

East Haddam Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Cafeteria
April 12, 2005
7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pamela Gourlie-Chairman, Everett Herden, Nick Iacovelli,
Bob Mather, Manny Misenti, Steve Quinn, Melissa Ziobron

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dora Lyman, Tom Miett

STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Emily James and Justin Christopher

OTHERS PRESENT: Approximately 16 community members including staff were
present at the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Gourlie called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Nathan Hale-Ray High School cafeteria.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR

Mrs. Gourlie asked the Student Council members if they had anything to report. Miss James reported that the Student Council would begin conducting a survey for next year. Mr. Christopher added that this survey would indicate how well they were doing, as well as preparing others to assume this role next year.

A. Correspondence

Mrs. Gourlie read a memo from Mr. Brad Parker, First Selectman, regarding the land for the school site. His memo noted that the previous Board of Education minutes incorrectly stated part of the land for the school was actually located in East Hampton. Mr. Parker's memorandum clarified that all of the land described in the referendum resolution was located in East Haddam.

Mrs. Gourlie stated that the school site is a sensitive issue, and that everyone should try to ensure that accurate information is given.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (Cont'd)A. Correspondence (Cont'd)

Mr. Iacovelli inquired if one of the parcels was connected to East Hampton. Mrs. Ziobron explained that when the survey was conducted, it was determined that a thin piece of land, comprised of approximately 15 acres, which ran parallel to the top piece of parcel A was located in East Hampton. This piece of land was not part of the resolution, but there was discussion about possibly using this parcel of land for emergency access. Mrs. Ziobron stated the Building Committee was now discussing moving the access road back into East Haddam.

The next piece of correspondence Mrs. Gourlie received was a memorandum from Dr. Durham regarding year-end activities. She asked Dr. Durham for a delineation of which events were specifically for students, and to which events the Board members could attend. Dr. Durham stated while some of the activities are geared toward students, any Board member is always welcome to attend.

B. Field Dedication Request

Mrs. Gourlie referred the Board members to a memorandum dated March 22, 2005 from Marty Ryczek regarding naming the high school softball field in honor of Coach Lou Milardo. Policy 7551 regarding naming of facilities was distributed to each Board member at the start of the meeting.

Mrs. Gourlie inquired if any Board member wished to comment on this issue tonight. Mr. Mather suggested the matter be tabled so that members could review the information.

MOTION: Mather, Ziobron; to table the issue of naming the high school softball field until the May 10, 2005 regular meeting.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

C. Magnet School Transportation

Mrs. Gourlie announced that parents of students who attend the magnet school in New London have proposed a new way to handle the issue of transportation. Mrs. Natalie Thayer submitted a proposal and a cost breakdown to the Board. The plan proposed a 50% contribution by the Town, along with State reimbursement. The families would share the remainder of the cost. With State and Town assistance, the cost per student would range from \$798.62 if six students attended, to \$97.86 if eleven students attended the magnet school.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (Cont'd)C. Magnet School Transportation (Cont'd)

Mrs. Gourlie stated this is a unique situation. East Haddam would be the only school in the region that did not contribute to or pay all of the expenses for transportation to the magnet school. Mrs. Gourlie indicated that most towns pay 100% of the transportation costs, but she would get a listing for the next meeting. Mrs. Gourlie asked the Board if it would consider paying all or a portion of the transportation costs. The cost was approximately \$26.00 per day.

Dr. Durham indicated the numbers reflected in Mrs. Thayer's memo were inaccurate, and he suggested if the Board was interested, he would prepare accurate information and send it to the Finance subcommittee.

Mrs. Gourlie indicated that the magnet school provides diversity, which offers an enriching experience for children and educators. She hoped the Board would consider this request.

Mrs. Ziobron spoke with one parent, who as a result of the transportation issue, decided to home-school her child. Mrs. Ziobron believed if the transportation issue were resolved, it would spark greater interest. Mrs. Gourlie noted that selection is based on a lottery system.

Mr. Misenti asked what academic opportunities the magnet school provided for the children. Mrs. Gourlie stated the students would be exposed to a greater diversity of cultures, with students of Native American, Asian, African-American, Hispanic and other backgrounds. This would provide innovative teaching and learning opportunities for children in a responsive classroom environment.

