

East Haddam Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Cafeteria
August 9, 2005
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pamela Gourlie, Everett Herden, Dora Lyman, Robert Mather, Manny Misenti, Steve Quinn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nick Iacovelli, Tom Mielt

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Durham and 7 people including staff were present.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mrs. Gourlie.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR

A. Update on Connecticut Lawsuit regarding NCLB

Mrs. Gourlie stated the Board should consider whether to support the State's lawsuit against the NCLB. She explained that the State of Connecticut was suing the Federal government over the NCLB, as aspects of its implementation and funding were putting a great financial burden on Connecticut. She read an excerpt from the State, which indicated that there was a \$41.6 million shortfall through 2008. She announced that each board in Connecticut has been asked to take a vote.

MOTION: Mather, Quinn; to resolve to support the State of Connecticut lawsuit against the Federal government for insufficient funding of the NCLB legislation.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (Cont'd)A. Update on Connecticut Lawsuit regarding NCLB (Cont'd)

Mr. Misenti asked Mrs. Ziobron to read his written comments to the Board. Mrs. Ziobron read Mr. Misenti's statement, which included Mr. Misenti's belief that it was important not to vote on this issue without time for thoughtful review. It was noted that this information was only distributed to the Board on Saturday, August 6, 2005. Mr. Misenti's statement indicated that approximately one-third of students fall within a deficiency range, and that up to 340,000 students each year cannot balance a checkbook or resolve discrepancies with a bank. In his statement, Mr. Misenti commented that teachers work half days for half of a year with high rates of pay and benefits. He believed that asking the Federal government to pick up the tab for Connecticut, which has the highest per capita pay, would weaken the NCLB.

Mrs. Lyman agreed that there really was not enough notice to vote on this issue. She stated she was personally appalled that Connecticut was suing the Federal government. She stated that Connecticut was one of the richest states, and its residents were among the best educated, and she believed we have the wherewithal to make the NCLB work. She acknowledged there are pieces of the NCLB that do not work, but she believed that everyone could band together to make it work.

Mr. Mather indicated he was in favor of giving students the best education that East Haddam could afford. He stated it was difficult to decide to whom he should listen, the politicians or the educators. He stated he had more faith in our educators.

Mr. Herden asked that Mr. Misenti's comments regarding teachers working half days be re-read. Mrs. Ziobron re-read Mr. Misenti's comments. Mr. Herden took exception to this statement, noting that these words work against the goals they are trying to reach. He stated we should support our teachers and not demean them.

Mr. Quinn inquired who asked that a vote be taken. Dr. Durham responded that the request came from CUBE and CAPSS. Mr. Quinn acknowledged that the information was only received on Saturday, August 6, 2005. He believed it would be prudent to conduct a vote at next month's meeting. Dr. Durham explained that this information has been in circulation for some time, but that it could wait until next month.

Mr. Quinn stated he had no issue with the NCLB, although he did have some issues with poorly funded mandates. He acknowledged that the Board operates on a strict budget, and some things are each year. Insufficient funding will force them to cut more budget items.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (Cont'd)A. Update on Connecticut Lawsuit regarding NCLB (Cont'd)

Mr. Misenti responded to Mr. Herden's comments. He stated he did not have a problem with most of the teachers, but more with the bargaining units and politicians. He stated the bargaining units had a very good deal, and that we need to level the playing field. Mr. Misenti stated there are many teachers who perform well. He reiterated that he had no issue with the teachers, but he believed that NCLB was the only opportunity we have to re-institute accountability through the levels.

Mrs. Gourlie stated the comments being made were not directly related to this lawsuit. She indicated this lawsuit was only for funding issues. Mrs. Gourlie commented that this lawsuit has been in circulation for approximately two years, and it is in the newspaper every day. She suggested if it was so important to everyone now, everyone should pay attention to it all of the time.

Mrs. Lyman responded that she personally does pay attention, but she was really offended that our state was suing the Federal government. She took issue with Connecticut's course of action. She stated she would like to know how much money Connecticut has invested in this lawsuit that could have been put into actual education. Mrs. Gourlie agreed that this would be valuable information.

Mr. Herden suggested this item be tabled until next month for further discussion. Mrs. Ziobron stated she would also like to learn what the NEA has spent on NCLB. Mr. Misenti suggested someone contact Betty Sternberg. Mrs. Gourlie noted there was an article by Ms. Sternberg that could be sent to the Board. Mr. Misenti requested that someone contact the U.S. Department of Education to ask why we should support the NCLB with inadequate funding. He asked what would cost more – paying the bill here, or paying back the Federal government.

