

East Haddam Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Cafeteria
October 10, 2006
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracey Gionta, Pamela Gourlie, Everett Herden, Nick Iacovelli, Robert Mather, Mary-Beth Mordecai, Tom Mielt (arrived 7:06 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Manny Misenti

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Kevin Staehly

STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Anne Durfee

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Durham and approximately 11 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

A. Board Member Resignation

MOTION: Mather, Herden; to accept the resignation of Melissa Ziobron.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION PASSED**

Mrs. Gourlie thanked Mrs. Ziobron for taking on the task of forming a PAC to support the 4-8 school. Mrs. Gourlie read a letter from Mrs. Ziobron explaining her decision to resign from the Board. In her letter, Mrs. Ziobron asked the Board to allow her to remain as the liaison to the Open Space Committee and to provide updates to the Board.

Mrs. Gourlie stated she asked if the Board liaison had to be a Board member and was advised that the liaison did not have to be a member of the Board.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (continued)A. Board Member Resignation (continued)

Mr. Iacovelli asked if once the vacant Board position was filled, if this was a role the new member could assume. Mrs. Gourlie stated it was and asked if the Board would like to postpone the Open Space Committee liaison. Mr. Iacovelli responded affirmatively.

Mrs. Gourlie stated that because of the makeup of the Board, they would need either an Independent or a Republican to fill Mrs. Ziobron's position. She suggested that the Board interview the lady who ran during the last election. Mrs. Mordecai suggested this person be interviewed, but also that a public announcement be advertised. Dr. Mielt agreed.

Dr. Durham informed the Board that they would need to schedule a time for the interview and post it. The selection should be done within 30 days. He stated that the next meeting would be more than 30 days away. It was decided that applicants would be interviewed on Thursday, October 26, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education office. Mr. Herden stated he would be out of town. Mr. Iacovelli asked that applicants complete a questionnaire. Mrs. Gourlie stated she would ask Mrs. Medling to locate this form and send it to prospective applicants.

B. Superintendent Search

Mrs. Gourlie informed the Board that they needed to interview and hire a consulting firm to assist them in filling the superintendent's position. She stated there were four firms and she preferred to conduct all of the interviews in one evening.

It was decided that the Board would hold a Special Meeting on October 24, 2006 in the High School media center. The Board would meet at 5:00 p.m. to prepare a list of questions and the interviews would begin at 6:00 p.m. Board members were asked to send their lists of questions to Mrs. Gourlie before the meeting. Mrs. Gourlie asked Dr. Durham to have a light dinner prepared for the Board.

C. Naming of Facility Request

Mr. Marty Ryczek addressed the Board on behalf of the adhoc committee that had been formed to gather information on the naming of the softball field. He stated the committee asked many people for suggestions and the overwhelming name that was suggested was Mr. Lou Milardo. He stated that Central Office also advertised this in the newspaper, but received no feedback.

Mr. Bill Denny of the adhoc committee stated that the only name he was given by everyone he asked was Lou Milardo. He recommended that all of the softball fields be named after Lou Milardo.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (continued)C. Naming of Facility Request (continued)

Mr. Ryczek distributed to the Board a copy of Mr. Misenti's comments regarding the naming of the fields. In his letter, Mr. Misenti stated he received feedback from the Republican Town Committee Chair that it is bad policy to name a facility after someone living. Mr. Misenti also wrote that he received negative feedback about honoring someone who was being paid to do a job.

Mrs. Gourlie asked what the recommendation for the actual name of the field would be. Mr. Ryczek responded that the recommendation was for *Lou Milardo Field*, or something similar.

MOTION: Miett, Mordecai; to add to tonight's agenda under New Business, the acceptance of the recommendation from the adhoc committee to name the softball field after Lou Milardo, with the technical details to be worked out by the Athletic Booster Club.

Mr. Iacovelli stated he would like the Board to agree on the name before voting. Mrs. Gourlie stated this motion was simply to add the item under tonight's New Business agenda for discussion. She asked if Mr. Iacovelli was amenable to adding the item to the agenda, to which Mr. Iacovelli responded affirmatively.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION PASSED**

Mr. Denny informed the Board that he had been tasked with planning the dinner for Mr. Milardo. He asked if a plaque would be prepared for Mr. Milardo. Mrs. Gourlie stated she would be better able to answer that question after an affirmative vote.

