

East Haddam Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Cafeteria  
June 13, 2006  
7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pamela Gourlie, Tracey Gionta, Everett Herden, Nick Iacovelli, Robert Mather, Tom Mielt, Manny Misenti, Mary Beth Mordecai, Melissa Ziobron

**STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:** Justin Christopher, Anne Durfee

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Durham and approximately 50 people including staff were present.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mrs. Gourlie.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR

Mrs. Gourlie introduced Attorney General Richard Blumenthal who was present to discuss Connecticut's lawsuit against the Federal Government regarding No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Attorney General Blumenthal thanked the Board for allowing him to speak about this important subject. He stated he was proud to be here on a night when so many awards were being given to teachers and support staff. As a parent of four, he understood how critical involvement was.

Attorney General Blumenthal stated he was not an educational expert. His degree is in law, but he is a parent which makes him an expert. He stated he would yield to the educational experts regarding annual testing, special education needs, etc. He stated he was here because he must uphold the law and he must ensure that others follow the law. He stated he was suing the Federal Government to ensure they were held accountable for fulfilling its part of the law.

Attorney General Blumenthal stated this un-funded mandate was specifically prohibited by law. He recalled that on the floor of the House of Representatives and the Senate, many people said education was too important and we need to hold ourselves accountable. Attorney General Blumenthal stated it was his view that the

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

Federal Government was failing to follow the law. He did not like to sue the Federal Government and it was done as a last resort; however, he stated the Federal Government has immense resources and they are a larger branch of government.

Attorney General Blumenthal stated he asked the Federal Government for more funding and for flexibility. Their response to him was "we tell you what to do." He stated the Secretary of Education called him un-American. He did not believe they should be calling names. He stated if resources are diverted to places many school boards feel is unnecessary, due to the NCLB requirements, then he felt the Federal Government should pay. He stated he wanted full funding for NCLB so they can meet their goals.

Attorney General Blumenthal indicated they have very strong support across the state, with 120 school districts showing support for the lawsuit. In addition, the Legislature passed the statute, which was signed by Governor Rell in support of the lawsuit. He acknowledged that the Federal Government also had supporters. He stated he agreed with most everything in the NCLB regarding goals, etc.; however, he believed it should be funded.

Attorney General Blumenthal explained that the Federal Government's main defense is procedural, that there is no jurisdiction, and that they are above the law. He commented that under the statute, the administrative process if the law is being broken is to ask them to come in and explain themselves. The Federal Government has said if we do the testing every other year they will cut our funding. He stated in a sense, the Federal Government is *playing chicken*. He stated Connecticut is not willing to do that to our children.

Attorney General Blumenthal stated we are just asking for our day in court. For now, he stated we will obey the law. He believed others would also support this side of the lawsuit if the Federal Government was not so intimidating.

Attorney General Blumenthal thanked the Board for inviting him this evening.

One member of the audience asked in what court the lawsuit was filed. Attorney General Blumenthal stated it was filed in the Federal District Court in New Haven. He commented that there was an excellent judge assigned to the case.

Another gentleman in the audience asked if it was a concern that the Federal Government would not yield to this lawsuit, as it would appear they were giving in. Attorney General Blumenthal stated this was a concern and still is a concern. However, he believed the lawsuit has already had some benefit because the Federal Government was rewarding some school districts by looking the other way with some things.

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

Attorney General Blumenthal noted that the State of Connecticut was paying nothing for the lawsuit except his and his staff's salary. There were no additional costs. He stated if Connecticut wins, the Federal Government must keep its promise. If Connecticut does not win the lawsuit, he stated he would be told he was wrong. He believed it was a win/win situation.

Mr. Misenti stated his belief that this was a very important issue and that there had not been a healthy dialogue. He stated it was not right for one side to call another un-American. He stated he put some thoughts together and asked Mrs. Ziobron to read them.

Mrs. Ziobron read Mr. Misenti's comments into the record. In his letter, Mr. Misenti called for increased academic achievement and increased accountability. He did not believe this suit was in our best interest. He stated he has been motivated in the past 11 years to become involved in local and state politics because of disingenuous information he had been given.

Also in Mr. Misenti's letter, he stated that NCLB was a bipartisan act across the branches of government for all of our children to be able to compete in the world. He asked that before Connecticut thinks about scrapping the NCLB, they consider quotes made by the Clinton administration back in 1998 and 1999. Among these quotes were statements that one-third of students were below proficiency and that schools should be held accountable.

Also in Mr. Misenti's letter, he stated that in Connecticut, our assessment tool was successfully used in grades 4, 6, and 8. He believed there could be a less expensive test used for grades 3, 5, and 7 to satisfy the need of NCLB.