Mr. Misenti asked what grade levels the magnet school encompassed. Mrs. Gourlie indicated the magnet school included Kindergarten through Grade 5. Students would return to East Haddam in Grade 6.

Mr. Mather spoke with one parent who believed if East Haddam offered the opportunity to attend the magnet school, the Town should pay the transportation costs. Mr. Mather stated it appeared the main difference in the magnet school was exposure to different races. He commented that he attended an all-white school, but traveled around the world without issue. He did not feel the cost was justified if the only benefit was exposure to other races.

Mrs. Ziobron stated that data would be collected, and this item would be on the next Finance committee's agenda. She was concerned that this would cut the time short. Mrs. Gourlie stated this would take effect in the fall.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (Cont'd)C. Magnet School Transportation (Cont'd)

Mr. Iacovelli questioned if the Board could decide to fund the transportation at something other than 50%. Mrs. Gourlie stated the Board could fund the cost at any percentage it chose.

Mrs. Ziobron inquired about the initial enrollment. Dr. Durham stated twelve students were accepted, but seven children ultimately registered. One student dropped out of the program. Dr. Durham noted that East Haddam was the farthest point for this magnet school.

D. Superintendent's Annual Evaluation

Mrs. Gourlie advised that it was time to set the date for Dr. Durham's annual evaluation. She asked if the Board wished to conduct the evaluation during a regular meeting, or if it would prefer a special meeting. The consensus of the Board was that it would be conducted during a regular meeting, with the strategic plan presentation from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and the evaluation beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Board wished to complete the evaluation by 10:00 p.m.

Mrs. Gourlie requested Dr. Durham to email the date to the Board and to schedule the meeting.

IV. ACTION ON THE MINUTES

MOTION: Ziobron, Quinn; to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 15, 2005 with the following amendments:

- Page 6, Item VII.G LEARN: Change the last sentence to read "She updated the Board on the science high school in New London, and on the Friendship School in Wallingford for ages 3-5 years."
- Mr. Misenti noted he had questioned how healthy the food being served to the children was. However, there was no mention of it in the March 15, 2005 minutes. He asked that Mary give a presentation to the Board in the future.
- Page 9, Item IX.E: first sentence: change "bus" to "van"
- Page 4, Item VI. B: change "4000 meals a day" to "4000 meals per month"

FAVOR: Herden, Iacovelli, Mather, Misenti, Ziobron

OPPOSED: NONE

ABSTENTIONS: Quinn

ABSENT: Lyman, Miatt

MOTION CARRIED

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

Mrs. Ziobron introduced Todd Moss, chairman of the 4-8 Building Committee. She spoke of the inaccuracies in the newspapers, and the committee's attempts to correct the information that is being printed.

Mrs. Ziobron stated the committee was now in the process of conducting soil tests for the septic design. The Phase 1 environmental report project was awarded to Fuss & O'Neill at a cost of \$2,100. In addition, the committee is working on the traffic study.

Mrs. Ziobron acknowledged there has been some confusion regarding the property lines. She reiterated her earlier comments regarding the thin piece of land running parallel to parcel A. The committee has discussed using this piece, or going back to its original plan of using two acres in a small triangular piece of land, for emergency access. The issue with the smaller parcel is that it is in a wetlands area.

Mrs. Ziobron stated the committee was now determining the best way to proceed with the project. There are two alternatives. The first alternative would be to have a construction manager, but have the Town hold the contracts. The other alternative would be to have the construction manager act as the project manager. She asked Mr. Moss to elaborate on this topic. Mr. Moss explained that the construction manager could act as the agent (CMA). In this case, the construction manager would negotiate and run the project and schedule, but the Town would hold the contracts. If they chose to use a construction manager as the contractor (CMC), the construction manager would basically own what was bid, and would require less management for the Town than a CMA.

Mr. Herden voiced his concerns about getting the school started. Citing a recent Hartford Courant article, he stated if the land issue could not be resolved with the property owners, then the Town should take it by eminent domain, and begin the project. Mr. Moss read that Hartford Courant article, and he stated there were many inaccuracies in it. Mr. Moss has sent emails, faxes, and a registered letter to the journalist who wrote that article, in an attempt to have the information correctly printed. Mr. Moss explained that at this time, the building committee is moving forward, and is actually ahead. Mr. Moss indicated that the Board of Finance appropriated funds to conduct soil tests, geotech reports, etc. The actual construction will not begin until June 2006, at which time the property issues must be resolved.

