

**East Hampton
Board of Education
East Hampton, CT 06424**

MINUTES: November 14, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Mr. Vasquenza, at 7:00 p.m. in the East Hampton High School Library/Media Center.

Members present: Mr. Vasquenza, Mr. Laraia, Mr. Piteo, Mr. Coolican, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Gemma, Ms. Wall, Ms. Barmasse and Ms. Lane

Administration Present: Dr. Golden, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Reich, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Asetta, School Business Manager
Mr. Fidler, Principal of East Hampton High School
Mr. Dalton, Assistant Principal of East Hampton High School
Ms. Briere, Principal of East Hampton Middle School
Mr. Lehmann, Assistant Principal of East Hampton High School
Ms. Turchi, Principal of Center Elementary School
Dr. Fitzsimmons, Principal of Memorial Elementary School
Ms. Edele, Assistant Principal of Memorial Elementary School

East Hampton High School Student Council Representative: Jamie Sutcliffe

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Inter-Board Liaisons

- 3.1 Mr. Csere stated that on behalf of the Board of Finance, he would like to compliment the Board of Education for their meeting agendas over the past two years. Patience Anderson and he have attended most if not all of the Board of Education meetings. They learned from the Board of Education meetings. They saw presentations from the students of all ages, from teachers, principals, administrators, experienced their first smart board, meetings were held at different schools. They see what the Board of Education's capitol needs are, etc. The Board of Education's meetings gave Mr. Csere and Ms. Anderson a better understanding of what the town's financial obligations should be for education and what the town will lose by underfunding the schools.

Mr. Csere gave special thanks to departing Board members Mr. Coolican, Ms. Robinson and Mr. Vasquenza for a job well done.

The Board of Finance would also like to congratulate and welcome the new Board of Education members, Mr. Scott Minnick, Mr. William Marshall and Mr. Ken Barber. The Board of Finance is ready, willing and able to assist in any way it can to move the High School improvements along.

4. Audience of Citizens

- 4.1 Ms. Debbie Foel, South Main Street, noted that she is a bus driver for Nichols bus service. The drivers are our neighbors and they know East Hampton's students. The drivers have a vested interested in East Hampton. The drivers have donated many hours of their time to the town. The drivers safety record speaks for itself.

5. Consent Agenda

5.1 September 26, 2011 Minutes

Mr. Coolican requested that the minutes be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

Motion by Mr. Laraia, seconded by Mr. Coolican, to approve the Minutes of the October 24, 2011 meeting. A discussion followed regarding class rank and if the regulation would be shared with the Board. Voted unanimously.

Mr. Vasquenza suggested, and the Board agreed to move agenda item 6.1 to the end of the agenda.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Student Council

7.1.1 Jamie Sutcliffe, Student Council Representative for East Hampton High School reported the following:

The Model UN participated in a conference at UCONN this weekend. The East Hampton Vinal Tech football team plays their final game of the season on Friday at Valley. It is possible that they will be featured as the NBC 30 game of the week. The boys soccer team is the number one seed in the class s state championship tournament. After a 6-2 win today they move on to the quarterfinals, which will be on Wednesday at home at 2 pm where they will play the winner of Coventry and Portland. The girls soccer team upset the number 2 seed Lyman Memorial on Saturday and they will play Litchfield in the quarterfinals tomorrow at 2 at Litchfield. The girls volleyball team is playing in the state quarterfinals tonight at 7 at Terryville. The interact club is beginning planning for the Santa's breakfast which will be held on December 1st and for the ABC women's shelter gift drive which provides holiday gifts for children at the shelter.

7.2 Personnel Committee

7.2.1 Mr. Coolican had no report at this time.

7.3 Policy Committee

7.3.1 Mr. Laraia had no report at this time.

7.4 Curriculum Committee

7.4.1 Ms. Barmasse had no report at this time.

7.5 Transportation, Buildings and Grounds Committee

7.5.1 Mr. Gemma noted that the Transportations, Buildings and Grounds Committee met November 7th and reviewed the transportation bids and conducted interviews on November 8th. He also noted that at Memorial School the oil tank project is complete and the roof project will go out to bid either in February or March. At Center School there is an issue with the boiler which is old and may need to be replaced and the graffiti at Center School has been cleaned up. The administration is now working with the court for restitution.

7.6 Financial Reports

7.6.1 Ms. Robinson noted that the Finance Committee has not met, however, there is a year to date report enclosed in the Board packet for the Board's review. Dr. Golden noted that there are no concerns at this time.