MOTION: Mather, Quinn; to withdraw previous motion.

Dr. Durham asked for clarification of what documentation the Board would like him to send regarding the NCLB lawsuit. It was decided that the Board members would like to receive a synopsis of the lawsuit, a website to find information on the lawsuit, the cost associated with the lawsuit (if available), and anything else available that discussed what options Connecticut considered before filing this lawsuit. Mrs. Ziobron asked that this information be made available at the Board of Education office rather than sending it to each member individually. Dr. Durham stated he would give the Board members a listing of the available information, and if they wished to have a copy mailed to them, they could contact Ms. Joyce Medling at his office.

Mrs. Gourlie informed the Board that CAFE was taking nominations for District Directors, which meet twice monthly, and for Officers, which meet weekly. She instructed anyone interested to contact her for more details.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (Cont'd)A. Update on Connecticut Lawsuit regarding NCLB (Cont'd)

Mrs. Gourlie stated that the Board of Selectmen was putting together a study committee to look at municipal space. They had requested a Board member representative. Mr. Misenti volunteered.

IV. ACTION ON THE MINUTES

MOTION: Misenti, Mather, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 7, 2005 with the following amendments:

- Page 4, Item V.A., paragraph 1, last sentence: Replace *also planned* with *would be willing*; and
- Page 7, Item VII.B., paragraph 4, second sentence: Replace *someone to manage the project* with *a construction manager to assume additional risk for this project*.

FAVOR (5): Herden, Lyman, Mather, Misenti, Ziobron

OPPOSED: None

ABSTENTIONS (1): Quinn

ABSENT (2): Iacovelli, Mielt

MOTION CARRIED

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

Mrs. Gourlie announced that Mr. Todd Moss, chairman of the 4-8 School Building Committee, would give a status update on the school project.

Mr. Moss informed the Board that he received a letter last week notifying him that the State had approved the funding for the new school project. Mr. Moss stated that in today's newspaper was the RFP advertisement for a traffic study. The bids are due on August 22, 2005, and Mr. Moss stated the due date for the reports would be October 15, 2005.

Mr. Moss indicated that Kaestle Boos Associates (KBA) had met with the teachers and administrators, and had toured the schools. He stated that KBA is approximately 50% complete with the schematic design of the school.

Mr. Moss stated that the Committee has appointed a subcommittee to review bids for a construction managers as contractor. This RFQ would be submitted at the end of August. Once the bids are received, they will shortlist 2-3 firms and solicit RFPs.

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES (Cont'd)A. 4-8 Middle School (Cont'd)

Mr. Moss indicated they are on schedule and moving along for a spring/early summer 2006 start of construction.

Mrs. Ziobron acknowledged that Ms. Kerri Willis Budzik, a Building Committee member, and also a member of the review subcommittee, was present tonight for any questions.

Mrs. Ziobron stated the Committee had significant discussions regarding the size of the media center. She distributed a layout to the Board, cautioning them that this was very preliminary and only for discussion. She stated that the current media center layout is 6,300 square feet. She spoke with Dr. Durham earlier today, and he agreed that it was possible that the media center could be scaled back to 5,300 square feet.

Mrs. Ziobron informed the Board that when KBA conducted staff interviews, the staff thought a 20:1 student/teacher ratio was unrealistic, and that a 24:1 ratio was more realistic. Mrs. Ziobron stated there was a possibility of adding approximately 25 square feet to each classroom.

Mrs. Ziobron stated the next Building Committee meeting would be held on August 24, 2005. She welcomed any Board member to attend.

Mrs. Ziobron asked Dr. Durham to comment on the media center size. Dr. Durham stated he visited several KBA-built schools to see if we could get more room from the media center. He believed the 700 square-foot classrooms would be very tight; therefore, he hoped to somewhat reduce the size of the media center so that valuable space could be added to the classrooms.

Mrs. Gourlie inquired about the size of the gymnasium. Mr. Moss indicated that the gym size would not be effected by this. The gym would be sized to the CAS recommendations.

Mr. Moss stated that the media center meets the specifications; however, it is very large in comparison to other schools on which he has worked. He thought the media center could be reduced to add to the educational space throughout the building.

