

East Haddam Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Cafeteria
November 13, 2007
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nick Iacovelli, Tracey Gionta, Robert Mather, Tom Miett, Everett Herden,
Bryan Perry, Mary-Beth Mordecai, Deborah Fiala

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Joseph Weaver

ABSENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: Kevin Staehly

OTHERS PRESENT: Ellen Solek, Bob Carroll, Linda Dadona, Cindy Mello, Mary Beth Havens,
Jason Peacock, Ruth Ziobron and approximately four other staff and
citizens.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Dr. Solek.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR

A. Nominations for New Board Chairman

MOTION: Mather, Miett; to nominate Mr. Iacovelli as Board Chairman.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION PASSED**

Mr. Iacovelli welcomed Mr. Perry and Mrs. Fiala.

MOTION: Mather, Mordecai; to nominate Everett Herden as Board Secretary.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION PASSED**

B. FFA Convention Award Recognition

Mr. Iacovelli read and distributed a letter of commendation to Caitlin Ogilvie,
Chelsea Hathaway, Kelsey Humble and Chelsey Hood.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (continued)

B. FFA Convention Award Recognition (continued)

These students competed in a national FFA convention in Indianapolis Indiana, in an agricultural sales conference. They made history by winning the competition. Chelsey Hood placed 5th individually. There were a total of 41 teams which competed. Each of the members received a \$1,000 scholarship and a plaque. Cheryl Matthewson was the team's coach. The Board expressed appreciation for the students' accomplishments.

The Board discussed town recognition of the FFA's accomplishments.

C. Board of Education Vacancy

Mr. Iacovelli announced a two-year vacancy on the Board. A bylaw of the Board, #9221 (Filling Vacancies), was reviewed. The Board will tentatively meet Tuesday, November 27th, to interview candidates.

A CABE workshop is scheduled for December 5, 2007.

D. Report from Student Council Representative

Joseph Weaver reported on the following activities at the high school.

- Candy in the pumpkin fundraiser;
- Caramel apple stand;
- There will be a support staff appreciation day;
- Spirit week is scheduled the week before Christmas break;
- Homecoming celebrations will start November 16th;
- Report cards were mailed out on Friday;
- Parent teacher conferences start on Thursday; and
- National Honor Society will meet November 20th.

Dr. Solek will start including school events on Board members' calendars which are included in their Informational Update.

IV. ACTION ON THE MINUTES

MOTION: Gionta, Mordecai; to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 9, 2007 as presented.

FAVOR (5): Mather, Mordecai, Mielt, Gionta, Herden

OPPOSED (0): None

ABSTENTIONS (2): Perry, Fiala

ABSENT (0): None

MOTION PASSED

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEESA. 4-8 Middle School

The Board had the opportunity to tour the school site on Saturday.

Mrs. Mordecai distributed a Kaestle Boos Associates East Haddam 4-8 School floor plan map. Mrs. Mordecai reported the project was 43% complete. She stated the State had passed the bond package and reimbursement was projected to arrive in January. She also informed the Board that the Finance Director intended on filing for lost interest income. Mrs. Mordecai further stated a neighbor had complained about their well getting dry and that the Committee would address the issue at the next meeting.

B. Middle and Elementary Schools' Capital Improvements

Mr. Mather stated there was nothing new to report.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLSA. Strategic School Profile Report 2006-07

Dr. Solek reviewed and discussed the following document:

- Report to the East Haddam Board of Education from Dr. Solek, regarding 2006-07 Strategic School Profile for East Haddam School District.

Mrs. Mordecai questioned the percentage allocated for the District Need category. Dr. Solek reviewed figures included in Board members' packets.

Mr. Iacovelli commented that the percentage of kindergarteners which had attended preschool in 2001-2002 was 65% versus 2006-2007 which had increased to 86%. Mr. Iacovelli stated the percentage of juniors and seniors working had gone down indicating they were studying more. He found it interesting that only 46% of the students in the district were passing all four physical education tests. The State average is 36%.

Mr. Iacovelli noted there was a 71% score for pursuing higher education. He stated K-12 students, which the district was financially responsible, were 11.9%. He further stated the percentage was higher than the DRG or the State average. Mr. Iacovelli stated a lot of money was allocated in budget line for special education. He also stated the State should recognize the burden on local districts.