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

Mrs. Ziobron outlined the timeline for the project as follows: June 2005 – the application should be approved by the State; February 2006 – approval of the plans; March 2006 – bids go out; June 2006 – construction will begin; January 2008 – opening. She noted that the committee is working diligently on this project.

Mr. Moss spoke of the road improvements, which were ineligible for reimbursement. He stated this would be the Town's responsibility, and this could be done before the construction begins in June 2006. Mr. Moss has contacted the Public Works Department, and is working with them. In addition, he is working with CL&P to get three-phase power to the site before construction begins.

Mr. Misenti questioned the impact the rising material costs would have on the project, and how the committee would deal with this. Mr. Moss stated they were seeing an 8-10% increase in a wide range of products. They are working with the designers and engineers to do their best for the \$24.8 million project.

Responsive to inquiry by Mr. Mather, Mr. Moss explained he does send out periodic press releases, but he anticipated holding quarterly informational sessions to disseminate information to the public. Mrs. Gourlie stated while the minutes were on the website, it might be possible to list bullet points of the highlights.

Mr. Moss stated all of the minutes are on the website. The committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the high school Home Economics Room 117. He encouraged attendance at these meetings, and assured everyone that the committee would entertain all questions and concerns.

B. Middle and Elementary Schools' Capital Improvements

Mr. Quinn had nothing new to report.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLSA. Reading Presentation

Dr. Durham stated the Language Arts Curriculum Committee would present its proposal for the new reading materials for the elementary school. The staff reviewed four programs, and piloted two of those programs. The committee decided to remain with the Houghton-Mifflin program, with a 2005 copyright.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)A. Reading Presentation (Cont'd)

Dr. Durham introduced Mrs. Cindy Mello. Mrs. Mello stated the committee looked for materials to provide a balance, and to support the entire language arts curriculum. The facilitators for this pilot program were Mrs. Margaret Stahl, Mrs. Nancy Hanks, and Mrs. Joanne Maynard.

Mrs. Stahl explained that the elementary school had gotten away from using the anthologies, so there was some resistance from the faculty at the beginning of this pilot program. However, once the program was conducted, this extremely analytical faculty voted unanimously in favor of the Houghton-Mifflin program.

Mrs. Stahl stated this program gave many opportunities to differentiate the instruction to serve the needs of each individual student. This program would provide tools for the teachers, more consistent instruction for the children, and more opportunities for deeper reading. Mrs. Stahl believed this program could positively affect the standardized test results. There was a large technology element with this program, and every story was also on a CD-ROM.

Although nothing was perfect, Mrs. Stahl believed this program was the closest match for East Haddam students. Mrs. Stahl urged the Board to approve this program. Initially more expensive, she believed the benefits to the children were worth the cost.

Mrs. Maynard believed this was an excellent program, and it was liked by all of the teachers. In addition, this was the only company that offered CMT format testing.

Mrs. Hanks stated this program came with a teacher resource kit. For example, if a particular student was a more auditory learner, the teaching element was there with the CD-ROM. There was a teacher instruction manual, for ways to tap into the individual needs of each student. Mrs. Hanks noted this program would allow a teacher to use anthologies and other materials simultaneously, or work on the anthologies for a few days, and then switch to other materials.

Mrs. Havens stated the teachers were all very enthusiastic about this program. They looked at it in terms of aligning the teaching for the CMTs, and they believed it would be a powerful learning tool.

Mrs. Maynard stated the teachers had asked the committee for help, and they elected this program. Typically, only one teacher would pilot a new program, but two teachers from each grade level tested this reading program.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)A. Reading Presentation (Cont'd)

Mrs. Mello reiterated that the faculty unanimously approved this series. The staff has shown a commitment to this new program, and they are re-energized and excited about the new reading instruction.

Responsive to inquiry by Mr. Herden, Mrs. Mello stated that there were five facilitators for the pilot teams. A significant testament to the program was that once the pilot was over, no one wanted to stop using the materials.

Mr. Iacovelli was convinced that this was a great program, but he wondered if there were opportunities for creativity by individual teachers. Mrs. Stahl responded affirmatively, and explained that there was a core program, but each teacher could alter the program in whichever way suited him/her the best. For instance, a teacher could decide to have one week of anthology and then one week of leveled readers. She was very excited about the academic choice this program offered. In addition, there was a spelling program that blended with the curriculum. Mrs. Stahl suggested this was the missing link that would meld the Language Arts curriculum together. Mrs. Hanks added that the vocabulary became increasingly difficult for higher-level readers.