Mr. Moss stated there was still another 6 months of schematic design. There are still some areas to be determined, such as the boiler room, etc. Mr. Moss anticipated by the end of August, the schematic design would be approximately 90% fixed.

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES (Cont'd)A. 4-8 Middle School (Cont'd)

Mr. Misenti stated he had hoped for expandability on the septic design when the 8th grade was added to this school. He voiced concern that the Town would be limited by the septic capacity. He believed there should be definitive guidance for the school.

Mr. Moss stated they are currently looking at the septic system and where it would be located. The septic was not designed for over 620 students at this point. In addition, they do not yet know where the septic fields would be located. Mr. Moss indicated they have designed the school for expansion of classrooms, cafeteria, media center, etc., but there are no clear definitions for septic expansion.

Dr. Durham stated he was asked to forward information regarding expansion to the Long Range Planning Committee. He understood that this would be a committee-level discussion first, then brought to the full Board, after which it would be forwarded to the Building Committee. The information included the identification of where the school could be expanded, useable space, etc. Dr. Durham reminded everyone that the property would be the school site, but would also have open space. He believed that discussions should occur with the Board of Selectmen. Dr. Durham noted that due to a tight budget, they could not build a septic for over 620 students, but they needed to look at space for future expansion. He stressed that this was still early in the process.

Mr. Moss stated from the referendum, the site would have space for the school, open and municipal space, and wetlands. He believed the intent was to have municipal space around the school so there will be options in the future.

Mrs. Lyman inquired if there were enough faculty bathrooms. Mr. Moss stated although he did not know the exact numbers, he trusted KBA to design the school to fit our needs.

Mr. Herden questioned the storage space for the custodians. Mr. Moss stated the Committee was working on this. Mr. Herden questioned where the loading dock was located. Mr. Moss stated this preliminary layout was only for the media center area and was not inclusive of the entire school. Mrs. Ziobron stated she could bring the plans to the next Long Range Planning meeting.

Dr. Durham asked when the Building Committee planned to bring the design to the Board for approval. There was a brief discussion about timing of KBA's plan, and meeting dates. It was noted that the next regular Board meeting was scheduled for September 13, 2005. Mr. Moss suggested a special meeting could be held in mid-September, or it could be done at the regular October meeting. It was decided that Mr. Moss would check with Mr. Dave King of KBA to get a timeline, and he would contact Dr. Durham for coordination.

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES (Cont'd)A. 4-8 Middle School (Cont'd)

Mr. Herden asked where the Committee stood on the land acquisition. Mr. Moss stated that the Board of Selectmen was working on it. The Building Committee has offered to help with this process, or to take it over, but the Board of Selectmen chose to do this on its own. Mr. Moss stated they have done all of the soil investigation, and KBA is designing the school; therefore, it is not holding up the process so he did not see it as an issue at this point.

Mr. Mather stated he was surprised by the drawing presented tonight, and the 24 students per class rather than 20. He asked why this was changed. Mrs. Ziobron stated when she distributed this document she informed everyone that it was very preliminary. She stated this was based on KBA's discussion with the teachers. KBA was simply trying to determine if 24 students would fit into each classroom, and they were in no way trying to design anything other than to the Board's directive for 20 students per classroom. Mr. Moss added that they were designing the school for 20 students per classroom, and that this was just an exercise to see if more would fit. He noted there was no plan to deviate from the educational specifications.

Mr. Misenti stated he did some research, and many of the resource books in the media center had not been checked out for 8 or 9 years. He stated students were working on computers more now. Dr. Durham explained that elementary school students still check out books, most of which are fiction. Middle school students use the Internet more, and High School students use mostly the Internet for non-fiction resources.

Mr. Moss stated he looked at the high school's media center. He stated the room where the books are located has approximately 1,300 – 1,400 square feet. He noted that the current plan has almost four times that size, at 6,300 square feet. He stated he simply wanted to see if it could be made somewhat smaller.

Mr. Moss stated that the Building Committee is comprised of attorneys, real estate agents, a mechanical/electrical engineer, etc., which has been very helpful. He stated they have a very good committee.

Mr. Quinn asked when 24 students per class were anticipated, based on the Cohort rates, etc. Dr. Durham explained that using the Cohort system, the estimated students per classroom do not exceed 24 over the next eight years. He noted, however, that this number could be affected by what happens with the Banner Lodge and Johnsonville projects. Dr. Durham did not believe they would be at 24 students per classroom for 10-15 years.