To clarify the issue, Dr. Durham informed the Board that they could choose to name the field per the request, or they could send this back to the committee to submit names for the field. Otherwise, the Board could act on this tonight in order to expedite it.

Mrs. Gourlie stated she understood the policy to read that three names were necessary. Mr. Herden questioned if there was a need to name the field. Mrs. Gourlie stated she had not attended last month's meeting, but she understood that the Board had agreed to name the field after an ad hoc committee prepared names. Dr. Miett stated the word "need" was unclear in the policy and he would like to replace this word in the future with "appropriateness." He stated there was clearly no need to name this field. He asked if the *Lou Milardo Field* was acceptable to the adhoc committee. Mr. Ryczek believed it would be acceptable.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR (continued)C. Naming of Facility Request (continued)

Mr. Ryczek commented that prior to this policy, there was another field at the high school that was named the *Tom Nevers Field*. In keeping with this, he believed the softball field should be named *Lou Milardo Field*. Dr. Miatt believed this would be consistent.

D. Report from Student Council Representatives

Mrs. Gourlie introduced Kevin Staehly as one of this year's Student Council representatives to the Board. Mr. Staehly is a freshman this year. Mrs. Gourlie stated that Miss Durfee will continue to be a Student Council representative, but she was away visiting a college.

Mr. Staehly read a letter to the Board from Miss Durfee. In her letter, she stated that the NEASC visit seemed positive. Last week's Goodspeed event was well attended. Seniors are busy working on their college applications and Mrs. Shea has been helping everyone. Sophomores and juniors will be taking their PSATs soon.

Mrs. Gourlie welcomed Mr. Staehly on behalf of the Board.

Mrs. Gourlie stated that the NEASC visit appeared to be a very happy event and she was proud of the work, even though there was no outcome yet. She congratulated Mrs. Dadona and the staff.

Mrs. Mordecai asked when the NEASC report would be available. Mrs. Dadona stated they would receive a preliminary report within six weeks, but the complete report would not be available for three months.

IV. ACTION ON THE MINUTES

MOTION: Gionta, Mordecai; to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 12, 2006 with the following amendment:

- Page 8, paragraph 6: Add "at Hale-Ray, rather than losing them to private or vocational schools." to the end of the last sentence.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION PASSED**

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

Mrs. Gourlie stated that Mrs. Mordecai would now be the Board's liaison to the School Building Committee (SBC). She asked Mrs. Mordecai for an update.

Mrs. Mordecai stated that Mr. Chuck Grabowski attended their last meeting to try to explain the \$9 million overage. She distributed a summary to the Board. They accounted for \$7.5 million of the \$9 million. One factor in this was the site work, which was approximately \$2 million over the original estimate. Another factor was the construction business in the last two years. Originally, they used \$150/square foot, which was the low end at the time. Mrs. Mordecai stated that the SBC was asked to come in under \$25 million by the Board of Finance.

Mrs. Mordecai stated they received approval to bid from BSF. On October 17, there will be a pre-bid walk through at the Grange, and bidders will be able to ask the construction manager questions about the project at that time. It was Mr. Grabowski's opinion that there would be many bids.

Mrs. Mordecai informed the Board that the SBC was working on a second set of questions and answers. There has been a lot of positive feedback on the first set. She stated she would discuss joint mailings with the SBC, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, etc. They need to work on timing issues before the referendum. She hoped to work with Mrs. Ziobron and the PAC to get information out to the townspeople.

Mrs. Gionta asked if the inflation number on the summary sheet was a hard number. Mrs. Mordecai stated it was a hard number and it was over and above the inflation that had been worked into the project. She stated there had been some discussion about this number. Mrs. Gionta asked if the 8% was a cushion. Mrs. Mordecai did not believe so, but would clarify this at tomorrow's meeting.

Mr. Iacovelli asked if the \$9 million included the \$4.3 million inflation. Mrs. Mordecai believed this number did include the inflation. Mr. Iacovelli questioned if the original \$150/square foot was now \$228/square foot. Mrs. Mordecai confirmed this was the number and added that the square footage also increased from the walls, etc.

Mrs. Mordecai stated that the estimate is now approximately \$9 million over budget. She stated there has always been a question about \$1.7 million in the budget. Without pointing fingers, she stated the SBC reduced Newfield's costs by \$1.6 million in an attempt to bring in the project under \$25 million.

