Autism program that was in the district and how JoAnne Reynolds created and ran with the program several years ago. Mrs. Schmidt distributed a handout to the Board.

JoAnne had the first student that came to them because the parents wanted their child to stay in the district. It was a challenge. Since then the program has continued to grow and continues to meet the needs of the district.

An in-depth presentation on the ABA Program at Overbrook was then given by Joanne Reynolds and Kirsten Scillia. Mrs. Schmidt spoke about the success of the program and the hard work that was done both by the teachers and the paraprofessionals. The Board asked questions and then thanked them for their presentation.

**7.2 Update on Facilities Utilization Committee by Frank Meoli
- Presentation by Mr. Don Kennedy from NESDEC**

Mr. Meoli introduced John Kennedy and Marge Clark as two of the people on the team from NESDEC. They were a non-profit organization that worked with districts to help them resolve problems and offer a variety of services in that regard. Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Clark gave an in-depth presentation of the services offered by NESDEC and the process they followed when a district decided to use their service. They would normally come up with a few options which they would discuss with the district. The Board asked questions and thanked them for their presentation.

Mr. Meoli stated they would make copies of the documents given out tonight for everyone such as the school building committee, etc. Along with this initiative, if the Board chose to engage their services, they would begin their own committee. Their plan would then be to ask people to join the committee. He should finish putting that committee together this week. They would plan a tentative meeting for October 3, 2008.

Mr. DeNuzzo arrived at this time. (8:40 p.m.)

Mr. Hammell would like to see what the Board's goals were and make sure they were all on the same page if and when they did this.

8. OLD BUSINESS

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

Any questions or comments?

Mrs. Vitale stated the Board had asked for copies of the custodian's contract. The Board Clerk stated they had been delivered.

Mr. Hammell stated that the dress code had not changed. He stated that Mr. Martorella thought the dress code had been modified, but it had not been. There was discussion on changing the policy and when it could take place. There was discussion on flip flops being worn at the high school and the policy not being enforced. Mr. Hammell stated that everyone in the administration had to be on board. **Mr. Martorella felt they had discussed changing the policy in the past and he asked the Board's permission to research this. He was almost 100% certain it was revised during his tenure here. The high school handbook reflected the 1998 policy. If it was not revised, they could revise it during a Policy & Bylaws Subcommittee meeting.**

Mrs. Padua stated if they saw students wearing flip flops today, then it was not being enforced. Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio stated it needed to be changed. There was

discussion on what was discussed in the past and Mr. Proto stated they had made some administrative changes and recommendations, but no changes to the policy. Mr. Hammell felt it was a matter of safety.

Any other questions or comments?

There was discussion on a student representative from the high school to give reports at the Board meetings. Currently, they did not have a representative, but Mrs. Reale would recruit someone.

Mr. DeNuzzo was not present in the meeting at this time.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Ratification of Appointments

- **Cafeteria Satellite Hostesses at Carbone (2), EH Academy (1), and Ferrara (1) (New Appointments)**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the following cafeteria satellite hostess appointments:

- **Kathleen Millerick (Ferrara) 3.5 hrs/day**
- **Patricia Coleman (EH Academy) 3.5 hrs/day**
- **Kelley Butler-Ludington (Carbone) 3.5 hrs/day**
- **Melissa Milano (Carbone) 3.5 hrs/day**

Motion made by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio and seconded by Mrs. Vineyard.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Padua questioned why there was nothing under fingerprinting on the sheets. There was discussion regarding fingerprint checks and the time it takes to get them back from the State and Federal government. There was discussion on the town in which someone resides being the town they get their fingerprints done and what was done regarding someone whose fingerprints came back with a problem.

Any further discussion? There was none.

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

- **Special Education Paraprofessionals (New Appointments)**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the following special education paraprofessional appointments:

- **Brittany Carfora** **30 hours** **Replacement @ EHHS**
- **Maria Manciero** **27.5 hours** **Replacement @ DC Moore**
- **Karen Cordaway** **20 hours** **Replacement @ DC Moore**

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

- **Little Jacket Caregiver at Overbrook (New Appointment)**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Michelle DePalma as a Little Jacket caregiver at Overbrook School for 20 hours a week.

Motion made by Mrs. Padua and seconded by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio.

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion? There was one (1) abstention which was Mr. Finkle.

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

- **Stipend Position Appointments**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the stipend positions that were revised and handed out tonight. A copy of the list of stipend positions would be attached to the minutes.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Hennessey asked who could apply for these stipends. Do you have to be employed in the district or could you apply from outside?