Attorney General Blumenthal thanked Mr. Misenti for his eloquently written comments. He fully agreed that there should be excellence in education and increased accountability. He stated he did not want to scrap the NCLB but to uphold the law by fighting for funding. He believed many school districts would not be able to turn the scores around without funding. He hoped Congress would not change the law but would fully fund it.

Attorney General Blumenthal commented that schools were more transparent than many other institutions. He stated what they were doing was in no way partisan and he did not think there was anything more important than getting the funding.

Mrs. Ziobron stated she read an article in the Hartford Courant which stated that Ms Betty Sternberg would be resigning and taking a position as superintendent of Greenwich. Mrs. Ziobron asked if Ms. Sternberg's replacement disagreed with Attorney General Blumenthal on this issue, how it would affect the lawsuit.

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

Attorney General Blumenthal did not believe it would affect the lawsuit at all. He stated the plaintiff in this lawsuit is the State of Connecticut. Ms. Steinberg is an expert witness. He stated he has the support of the Governor already.

Mrs. Ziobron recalled that Attorney General Blumenthal had stated there would be no extra legal fees for the lawsuit, other than for his time; however, she asked if his time as being drained away from other cases. She stated here in Es Haddam, the Town had to file a brief in Federal court and it cost \$25,000. She questioned the cost of the NCLB lawsuit. Attorney General Blumenthal stated if they went to trial, they might need to pay expert witnesses. In response to this time, he stated there was an opportunity cost. He stated of the 200 attorneys in his office, only two other attorneys have worked on this case on a part-time basis. He stated if he were not here tonight, he would be home with his family.

Mrs. Ziobron asked how she could track information from the Federal Government's side of the lawsuit, such as that provided by the NAACP. Attorney General Blumenthal stated that all of their briefs are documented.

Mr. Misenti thanked Attorney General Blumenthal for coming this evening. He appreciated the dialogue, which was something that was needed in this country. Attorney General Blumenthal thanked the Board for allowing him to come tonight. He stated if he could visit all of the school boards, he would.

Mr. Iacovelli stated he was hearing that this lawsuit was all about money. As an educator, he was concerned about the educational aspects. He believes Connecticut does a great job, and he was disappointed more emphasis was not on education. He stated "accountability" was an easy word to use and no one could be against more accountability.

Mr. Iacovelli agreed with Attorney General Blumenthal's statement that as parents, we are all experts. However, he looked at the documents and he did not see any educators listed. In addition, he stated it seemed as though the Federal government was blackmailing states. He was concerned that if Connecticut was successful in the lawsuit, there would be repercussions in other ways.

Attorney General Blumenthal stated one reaction from the Secretary of Education was that Connecticut did not have to spend more on testing, but simply test every year and make the test less demanding by eliminating the writing portion. Attorney General Blumenthal stated in effect, this would lessen the quality of our tests and he would not "dumb down" our tests.

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

Attorney General Blumenthal indicated the Secretary of Education also told him that Connecticut has the biggest achievement gaps. He stated we know this, as we have been giving these tests for 20 years. He commented that we know we have the moral obligation to close the achievement gaps. He indicated as the educators know, one reason we have achievement gaps is because we have a large group of students with the highest scores in the country; however, we are not ignoring the others. He stated that Connecticut has the best educational system in the country and we should be proud of it.

Mr. Herden discussed the upcoming NEASC accreditation process at the high school. He stated they have worked for five years to revise the quality of the curriculum. He had difficulty with the time spent revising the curriculum and having only one way to test. He hoped the lawsuit was about providing quality education to all students in K-12; however, it seemed this was lost in the lawsuit. He stated if they receive a favorable rating from NEASC this year, it will show that we have a good system and we can be proud of the work done in the past five to six years.

Attorney General Blumenthal stated that Connecticut relies on local school boards. From the first day his children were in school, he has believed local school boards work best. He acknowledged as a parent, these tests were grueling for students. He stated we need to make sure these tests are good for the students.

Attorney General Blumenthal thanked the Board again for allowing him to present his evening. He excused himself at this time. Mrs. Gourlie thanked Attorney General Blumenthal for coming to the meeting. Mr. Misenti submitted his letter to Attorney General Blumenthal.

Mrs. Gourlie thanked the members of the Board and the members of the audience for their participation during this presentation.

#### A. Awards and Recognitions

Mrs. Gourlie stated the first awards to be given this evening were for the Friends of Education. These people work behind the scenes to help our schools. She asked Mr. Iacovelli to help her present the awards.