7.7 East Hampton Education Association – None

7.8 Liaison Reports

- 7.8.1 Ms. Barmasse gave a brief overview of the LEARN meeting that she attended. She also noted that she and Ms. Lane will be attending the CAFE conference and that she will be a delegate representing East Hampton in the delegate assembly which sets the legislative agenda for CAFE.

8. Communications

- 8.1 Dr. Golden reviewed the student enrollment figures as of November 1, 2011. Mr. Piteo asked if anyone keeps track of where students go when they leave the East Hampton Public Schools. Dr. Golden noted that she will provide Mr. Piteo with that information.

- 8.2 Dr. Golden reviewed the following communications for the Board:

- The Middle Ground, November 2011.
- An article from the Connecticut Magazine showing East Hampton's relatively high rating compared to like communities.
- Pictures from Memorial School's Math Night.
- Memorial's Bulletin Board, October 14, 2011.
- The Center School Chronicle, November 4, 2011, October 28, 2011 and October 21, 2011.
- Ms. Wall commended Mrs. Briere for her dress code message in the November issue of the Middle Ground.

9. Program Presentation - None

10. Unfinished Business - None

11. New Business

11.1 Approval of the Revised 2011-12 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

- 11.1.1 Motion by Mr. Laraia, seconded by Ms. Barmasse, to adopt the attached revised Board meeting schedule for the 2011-2012 school year. Voted unanimously.

11.2 Transportation Contract Award

- 11.2.1 Motion by Mr. Gemma, seconded by Ms. Barmasse, to accept the alternate bid submitted by Nichols Bus Company contingent on successful negotiations by the Chairperson of the Transportations, Buildings & Grounds Committee, the Superintendent of Schools and the Board Attorney of changes to the current contract to address ongoing issues. A discussion followed.

Mr. Vasquenza thanked the members of the Transportation, Buildings & Grounds Committee and the administration for all their time and hard work. Financially, East Hampton will save over \$400,000 over the contract period.

Dr. Golden noted that there were some things that were not included in the old bus contract and they are: independent inspections, a dispatcher available at all times, a dedicated line where we can reach someone at all times, professional conduct – including who represents the company with the media, the Board and so on. How employees treat school employees including tone, language, etc.

Mr. Coolican questioned whether the fuel is being discussed in the contract. Mr. Reich noted that he monitors the fuel that is delivered Mr. Coolican stated that he has no reason to suspect that fuel isn't being used properly but feels that there should be a better way to monitor its use. Mr. Coolican noted that he is

grateful to Mr. Nichols for giving us a good rate and the Board should feel good about the process.

Ms. Barmasse noted that she spent several hours reading the materials from Nichols Bus and M & J and she supports the Nichols Bus alternative bid contract based on the economic conditions.

Mr. Nichols thanked the Board and staff for the time they put into this process.

11.2.2 Voted unanimously.

12. Future Business - None

13. Personnel Actions - None

14. Goal Report - None

15. Audience of Citizens

15.1 Mr. Vasquenza noted that it is his, Ms. Robinson's and Mr. Coolican's last Board meeting. Mr. Vasquenza stated that he stayed out of the way and let the educators educate and they did a marvelous job.

6. Student/Staff Recognition

6.1 Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

6.1.1 Dr. Golden noted that being a Board member can be a thankless, and at the same time, a very rewarding experience. Board members work very hard and for many hours beyond these meetings twice a month. They are volunteers elected to do this work. The work they do has a direct impact on the education of children in East Hampton and they are to be commended for it.

As is a part of the process, elections come and go every two years and some Board members stay and others leave. Nevertheless the work they have begun continues and this Board has ensured through their non-partisan and respectful manner that the expectations for our education system stay high and on focus.

Deb Robinson, who is not able to be here personally but who is with us by phone, has spent 8 years serving the children of East Hampton. She has always been a thoughtful Board member who takes her responsibility to the school system very seriously. She will truly be missed.

Don Coolican has given many years on the Board of Education to the children of East Hampton. Don is never shy about speaking his mind but I always know that he is speaking his heart and that his only concern is a high quality education for the children of East Hampton. He is a sort of historian whose expertise in many areas will be missed very much.

Mike Vasquenza has been on the Board for 8 years and a Chair for four of those 8 years. His counsel, steady hand and connection to many facets of the community have been invaluable in leading the work of the Board, and therefore, the school system forward. The children of East Hampton have greatly benefited from his leadership as have each of us. His guidance and steadiness will be greatly missed.

Monica Kaufman is a student who provided a lovely picture that the administration had framed for the departing Board members.

16. Adjournment

- 16.1 Motion by Ms. Barmasse, seconded by Ms. Wall, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.
Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Wall
Secretary

SW/JAG/RS