Mr. Serio explained that he had included the band instructors in the stipends so they could come to the Board because they work with the children. Anyone that worked with our students needed to come through the Board.

Mrs. Vineyard asked about the drama club at the Middle School. Mr. Serio stated that Mrs. Savo sent him an email regarding the drama club and he would like to see that happen also.

Any further discussion? There was none.

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio asked Mr. Serio when they could see that happen. Mr. Serio stated he would have to respond and bring it back at the next Board meeting.

- **Winter Coaches (Reappointments)**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the following winter coach reappointments:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Ricky Narracci | Head Boy's Basketball |
| • Lou Pane | Head Hockey |
| • Butch DiLungo | Asst. Hockey |
| • Anthony Serio, Jr. | ½ Asst. Hockey |
| • Ben Fronte | ½ Asst. Hockey |
| • Nathan Stadig | JMMS Wrestling |
| • Rusty Dunne | Head Indoor Track (Coed) |

Motion was made by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio and seconded by Mrs. Vineyard.

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

- **Winter Coach (Appointment)**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board appoint Anthony Russell as the winter head girl's basketball coach.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Inglese asked Mr. Marone how many people had applied for this position. Mr. Marone stated they had interviewed two inside applicants. They had posted it inside.

Mr. Inglese asked if in the future for new coaching jobs that come available, if they could post it inside and outside. Mr. Marone believed that they go to the outside once they posted it inside first. Mr. Serio stated they could post it inside and outside. Mr. Inglese stated this way they see different levels of applicants.

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

9.2 Request for Approval of Payment of Invoices:

- **Dated September 24, 2008 for Fiscal Year 2008-09 in the Amount of \$448,389.57**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the payment of the invoices dated September 24, 2008 for fiscal year 2008-09 in the amount of \$448,389.57.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

9.3 Approval of Budget Transfers for Fiscal Year 2008-09 through September 17, 2008

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the budget transfers for fiscal year 2008-09 through September 17, 2008.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

9.4 Request Approval for Denial of Parent Appeal of Student Residency Case #200

Mr. Martorella gave some background information on the residency case. He explained that under State law and Board policy, a parent had the right to appeal the decision which she did on September 10, 2008 at the appeal hearing in which Mrs. Vineyard, Mr. Hammell, Mr. DeNuzzo, Mr. Hennessey and Mr. Finkle attended. After that hearing the Board had 10 days to render a decision. He was asking those five members that attended, who were the only ones that could vote, to now approve her appeal and vote no on this issue. Mr. Martorella did not feel comfortable with the recommendation of approval for denial of parent appeal of student residency. He asked that they vote no and give the administration more time to investigate this situation. He then explained the process if it did go the State Board of Education for a hearing.

Mr. Hammell asked if this was until they could provide more substantiation and Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio asked was it because he had to gather evidence.

Mr. DeNuzzo returned to the meeting at this time.

Mr. Martorella explained that it was very hard to establish non-residency. Mr. DeNuzzo asked if they voted no, they were conceding to the fact – they could still ask for this investigation to continue. Mr. Martorella stated they would do that for a second time. In essence, you exclude the child again and go through the same hearing process. Mr. DeNuzzo asked when he thought further investigation would continue. Mr. Martorella replied that it was ongoing and they were concerned with time constraints. If they had further evidence within the next month, they would revisit this issue again? Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio stated if they voted against it, the child would be penalized and lose time.

Mr. Martorella stated if they don't follow his suggestion, they would vote to reject the parent's appeal and she had 20 days to appeal to the State. In the meantime, while she appeals, the child stayed here for those 20 days.

There was further discussion on the appeal and Mr. Serio explained if they did not take action tonight, her appeal was automatically won and the child stays. Mr. Martorella felt he needed to have more substantiation.

Mr. DeNuzzo made a motion to table this until they had more information.

Mr. Martorella stated his interpretation of the Board policy and the law was if they didn't vote on it tonight, they would in essence be voting that they were upholding the parent's appeal. Mr. DeNuzzo stated if they voted no, they were doing the same thing. Why don't they just table it? Mr. Martorella did not feel comfortable if the State came down to conduct a hearing that they had a solid case at this point. He wanted to change the "denial" to "approval".

Motion was made by Mr. DeNuzzo to table and it was seconded by Mr. Hennessey.

Any discussion on the motion?

There was discussion on who could vote if the item was going to be tabled. It was determined that all members could vote.