Mrs. Gourlie presented the Friends of Education award to Ms. Lisa Cahill president of MPAC for her work planning fundraiser, meetings, etc. at the middle school.

Mr. Iacovelli presented the Friends of Education award to Mr. David Champion for his work to remove the old elementary school playground equipment, and for working with Consumer's Union to have new equipment installed.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (Cont'd)A. Awards and Recognitions (Cont'd)

Mrs. Gourlie presented the Friends of Education award for Mr. Czaja for his work with the Electrathon. Mr. Czaja was not present to receive this award.

Mr. Iacovelli presented the Friends of Education award to Ms. Elizabeth Johnson for her patience and perseverance in support of the middle school drama club.

Mrs. Gourlie presented the Friends of Education award to Mrs. Toni McCabe, director of Youth and Family Services, for her participation and efforts in the Youth Helping Youth program.

Mr. Iacovelli presented the Friends of Education award to Jim and Maureen Curtin for their contributions to the Little Noises Athletic Booster Club, the snack bar, and the Lighting Committee.

Mrs. Gourlie presented the Friends of Education award to Ms. Janet Soboleski and Ms. Giovanna Watters for their tremendous help this year in the elementary school's library. Ms. Watters was not present to receive her award.

Mr. Iacovelli presented the Distinguished Non-Certified Personnel award to Mrs. Gail Duby for her help with the special education students, organizational skills, and serving as a great role model for the students.

Mrs. Gourlie presented the Distinguished Non-Certified Personnel award to Ms. Kerry Hathaway in recognition of her invaluable help with the special education students at the elementary school.

Mr. Iacovelli presented the Distinguished Non-Certified Personnel award to Ms. Kimberly Meyer for her willingness to assist in any way possible with the special education students.

Mrs. Gourlie presented the Distinguished Non-Certified Personnel award to Mrs. Debbie Purdell in recognition of her services and positive motivation in the Vo-Ag program.

Mr. Iacovelli presented the Distinguished Non-Certified Personnel award for Mrs. Kathy Daigle, who was not here to accept her award. Mrs. Daigle has exemplified excellence in her 22 years as the middle school nurse.

Mrs. Gourlie explained that there would be three Teacher of the Year awards this year, one for each school. From these three, one teacher will be selected to represent the district for the state awards.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (Cont'd)A. Awards and Recognitions (Cont'd)

Mrs. Gourlie presented the Teacher of the Year award for the elementary school to Ms. Susan Weaver. Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Weaver recently co-chaired the revision of the K-12 art curriculum. She has the ability to see the big picture and the whole child.

Mr. Iacovelli presented the Teacher of the Year award for the middle school to Ms. Marissa Alfano. With 15 years of music experience, Ms. Alfano runs the music and drama productions for the middle school and she also assists the band.

Mrs. Gourlie presented the Teacher of the Year award for the high school to Mrs. Jennifer Wieringa. Mrs. Wieringa graduated from Nathan Hale-Ray High School before going on to the University of Florida. She brings with her a deeply held belief that student can succeed and she helps them achieve their goals.

Mrs. Gourlie called for a 10-minute break to congratulate the award winners. The meeting reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

B. Graduation

Mrs. Gourlie announced that graduation ceremonies were scheduled for Friday, June 23, 2006. If any Board members wished to attend, they were asked to contact Mrs. Dadona for reservations.

C. Report form Student Council Representatives

Mrs. Gourlie informed the Board that this would be Mr. Christopher's last meeting, as he was graduating next Friday. She believed Ms. Durfee would return next year as liaison to the Board.

Mr. Christopher reported that the Senior Awards were held and a wide range of students received awards.

Miss Anne Durfee encouraged the Board members to attend Mr. Christopher's graduation next week. She reported that final exams were scheduled for next week. Underclassmen received awards last Friday.

Miss Durfee announced that the softball team went to the State Finals where they lost the game. She stated that while seniors were preparing for graduation underclassmen were getting ready for their summer vacation.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (Cont'd)C. Report from Student Council Representatives (Cont'd)

Mr. Misenti stated he attended the awards banquet at UCONN, the Ray Board dinner and the FFA presentation for the first time this year. He stated they were all fabulous events, but he was not impressed with the FFA presentation. He stated they were well-organized and had put a lot of hard work into this program. He congratulated all of the students.

Mr. Christopher and Miss Durfee excused themselves from the meeting at this time.

Mrs. Ziobron asked about the cost of recent mailings. Dr. Durham stated that the bulk mailing cost was \$341. Mrs. Ziobron questioned how much the print was, to which Dr. Durham responded it as \$4,800. He stated the quarterly newsletter cost 41,200 for 5,000 copies.