The Board requested a presentation at a future meeting by the physical education teachers from each school.

B. Staffing Update for the 4-8 Middle School

Dr. Solek informed the Board that staffing at the new middle school would need to support the Board's goal of class sizes at no more than 20 students.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (continued)B. Staffing Update for the 4-8 Middle School (continued)

Mr. Iacovelli stated a budget would need to be developed to reflect the Board's desire to keep class sizes at no more than 20 students.

Mrs. Mordecai reminded the Board the purpose of the new middle school was to keep class sizes at no more than 20 students. She further stated currently at the middle school, class sizes were more than 20 students because there was not enough room for additional teachers and classrooms.

Responsive to a question by Mr. Herden, Mr. Iacovelli replied he would work in conjunction with Dr. Solek to appoint new Board members to subcommittees.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTSA. Long Range Planning

Long Range Planning met November 1st. Mr. Iacovelli briefly reviewed discussions as documented in the Long Range Planning Subcommittee meeting minutes.

B. Finance

Mr. Mather stated they had not met. Finance will meet November 14th.

C. Policy

Policy met November 1st. Policy #5113 (Attendance and Excuses), Policy #5131.6 (Student Possession or Use of Illegal Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco), and Policy #6172.12 (Magnet Schools) were presented as second readings. Dr. Mielt briefly reviewed discussions as documented in the Policy Committee meeting minutes.

Mrs. Gionta informed the Board that Regulation #5131.6(b) had been changed from what was in their packet. The 3rd line in the last paragraph, strike "called to witness" and insert "informed of".

D. Transportation

Transportation met on October 23rd. Mr. Mather briefly reviewed discussions as documented in the Transportation Subcommittee meeting minutes.

E. Personnel and Negotiations

Dr. Mielt requested the Board go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting for discussions of personnel.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)F. Ray Board Liaison

Mr. Iacovelli reported Ray Board had not met since the last meeting.

G. LEARN

Mrs. Gionta reported she had attended the LEARN meeting. Mrs. Gionta stated Pam Gourlie was awarded a certificate of appreciation for her contributions to LEARN. Mrs. Gionta stated Ann Baldwin, Media Consultant, made a presentation regarding a communication policy. The communication policy will be reviewed at the next meeting.

H. Curriculum Council Liaison

Mr. Herden reported that the name of the Curriculum Council had changed to Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Council (CIAC). CIAC met today. Science, Math and Language Art teachers were in attendance. Differential instruction was discussed as well as that academic requirements would need to be more stringent which would require more core subjects. This could imply that there will be fewer electives for students. Mr. Peacock has suggested hiring additional teachers (1 World Language teacher and ½ time Computer teacher).

Mr. Herden recommended having the CIAC meetings recorded for Long Range Planning for a better understanding of curriculum development.

I. Open Space

The Board discussed the necessity of having a liaison to the Open Space Committee. Mr. Iacovelli stated Open Space meeting minutes could be included in Board packets.

J. Local Prevention Council

There was no one available to report.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Bill Dickey, an MPAC member, complained that two fundraisers had been shut down by middle school personnel. Dr. Solek will review the complaint at the administrative level and take appropriate action.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

None noted.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Consent Agenda

- 1) Warrant
 - a. To approve the warrant for 2006-07 in the amount of \$1,655,655.30.
 - b. To approve the warrant for 2007-08 in the amount of \$1,469,620.62.
- 2) To approve Policy #5113 (Attendance and Excuses) as a second reading.
- 3) To approve Policy #5131.6 (Student Possession or Use of Illegal Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco) as a second reading.
- 4) To approve Policy #6172.12 (Magnet Schools) as a second reading.
- 5) State law requires that the Board adopt a schedule of Regular Meetings within 30 days of the commencement of a new year and notify the town clerk of that schedule. For the past several years, the Board has met on the second Tuesday of the month with the possible exception of June when the second Tuesday interferes with graduation. A proposed schedule of meeting dates is enclosed for your consideration.

MOTION: Miett, Mordecai; to approve the Consent Agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION PASSED**

MOTION: Miett, Iacovelli; to go into Executive Session at 8:09 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION PASSED**

The Board returned to Regular Session at 8:20 p.m.

MOTION: Iacovelli, Mordecai; to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION PASSED**

Respectfully submitted,

Everett Herden
Secretary