Mr. Iacovelli asked if a teacher from the middle school could go to the elementary school and easily pick up the program. Mrs. Hanks explained that the teachers manual was very easy to follow, and would provide a particular benefit to new teachers. Mrs. Mello added that teachers could deliver the information differently from year to year for various groups of children.

Mrs. Ziobron stated she visited some of the classrooms, and asked if this program was what she observed. Mrs. Mello stated it was not.

Mr. Misenti believed reading in Grade 1 was likely gender-neutral, but there would be differences by Grade 4. Mrs. Hanks stated the different preferences actually begin in Grade 1. Typically, boys prefer non-fiction, and girls love stories and fantasy reading. However, she believed this could balance the playing field.

Mr. Misenti asked if this program would maintain the interest of the children, to which Mrs. Hanks was confident that it would. Mr. Misenti commented that too many children lose their love of reading. Mrs. Mello responded this was not the case at the elementary school.

Mrs. Mello informed the Board that a sample of the books was displayed on the side table for the Board to peruse.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)A. Reading Presentation (Cont'd)

Mrs. Gourlie clarified that this item was not on tonight's agenda for a vote. It was a presentation for informational purposes.

The Board thanked the Language Arts Curriculum Committee for its presentation.

B. Field Trip Request

Dr. Durham informed the Board that an application had been received for a field trip to Canada in the fall. Students would be transported by bus. He announced that Mrs. Diana Murphy, Mrs. Dadona, and Mr. Rinaldi were available to answer any questions the Board may have.

Mr. Iacovelli questioned the application, which stated that former French students would be eligible to attend this trip. Mrs. Murphy stated the trip would be open to current or former French students in Grades 10 – 12 only.

Mr. Mather was concerned with the time of year this trip was planned. He did not wish to have another situation where inclement weather might be a factor. Mrs. Murphy stated that the spring is a very busy time to try to schedule a field trip, and that it would be affected by time constraints and additional costs. Dr. Durham stated this trip was planned for early November, and requests will always be made unless the Board decides to ban trips at this time of year. Mr. Herden did not believe the Board should let the arbitrator's decision influence the Board's decision not to approve a field trip. He believed each field trip should be evaluated on its educational merit, and that the Board should support the students.

Mr. Mather stated he had no issue with the trip, but felt if it could be scheduled at another time of year, it should be. Mrs. Ziobron believed this trip had a huge educational opportunity, and was likely one of the most enriching trips available. She supported this trip, and stressed that everyone should keep the best interest of the students in mind.

Mr. Quinn acknowledged that this trip would have a significant educational value, and with the recommendation by two administrators and the superintendent, he fully supported it. However, he agreed that the Board should look at the times of years in which field trips were planned.

Mr. Mather asked if passports would be needed. Mrs. Murphy stated until 2008, only a birth certificate and one form of photo identification would be necessary.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)B. Field Trip Request (Cont'd)

Mr. Misenti was concerned with the cost of the trip. Mrs. Murphy stated the issue of fundraising was discussed, and she informed each student that they had the summer to work and save money for their trip. She stated that money has never been an issue for this trip.

Mr. Misenti asked how many teachers would accompany students on this trip, and what the cost to the Board would be. Mrs. Murphy stated that three teachers would attend this trip, and the only cost to the Board would be substitutes during their absence. Mr. Misenti was concerned that students who stayed behind would lose valuable instruction time.

Mr. Iacovelli complimented Mrs. Murphy on the detailed information of her application, and suggested this could be used as a model for other applications. He stated that because of the recent arbitration, he hoped the administrators would be cautious of scheduling field trips during times when inclement weather could be a factor. However, Mr. Iacovelli did not wish to deprive the students of this experience. Concerning costs, he suggested that the proposed \$5,000 for transportation to the magnet school would cover the cost of this entire trip.

Mrs. Gourlie informed the Board that this item was on tonight's Consent Agenda for a vote.