IV. ACTION ON THE MINUTES

**MOTION:** Mather, Herden; to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2006 with the following amendments:

- Page 5, Paragraph 3, first sentence: Change *at the P&Z meeting to the School Building Committee.*
- Page 7, Paragraph 4, second sentence: Strike *per her request.*

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT  
MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION:** Iacovelli, Mather; to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 30, 2006 as presented.

**FAVOR (7): Gionta, Herden, Iacovelli, Mather, Misenti, Mordecai, Ziobron  
OPPOSED: None  
ABSTENTIONS (1): Miatt  
ABSENT: None  
MOTION PASSED**

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

Mrs. Ziobron reported that the School Building Committee (SBC) has gone through the Planning & Zoning and Wetlands Commissions. She reported that Planning & Zoning gave approval, but asked that all road work be done before the school opens. She stated that Mr. Parker and the Board of Selectmen have taken over the off-site road improvements.

Mrs. Gionta asked if Clark Gates Road was part of this, to which Mrs. Ziobron responded affirmatively. She noted that all of the information was documented in the traffic study. She stated she just wanted everyone to know that there would be monetary implications from this.

Mrs. Ziobron stated that the Planning & Zoning asked that the SBC remove the old building and the abandoned pool. She stated this was not in KBA's proposal, and would cost more.

Mrs. Ziobron informed the Board that another Planning & Zoning condition of approval was that the power shall be installed underground. She stated this would cost approximately \$65,000 from the entrance of the emergency access road to the school.

Mrs. Ziobron stated the Wetlands Commission (IWWC) required weekly reports from an erosion specialist. She was not sure if this was part of the package with KBA. She stated she was in attendance at the IWWC meeting when VHB spoke about the invasive species. She objected to this requirement as a private citizen, because the Town has to pay for the wetland specialist to report on an invasive plant that is already known. She did not know the cost of this monitoring yet. She asked Mrs. Mordecai to question this at the next SBC meeting. She believed the monitoring would be ongoing for a couple years.

Mrs. Ziobron stated the IWWC wanted an IPM plan, but no timeline had been set for this. She acknowledged that the Policy Committee was working on this.

Mrs. Ziobron informed the Board that she had copies of all the checks that had been paid for the SBC. She noted there was a town meeting a couple weeks ago for approval of \$575,000 in bills through June 30, 2006.

Mrs. Ziobron stated the SBC received an email today regarding a joint utility meeting. They are looking into cutting costs by researching an alternative transformer location.

Mrs. Ziobron stated she attended the May 10 SBC meeting, but not the May 24 SBC meeting. At the May 10 meeting, the lights were added to the plan. She believed there were an additional four lights.

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

Mrs. Ziobron stated the project schedule had been adjusted due to the commission approvals. She stated that right now, they are scheduled for a September 21, 2006 referendum; however, this schedule might be adjusted.

Mrs. Ziobron stated the SBC contracted with Sima Well Drilling to get the SBC through the DEP permit process. Mrs. Mordecai stated the SBC had a very long discussion with Mr. Sima. Mr. Sima suggested they select locations for the wells and drill them before going to the State so they are sure where the wells will be. This will allow them to only go through the State process once. Mr. Sima had been concerned because the subdivision across from the school property needed 600 – 700 ft. wells. The approximate cost of the well drilling was \$20,000 - \$25,000.

Mrs. Mordecai stated the SBC talked about the acoustical recommendations. The recommendations from the experts came to \$433,000. She stated that KBA has pared this down by \$137,000, and they did not believe there would be any negative effects. She noted they could put a clause in the contract that if they need more acoustical panels at a later date, they could purchase them for today's prices.

Mrs. Ziobron asked if the \$137,000 was over what was already budgeted, to which Mrs. Mordecai responded affirmatively. Mrs. Mordecai indicated that the SBC could only take KBA's word that this would be acceptable. She believed some panels were removed from the cafeteria and media center. Dr. Durham believed all of the panels were left in the cafeteria. He assured the Board that the educational specifications were not compromised by KBA's reduction in acoustical panels.

Mrs. Gionta voiced concern about the panels. She stated it seemed this should be in the design, and the panels were fairly unattractive. She asked what the budget line was that just had \$137,000 added to it. She questioned if these panels were just for sound. Dr. Durham explained that the school would be constructed of steel beams, and there would be no curtains, carpeting, etc. to absorb the sound. Mrs. Ziobron stated this will not be like the elementary school gym. It would be much more attractive.