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES (Cont'd)A. 4-8 Middle School (Cont'd)

Dr. Durham stated that based on the nature of the children, the interdisciplinary team model, etc., the administration needs to have flexibility to organize the school for the instructional needs of early adolescences.. They asked KBA to look at the possibility of adding desks to the classrooms.

Mr. Quinn stated it had been unclear in Mrs. Ziobron's report, so he questioned that the 24 students was just for a safety zone. Mr. Moss stated this was just for planning. He added that it makes much more sense to add four chairs to a classroom than to build a 20,000 square-foot addition.

Mr. Misenti asked if the high school media center was adequate. Mrs. Gourlie stated this would be comparing apples to oranges, but she asked Mrs. Dadona to comment. Mrs. Dadona stated it was adequate for now. She believes the media center is the hub of the school, and they would like to look at more technology. Mrs. Dadona stated that they are able to hold a class there and still use the center, so it is serving their needs at this time.

The Board thanked Mr. Moss for his update on the school building project.

Mr. Moss stated he would be in contact with Dr. Durham regarding the dates for the schematic designs. He also suggested he could update Board members via email. Mrs. Gourlie instructed Dr. Durham to forward a list of email addresses to Mr. Moss.

Mr. Moss invited any Board member to call him if they had additional questions.

B. Middle and Elementary Schools' Capital Improvements

Mr. Quinn asked Mr. Carroll to give a status report. Mr. Carroll stated the high school floor project was completed last week. He stated it went very smoothly, on time, and under budget. They had asked for \$185,000, and the project finished somewhere between \$140,000 and \$150,000.

Mr. Carroll stated another major project was the high school chimney. He stated this project was significantly over budget. Only one bid was received, and it was approximately \$30,000 over the Board's funding request. Mr. Carroll explained that at the request of the Board of Finance, a bid was received from another company. This bid was \$25,000 over the budget request. He also went back to the original bidder from last year, and that company did not respond. At the moment, Mr. Carroll stated this project is on hold, pending further assessment for next year.

V. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES (Cont'd)B. Middle and Elementary Schools' Capital Improvements (Cont'd)

Mr. Carroll stated that approximately 3,000 – 5,000 square feet of asbestos flooring was abated at the middle school. This was in the lower level of the Hale building, used for the food bank and storage. Bare concrete was left in the storage area. Mr. Carroll expected this project to be completed within the next 2-3 days.

Mr. Mather questioned the status of the window replacement project at the middle school. Mr. Carroll stated that the Hale building was completed, but the Ray building was not started. Dr. Durham added that the gym was not done either, once the referendum was passed. He stated that they need to ask the Board of Finance to fund this project, as the entire town uses this gym.

Responsive to inquiry by Mr. Mather, Mr. Carroll explained that there will always be some asbestos in the building, behind halls, etc., and they would never be able to 100% certify that it was completely abated. Mr. Quinn noted that if any issues come up, the middle school deals with them as they arise.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLSA. Technology Education Curriculum Presentation

Dr. Durham informed the Board that there was a replacement sheet for the Content Standards. He acknowledged the many enhancements that the teachers have brought to the school. He stated that enrollment is up in Tech Ed, and much of this is due to the new course offerings.

Dr. Durham indicated the curriculum was ready for approval, and it was listed on tonight's agenda under New Business.

Mrs. Lyman found the curriculum very interesting. She stated she could see where this could be applied in the real world. Dr. Durham noted that this curriculum appealed to a wide variety of students.

B. 8th Grade Washington, DC Trip

Dr. Durham stated that this field trip would occur after the April vacation; therefore, inclement weather should not be an issue. He indicated that Mrs. DeLeeuw had spoke of some possible changes for the future. Dr. Durham stated that the only difference in this year's request was that the cost was more.

Responsive to inquiry by Mrs. Lyman, Dr. Durham explained that they estimated \$500 per student. The students would conduct fundraisers, beginning at the start of the school year to reduce the per-student cost. Dr. Durham stated the cost of the trip was estimated at \$62,000.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)B. 8th Grade Washington, DC Trip (Cont'd)

Mrs. Lyman asked how the students were chaperoned and how they were contained at night. Mrs. Gourlie stated that the doors were sealed from the hallways with tape at night. Dr. Durham stated they attempt to get a larger hotel that can accommodate all of the students on one or two floors. Security guards then patrol the floors. He noted that last year, there were 2-3 guards and this was included in the cost of the trip. Mr. Quinn stated his son attended the trip last year. He believed the chaperones kept a tight lid on the students, and they came back to their hotel rooms exhausted from the events of the day.

