

**EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2007  
7:30 P.M.**

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

**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**

Mrs. Vitale, Chairperson, called the regular Board of Education meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at the high school.

Mrs. Vitale asked the Board Clerk to do a roll call vote for attendance.

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

All Board Members were in attendance.

**2. MINUTES**

Mrs. Vitale asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes for the regular Board meeting of November 27, 2007.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vineyard stated the article in the newspaper regarding the Middle School said it was the top 10% of most improved and the minutes didn't say most improved. Mrs. Vineyard just wanted to make sure this correction was entered into the minutes.

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.

### **3. CORRESPONDENCE**

- **Chairperson, Mrs. Marilyn Vitale**

Mrs. Vitale stated she had some correspondence and would have Janice distribute to the Board members.

- **Superintendent, Mr. Anthony Serio**

Mr. Serio had no correspondence this evening.

### **4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

The subcommittee assignments were handed out this evening. They had a Personnel Subcommittee meeting last week and they would be bringing the appointments forward for hire.

- **Athletic Oversight, Chair**
- **Building and Grounds, Chair**
- **Curriculum & Instruction, Chair**
- **Finance, Chair**
- **Food Service, Chair**
- **Grants, Chair**
- **Legal/Negotiations, Chair**
- **Policies and Bylaws, ChairPersonnel, 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 had nothing to report this evening.

## 6. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Any communication from the public?

**Bob Parente, 7 Farm River Road**, asked that the Board move forward as quickly as possible on the hiring of someone for the athletic director position. He felt it was doing a disservice to the students because there was no one to speak about the students' abilities such as in football. This was unfair and the Board needed to stop procrastinating and put someone in place that could serve the job description that was created by the Board.

**Maritza Boak, 164 Coe Avenue**, spoke about the Sound School and the number of acceptances being cut down to four. She stated her older son had gone to Sound School and graduated and her younger son also wanted to go. She had made phone calls to the Superintendent's office and called the School Board to get information, but none had been upright and forward to come back to her and give her an adequate explanation. She stated she was frustrated.

Mr. Serio stated he did not remember getting a call from her and had tried reaching the Sound School and had not been able to get any information back. There had been two people that had been accepted without Sound School notifying Central Office they were doing this. After this, they sent him a list. This had been discussed at the last Board meeting and would be brought back to the Board when the budget was being discussed to see how many seats they wanted to fund. Mr. Serio was following the path the last Board had directed him to and only filling four seats. Last year Sound School arbitrarily sent out acceptance letters to eleven (11) students and the tuition bill was \$300,000 just for Sound School. This did not include transportation.

There was further discussion on this issue and Mr. Serio suggested again that parents could go to their State Representative or State Senators. Years ago they had been reimbursed 80% by the State, which was then cut to 40%, and now they received nothing for these schools. This was not just an East Haven problem.

Mrs. Boak stated she had asked to see Alisia Cintron's letter from the last meeting and also the minutes. She asked if this was public information and it was stated that it was.

Mrs. Boak asked that Mrs. Vineyard and she get together after this to see the information from the last meeting. **The letter was available, but the minutes would be sent to her.**

Mr. Serio would contact Sound School again, but he also was sure the communication breakdown was not here in East Haven. **As soon as he received information from Sound School he would share it with the parents on the application list. There were eleven (11) students that had applied in the last correspondence. He would share with the parents and the Board members.**

Mr. DeNuzzo asked what the tuition per student was. Tuition was \$8,000 per regular education students and \$17,000 for special education students. This did not include transportation.

Any other public comment?

**Beth Capotorto, 73 Elm Street,** spoke about this being the third time she had spoken about the overuse of study halls at the Middle School. The parents did not support excessive study halls. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders were receiving four to five study halls a week and were being denied the opportunity to learn. Other students in the building received more academic seat time than their children did. This was an “inequity”. Children needed higher test scores and also to receive the same academic opportunities as other children. She felt any class time learning was better than the time being spent in a study hall.