Mrs. Ziobron believed the key point to work on now was having a positive referendum. Mrs. Gourlie stated when the SBC began to disseminate information to the public, the Board could help ensure that good information was given. She suggested information could be given through the PTO and MPAC as well. Mrs. Ziobron stated they had a 4-8 PAC, and they would put together a frequently asked questions list and mail it out to townspeople. Mrs. Gourlie stated it was her experience that if a question was asked five years ago, it would be asked again.

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

Mrs. Mordecai asked if anyone was thinking about a PAC this time. Mrs. Ziobron was unsure. Mrs. Mordecai asked about timing and information with the referendum. Dr. Durham cautioned that once a referendum was even tentatively scheduled, they could not advocate for the project. He advised them to be careful what information was given out now. Mrs. Mordecai believed the first basis of support would be the PTO and MPAC.

Mrs. Gourlie hoped the original Pac was still on board for this project. Mrs. Ziobron stated she would speak to them.

Mr. Herden questioned Newfield Construction's input. Mrs. Ziobron stated they have been involved with the value engineering and they have been meeting with KBA. She stated Newfield is in charge of the timeline. She understood that Newfield was responsible for all of the bid documents.

Due to the issues with the high school, Mr. Herden asked if Newfield would be on-site every day of the construction. Mrs. Ziobron stated she could go through the documents and call Mr. Herden regarding this. She stated there was a specific budget item for having someone on-site at all times.

B. Middle and Elementary Schools' Capital Improvements

Mr. Mather reported that this committee met, and gave Mr. Carroll permission to put out bids for the fire alarm project at the elementary school. This was estimated at \$125,000. In addition, there will also be two small asbestos abatement projects this summer. One project at the elementary school was anticipated to cost \$12,000. Another project at the high school was estimated at \$40,000.

Mr. Misenti asked where the asbestos was in the high school. Mr. Mather corrected his statement to the middle school project would cost approximately \$40,000.

Mrs. Ziobron asked if this was the last phase of the asbestos abatement at the middle school. Mr. Carroll stated this would take care of a significant portion, including Mr. Parker's room, Mr. Telep's room, and the science room. He noted; however, that the asbestos will never be totally abated.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLSA. 2006-07 Budget Adjustments

Dr. Durham reviewed the budget adjustments made by the Board of Finance. He advised that it was appropriate at this time for the Board to formally adopt the budget of \$15,822,705, as passed at the Town Meeting. This item appeared under tonight's Consent Agenda.

B. High School Roof Replacement

Dr. Durham stated there had been a report on the high school roof. He stated he needed direction from the Board as to how they would like to see him proceed with this issue. He stated some sections could be repaired, while other sections needed to be replaced. He gave the Board three options: 1) they could hold off until next year and put it in capital projects; 2) they could fix the roof and run short in other lines; or 3) they could ask the Board of Finance for an appropriation for this project.

Mr. Mather believed it would be foolhardy to wait, and that the Board should move as quickly as possible to address the issue. He asked if there was anyone who could inspect the rest of the roof. Dr. Durham responded that the engineers came to look at the problem areas. Without tearing off the roof, it was difficult to tell where the issues were. He stated this was the problem with poor construction, but it was the Board's issue to address now.

Mrs. Gionta questioned why there was no recourse for the faulty construction of the high school. Mr. Mather noted that the Board spent \$900,000 fighting the issue. Mr. Misenti indicated it was important to understand where the problem with the design responsibility laid. He recalled that the design professional made the Board release it from all future liability. He asked Mrs. Ziobron and Mrs. Mordecai to look at the contract for the new 4-8 school to see what stipulations were included for the design professional/architect.

Mrs. Gionta suggested repairing the damaged sections and repairing the design so hopefully, this will not happen again. Mrs. Gourlie asked Mrs. Ziobron and Mrs. Mordecai to protect the integrity of the new schools they do not face the same issues.

Mr. Misenti stated we know there are deficiencies in the roof and they will only get worse over time. He suggested they get quotes and then go to the Board of Finance.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)B. High School Roof Replacement (Cont'd)

Mrs. Ziobron noticed there was a copy of a letter regarding the roof where Mr. Meade and Mr. Giesey of the Board of Finance were copied. She asked if there had been any response. Dr. Durham stated they had only acknowledged receipt of the letter. Mrs. Ziobron asked if Dr. Durham could have this added to the Board of Finance agenda. Dr. Durham stated he was waiting for direction from the Board.

Mr. Herden recalled the Civic Center roof collapse. He stated Connecticut has severe weather. He asked about the new building. Mrs. Ziobron stated the SBC paid an outside source to review the plans and get them through; however, there had been only minor suggestions.