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

Mr. Iacovelli asked what would happen near the end of this project if it again went over budget. Mrs. Mordecai stated that Newfield Construction will give us a guaranteed maximum price. This was built into their contingency. Mr. Iacovelli asked if the project was over by \$1 to \$2 million, if Newfield would "eat" the cost. Mrs. Mordecai responded affirmatively, noting that it was Newfield's responsibility to build the school for the price quoted.

Mr. Mather stated if this was true, things have changed a great deal since the high school was built. He stated they had to go back and cut the track, etc. at the high school. Mrs. Mordecai stated this project was completely different than the high school. The high school had a clerk of the works. This project will have a construction manager, and part of their fee is to give a guaranteed maximum price. Mr. Mather asked if the \$28.3 million was the final price. Mrs. Mordecai stated when they receive all of the bids, they will have the final price. Mr. Mather commented that this was just another number taken out of the air. Mrs. Gourlie stated the final price would be known when they went to referendum. Mr. Mather commented that they might be guaranteed not to go over budget, but they might not get the building they want.

Dr. Durham stated he has been to many building committee meetings over the years and business has changed. He stated they would have firm numbers after they go out to bid. He stated that Newfield Construction was an "at risk" construction manager and they do guarantee the numbers. He stated if the bids come in significantly higher than expected, the SBC would have to look at it and make some difficult decisions.

Regarding the FF&E, Mrs. Mordecai stated she attended a recent PTO meeting, and parents were not interested in cutting technology. She believed this has been the Board's direction also.

B. Middle and Elementary Schools' Capital Improvements

Mr. Mather stated this committee has not met.

Mr. Staehly excused himself at this time.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLSA. CMT/CAPT Presentation

Dr. Durham stated he made a copy of the PowerPoint presentation for the Board. He asked that all questions be held until the end of the presentation, as he believed the presentation would answer most of the questions. He introduced Mr. Scata, who is the testing coordinator for the district.

Mr. Scata presented the 2006 CMT/CAPT data report. Last spring, they tested 704 students. He stated that East Haddam met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) levels as a whole school, as well as the special education sub-group.

Mr. Scata indicated that East Haddam was in the upper 50th percentile or better in all grades. He stated that there were 28 towns in our DRP, and we were compared to schools in our reference group that were much smaller than East Haddam.

Mr. Scata referenced the CMT report, and stated that girls generally outperform boys, except in fourth grade. Special Education students were advancing in the proficient range.

Mr. Scata reviewed the District Reference Group Comparison for CAPT. Statewide, most towns reported lower CAPT scores from 2005 to 2006. East Haddam is third in this reference group for math and writing. He stated that Mrs. Dadona would review the interventions put in place.

Mr. Scata asked if there were any questions specific to the report. Mr. Iacovelli asked if any aid was given for the special education tests. Mr. Scata stated that no aid was given, but sometimes, they were given extra time. Mr. Iacovelli noted that the main numbers include special education.

Responsive to inquiry by Mr. Herden, Mr. Scata indicated that the lower numbers were a State phenomenon. Many other districts scored lower also. Mrs. Dadona noted that it could be due to the type of problem. Mr. Herden stated that the CAPT tests were re-written every year, which could be one reason for the lower scores. Mrs. Dadona agreed. Mr. Herden believed it was important to inform people about this.

Mrs. Gourlie stated the male/female testing issue was a phenomenon across the country. Our differences were very similar to everyone else's.

Mr. Iacovelli questioned participation, to which Mr. Scata responded it was 100%. Mr. Iacovelli asked about students who were outplaced. Mr. Scata explained that if the students were in a Connecticut facility, they were tested.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (continued)A. CMT/CAPT Presentation (continued)

Mr. Scata began the PowerPoint presentation. He stated in grades 3-8, they were moving toward goal in reading, writing, and math for the CMTs. He stated they needed to work on the CAPT. East Haddam students exceeded the math and reading AYP.

Mr. Scata introduced Mrs. Cindy Mello to discuss the elementary school results.

Mrs. Mello stated they administered the CMT to 115 fourth grade students. There has been a 10% increase from 2002 to 2006. She believed the 2% variation in 2004 was not significant, as this was the result of one student.

Mrs. Mello explained that new strands were introduced in 2004. Even with the addition of the new strands, she believed they were making progress. In addition, they changed the testing from the fall to the spring. Two strands were changed in reading, and with the new strand, 71% of students achieved mastery in reading. In writing, the 2006 average was 9.6 on a scale of 1 - 12.

