

**EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
35 WHEELBARROW LANE, EAST HAVEN, CT 06513
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

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

ABSENT: MR. HAMMELL
MR. JOSEPH TRAVAGLINO, DIRECTOR OF BLDGS. & GROUNDS

ALSO PRESENT: MR. ANTHONY SERIO, SUPERINTENDENT
MR. ARTHUR MARTORELLA, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
MR. FRANK MEOLI, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR TO SUPT.
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 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at the high school. Mrs. Vitale asked the Board Clerk, Janice Ball, to do a roll call.

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

2. MINUTES

Mrs. Vitale asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes for the regular Board meeting of January 22, 2008 and the Special Board meeting of January 29, 2008.

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

Any discussion on the motion? There was 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 any correspondence would be distributed to the Board members.

- **Superintendent, Mr. Anthony Serio**

Mr. Serio had no correspondence this evening, but wanted to speak about the condition of the tennis courts at the high school. He had asked Mr. Rizza to put together a bid spec to get some prices on repairs so their season could begin on time. Mr. Rizza sent it out last week and the bids would be open on March 4th. He would bring it back for review by Buildings & Grounds, the Superintendent, and the Board. An award would then be given. The bid was only for the tennis courts. Mr. Finkle asked, just for the record, if the track was going to be done. Mr. Rizza stated yes, under the bid. He thought that Mr. Travaglino had set a date for that to take place. **Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio asked to be kept informed as to the date when the track and tennis courts were going to be done.** There was discussion on whether this would be done by the end of the school year.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Vitale stated they were going to change the format of their subcommittees. They would have all of their subcommittee meetings at the second Board meeting of the month. At the first Board meeting, they would transact all of the educational business they had such as bills and personnel. The rest would be done at the second Board meeting. The administrators would only have to come to the second meeting if they had something they would like to speak to.

Mr. Serio stated he understood she wanted to do subcommittee business, but they still needed to call it a regular Board of Education meeting and put topics on that addressed subcommittee issues. This way they were in compliance.

Mrs. Vitale felt it would shorten up the meetings for their guests and it would streamline the whole process. (There were no individual subcommittee reports this evening.)

- **Athletic Oversight, John Inglese, Chair**

- **Building and Grounds, Lisa Geraci-Anastasio, Chair**
- **Curriculum & Instruction, John Finkle, Chair**
- **Finance, Thomas Hennessey, Chair**
- **Food Service, Kristen Vineyard, Chair**
- **Grants, Frank Hammell, Chair**
- **Legal/Negotiations, Frank Hammell, Chair**
- **Policies and Bylaws, Ronald DeNuzzo, Chair**
- **Personnel, Frank Hammell, Chair**
- **PTA / PTO Advisory Committee, Laura Padua, Chair**
- **Special Education, John Inglese, Chair**

5. **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

- **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE/S**

The student representatives were unavailable to give a report his evening.

- **SUPERINTENDENT**

Mr. Serio had nothing to report at this time.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Any communication from the public?

Pat Paulson, 919 North High Street, East Haven, stated he was employed by the East Haven Parks Dept. He wanted to discuss some items of concern to him. The first item was the cleaning and disinfecting of the football field. He explained why he felt it needed to be disinfected and spoke of some of the area towns that had the cleaning done.

The second item was how terrible the showers were in the coaches' room at the high school and how the water did not go on. Then there were issues of the water being too cold or too hot and then not enough hot water to cover all four games. This issue needed to be resolved.

The third item was the pole vault station. It was the area where the pole was inserted just before going over the pole. He would like to see this taken care of before track season started. The strip leading up to the pole insert needed to be redone as well.

The last item was the tennis courts. He felt the bid that went out did not have enough criteria as far as the people who did win the bid had to do. Mr. Paulson stated he walked it and right down the middle where the two layers meet and where they paved, it cracked and the poles were coming out of the ground. He felt the bid specs should be upgraded. The bids needed to be a little more punctual as far as getting these things corrected.

Mrs. Vitale stated that he must have heard they went out to bid and asked if Mr. Rizza was aware of what Mr. Paulson was talking about. Mr. Rizza stated the bids were developed by the Buildings & Grounds Director and he had spoken to the company that had done the Middle School.

Mr. Finkle felt they should make sure resurfacing was in the maintenance plan every couple of years. Mr. Rizza stated the bid was for the restructuring, not only the cords and poles that were bent. This was one price they would be receiving. There was an optional part of that bid and the company could come in and give them an optional maintenance piece which would cover resealing of the courts themselves.