Mr. Serio explained the foreign language team leader from the high school had been at the last two meetings and no one had come forward to respond to them. They had not been able to find a foreign language teacher. Mr. Serio stated the department head at the high school thought two days of foreign language at this particular time was like “throwing money out the window.” It needed to be implemented for more than two days a week. **He could have the team leader attend the next meeting if she wanted.**

Mr. Serio asked Mr. Prato to speak on the study halls at the Middle School. Mr. Prato stated that most of the students had a maximum of four study halls, but he did not know of any who had five on the schedule. The parent stated they had parents who said otherwise. Mr. Prato stated that perhaps they had five if a PE teacher was absent. Mr. Prato stated they had just so many people and Mrs. Capotorto responded that her daughter had just so many years to be a Middle School student. Mr. Serio stated it was only a handful of parents that were not happy with the schedule. He had asked Mr. Prato to accommodate those parents and those parents had refused to go into the North group. Mrs. Capotorto responded she was never offered that option.

There was further discussion on the issue and Mr. Serio stated he could not implement something in the middle of the year and these were areas of shortages for teachers. Mrs. Capotorto felt that no matter whether it was a language arts, tech ed, or an arts class, it was better than having the study halls. Mr. Serio explained it was not unusual to have the study halls and Mrs. Capotorto felt it was. Mr. Serio stated he would continue to look into it, but he may not be able to solve it this year. Mrs. Capotorto stated there were enough

angry parents to go to the next step and get some kind of legal advice from someone who did pro bono work.

**Mr. Serio stated he felt this was not an issue this Board could help her with and she should have met with Mr. Prato and himself with the interest of the parents in mind. She should set up a meeting with them to discuss it.** There was discussion on other people such as guidance counselors and a language expert attending the next Board meeting.

Any other public comment? There was none.

## 7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### 7.1 “Using Data to Drive Instruction” at Deer Run School

Presentation on the paradigm shifts the district is experiencing in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Data-Driven Decision-Making initiative.

Erica Forti presented on the relationship between teaching and learning and discussed the following points:

- How the district is currently looking at both effect data (student achievement data) and cause data (data yielded from actions of adults)
- The importance of using formative assessments (at the classroom and district level)  
to gather data that pinpoints specific areas of weakness
- Evidence of the increased collaboration among grade level teams and the movement from working in isolation to collaboration
- An assessment for learning in combination with an assessment of learning
- Accountability

Bill Grimm presented on how the points communicated by Erica Forti are happening at the classroom level:

- Blue Ribbon as a system to collect and house district math assessment data
- Students becoming active participants in their performance on assessments and charting/graphing their academic progress towards outlined goals
- Question item analysis as a way to analyze students learning and intervention strategies to help students understand their misconceptions in learning
- Student managed math portfolios that target specific math standards they have been  
exposed to with documentation and examples of student work
- Data displays that can be seen throughout the school and classroom walls

There were some questions from the Board members. Mr. Hennessey asked what the grade level was. It was for third grade. Mr. Hammell asked if this was happening in all schools and it was stated yes. Mr. Finkle asked Mr. Grimm if overall in his school the reading scores were above or below average. Mr. Finkle spoke about how in order to do the test that was handed out, you had to be able to read and understand what you were reading. If you didn't understand what you were reading, your comprehension would be different than what was being asked.

Mr. Grimm responded that the Connecticut Mastery Tests were reading intensive. You had to be able to read well in order to perform on the math section as well. Deer Run's focus this year, as an entire school, was on vocabulary. Math was very vocabulary intensive. If you don't know the vocabulary words for math, you would struggle. They had improved in math from the CMT's from 2006 to 2007, but reading was teetering on certainly "need of improvement." It was a daily job to teach reading in all areas.

The Board felt the presentation was great.

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Any questions or comments on Board Briefs of 11-27-07**

Any questions or comments? There were none.

