

East Haddam Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Cafeteria  
March 9, 2010  
7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Amalia Apostoleris, Deborah Fiala, Tracey Gionta, Brian Pear,  
Bryan Perry, Susan Taylor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Nancy Haslam, Everett Herden, MaryBeth Mordecai

**STUDENT COUNCIL REPS. PRESENT:** Rachel Johnson

**STUDENT COUNCIL REPS. ABSENT:** Kevin Staehly, Skylar Vumback, Jonathan Comer

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Ellen Solek, Bonnie Barnes, Jeff Legg, Ruth Ziobron

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Perry.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

A. Communications

Mrs. Haslam was not in attendance due to the birth of her grandson.

B. Report from High School Student Council Representatives

The High School Council Representative reported on the following:

- The Choir Concert was this week;
- Trillium auditions were held;
- There was a prom dress drive held March 5th;
- Next year's Student Council Representatives were announced;
- Progress reports went out today.

C. Report from Middle School Student Council Representatives

There was none.

Student Council Representatives were excused.

III. REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON (continued)

D. Report from the First Selectman

First Selectman Walter distributed and discussed the following:

- CCM Legislative Committee Meeting Agenda dated Tuesday, March 9, 2010;
- Information regarding Representatives Cameron C. Staples, Vincent Candelora and Senator Andrew Roraback;
- CCM testimony of Tim Griswold, First Selectman of Old Lyme and President of CCM to the Appropriations Committee dated March 2, 2010;
- Appropriations Committee Special Forum for Municipal Officials dated March 2, 2010 regarding education funding, funding for general municipal governments and mandates relief for towns and cities;
- Connecticut State Board of Education dated February 22, 2010 regarding Ad Hoc committee to study funding public school choice programs;
- Document titled Phase I Key Findings-The Four “R’s”;
- Packet titled Doing M.O.R.E Municipal Opportunities & Regional Efficiencies;
- CCM documentation titled H.B. 5031, “AA Reducing Costs to Municipalities” (Governor’s Mandates Reform Proposal);
- CCM documentation titled Testimony of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities to the Transportation Committee dated February 17, 2010.

IV. ACTION ON THE MINUTES

**MOTION:** Gionta, Fiala; to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2010 with the following change:

- Page 6, under Learn Liaison, correct spelling of RESC Alliance.

**FAVOR (5): Apostoleris, Fiala, Gionta, Perry, Taylor**  
**OPPOSED (0)**  
**ABSTENTIONS (1): Pear**  
**ABSENT (3): Haslam, Herden, Mordecai**  
**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION:** Fiala, Gionta; to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 25, 2010.

**FAVOR (5): Apostoleris, Fiala, Gionta, Perry, Taylor**  
**OPPOSED (0)**  
**ABSTENTIONS (1): Pear**  
**ABSENT (3): Haslam, Herden, Mordecai**  
**MOTION PASSED**

IV. ACTION ON THE MINUTES (continued)

**MOTION:** Gionta, Apostoleris; to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 2, 2010.

**FAVOR (5):** Apostoleris, Fiala, Gionta, Perry, Taylor

**OPPOSED (0)**

**ABSTENTIONS (1):** Pear

**ABSENT (3):** Haslam, Herden, Mordecai

**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION:** Gionta, Fiala; to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 4, 2010 with the following change:

- Correct spelling of ARRA.

**FAVOR (5):** Apostoleris, Fiala, Gionta, Perry, Taylor

**OPPOSED (0)**

**ABSTENTIONS (1):** Pear

**ABSENT (3):** Haslam, Herden, Mordecai

**MOTION PASSED**

V. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Solek thanked Rachel Johnson for her dresses for the prom drive. Ms. Johnson and the dresses for the prom initiative were represented on local news stations such as NBC and ABC.

Dr. Solek stated there had been a recent article in the Hartford Courant regarding the Nichols Bus Company. Dr. Solek stated that currently the district was working closely with the owners of the bus company. The inspection results have been posted on the BOE website. Dr. Solek noted some of the infractions were for items such as windshield wipers not installed correctly, a spot of dirt found on the windshield and a dent which had not been removed near the rear fender of a bus. Dr. Solek assured Board members and the East Haddam community that the BOE would continue to work with the bus company and keep the busses in great working order. Dr. Solek stated minimal accidents had occurred over the past several years, noting it was a direct result of the bus owner's diligence. Questions specific to the busses may be addressed to Dr. Solek or Mr. Carroll.

Dr. Solek informed the Board that she would be participating in a regional reverse auction on March 12<sup>th</sup> for fuel oil. A purchase will only be made if it is better than the town's present quote.

V. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (continued)A. Field Trip Request

Mr. Legg and Mrs. Barnes reviewed a proposed overnight field trip request to Paris, France; Madrid, Spain; and Toledo, Spain scheduled for April 15, 2011 through April 22, 2011 for the Spanish and French students in grades 10-12. This would occur during April vacation.

Responsive to a question by Mrs. Fiala, Mrs. Barnes replied the field trip would only be offered to current and former world language students.

Mrs. Gionta questioned if this field trip would conflict with the Montreal field trip. Mrs. Barnes replied no.

Responsive to a question by Mrs. Apostoleris, Mrs. Barnes replied medical and health issues of students were reviewed prior to leaving, in writing, and by the school nurse. Students will be closely watched. Free time will be offered in a limited area for a limited time frame. There will be one chaperone for every six students.

Responsive to a question by Mr. Perry, Mrs. Barnes replied students would be told one year before the field trip in order to raise money for the trip.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTSA. Policy

Policy had not met. Mrs. Gionta had nothing new to report.

B. Finance

Finance had met as outlined during the February and March Special Meetings.

C. Long Range Planning

Long Range Planning had not met.

D. Personnel and Negotiations

Personnel and Negotiations met February 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Perry had nothing new to report.

E. Transportation

Transportation had not met. Transportation will meet April 7<sup>th</sup>.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

- F. LEARN Liaison - LEARN will meet Thursday.
- G. Ray Board Liaison - Ray Board had not met.
- H. 4-8 Middle School Liaison - 4-8 Middle School had not met.
- I. CIA Liaison - CIA had not met. CIA will meet March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- J. Middle School Conversion Liaison - Mr. Perry had nothing to report.
- K. Local Prevention Council Liaison - The Local Prevention Council had not met.
- L. Open Space Liaison - Open Space had not met.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

There was none.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of Consent Agenda

1) Warrant

a. To approve the warrant for 2009-10 in the amount of \$1,291,097.52.

2) To accept the resignation of Mrs. Jessica Duers, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, effective February 19, 2010.

To accept the resignation of Mrs. Carol Parker Sprankle, Special Education teacher at East Haddam Elementary School, effective April 7, 2010.

3) To approve the overnight field trip request to Paris, France; Madrid, Spain; and Toledo, Spain scheduled for April 15, 2011 through April 22, 2011 for the Spanish/French students in grades 10-12.

**MOTION:** Gionta, Fiala; to approve the Consent Agenda items 1) through 3).

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT  
MOTION PASSED**

IX. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

- B. **MOTION:** Gionta; Apostoleris; to appoint Mr. David Meade as the citizen representative of the Purple Fund Committee.

Responsive to a question by Mrs. Apostoleris, Dr. Solek replied Mr. Meade had been a long term chair on the Board of Finance and had been asked to sit on the Purple Fund in the 1980's and 1990's.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT  
MOTION PASSED**

The Board of Education will present their budget to the Board of Finance on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

- MOTION:** Apostoleris, Pear; to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL PRESENT  
MOTION PASSED**

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Perry  
Board Secretary