C. Graduation Date

Dr. Durham advised that the Board could now set this year's graduation date, scheduled for June 22, 2005. This item was on tonight's Consent Agenda for approval.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTSA. Long Range Planning

Mr. Iacovelli reported that the Long Range Planning Committee met on April 7, 2005. Mrs. Ziobron gave a status report on the new school project, with the same information she provided tonight.

Mr. Iacovelli reviewed the attendance at the technology center since it was opened to the public. A total of 68 people had used the center thus far, a positive sign that it did provide a benefit to the community. He stated he would provide updates going forward.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)A. Long Range Planning (Cont'd)

The committee discussed Board liaison responsibilities. Mrs. Ziobron discussed her role on the Open Space Committee. Mr. Iacovelli stated the Open Space Committee appeared to be a unique situation, where the liaison was put into a voting situation during or immediately following executive sessions.

Mr. Iacovelli stated since many of the conversations occur within executive session, the liaison cannot bring forth much information. The three major issues discussed were how valuable the liaison was to the Open Space Committee; should the liaison be a voting member of the OSC, and if the liaison was a voting member, how the Board wished her to vote. Mrs. Gourlie stated perhaps this created a conflict, and should be addressed by the Policy subcommittee. Mrs. Ziobron stated the OSC is made up of representatives of every board and commission, and they are actual members, not just liaisons. She asked Dr. Durham for clarification. Dr. Durham stated he called the Selectmen's office, and Mr. Parker will send information to the Policy subcommittee. Mrs. Gourlie believed the person on the OSC must represent the *Board's* opinion, and that this matter should be taken up with Policy.

Mr. Iacovelli stated that Mr. Misenti brought up the latch key program. This would be added to next month's meeting agenda for discussion. It was noted that this was a valuable program, but there was some question if this would be a Board of Education program or a Town program.

The next Long Range Planning meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2005.

B. Finance

Mr. Quinn stated the Finance subcommittee has not met.

C. Policy

Mrs. Lyman and Dr. Miett were not present to give a report. Mrs. Gourlie referred Board members to the last Policy meeting minutes, which were included in everyone's packet.

Dr. Durham stated the Board would receive this week a recommendation for changes to the electronic devices policy. A first reading would be prepared for the May meeting. Dr. Durham asked that anyone with questions or comments contact Mrs. Lyman or email Dr. Durham. The law states that cell phones cannot be used during school.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)C. Policy (Cont'd)

Mrs. Ziobron questioned the Student Council representatives about the use of cell phones in school. Mr. Christopher stated that many students get calls, and he found it to be very distracting, particularly during testing. Miss James had not experienced this. She was aware that several people had cell phones, but they were not used until the end of the day when students would check for messages. Mrs. Ziobron asked if cell phones were a status symbol. Miss James stated they might be at the middle school, but she did not believe they were at the high school.

Dr. Durham announced that field trip request forms would be revised by the Policy Committee to include the cost of substitute teachers.

Dr. Durham stated changes pertaining to transportation would first go to the Transportation subcommittee, and then on to the Policy subcommittee.

Dr. Durham acknowledged that the Policy subcommittee has recently selected the bullying policy for him to review and ensure that it is being followed.

D. Transportation

Mr. Mather stated this committee has not met

E. Personnel and Negotiations

Mr. Quinn stated this committee has not met.

F. Ray Board Liaison

Mr. Iacovelli reported that this board has not met.

G. LEARN

Mrs. Gourlie had no new information to report.

H. Curriculum Council Liaison

Mr. Herden stated the Curriculum Council reviewed the initiatives of the past year. He stated a genuine effort had been made to include a well-rounded curriculum in grades K-12. The Council operates on a five-year cycle, and is at the end of its first cycle.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)H. Curriculum Council Liaison (Cont'd)

Mr. Herden distributed a Master Curriculum Calendar for 2004-2009. He was impressed to see that everywhere "Implementation" appeared on this calendar, it was the result of five years worth of work by this group.

Mr. Herden stated that the plan was to revamp/revise all areas. He referred to tonight's reading presentation, and stated that assessment is ongoing in many different ways. He encouraged the Board to not concentrate solely on CAPT results.

Dr. Durham stated the Council met yesterday, and spent the bulk of their time discussing NEASC. He believed the school would be in good shape for the accreditation process.