Mr. Paulson wanted to applaud all the time that was put in by everyone.

Mr. Serio thanked Mr. Paulson for being so instrumental, in the absence of a permanent athletic director, in keeping an eye on all of their outdoor fields. **Mr. Serio to investigate the matter of the field cleaning due to conflicting reports from the Town doctor and East Shore Health who felt there was no need to do it.**

Mrs. Vitale spoke of her concern about the showers in the high school. **Mr. Serio would have Mike Marone check into this. Mr. Finkle suggested Mr. Marone provide a checklist to O, R & L of the things which needed to be done for events or anything else being held in the building to make sure things run right. Someone needed to sign off on these rooms when things were going on.**

Mr. DeNuzzo asked Mr. Paulson if he felt, in his opinion, that there was a safety issue with the pole vault. Mr. Paulson felt it was a safety issue. **Mr. DeNuzzo asked that the coaches give them a report as to whether or not they felt it was an issue based on what Pat's opinion was. Mr. Finkle asked Mr. Rizza to ask the company to come in and do it right now.**

Mrs. Vitale wanted to go back to the showers for a minute. She felt Mr. Travaglino should be in charge of the meeting with interim athletic director and O, R & L, and he should get back to the Board on this item.

Mr. Finkle was concerned about the chain of command. They were hearing about these items at the Board meeting and they had not been brought forth to Mr. Serio. He said the bottom line was that it should not happen again.

Any other comments?

Stan Seliga, 50 Pleasant Avenue, East Haven wanted to know how a taxpayer went about finding out how much it cost to maintain this facility. What encompassed the maintenance of this building? He had attended a basketball game and whoever had been working on a light, left the light cover in a precarious position. The lens was hanging down and it could have fallen and hurt an athlete if it had fallen to the floor. There was also a urinal that was out of order with a sign on the first floor. Mr. Seliga explained how the toilet could not be flushed. As of this evening the urinal had been removed and the light fixed.

Mr. Seliga also felt that during games the bathrooms should be open for use and currently they were locked. He wanted to know why a public bathroom was locked. Tournaments were held here and something needed to be done to make this Town look good.

Mr. Finkle stated he felt these things were unacceptable and did not expect the Board to hear this again. Mr. Serio felt the administration at the high school was ultimately responsible for what took place in this building. Central Office was here to help assist with the high school and athletic director.

Mrs. Mazzu explained that those particular bathrooms were locked during the school day because they did not have supervision during the day for those bathrooms.

It was asked what a taxpayer's protocol would be for a complaint like this. Mr. Serio stated he would prefer they start at the high school level and if not satisfied at that point, they could give him a call.

Mrs. Vitale stated that the Board was a policy-making Board to make sure the schools run properly, but they were not responsible for the running of the schools. It was strictly Central Office and staff and should be channeled to the right people so they could get to work on it.

Any further public comment?

Pat Paulson, 919 North High Street, East Haven spoke about how there were seven seams on the football field that were coming apart. The field was under warranty and contract. He had contacted US Track and Turf from Texas and they sent him some information. They spoke about when they would be available to come and fix the seams and they talked about the procedure for fixing them. There was discussion on when this could be done. Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio asked because they were under warranty they would come and do it for no additional cost? Mr. Paulson stated yes.

7. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Recognition of Lou Pane, EHHS Varsity Hockey Coach, for 300 Career Victories

This item was postponed until the next Board meeting. Mr. Inglese suggested that perhaps this award could be presented to him at the next Board meeting or sports

banquet. Mr. Serio stated it was up to the Board and as long as Board members were present at the banquet in order to present it.

7.2 Recognition of Jason Prates, Student at Carbone School, “Youth Good Samaritan” Award Sponsored by the American Red Cross

Mrs. Goodison introduced fourth grader, Jason Prates from Carbone School. He was a student of very high character and recently she found out all of the good he had been doing. She had seen some information about an award that the American Red Cross was sponsoring which was the “Youth Good Samaritan Award”. They decided to nominate Jason Prates and he was chosen as the recipient of that award. He would be honored at a breakfast tomorrow morning at the Omni Hotel and receive his plaque. There was a book that was handed around that showed Jason’s accomplishments. Mrs. Goodison had a surprise for Jason. They were going to hold a mini-fundraiser and give the proceeds to Jason to donate to the Cancer Society in honor of his grandmother. Jason then spoke about some of his accomplishments which included charity work for the American Heart Association; Swim Across the Sound Charity; making homemade cards and passing them out to hospitals and a number of other things to raise money. Jason was then presented a certificate of excellence by the Board for his outstanding service.