Mrs. DeLeeuw stated they had been fairly consistent in math. This year's results showed the lowest number in Level 1. She stated that math applications are typically a problem area. Typical math application numbers are 23% mastery; however, this year, 63% of students mastered that strand.

Mrs. DeLeeuw reviewed the reading scores. When students answered the open-ended questions on the test this year, they did not have enough detail. This was consistent with all of the children and they will work to address this issue.

Mrs. DeLeeuw informed the Board that they received a compliment on their writing scores from the Cromwell school district. Cromwell called to ask what strategies we used.

Mrs. DeLeeuw indicated that 119 eighth grade students took the CMTs in March. In writing, they had the lowest percentage of students scoring at Levels 1 or 2 in the past five years.

Regarding reading scores, they were consistent with the number of students achieving goal. They had a low percentage of students at Level 1 or 2. They will work to move those students at Level 1 and 2 into the proficient and/or goal range.

Mrs. DeLeeuw reviewed the cohort comparison for 4th and 6th grades. They had lower Level 1 percentages. She noted there was a decrease of 12 students in Level 1. She reviewed the cohort comparison for the same group of students in 4th, 6th, and 8th grades. Math and reading scores showed slight increases, with reading at the lowest number in Levels 1 or 2. Writing has remained relatively stable over time.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (continued)A. CMT/CAPT Presentation (continued)

Mrs. DeLeeuw introduced Mrs. Dadona to present on the high school scores. Mrs. Dadona reviewed the CAPT test scores. She noted that last year was the last year of the Generation II testing. In the spring of 2007, they will begin the Generation III testing. Of the 86 students tested, 55 were male and 31 were female.

Mrs. Dadona stated there has been growth in math over time. Science has been the most consistent over time and they are investigating why this trend is increasing. She acknowledged that reading was an issue and stated they were committed to finding the problem and addressing it. Writing showed a spike and she planned to look into this.

Mrs. Dadona reviewed the high school interventions, which included 1) structured academic seminar classes; 2) in-school tutorial services for non-identified students; 3) after school tutoring for special education students; 4) special education resource centers; 5) matching of specific students with specific academic advisors; 6) mid-term exams CAPT-based and CAPT-like; 7) teaching of CAPT strategies and skills as delineated in CAPT improvement plan; 8) Youth and Family Services counseling; 9) SAT referrals; and 10) parent meetings.

Mr. Scata introduced Mrs. Mello to review the implications for instruction at the elementary school. Mrs. Mello stated they would use this data for their monthly school improvement meetings. All teachers are now looking at the 2006 results and they have developed individualized plans. They have identified students most at risk.

Mrs. DeLeeuw stated they were taking similar steps at the middle school. They are reviewing this data at their monthly meetings. The faculty is reviewing the test results and they are working with their consultants to discuss proven instructional methods to help students. They have strategy books and discussions to help with this. In addition, they have both group and individual in-class support across all of the content areas. They give periodic writing prompts and have had all of the teachers score the prompts. This gives teachers a better understanding across the board.

Mr. Iacovelli questioned the consultants and if these were outside consultants. Mrs. DeLeeuw explained that they have in-house consultants for math and Language Arts. Mr. Iacovelli asked if outside consultants were ever used. Mrs. DeLeeuw stated they only use outside consultants during professional development days.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (continued)A. CMT/CAPT Presentation (continued)

Mrs. Dadona stated there was a strong correlation between student engagement in the curriculum and test results. Each teacher at the high school will be asked to focus on curriculum, reading, and writing. This is in an effort to have all teachers help the students be better writers and better readers. In addition, the high school has grant money this year for an after-school program for students.

Mr. Scata asked for questions at this time.

Mr. Mather stated that the 6th grade writing results showed little change from 2000 to 2006. He asked what this indicated. Mr. Scata stated that when scores don't change significantly, it could be an indication that we might need to look at our instruction. Dr. Durham stated that Language Arts teachers have had the highest turnover recently. When there is a high turnover in teachers, new teachers can only rely on the curriculum. He stated this was a challenge, but it was clearly a factor in the results.

Mrs. Gionta stated that the results seem relatively stable; but the reading scores bothered her the most. She did not know how they would ever get all of the students to the proficient level. She stated she would have liked to see the cohort comparison for 10th grade. Mrs. Dadona stated the CAPT and the CMT are completely different tests. Mrs. Gionta stated that proficient should be the same for both tests and there was an upward trend. Mrs. Dadona stated that there was an upward trend, but the two tests are different and could not be compared.