Mrs. Gourlie stated the issue before the Board now was the high school roof and how it would be handled. Dr. Durham asked Mr. Carroll to comment on any information he may have omitted. Mr. Carroll stated they performed a cursory inspection. They found rusty decking in some of the areas. They believe there was an issue with the louver system, as they are non-functional louvers.

Mr. Mather asked if the Board could do anything to move this issue forward. Mrs. Gourlie stated they could make a recommendation to Dr. Durham. Mrs. Gourlie asked if the procedure would be to go to the Board of Finance. Mr. Misenti wished to clarify that the Board's goal should not be to bring this forward before the referendum, but they should acquire the information on the solution and possible implications and present it to the Board of Finance. He suggested this should not be an operating expense but rather a capital project.

Dr. Durham indicated that he and Mr. Carroll recommended Option #3 on the list that was sent in the packets. He believed the louver system was inefficient and non-functional. Mrs. Gourlie asked if there was a sense among the Board that this issue should be taken care of now. Mr. Misenti suggested this be addressed after the referendum. Mrs. Ziobron believed this issue should be handled through the budget and capital request, possibly as an emergency allocation. Mrs. Gourlie proposed that action be taken as soon as possible, and that the Board should ask the Board of Finance for an emergency capital project allocation, while being sensitive to the referendum date. She added it should be done as soon as possible after the referendum date.

Dr. Durham noted this would mean no formal request until October. Mrs. Ziobron suggested informal groundwork could be done. Mr. Iacovelli stated he did not want to bury this issue. Mr. Misenti stated he was nervous as to what the cost would be for the new school.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (Cont'd)B. High School Roof Replacement (Cont'd)

Dr. Durham stated at this point, the only project approved was the elementary school fire alarm and some other small amounts. Mr. Gourlie believed the Board should get the information out. Mrs. Ziobron stated the Board could get the information out, but she believed people would ask why this was not done through the budget process. Dr. Durham responded that this roof problem was not known until it was too late for this year's budget. Mrs. Mordecai suggested this issue be addressed now, so there was not another \$30,000 issue later.

Mrs. Gourlie asked for a show of hands of who was in favor of going to the Board of Finance now. Six members were in favor of going to the Board of Finance. Mrs. Ziobron and Mr. Misenti were opposed.

C. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip

Dr. Durham stated the cost of this trip has been rising over the last couple of years, and he thinks there will be some discussion about it; however, he believed it was important to approve the request at this time. It appeared on the Consent Agenda for approval this evening.

Mrs. Gourlie asked if this trip was scheduled during school vacation, to which Dr. Durham stated it was not. Mrs. DeLeeuw stated it was scheduled for the week after April vacation.

Mrs. Ziobron asked that Open Space be added to tonight's agenda, as she had information to share with the Board.

**MOTION:** Ziobron, Gionta; to add Open Space as Item I under Committee Reports.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT  
MOTION CARRIED**

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTSA. Long Range Planning

Mr. Iacovelli stated that the Long Range Planning subcommittee met on June 8, 2006. A copy of the minutes was included in the Board's packet.

Mr. Iacovelli indicated that a 4-8 school project update was given. They also discussed ongoing items, such as a long-term facilities plan. Mr. Carroll was working on this and hoped to have it for review by the end of summer.

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

Mr. Iacovelli reported that Dr. Durham would attend meetings with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education regarding pandemic flue planning. He stated there had been talk that if a pandemic were to occur, they might close school for up to two months.

Regarding the referendum, Mr. Iacovelli stated the Long Range Planning Committee was fully behind the project.

As in the past, Mr. Iacovelli stated the Long Range Planning Committee would not meet during the summer.

Mr. Gionta stated she received the new school calendar, but did not receive one for the elementary school. Dr. Durham stated this was an error on his part and he would get them out to everyone.

B. Finance

Mr. Mather reported that Mrs. Ziobron had requested a Special Meeting to discuss the insurance surplus. Since it was not known how much will be needed and how much would be left, they decided to wait. They directed the administration to hold off until a later date.

Mr. Misenti asked if it might be worthwhile to ask that some of the money be given back, such as Regional District 13 had done. He inquired about the language regarding Anthem Blue Cross. Dr. Durham stated he would check the language.

C. Policy

Dr. Miatt stated that the Policy subcommittee met on June 8, 2006. They discussed three policies that were presented as a second reading this evening under the Consent Agenda. The three policies were Nutrition and Wellness, Reporting to Parents, and Pesticide Application.