7.3 “JMMS Guidance Department & Science CMT Prep” – John Prato, Phyllis Savo and Staff

Mr. Meoli introduced Mr. Prato, Phyllis Savo and the Middle School Guidance Department staff. Mr. Prato then introduced his guidance department staff. The Guidance Department spoke about their responsibilities and activities through a slide presentation. There was discussion after the presentation between the Board members and the Middle School staff. Mr. Prato then introduced Chris Bonaguiso and acknowledged Marilee Noonan for all her hard work in revising the science curriculum. Mr. Chris Bonaguiso, a Grade 7 Science Teacher, and a group of students then involved the Board in a lab experiment regarding lung capacity and measuring and estimating volume when using a balloon and ruler. The Board thanked them for a great presentation.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Any questions or comments on Board Briefs of 1-22-08 and 1-29-08

Any questions or comments?

Mr. Martorella was asked if he had gotten any samples of the breathalyzer policies. Mr. Martorella stated he had them sitting on his desk. **Mr. Martorella to get the policies to Mr. DeNuzzo prior to having a Policy & Bylaws Subcommittee meeting.**

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Ratification of Appointments

▪ Spring Coaching Reappointments

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the following spring coaching reappointments:

○ Raymond “Butch” Johnson	EHHS Head Baseball	\$6,197
○ Fred Parcesepe	EHHS Asst. Baseball	\$4,541
○ Anthony DiLungo	JMMS Baseball	\$2,726
○ Ed Crisafi	EHHS Head Softball	\$6,197
○ Dave Spano	EHHS Asst. Softball	\$4,541
○ Krista Ematrudo	EHHS Freshman Softball	\$4,541
○ Kristen Varunes	JMMS Softball	\$2,726
○ Rusty Dunne	EHHS Head Boys Track	\$4,646
○ Vacant	EHHS Asst. Boys Track	\$3,028
○ Anthony Russell	EHHS Head Girls Track	\$4,646
○ Chuck Turcio	JMMS Boys Track	\$1,980
○ Vacant	JMMS Girls Track	\$1,980
○ Dave Augustine	EHHS Head Golf	\$3,098
○ Charlie Celotto	EHHS Head Boys Tennis	\$3,098

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

Any discussion on the motion?

There was discussion on the two vacant positions.

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

Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries.

▪ Spring Coaching Appointments

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the following coaching appointments:

○ James Carr	EHHS Freshman Baseball	\$4,541
○ Frank Gambardella	EHHS Girls Asst. Outdoor Track	\$3,028
○ Jason Soares	EHHS Head Girls Tennis	\$3,098
○ Michelle Maru	EHHS .5 Asst. Cheerleading	\$1,514

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

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.

- **Assistant Caregiver at Overbrook School**
- **Girls Track Coach at JMMS**

Mr. Serio recommended the Board approve the appointment of Martha Morales as an assistant caregiver at Overbrook School. This replacement position was for 15 hours a week at \$8.25 an hour. Mr. Serio also recommended the Board approve the appointment of Chuck Turcio as the girls track coach at JMMS.

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

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.

9.2 Request for Approval of Payment of Invoices:

- **Dated February 13, 2008 for Fiscal Year 2007-08 in the Amount of \$1,294,708.96**
- **Dated February 27, 2008 for Fiscal Year 2007-08 in the Amount of \$355,458.69**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the payment of invoices dated February 13, 2008 for fiscal year 2007-08 in the amount of \$1,294,708.96 and the invoices dated February 27, 2008 for fiscal year 2007-08 in the amount of \$355,458.69.

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

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vitale asked if they could get the balance of what was left in the accounts. Mr. Rizza stated he would go back to their computer company and have them make the adjustment.

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 bills would be paid.

9.3 Approval of the Following Field Trips

- **EHHS Out-of-State Field Trip to Saks Fifth Avenue, New York City on April 22, 2008**
- **EHHS Out-of-State Field Trip to Capt. Bill's Whale Watch, Gloucester, MA on May 23, 2008**

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the EHHS field trips to Saks Fifth Avenue, New York City on April 22, 2008 and Capt. Bill's Whale Watch, Gloucester, MA on May 23, 2008.

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

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.

9.4 Approval of Athletic Director Posting/Job Description

Mr. Serio requested the Board approve the Athletic Director posting and job description.

Motion was made by Mr. Finkle and seconded by Mrs. Padua.

