

**EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007  
7:30 P.M.**

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

**ARRIVED LATE:** MS. PADUA (7:40 p.m.)

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Serio, Superintendent of Schools, called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at the high school.

Mr. Serio stated at this time they would have an election of officers for the Board. He then opened the floor up for nominations for the Chairperson of the Board.

Mr. Inglese nominated Marilyn Vitale for Chairperson of the Board and it was seconded by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio.

Any other nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Board. There were none.

Mr. Serio asked the Board Clerk, Janice Ball, to do a roll call vote alphabetically.

Mr. DeNuzzo	Yes
Mr. Finkle	Yes
Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio	Yes
Mr. Hammell	Yes
Mr. Hennessey	Yes
Mr. Inglese	Yes
Ms. Padua	Absent
Ms. Vineyard	Yes
Mrs. Vitale	Yes

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries. Mrs. Vitale is the new Chairperson of the Board.

Mr. Finkle stated he would like to start a new tradition and ceremoniously pass the gavel off to Mrs. Vitale and congratulate her.

Mr. Serio then passed the meeting over to the new Chairperson, Marilyn Vitale, and asked her how she would like to be addressed. Mrs. Vitale stated she would like to be addressed for now as Madam Chair.

Mrs. Vitale asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Finkle nominated Frank Hammell for the position of Vice Chairperson and it was seconded by Mr. DeNuzzo.

Any other nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson. There were none.

A roll call vote was then taken as follows:

Mr. DeNuzzo	Yes
Mr. Finkle	Yes
Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio	Yes
Mr. Hammell	Yes
Mr. Hennessey	Yes
Mr. Inglese	Yes
Ms. Padua	Absent
Ms. Vineyard	Yes
Mrs. Vitale	Yes

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries. Mr. Hammell is the new Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

Mrs. Vitale asked for nominations for the position of Secretary of the Board.

Mrs. Vineyard nominated Lisa Geraci-Anastasio for the position of Secretary to the Board and it was seconded by Mr. Hammell.

Any other nominations for the position of Secretary. There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

## 2. MINUTES

Mrs. Vitale asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes for the regular Board meeting of October 23, 2007.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

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

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

Mr. Serio welcomed the new Board members. He stated there was a good working relationship with the Board in the past and he looked forward to working with all of the Board members.

## 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 stated there would be no subcommittee reports this evening and asked the Board members to contact her with their requests for subcommittees.

- **Athletic Oversight, Chair**
- **Building and Grounds, Chair**
- **Curriculum & Instruction, Chair**
- **Finance, Chair**
- **Food Service, Chair**
- **Grants, Chair**
- **Legal/Negotiations, Chair**

- **Policies and Bylaws, Chair**
- **Personnel, Chair**
- **PTA / PTO Advisory Committee, Chair**
- **Special Education, Chair**
- **Channel 19 Broadcasting Supervisor**

**5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

- **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE/S**

The student representative, Vanessa Carmona, was not present at the meeting.

- **SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Serio thanked everyone who was responsible for the activities such as the Pep Rally and bonfire that took place before the Thanksgiving game. There was a nice turnout and the game was very exciting. He thanked the Athletic Department and the high school for helping to make this successful. He also mentioned the Powder Puff game which was also an exciting event.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Any communication from the public?

**Alisia Cintron, 106 Dewey Avenue**, spoke about how she would like the Board to reconsider the number of students that could attend the Sound School in any given year. She had been accepted and qualified but was placed number seven. The District only allowed four students to attend. Some of the students on the list had not even been interviewed. She felt this was unfair. She asked the Board to please reconsider the number of students they were allowing into the Sound School and other magnet schools.

Ms. Padua arrived at the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Serio would address this issue under Old Business.

Any other public comment? There was none.

**7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – None.**

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

### 8.1 Any questions or comments on Board Briefs of 10-23-07

Any questions or comments?

Mr. Serio stated he was seeing this letter for the first time this evening. **The Board Clerk would send out copies to the Board.** He had started receiving calls about a week ago and there seemed to be a mix up in the way they do business at the Sound School. This had happened last year where the Sound School sent out 11 acceptance letters without any notification to Central Office. Originally it was capped at 18 students and then last year there were 31. This caused a problem with the budget because it was well over the amount that was allotted. Both he and John Finkle had met with Sound School representatives last year in hopes of avoiding the same confusion this year. Unfortunately, this did not happen again this year. Mr. Serio explained the situation that had occurred and then spoke about the expenses the Board had incurred for out-of-district tuition. Mr. Serio stated that East Haven did not have a say in who was accepted or not accepted. It was a State run school. He had found out from correspondence that was sent back to him that all candidates should be interviewed before any acceptances were made. This was almost impossible to do when you leave the application deadline to August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Mr. Serio stated this was something they needed to bring back to the Board to discuss the number of acceptances and how it affected the Board financially and then allocate it in the budget.** He would talk to the Sound School again, but he could not tell them how to change their procedures. In the past the district had been reimbursed 80% for tuition and now they received no reimbursement. There was some discussion on private schools and the costs for special education students. **Mr. Serio stated he attended meetings for superintendents of districts called SCASA and he would be asking them to place on one of their agendas how other districts are dealing with the same situation.**

Any further questions?

Mr. Hammell asked Mr. Travaglino whether the sneeze guard was put up in Pathway's cafeteria. Mr. Travaglino stated it was all set.