Dr. Miatt stated that a new policy regarding home-schooled students was being presented this evening as a first reading. He asked Board members to review this policy.

Dr. Miatt indicated there was a minor modification to the field trip policy, to add a clause that the Board could cancel a trip due to world events without incurring any responsibility.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)D. Transportation

Mr. Mather reported that this subcommittee has not met.

E. Personnel and Negotiations

Mr. Misenti stated the arbitration was ongoing. He asked that the Board enter Executive Session this evening to discuss this.

F. Ray Board Liaison

Mr. Iacovelli stated the Ray Board held their annual dinner parents and students at Bistro by Benigno. He was impressed with the amazing talents of many students. There was talk about having some of these students come back in a few years to give a presentation.

Mrs. Gourlie asked Dr. Durham to send a letter of thanks to the Ray Board.

G. LEARN

Mrs. Gourlie reported that the director of the Friendship School gave a presentation at the last LEARN meeting. The Friendship School is a public magnet school in the Waterford/Groton area for 3 – 5 year old children. They rehabilitated an old building, which holds 480 students and 100 staff members. They have many children who cannot talk, or who have limited vocabularies. Each year, they receive approximately 450 applications for 180 slots, and selection is based on a lottery system. They do give preference to families of existing students. All of the students at this school are bussed.

Mrs. Gourlie explained that because they moved a kindergarten and first grade class, some of the teachers in the public school would have been laid off. LEARN offered some of those teachers and staff to come to the magnet school; however, they remained under their local boards of education for salaries, etc.

Mrs. Gourlie indicated the kindergarten at the Friendship School is bilingual. They have a full time nurse practitioner on staff. Families can join their health center and can use the health center for life. If the families have insurance, the use is billed through their insurance. Otherwise, if needed, the facility is free. Next year, they are planning to add a dental clinic which would operate the same way as the health center.

Mrs. Gourlie reported that St. Joseph's College was conducting a three-year study on speech and language at the Friendship School. They plan to follow the children in their study all the way through graduation to see what difference, if any, it made.

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

Mr. Herden stated the Board was a member of Project Oceanology. He had four tickets, if any Board members were interested. They go on a boat, measure water quality, etc. He explained that it is an adult program and most of the people who attend are from other areas of the country. Most of these people have never before seen a lobster. Mrs. Ziobron stated she would like to attend with her daughter. Mrs. Mordecai stated she would like to attend with her son.

Mr. Herden stated the Curriculum Council met. There were updates from subject area committees. Mrs. Nancy Allison gave a presentation on Internet literacy. Professional Development will be revisited in the fall.

Mr. Herden indicated the Council talked about summer school. This year, they are looking into a summer evaluation project to see if the summer school met its purpose.

I. Open Space

Mrs. Ziobron reported that the Open Space Committee was bringing forward three properties for purchase, with a significant cost. A public hearing was scheduled for June 22, 2006. She distributed maps of the open space parcels.

The first parcel was the Shugrue property, with 280 acres. Mrs. Ziobron opined that this was the most amazing piece. She stated it encompassed the entire hillside behind Lade Hayward. This parcel would be a purchase of conservation easement, and would have three financial contributors: the Farm and Ranch Protection, the DEP, and the Town.

The second parcel was the Lefebvre property, with 115 acres. This parcel provided a greenway between Devil's Hopyard and Burnham Brook, and was within the Eightmile River Watershed. This property has 150 at-risk plants, including 5 globally-rare plants. It would be an outright purchase.

The third parcel was the Magnano property on Honey Hill road, with 122 acres. This parcel would also be an outright purchase. There are 126 acres, but 4 acres and the existing house would be split and sold, and the balance of 122 acres would be designated for open space.

Mrs. Ziobron stated it was hard to say how much money would be involved until they hear back from the DEP. They did meet all of their deadlines for grant application submittals. She believed they could be looking at \$1.5 - \$2 Million.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)

I. Open Space (Cont'd)

Mrs. Ziobron stated these properties would have to go to referendum. Mr. Iacovelli asked if the referendum would be after the school referendum. Mrs. Ziobron stated this was part of her concern. She stated she heard some talk that some town employees would like to see al of the items on one referendum.

Mrs. Gourlie asked if Mrs. Ziobron was bringing this forward as a competing interest. Mrs. Ziobron stated there were many competing interests.

Mrs. Gionta asked if al of the open space parcels need to come up at once. Mrs. Ziobron stated they did not, but it would be better for bonding, etc. if they were together. Mrs. Gionta asked if this had to go to referendum because they were open space parcels. Mrs. Ziobron stated they have a pre-authorization from the town to purchase open space and they needed to go to referendum for the amounts.