## **9.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Ratification of Appointments**

#### **▪ Library Aides at Tuttle, Carbone, Ferrara and EH Academy**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the following appointments for library aides:

- Sue Scoopo                      Tuttle
- Mary Ann Ruggiero      Carbone
- Cynthia Travaglino      Ferrara
- Kim Lendroth                EH Academy

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.

▪ **Account Clerks in Business Office (2)**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the following appointments for account clerks in the business office:

- Lorraine Wentworth      \$26,047.84      Replacement
- Norma Mohler              \$26,047.84      Replacement

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.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

▪ **FRC Assistant Teacher at D. C. Moore**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Astrid Bohn as a FRC assistant teacher at D. C. Moore at \$11.50/hr. for 15 hours a week. This was a replacement position.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was none.

Any abstentions to the motion? There were none.

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

▪ **Speech/Language Pathologist at Overbrook School**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Diane Weisslender as the speech/language pathologist at Overbrook School.

Motion was made by Mr. Finkle 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.

▪ **Cafeteria Satellite Hostess at Carbone School**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve Robin Guarino as a cafeteria satellite hostess at Carbone School for 3.5 hours a day. This was a replacement position.

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.

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

- **Dated December 12, 2007 for Fiscal Year 2007-08 in the Amount of \$1,630,012.85**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the payment of invoices dated December 12, 2007 for fiscal year 2007-08 in the amount of \$1,630,012.85.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vitale questioned page 19 in the amount of \$7,622.97. There was no name for a vendor. This was for U.S. Securities which was listed on the page before.

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 Approval of EHHS Out-of-State Field Trip to Smuggler's Notch, VT on February 8-10, 2008**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the EHHS out-of-state field trip to Smuggler's Notch, VT on February 8-10, 2008.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Padua asked if this opened the Town up to liability issues or was this something that was done a lot. Mr. Serio responded it was an annual trip.

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 Acceptance of Gift from Martin DeFelice, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Mr. Serio requested the Board's acceptance of the gift from the Martin DeFelice, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund that was raised during a golf tournament that was run for the first time last year.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. DeNuzzo asked how much was being given. Mr. Martorella stated it was for \$5,000 which would go to the high school fitness room for video equipment for an exercise program.

Mrs. Vitale stated he had done an excellent job in putting together a golf tournament. It was not easy.

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 Permission to Research OHIO Plan**

Mr. Serio requested the Board grant permission to research the possibility of an OHIO Plan. It was not acceptance of a plan, but just permission to bring back additional information that the Business Office would put together.

Motion was made by Mr. DeNuzzo 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

Mr. Serio requested the Board go into Executive Session to discuss 9.6. and then come back into regular session to take care of this issue.

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

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

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

## **9.6 Possible Approval of Interim Athletic Director**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve Mike Marone as the temporary substitute interim athletic director.

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

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 discussion on the informational items? There was none.

### **10.1 Correspondence**

#### **10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements**

- **FRC Assistant Teacher, Lucy Perricone, Resignation**

#### **10.1.2 School Newsletters**

#### **10.1.3 School Enrollment Report for December 2007**

#### **10.1.4 “New Haven Register” Articles Re: EHHS Marching Band Achievements**

#### **10.1.5 East Haven Annual Report 2005-06**

#### **10.1.6 Copy of EHPS Board of Education Meeting Dates for 2008**

#### **10.1.7 School Calendar for January 2008**

Motion to go into Executive Session was made by Mr. Finkle and seconded by Mr. Hammell. Motion carries.

**Out of Regular Session at 9:00 p.m.  
Into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.**

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**11.1 Discussion of Interim Athletic Director Candidate**

There was discussion of a substitute interim athletic director candidate.

**Out of Executive Session at 9:50 p.m.**

**Into Regular Session at 9:50 p.m. (Go back to 9.6 on the agenda.)**

**12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

**THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – JANUARY 8, 2008 – EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL, 35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, at 7:00 p.m.**

**13. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hammell and seconded by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio. Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

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