Mrs. Gionta asked what the differences were in the CAPT and CMT. Dr. Durham stated the two tests were completely different. Mrs. Gionta stated that a standardized test was to test knowledge at a certain time. Dr. Durham believed the better measure was the comparison from 4th, 6th, and 8th grades.

Dr. Durham stated they could take the CAPT test and look at it in relationship to the CMT, but it would always show a decline. He believed this was an indication that the CAPT test was more difficult. He suggested they look at the cohort and evidence.

Mrs. Gionta stated it seemed there was a problem with the CAPT test. Dr. Durham stated that historically, only about 80 students take the test, so we should anticipate considerable variations in the scores from year to year due to the small number of students being tested. He stated when the 8th grade took the test, there were 120 students; therefore, the variations become slighter as the number tested increases. He stated the administration and faculty are not pleased with the CAPT results and they are looking closer at them. He believed we need to do more across the disciplines and not rely solely on Language Arts teachers. He believed this would be reflected in the NEASC evaluation. Dr. Durham believed

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (continued)A. CMT/CAPT Presentation (continued)

next year's scores would likely show an increase based on their assessment of the current 10th grade class.

Mrs. Mordecai asked if there were individual growth plans for students scoring below proficiency. Mrs. Dadona stated that Language Arts teachers don't teach reading directly. They would like to have extra instruction for these students, not through a pull-out program, just extra help. She stated she would work closer with the middle school and identify students, and to give them more opportunities to read. She believed this would help.

Dr. Durham stated that one positive thing that has come of the NCLB is that it has really made us look at our lowest performing students. Under the NCLB, they mandate that 100% of students must achieve proficiency by 2014. He stated it is very clear that the number of Level 1 students in East Haddam has decreased. This has been accomplished by the Strategic Plan and the CMT/CAPT improvement plans. From that standpoint, the NCLB has been very good.

Mrs. Gionta asked if there were different levels of classes at the high school. Mrs. Dadona responded that approximately five years ago, they eliminated the lower level classes. They now offer academic, advanced, and A.P. classes for the higher levels. Mrs. DeLeeuw stated that the middle school offers one advanced Algebra and one advanced Spanish class, both with entrance criteria.

Mrs. Gourlie stated she was excited about the report and tonight's presentation. There is a clear cohesion between grades K through 12, and she sees this gap getting even closer. She particularly enjoyed the cohort comparisons. She appreciated the numbers of students, which gives them a clearer picture of how a few students can affect the scores. She concluded that this was the best presentation she has seen yet.

Dr. Durham advised the Board that it was very important that they make a statement about what the Board values on the standardized tests. It cannot be confusing to the administrative team and faculty, and communication is vital. He stated as they get closer to 2014, the stakes will become even higher.

Mr. Herden stated there has been a great deal of talk about test scores. He wished the Board as a whole would understand how the CMT varies from the CAPT. He suggested a presentation in the future to explain how the CAPT test is different from the CMT. Mrs. Gourlie believed there had been examples of each presented before, but not a comparison.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (continued)B. High School Roof Update

Dr. Durham stated they sent out for bids. They awarded the middle school roof project to R.A. Parady and Sons and the project was close to being done. The estimate they received would leave approximately \$26,000 in the capital improvement plan.

Dr. Durham stated the high school low bid was much less than the other bids received. Unless there were objections from the Board, he planned to award the bid to the lowest bidder. He stated that the Board of Finance was reluctant to proceed according to the recommendations in the DeCarlo & Doll report. The consensus of the Board was to proceed with the lowest bidder.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTSA. Long Range Planning

Mr. Iacovelli stated that the Long Range Planning subcommittee meeting was rescheduled to November 2.

B. Finance

Mr. Mather reported that this committee has not met.

C. Policy

Dr. Miett stated this meeting had been rescheduled to November 2.

D. Transportation

Mr. Mather reported that this subcommittee met earlier today. He stated that Nichols Bus Service wanted to extend its contract for another two years. He was clear that they were very happy with the service provided by Nichols, but they wanted to try to get as much as they could for their money. He stated they would have another meeting with Nichols to review the numbers and would report at the next meeting.

E. Personnel and Negotiations

Mr. Misenti was not present, but Dr. Durham stated there was nothing new to report.

F. Ray Board Liaison

Mr. Iacovelli stated the Ray Board has not met.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)G. LEARN

Mrs. Gourlie had no report this month.