Mr. Misenti referred to a recent *Face the State* news program, and stated there should be some evaluation and report on how East Haddam's academic achievement is progressing and how we are doing. Mr. Iacovelli suggested that the report card grades would reflect the progress. Mrs. Gourlie suggested that moving to the next higher grade level would reflect achievement.

Dr. Durham stated when the Board adopted the strategic plan, one area that received a lot of work was the development of exit criteria for the exit grades of each school. Last year demonstrated the strides that have been made. Every student has an individual checklist for teachers to track how the students are progressing. It is known on a day-to-day basis how children are progressing. Dr. Durham stressed that the standardized testing was only one indicator and that the mastery test score is not always indicative of a child's progress. He felt it was important to test students in a way commensurate with what they had been taught.

Dr. Durham stated education was much more complex than a single score. When they retain 7 or 8 kindergarten students at the end of the year, performance data is in order. In addition, he would never support retention with the exact same plan for the following year.

Dr. Durham stated that perhaps more information should be given to the Board and to the public on the measures of success.

Mrs. Gourlie indicated that in her 11 years on the Board, she has seen far more rigorous instruction now than in the past.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)H. Curriculum Council Liaison (Cont'd)

Mr. Misenti stated as a Board, they should review all of the data collectively if the tests were wrong. Dr. Durham stated what we are teaching now is more congruent with the test, and is more closely aligned with standardized tests.

Mr. Misenti stated 7 – 8 years ago, East Haddam was at the bottom of the ERG, and now we are in the middle. He hoped that in the next 7 – 8 years, East Haddam would be at the top of the ERG. Dr. Durham stated that was the goal. Dr. Durham noted that new Federal mandates have made student performance on standardized tests a top priority.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Mrs. Jackie Curl addressed the Board. She stated she has two children in the magnet school. Mr. Ed Iaruso was also present, and he has one son in the magnet school. They apologized for being late.

Mrs. Curl stated they now drive their children to Old Lyme to pick up the bus. She indicated that Mrs. Natalie Thayer contacted Mr. Bob Carroll regarding the cost of bus transportation. Mrs. Curl asked if the Board would consider paying a portion of the transportation cost.

Mrs. Gourlie informed Mrs. Curl that the Board had discussed this earlier this evening, and had referred it to the Finance subcommittee. Dr. Durham would review the costs and present them to the Board, hopefully at its next meeting.

Mrs. Curl thanked the Board for its consideration.

IX. OLD BUSINESSA. Strategic Plan

Dr. Durham stated his annual presentation was typically conducted in May. Mr. Quinn suggested Dr. Durham select a few dates and email them to the Board.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Consent Agenda

1. Warrant

a. To approve the warrant for 2004-05 in the amount of \$1,237,239.17.

2. To accept the resignation of Mrs. Marilyn Hammond, 10-month secretary at the Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, effective April 8, 2005.

To accept the resignation of Mrs. Lori Susi, Assistant Principal at East Haddam Elementary School, effective June 30, 2005.

3. To accept the gift of a dishwasher from Bruce Schultz, in accordance with Policy #3280, and to direct the Superintendent to send a letter of appreciation.

4. To approve the request from the High School World Language Department for a field trip to Canada from November 2, 2005 to November 5, 2005.

5. In accordance with CGS §10-161, to establish Wednesday, June 22, 2005 as graduation day for the Class of 2005.

Item 4 was removed for discussion.

Mrs. Ziobron wished Mrs. Susi well with her new baby.

MOTION: Quinn, Iacovelli; to approve Items 1, 2, 3, and 5 of the Consent Agenda.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

4. To approve the request from the High School World Language Department for a field trip to Canada from November 2, 2005 to November 5, 2005.

Mr. Misenti suggested the Board review all of the field trips on an annual basis to determine the cost to the Board. Mrs. Gourlie suggested this could be presented by the Long Range Planning Committee.

MOTION: Ziobron, Iacovelli; to approve Item 4 of the Consent Agenda.

**FAVOR: Herden, Iacovelli, Mather, Quinn, Ziobron
OPPOSED: Misenti
ABSENT: Lyman, Miatt
MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION: Herden, Quinn; to enter Executive Session at 9:25 p.m. for the purposes of discussing personnel and negotiations, and to invite Mrs. Mello to join the Board in Executive Session.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

Returned to Regular Session at 10:05 p.m.

MOTION: Herden, Quinn; to adjourn at 10:06 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Dora Lyman
Board Secretary