

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

MINUTES: November 28, 2011

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

Members present: Mr. Laraia, Mr. Piteo, Mr. Coolican, Mr. Gemma, Ms. Barmasse, Ms. Lane, Mr. Barber, Mr. Minnick and Mr. Marshall

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

East Hampton High School Student Council Representative: Jamie Sutcliffe

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Board of Education Organization
 - 3.1 Election of the Board of Education Chairperson – Mr. Laraia requested nominations from the Board.
 - 3.1.1 Motion by Ms. Barmasse, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to nominate Mr. Laraia as the Board of Education Chairperson.

Mr. Laraia was elected Chairperson unanimously.
 - 3.2 Appointment of the Board of Education Acting Chairperson.
 - 3.2.1 Mr. Laraia appointed Ms. Barmasse as the Acting Chairperson.
 - 3.3 Election of the Board of Education Secretary – Mr. Laraia asked for nominations from the Board.
 - 3.3.1 Motion by Ms. Barmasse, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to nominate Ms. Lane as the Board of Education Secretary.

Ms. Lane was elected Secretary unanimously.
 - 3.4 Appointment of the Board of Education Acting Secretary
 - 3.4.1 Mr. Laraia appointed Mr. Minnick as the Acting Secretary.
 - 3.5 Discussion – Board of Education Committee Assignments

- 3.5.1 Mr. Laraia requested that Board members submit to him their top three choices for committee assignments. It is his hope that a new committee list will be established by the December 13th Board meeting.

Motion by Mr. Coolican, seconded by Ms. Barmasse, to add agenda item 12.1, Approval of the trip to New York City to the Museum of Modern Art to View the Diego Rivera Exhibit, visit Rockefeller Center and view the gothic architecture of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

4. Inter-Board Liaisons – None

5. Audience of Citizens – None

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 November 14, 2011 Minutes

Motion by Ms. Barmasse, seconded by Ms. Lane, to approve the Consent Agenda.
Voted unanimously.

7. Student/Staff Recognition

7.1 Recognition of Outgoing Board Member

7.1.1 Dr. Golden noted that we have two former Board members being recognized tonight. Mrs. Robinson has spent eight 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. Deb was always willing to listen to different points of view and respectfully validate them. She will truly be missed.

Mrs. Wall has spent four years as a Board member who was sincerely interested in making the schools a better place for all children. Sheila always had questions for us which made us think about what we were doing. Sheila had grandchildren in the schools which made being a Board member even more important to her. She will be missed for her kindness and respectful manner.

Mrs. Wall thanked everyone that voted for her. She is sorry that she won't be involved in the renovation of the High School and the topic of school uniforms. She said that it has been a pleasure to work with Dr. Golden and Mr. Reich, the administrators and Rosemarie Smith.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Student Council

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

Fall sports awards were held last night. Athletes were recognized for making all-conference or all-state, as well as individual team awards. The Student Council and the American Red Cross will be sponsoring a blood drive to be held at the high school during the day on November 30. The Interact Club's ABC women's shelter holiday gift drive until December 12 and will be wrapping the gifts after school on December 14. Also the Interact Club will be holding Breakfast with Santa at the high school on December 3. The seniors will be having their senior

dinner at the Glastonbury Country Club on December 8. The Spanish Club is sponsoring penny wars this week. All the change collected will go towards the Christmas in Peru project. The French club will be starting a fundraiser this week to benefit the Roots of Development organization. Paper bricks will be sold for \$0.50 during homeroom, with the corresponding class colors. The paper bricks will then make up houses in the cafeteria, one house for each grade. Whichever grade raises the most money will win a free breakfast for the entire grade.