Mrs. Ziobron questioned how many students were expected to attend the trip. Dr. Durham estimated 121 8th grade students would attend, down from last year's 135.

Mr. Misenti asked for more information on the cost per student. Dr. Durham explained that students could reduce their individual costs by participation in the fundraisers. He noted that there were stipulations to provide financial assistance if necessary. Mr. Misenti noted that the request was for all students to write a check for \$300. Dr. Durham stated the goal was for students to raise a minimum of \$200 each, and then to pay the balance of \$300.

Mrs. Ziobron asked if the chaperones were with the students at all times. Dr. Durham stated they typically put groups together that will get along. They then match chaperones best suited to the particular groups of students. He stated that some places are more contained, and the students are allowed to explore freely, with a specific meeting time. In such cases, chaperones are put into strategic locations. Mrs. Ziobron stated that last year, some of the students tried to smoke. Dr. Durham stated that if necessary, students would be separated, or even sent home with a chaperone.

Mrs. Ziobron asked if parents or Board members were ever given the opportunity to chaperone. Dr. Durham stated that they generally use teachers, as the teachers know all of the students. The 8th Grade team always has first choice to volunteer to chaperone, and then it is opened to other teachers. He stated if not enough teachers volunteered, they might consider asking others to participate.

Mr. Quinn noted that Dr. Durham did not sign this field trip request. Dr. Durham stated that was merely an oversight, and he was recommending this trip. He stated it was on tonight's agenda under New Business for approval.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)C. Magnet School Transportation

Dr. Durham stated that he and Mr. Carroll met with the parent group for the magnet school transportation. He indicated that Mr. Carroll had done a lot of work with Regional District 18 from Lyme/Old Lyme, and they have reached an agreement. East Haddam will be the transportation provider for East Haddam and Lyme/Old Lyme. We will receive their \$1,200 stipend for each student. He stated that the cost was now approximately \$280 per student. Although no final decisions have yet been made, it appeared that this was beneficial to everyone involved.

Dr. Durham stated that East Haddam's enrollment in the magnet school had decreased from 10 to 7. This was due to one family with three children that moved from East Haddam.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTSA. Long Range Planning

Mr. Iacovelli was not present to report. Dr. Durham stated this committee has not met since the June Board meeting.

B. Finance

Mr. Quinn stated this committee has not met.

C. Policy

Mrs. Lyman stated this committee met on June 21, 2005. They decided to review random policies. They looked at the bullying policy, and were comfortable with Dr. Durham's input that the policy was being followed and implemented as intended.

Mrs. Lyman stated that the committee reviewed the policy on naming of facilities. Dr. Durham stated since there was one change, this policy must go back to the Policy subcommittee for approval, and then back to the Board. He stated this would be on the September agenda.

Mrs. Lyman stated they will look at policy complaints, and she welcomed any input from other Board members.

Mrs. Lyman stated they found an error with the expulsion policy. When the policy was delivered to us from CAFE, a regulation was attached that was not approved by the Committee; therefore, the regulation should be purged from the policy manual.

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

Mrs. Lyman informed the Board that the Policy subcommittee discussed Mr. Misenti's request to change the word "facsimile". They are conducting further research on this, and will report at a future meeting.

Mrs. Lyman indicated that they discussed a search engine for the Web, and they hope to be able to improve access to the Internet.

Mrs. Lyman stated that the Policy committee did not meet in July or August, but the next meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2005.

Mrs. Gourlie suggested once the search engine is implemented, it might be possible to refer to policies on-line, with shortcuts from the website. Mrs. Lyman envisioned many possibilities.

Mrs. Ziobron questioned why Mr. Misenti wished to change the word "facsimile." Mr. Misenti explained that facsimile means an exact replica, and he proposed the word "likeness" be used in its place. Mrs. Lyman stated they were reviewing the laws to ensure they were compliant with the law before entertaining this change.

D. Transportation

Mr. Mather stated that this subcommittee met on June 26, 2005 to discuss the proposed changes. He stated he would have a further report at the next meeting.

E. Personnel and Negotiations

Mr. Quinn stated this subcommittee has had five meetings, but there was nothing significant to discuss at this point. He stated they would begin negotiations with the administration next week. He hoped to have additional information for the September meeting.

F. Ray Board Liaison

Mrs. Gourlie reported that this committee has not met.