Mr. Iacovelli asked if Mrs. Ziobron was looking for guidance from the Board. Mrs. Ziobron stated she was simply giving them information.

Mrs. Mordecai asked if there was any timeline with the current owners. Mrs. Ziobron stated the sellers were willing and their interests were to preserve the land.

Mr. Misenti believed as a Board, we should express our preference that this not be brought forth until the middle school was resolved. Mrs. Ziobron stated this had nothing to do with her, but if the Board wanted to send a letter, she suggested it be directed to Mr. Parker and the Board of Selectmen.

Mrs. Gionta did not believe the open space parcels should be bundled together with the school referendum. She commented that someone could just not want to approve anything, and it could all be lost.

Mrs. Mordecai stated they have worked for a long time to get the school. She would like to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen. She hoped the school referendum came first.

Mrs. Gourlie asked if everyone was in agreement to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen. The consensus was that they would like Dr. Durham to draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

None

IX. OLD BUSINESSA. Strategic Plan

Dr. Durham had no new information to report this month.

X. NEW BUSINESSA. Acceptance of Consent Agenda

- 1) Warrant
  - a. To approve the warrant for 2005-06 in the amount of \$1,394,935.28.
- 2) To accept the resignation of Mrs. Mary Jane Haddad, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts teacher at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, effective the end of the 2005-06 school year.
- 3) To accept the resignation of Mrs. Eleanor Ziobron, guidance secretary at Nathan Hale-Ray High School, effective July 31, 2006.
- 4) To approve Policy 5122.3 (Assignment of Former Home-Schooled Students to Classes) as a first reading as presented by the Policy Committee.
- 5) To approve Policy 6153 (Field Trips) as a first reading as presented by the Policy Committee.
- 6) To approve Policy 3524.1 (Pesticide Application) as a second reading as presented by the Policy Committee.
- 7) To approve Policy 5124 (Reporting to Parents) as a second reading as presented by the Policy Committee.
- 8) To approve Policy 6142.101 (Student Nutrition/Wellness) as a second reading as presented by the Policy Committee.
- 9) To authorize the administration to take appropriate action to close-out the 2005-06 chart of accounts.
- 10) To approve the 2006-07 budget in the amount of \$15,822,705.

**MOTION:** Mordecai, Ziobron; to approve Items 1 through 10 of the Consent Agenda.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT  
MOTION PASSED**

X. NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

B. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Washington, DC

**MOTION:** Miett, Ziobron; to approve the request by the middle school administration to take the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to Washington, D.C. from April 24, 2007 to April 27, 2007.

Mrs. Ziobron requested from now on, the administration make an effort to schedule this field trip during vacation.

Mr. Mather stated his concern with pushing the trip to a vacation week would be an issue with the teachers being paid for additional days. Dr. Durham stated that it would be a voluntary trip for the teachers. If the teachers did not volunteer, the administration would look to invite parents.

Mrs. Gourlie stated the Board could approve this item with the condition that it be moved to the vacation week. Mr. Misenti asked what the dates were currently, to which Mrs. Gourlie responded it was April 24 – 27, 2007.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT  
MOTION CARRIED**

C. Board of Education Summer Meeting Schedule

**MOTION:** Iacovelli, Herden; to eliminate the July Board of Education meeting.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT  
MOTION CARRIED**

D. Establish Salaries and Hourly Wages for Non-Unionized Employees

**MOTION:** Miett, Iacovelli; to enter Executive Session at 10:08 p.m. for the purposes of discussing personnel and negotiations.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT  
MOTION CARRIED**

The Board returned to Regular Session at 10:22 p.m.

X. NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

D. Establish Salaries and Hourly Wages for Non-Unionized Employees (Cont'd)

**MOTION:** Mielt, Ziobron; to approve the following salaries and hourly wages for the 2006-07 school year for all non-unionized positions as per the recommendations of the Personnel & Negotiations Committee:

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>WAGE</b>
Lunch Monitors	\$10.38/hour
Substitute Lunch Monitors	\$9.61/hour
Substitute Hall Monitors	\$9.61/hour
Substitute Teacher Aides	\$9.61/hour
Substitute Nurses	\$20.60/hour
Entry Level Substitute Custodians	\$11.02/hour
Administrative Assistant	\$47,579
Computer Technician	\$40,000 - \$42,000 (range)
Network Administrator	\$63,903
Business Manager	\$83,203

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT  
MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** Mordecai, Mather; to adjourn at 10:24 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT  
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Iacovelli  
Secretary