8.2 Personnel Committee - None

8.3 Policy Committee - None

8.4 Curriculum Committee - None

8.5 Transportation, Buildings and Grounds Committee - None

8.6 East Hampton Education Association – None

8.7 Liaison Reports

8.7.1 Ms. Barmasse noted that she and Ms. Lane attended the CAFE conference and gave a brief overview of the conference.

9. Communications

9.1 Dr. Golden reviewed the following communications for the Board:

- Board & Administrator for School Board Members, July 2011.
- Board & Administrator for School Board Members, November 2011.
- Dr. Golden referred to *Evaluation Reforms Put Partnerships To the Test*, Education Week, November 16, 2011. She noted that the administration will be rewriting the evaluation and professional development plan when the State Department of Education sends her the guidelines for it connected to the Race to the Top funding.
- Mr. Marshall provided the Board with information on two CAFE workshops, New Board Member Orientation and Board Leadership. Dr. Golden noted that if any Board member is interested in attending one of these workshops to please contact Mrs. Smith.
- Dr. Golden noted that Board members can use their own email address or a Board of Education email account could be set up for them. Dr. Golden asked for a show of hands of anyone interested in an account being set up for them.
- Dr. Golden noted that there have been questions regarding committee meeting attendance. She consulted with Attorney Padula, the Board of Education attorney.
 1. Legally, a Board member may sit in a separate row and observe the process as a resident. However, it gives the appearance that a quorum exists and could prompt the Board to have to defend itself over and over again and there will be legal costs associated with that defense. Also, it could prompt communications to the public at the committee meeting to whom the Board member may respond but it will not change the perception that the member has no Board business being there.
 2. Secondly, it gives the appearance of undermining the responsibility of the committee and intervening with the flow of information. The committee is trusted by the Board to conduct their business and report back to the Board.

3. In summary, it is legal, however, there are pitfalls and cautions. Therefore, it is generally not recommended which is why the Board has maintained this practice for many years.

10. Program Presentation

10.1 Presentation by Dr. Golden for Board Members

- 10.1.1 Dr. Golden gave an overview of some key informational items which will serve to assist new Board members and remind other Board members in carrying out their work.

11. Unfinished Business

11.1 A discussion on the method of surveying parents and staff on a standardized dress code at the Middle School

- 11.1.1 Mr. Coolican noted that he is hopeful the Board will use the term standardized dress in the description and not uniform. He is also hopeful that the survey is fair. The Board should also give parents a reason why we want to do this. The Board should make this process as easy for parents and administrators as possible. Mr. Coolican recommended that the Policy Committee create a survey and then bring it to the full Board for their review. A discussion followed.

11.2 A discussion on the placement of class rank on the high school report card

- 11.2.1 Mr. Coolican noted that it is his opinion that class rank should be on at the end of the freshman year due to grade inflation. We need to alert the parents as soon as possible. There's no reason not to have it there as early as possible. If that parent isn't alerted about it until the end of the sophomore year, you really can't do anything about it until the child's junior year. Class rank is key, much more so than grade-point average, class rank is key for college acceptance. One way to improve class rank is to take more difficult courses. For example, an A in an Honors course gets a 4.67, Level 1 gets a 4.33 and Level 2 gets a 4.0. If a parent is alerted that their child is on the honor roll but barely in the top half of the class, they might want to push their child into taking higher-level courses.

Ms. Barmasse stated that she agrees that too many students make the honor roll. The percentage is way too high and it's been that way for years. It diminishes the meaning of being on the honor roll or high honor roll. Ms. Barmasse disagreed as to just how important class rank is. She said that she called colleges and universities and asked how they used class rank in their selection process. Most said it was a very small factor, in part because every high school is different. Class rank does have its place but it's only one thing that they look at.

Dr. Golden noted that the regulation concerning class rank was set by the Curriculum Committee, which agreed with the recommendation of Dr. Linda Berry, the former high school principal. Among Dr. Berry's reasons at the time was that "freshmen often did not afford themselves the opportunity in trying different things at the high school because they had this pressure, from home and on themselves, to pay such close attention to class rank rather than look at other opportunities they could have. Also, if a student is

in the lower part of the class ranking, and they are only a freshman, it can be quite discouraging. As a result, the regulation was changed to what it currently is.

Mr. Coolican would like the entire Board to consider including class rank on freshman report cards rather than have the curriculum committee decide, which is normally how it works for regulation changes.

The Curriculum Committee is expected to review this matter.

Mr. Coolican questioned whether the Curriculum Committee is going to have the final say on class rank.

Dr. Golden responded that it is up to the Board.

12. New Business

12.1 Approval of the trip to New York City to the Museum of Modern Art to view the Diego Rivera Exhibit, visit Rockefeller Center and view the gothic architecture of St. Patrick's Cathedral

12.1.1 Motion by Mr. Coolican, seconded by Ms. Barmasse, to approve the Spanish V and Advanced Placement US History trip to New York City as recommended by the Principal and Superintendent of Schools. Voted unanimously.

13. Future Business - None

14. Personnel Actions - None

15. Goal Report - None

16. Audience of Citizens - None

17. Adjournment

17.1 Motion by Ms. Barmasse, seconded by Ms. Lane, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Carol Lane
Secretary

CL/JAG/rs