Any discussion on the motion?

Mrs. Vitale asked when it was going to be posted. Mr. Serio responded this week. Mr. Hennessey asked who would be responsible for evaluating this person. Currently it read that matters related to the high school would be handled by the principal and things related to the district would be handled by Central Office. Who would do the performance evaluation? It was stated that it would be the principal. Mr. Martorella wanted to make sure everyone knew this was an administrative position. **The information regarding evaluation done by the principal would be added to the job description.**

Any further discussion? 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.

9.5 Cafeteria Financial Report from Whitson's – Debbie Spaziani

Mrs. Spaziani was unavailable to give the report this evening due to a family emergency. Mr. Serio and Mr. Rizza then went over the information and answered the Board's questions.

Mr. DeNuzzo wanted to know if the figures reflected the difference from last year. There was no comparison to last year. **Mr. Rizza would email his contact and ask for a year to date from last year to this year's date.**

Mr. Finkle asked if the fees went up or they stayed the same. Mr. Rizza stated the fees were fairly consistent. They were based on our volume of sales. Mr. DeNuzzo asked if the cost was \$2.75 per meal and Mr. Rizza stated yes. The fee had not gone up. If anything, it was very minimal.

Mrs. Vitale stated that this report would be given under a Food Service Subcommittee from now on.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

Any discussion on the informational items?

Mr. Serio stated he would like to take a moment to recognize Angela Speck, Principal at the EH Academy. He wanted to congratulate her on her retirement in June and for her offer to help in finding her replacement. He wished her all the best and thanked her. Mrs. Vitale stated it was a pleasure working with her and her main concern was for the children and her building. She had done a great job and she was sorry to see her go. She thanked her for giving them plenty of time.

Mrs. Speck stated she appreciated the opportunity to work in East Haven and thanked Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Serio and everyone for giving her the support. She stated the children would always a special place in her heart.

Mr. Finkle asked for an update from Mr. Serio and/or Mrs. Vitale on the budget workshop that was held today.

Mrs. Vitale stated that in her opinion it was very informative. The gentleman who had offered his services was very helpful. She felt all the administrators did a very good job saying how we spend our money and when we all walked away, they understood our plight. She did not feel they would get too much money out of them. She stated Mr. Serio had given a good presentation. Everyone defended it and Mr. Paul Thompson, Chairman of the Town

Council, had a good handle on what their needs were. The Mayor's assistant was a big help to them. Again, she thought it was a very productive meeting.

Mr. Serio explained that it was a very long day; they were there from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He spoke about how after the election with all new officials that it would be a task for them in Central Office to bring everyone up to where they had left off as far as building capacity, how our business was done, our budget, and the initiatives we support and have put in place over the many years. He also found it to be very productive. They mainly answered questions that were asked of them. He thanked Central Office and Mr. Rizza for their support. Mr. Serio stated he was concerned about the amount of money they were going to be receiving. He was concerned about fulfilling some of the initiatives that were in place and new hires to remedy some of the problems they had identified. Mr. Serio spoke specifically about the Middle School.

Mr. Serio stated this was a year they needed support at their hearings and Town Council. He would like to continue with their initiative in moving the East Haven School system forward. On the Town's side, it takes money; nothing was getting cheaper. He wanted to keep the Town Council, the Board of Finance in a positive working relationship with the Board. **He stated he was going to need a bottom-line figure from the Business Office on what their absolute contractual obligations would be.** He did not want to have to let teachers go or increase class size. They would have to see what amount of dollars they received and make some of those hard decisions.

Any further comments or questions? There were none.

10.1 Correspondence

10.1.1 Resignations/Retirements

- **Angela Speck, Principal at EH Academy (Retirement – June 30, 2008)**

10.1.2 School Newsletters

10.1.3 School Enrollment for February 2008

10.1.4 FYI – Energy Grant from United Illuminating Co. to Town of East Haven for Replacement of Lighting Fixtures & Controls

10.1.5 FYI – Invitation to JMMS “CMT Pep Rally” on February 27, 2008

10.1.6 Athletic Checkbook – Regular Account – January 2008 (New Item)

10.1.7 Athletic Checkbook – Facility Account – January 2008 (New Item)

10.1.8 FYI – EH Town Council FY 2008-09 Budget Schedule Workshop/Hearings (New Item)

10.1.9 FYI – Updated BOE Member Phone List (New Item)

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

12. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – MARCH 11, 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. DeNuzzo and seconded by Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio. Vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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