G. LEARN

Mrs. Gourlie indicated that this committee has not met.

H. Curriculum Council Liaison

Mr. Herden stated this committee has not met.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Mr. Bob Hale, principal at Westbrook High School stated he has completed his internship for Superintendent certification, under the tutelage of Dr. Durham. He stated he has attended many of the meetings, and he thanked everyone for welcoming him and for the opportunity to attend these meetings. He appreciated Mrs. Dadona's help, and he acknowledged Dr. Durham as a great mentor. He stated he was extremely impressed with how this district integrated policy with education.

IX. OLD BUSINESSA. Strategic Plan

Dr. Durham believed it would be appropriate to wait until after the November elections to discuss revising the strategic plan and what measures should be implemented.

Mr. Herden stated he would miss Mrs. Lyman's input on varying the 180-day school calendar. Mrs. Gourlie suggested Mr. Herden bring this up at future meetings.

Mrs. Gourlie suggested that Board members might be interested in reading the World Is Flat, written by Thomas Friedman, a New York Times reporter. She stated there was a wealth of information to help move the district forward.

X. NEW BUSINESSA. Acceptance of Consent Agenda

1. Warrant
 - a. To approve the warrant for 2004-05 in the amount of \$2,413,415.89.
 - b. To approve the warrant for 2005-06 in the amount of \$582,670.88.
2. National School Lunch Authorization – To approve the Board Secretary, the Superintendent, and the Business Manager as signatories to the National School Lunch Program.
3. To approve the AP History textbook as recommended by the Social Studies Curriculum Committee.
4. To approve the Technology Education Curriculum as presented by the Technology Committee.

Mr. Misenti and Mr. Herden wished to comment on Item 3.

X. NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)A. Acceptance of Consent Agenda (Cont'd)

MOTION: Quinn, Lyman; to approve Items 1 through 4 of the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Herden agreed with Mr. Misenti's August 8, 2005 letter to the Board, but he stated the text might not be chosen on what the students know, but what the children have to know for success on the standardized tests. He was confident the educators chose this textbook based on what the students need to know to be able to take the AP test.

Mr. Misenti wished to thank Dr. Durham for all of the research he did on this. He stated that he had been concerned that some important items were glossed over, but that Dr. Durham had assured him they were balanced elsewhere within the curriculum. Mr. Misenti stated that his concerns had been addressed.

Dr. Durham stated there was a time when the text was the curriculum; however, now it is only used as a resource to supplement the curriculum. He acknowledged that no textbook can fully address all of the needs, but he suggested that any Board member could take Mr. Misenti's letter and go to the website to see how the curriculum addresses his concerns.

Mrs. Lyman commented that the website has improved dramatically.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

B. Tuition Rates for 2005-06

MOTION: Misenti, Quinn; to approve the 2005-06 tuition rates of \$9,480.70 for the Elementary School; \$8,988.56 for the Middle School; and \$11,684.26 for the High School.

Responsive to inquiry by Mrs. Lyman, Dr. Durham stated that the special education rate was 3.5 times the regular education rates. He stated that East Haddam rarely gets special education students. Mrs. Ziobron questioned why there was a budget request a couple years ago to hire paraprofessionals for special education. Dr. Durham explained that this was to bring back East Haddam's special education students who were then placed out of district.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

X. NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

C. 8th Grade Trip to Washington, DC

MOTION: Quinn, Mather; to approve the request by the middle school administration to take the 8th grade to Washington, D.C. from April 25, 2006 to April 28, 2006.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

D. CES Field Trip Request

Dr. Durham stated that the high school requested this trip to attend the annual Coalition of Essential Schools Conference in Boston, Massachusetts this year. He stated that students would travel by van to Boston. Tech Ed was scheduled to present at this conference. He indicated a short summary was attached to the field trip request.

Mrs. Ziobron stated she hoped the presentation was as informative as it had been to the Board. She was proud to have them presenting at this conference.

Mrs. Gourlie asked if the Ray Board sponsored this trip. Dr. Durham believed the Ray Board partially subsidized the trip.

MOTION: Herden, Ziobron to approve the Coalition of Essential Schools field trip request to Boston, Massachusetts for this year's conference.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

E. Workshop – The Fundamentals of Data-Driven Decision Making

Mrs. Gourlie announced that Mr. Misenti asked that this be tabled until after the November elections for the new Board.

MOTION: Quinn, Lyman; to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Dora Lyman
Secretary