Mr. Hammell asked if at the next meeting or the meeting after that they could have a financial report from the Little Jackets. There was discussion on it being a presentation as well. **A presentation by the Little Jackets would be given in the near future.**

Mr. Serio introduced the new finance manager, Patty Lewis, to the Board. He also introduced Laura Padua at this time.

**Mrs. Vitale asked that a meeting for the Superintendent's Goals be set up.**

Mrs. Vitale asked what the status was for the foreign language program. Mr. Serio stated he had done a lot of research and work and the types of programs being run throughout the State in the middle schools were unique and different in every middle school depending upon the district itself. They had put a posting on the COLT website and on REAP and they had interviewed a few people and nothing had worked out. There was discussion on staffing and schedules and a survey that was done of the students. Mr. Serio spoke about the double language arts classes vs. the foreign language being offered two times a week in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. He discussed the importance of the students taking the double language arts classes so it would help them on the CMTS, SAT's and CAPT.

**Mr. Serio offered to meet with the new Board members if they would like to discuss any of these issues that had been discussed at previous meetings. They could contact Janice and set up an appointment.**

Any further questions?

Mr. DeNuzzo referred to the attorney's bills and wanted to know if there had been any further discussion on an annual fee opposed to a monthly fee for service. Mr. Serio stated that the majority of that bill was for legal fees and not negotiations. He had spoken to them regarding a proposal and establishing a retainer. There were currently no big contracts outstanding. **Mrs. Vitale stated she had been looking into the legal fees situation and had some suggestions as well. They could discuss this at a finance subcommittee meeting.**

Any further questions? There were none.

## **9.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Ratification of Appointments**

- Special Education Paraprofessional at D. C. Moore
- Special Education Autistic Paraprofessional at Overbrook

Mr. Serio stated he recommended the Board approve the special education appointments of Mary D'Auria at D. C. Moore and Kathleen Augustine at Overbrook.

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

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.

## **9.2 Request for Approval of Payment of Invoices:**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the payment of the following invoices:

- **Dated November 14, 2007 for Fiscal Year 2007-08 in the Amount of \$1,791,265.24 (Previously Sent to Board Members)**
- **Dated November 28, 2007 for Fiscal Year 2007-08 in the Amount of \$515,124.90**

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

Any discussion on the motion?

There was a question regarding the Piscatelli bill because it was not the regular payment. This was for Dodge Avenue where they built a storage room. Was this in the actual building? Yes. Was this for a build-to-suit tenant and then we pay? Yes, this was a special request of the school.

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. The bills would be paid.

## **9.3 Possible Approval of High School Hall Monitor's Wage Increase**

Mr. Serio stated this item had been discussed previously and had been tabled. The hall monitors currently made \$12/hr. and he was requesting the Board raise it to \$12.50/hr.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio stated she felt they did a very good job.

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 Possible Approval of Substitute Secretary Daily Pay Rate**

Mr. Serio stated this item had been discussed previously and this was also tabled. There was difficulty filling the spots when secretaries were out. Currently substitute secretaries made \$9/hr. and the request was to increase it to \$11/hr.

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

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

## **9.5 Approval of Board of Education Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2008**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the Board of Education meeting dates for the calendar year 2008.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

There was discussion on changing the time of the meetings from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**There was a recommendation to change the meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and amend the motion to include this change.**

Amended motion was made by Mr. Finkle and seconded by Mr. Hammell.

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

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries

There was discussion on alternating the meeting places to different schools each month. This could build good community relations. There was discussion on the cost for custodians. **Mr. Finkle suggested they bring this up and discuss changing the places after the first of the year.** Mr. Serio stated he would discuss it with his administrators at the Principals' meeting tomorrow.

## **9.6 Approval of the Following Out-of-State Field Trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage (NY) and Majestic Theater (NY) on May 28, 2008**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the out-of-state field trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage, NY and the Majestic Theater in NY on May 28, 2008.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. DeNuzzo questioned the number of chaperones per student and Mrs. Reale stated she would make sure there were enough chaperones.

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

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries

## **9.7 Approval of Authorized Signature Changes for ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the authorized signature changes for ED-099 Agreement for the Child Nutrition Programs. He was recommending his signature and Patricia Lewis, the finance manager's signature, be approved as the authorized signatures.

Motion was made by Mr. Hammell 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 were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries

## **10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Any questions or comments on the informational items? There were none. Mr. Finkle spoke about 10.1.6 which stated that the Middle School was in the new 10 top ranking of middle schools. He read some of the article that was written and he wanted to make sure Mr. Prato and his staff were recognized.

### **10.1 Correspondence**

#### **10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements – None.**

- 10.1.2 School Newsletters
- 10.1.3 Athletic Department Checkbook – Regular Account – October 2007
- 10.1.4 Athletic Department Checkbook – Facility Account – October 2007
- 10.1.5 Final 2006-07 Strategic School Profiles
- 10.1.6 Article in *New Haven Register* Re: School Improvement-CMT Gains
- 10.1.7 School Enrollment Report for November 2007
- 10.1.8 FYI – Letter from Stan Mendygral, Principal Re: Renee McIntyre, Recipient of the Yale New-Haven Children’s Toy Closets Award
- 10.1.9 “New Board Member Orientation and Board Leadership” Information
- 10.1.10 School Calendar for December 2007

**12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

**THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – DECEMBER 11, 2007 – 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. Finkle and seconded by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio. Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

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