A roll call vote was taken at this time.

Mr. DeNuzzo - yes
Mr. Finkle – yes
Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio – no
Mr. Hammell – no
Mr. Hennessey – yes
Mr. Inglese – no
Mrs. Padua – no
Mrs. Vineyard – no

Vote was three (3) in favor to table and five (5) opposed. Mrs. Vitale did not vote. Motion to table fails.

Mr. Hammell stated he would like a motion to approve the denial of parent appeal of student residency Case #200 and it was seconded by Mrs. Vineyard.

A roll call vote was taken of only those members that had attended the hearing on September 10, 2008.

Mr. Hammell – no
Mr. Hennessey – no
Mr. Finkle – no
Mr. DeNuzzo – yes
Mrs. Vineyard – no

Vote was one (1) in favor with four (4) objections. Motion carries.

Mrs. Anastasio left the meeting at this time.

9.5 Approval of EHHS Field Trip to Salem, MA on October 8, 2008

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the EHHS field trip to Salem, MA on October 8, 2008.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Any opposition to the motion? There was none. Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements

- Nancy Porrazzo, Family Resource Center (Resignation)

10.1.2 CABE – Article “Public Comment – How to do it without losing control of your meeting”

10.1.3 Invitation to CAPT Scholars’ Breakfast on October 10, 2008

10.1.4 FYI – Employee Fingerprint Report (Confidential)

10.1.5 First Quarterly Budget Report for Fiscal Year 2008-09

10.1.6 FYI – Request for Student Dress Code Policy # 5132(a-b)

10.1.7 FYI – Request for Account Number Breakdown

Mr. Serio stated he would like to have in attendance for Item 1 in Executive Session, Mr. Meoli, Mr. Martorella, Mr. Travaglino and Mr. Sevas; Item 2, he would like Mr. Meoli, Mr. Martorella, and Mr. Rizza; Item 3, he would like Mr. Meoli, Mr. Martorella, and Mr. Marone.

Motion to adjourn Regular Session at 9:17 p.m. was made by Mrs. Padua and seconded by Mrs. Vineyard. There were no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session convened at 9:30 p.m.

11.1 Grievance Regarding Vacation Time – Joseph Travaglino

Mr. Travaglino and his union representative Don Sevas were in attendance. There was a discussion of a grievance brought by Joseph Travaglino regarding his vacation time. Board members questioned Mr. Sevas, Mr. Travaglino, and Mr. Serio. Mr. Sevas presented his argument to the Board. Mr. Sevas and Mr. Travaglino left Executive Session at 9:46 p.m.

A discussion on the merits of the grievance ensued between Board members and Mr. Serio. **The Board directed Mr. Serio to try to resolve the grievance personally and informally with Mr. Travaglino.**

This issue was concluded at 10:05 p.m.

11.2 Discussion on Pay Increase for Paul Rizza

Mr. Rizza joined the Executive Session at 10:06 p.m. and he discussed his request for a 3% pay increase over his present salary for the 2008-2009 school year. The Board approved this increase. Mr. Rizza left Executive Session at 10:09 p.m. and this issue was concluded. **This item would come before the Board for formal approval at the next Board meeting.**

11.3 Discussion of Athletic Trainer's Contract – Marc Aceto

This session convened at 10:10 p.m. and was attended by Mr. Marone and Mr. Pierce. The Board, Mr. Marone, and Mr. Serio discussed the proposed contractual agreement for Marc Aceto, the EHHS Athletic Trainer. The Board agreed to the terms of the contract as proposed. Mr. Marone and Mr. Pierce left Executive Session at 10:20 p.m. and this issue was concluded. **This item would come before the Board for formal approval at the next Board meeting.**

11.4 Legal Update

This section of the Executive Session concerning a legal update by Mr. Serio convened at 10:20 p.m. Mr. Serio advised the Board of current and pending legal matters. He informed the Board of recent developments in the Carbone litigation. Additionally, he and the Board discussed the matter of the custodial opening and the legal opinion on the matter offered by the Town Attorney. **The Board directed the Superintendent to interview for the opening from the Civil Service list.** This session concluded at 10:37 p.m.

Mr. Inglese made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and move to open session at 10:38 pm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Padua. There were no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries.

Open session reconvened at 10:38 p.m. Mr. Hammell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Vineyard seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions to the motion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – OCTOBER 14, 2008 – EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL, 35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, at 7:30 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hammell and seconded by Mrs. Vineyard. There were no objections or abstentions. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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