H. Curriculum Council Liaison

Mr. Herden stated this committee met to review goals for the school year. They discussed the development of the 5-year calendar and he hoped to adopt this at the next meeting.

Mr. Herden stated they discussed professional development. They recognized there was a lot of in-house talent at all levels. They talked about instructional differentiation and if they could make this better. They hoped to form a subcommittee to see how well this was working.

Mr. Herden stated that the committee discussed multi-cultural education. There was not a large need at this time and they have diversity in the classrooms. However, they will take another look at multi-cultural education and possibly form a committee in the future.

The Curriculum Council reviewed Internet learning and the limits and benefits of it. They will continue to discuss this topic. They discussed a plan for development of curriculum in East Haddam public schools. Mr. Herden will provide updates as this proceeds.

Dr. Durham updated the Board on the summer program. He stated that the Math Committee worked on the transition from 8th grade algebra to the high school. Foreign languages, physical education, and developmental guidance also worked on curriculum projects. The academic seminar staff met over the summer to discuss how to revise the seminar class to accommodate the needs of the students.

Mrs. Mordecai excused herself from the meeting at this time.

Mrs. Gourlie asked about the virtual high school (VHS) as compared to Internet learning. Dr. Durham stated that there was a whole body of research at UCONN that was looking into this. We are looking at how we can utilize the Internet for more than just an online course.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Mrs. Melissa Ziobron addressed the Board regarding Mrs. Mordecai's report on the School Building Committee. She stated that Mrs. Mordecai's statement about an agreement to come in under \$25 million was not actually the way it sounded from her perspective in the audience. She stated there was a specific process the SBC went

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS (continued)

through for this project. When they went to the Board of Finance, the Board of Finance cut the project to come in below \$25 million. The original FFE was \$1.5 million, and the SBC cut it to \$750,000. She stated there was a real process and the SBC went through the budget, line by line.

Mrs. Ziobron stated she has formed the Save Our School political action committee. She has talked with many people and she wants to make sure no one thinks they just picked a number out of the air that they though would pass.

Mrs. Ziobron informed the Board that an "at risk" construction manager was much different than a clerk of the works, as the high school had. She stated the SBC was paying a premium for the "at risk" construction manager.

Mrs. Ziobron began asking questions about the test results. Mrs. Gourlie informed her that during the Audience of Citizens, there is no back and forth questioning. She directed Mrs. Ziobron to contact Dr. Durham's office to relate any questions she may have.

Mrs. Ziobron informed the Board that the Open Space Committee would meet again before the next Board meeting. She asked what her capacity should be until a new liaison was appointed. Mrs. Gourlie stated as of today, the Board has no liaison. If she wanted to attend the Open Space Committee meeting and bring information back to the Board until a new liaison was appointed, that was acceptable.

Mr. Govert noted that there was no one from the community in attendance at this meeting, even though it was publicized that the Board would be discussing and reviewing the CMT and CAPT scores.

IX. OLD BUSINESSA. Strategic Plan

Dr. Durham stated he would bring a rough draft of questions from the community to the November Long Range Planning Committee meeting.

X. NEW BUSINESSA. Acceptance of Consent Agenda

1) Warrant

a. To approve the warrant for 2005-06 in the amount of \$2,365,033.01.

b. To approve the warrant for 2006-07 in the amount of \$1,799,827.48.

X. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

A. Acceptance of Consent Agenda (continued)

- 2) To approve a one-year leave of absence for Mrs. Judith Bos, aide at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, for the 2006-07 school year.
- 3) To accept the resignation of Ms. Jacqueline Gagnon, physical education teacher at East Haddam Elementary School, effective September 28, 2006.

MOTION: Herden, Mather; to approve Items 1 through 3 of the Consent Agenda.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION PASSED**

B. Naming of the High School Softball Field

MOTION: Miett, Gionta; to accept the recommendation of the adhoc committee to name the high school softball field *Lou Milardo Field*.

Mr. Mather strongly felt that naming public facilities after ex-employees was a bad idea. He stated he has always voted against this and he does not feel that any employee or former employee should get glory for a job they were being paid to do.

**FAVOR (3): Gionta, Iacovelli, Miett
OPPOSED (2): Herden, Mather
ABSENT (2): Misenti, Mordecai
MOTION PASSED**

MOTION: Miett, Gionta; to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Iacovelli
Secretary