

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

MINUTES: November 23, 2009

Ms. Bernice Bartlette, East Hampton Assistant Town Clerk, swore in the four new Board of Education members, Ms. Barmasse, Mr. Laraia, Ms. Lane and Mr. Piteo.

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, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Laraia, Mr. Coolican (left at 7:07 p.m.), Ms. Barmasse, Ms. Wall, Ms. Lane, Mr. Piteo and Mr. Gemma

Administration Present: Dr. Golden, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Reich, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Asetta, Business Services Coordinator
Dr. Berry, Principal of East Hampton High School
Mr. Fidler, Principal of East Hampton Middle School
Ms. Turchi, Principal of Center Elementary School

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Board of Education Organization

- 3.1 Election of the Board of Education Chairperson – Mr. Vasquenza asked for nominations from the Board.

- 3.1.1 Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to nominate Mr. Vasquenza as the Board of Education Chairperson.

- 3.1.2 Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to close the nominations. Voted unanimously.

Mr. Vasquenza was elected Chairperson unanimously.

- 3.2 Appointment of the Board of Education Acting Chairperson.

- 3.2.1 Mr. Vasquenza appointed Mr. Laraia as the Acting Chairperson.

- 3.3 Election of the Board of Education Secretary – Mr. Vasquenza asked for nominations from the Board.

- 3.3.1 Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to nominate Ms. Wall as the Board of Education Secretary.

- 3.3.2 Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to close the nominations. Voted unanimously.

Ms. Wall was elected Secretary unanimously.

- 3.4 Appointment of the Board of Education Acting Secretary

- 3.4.1 Mr. Vasquenza appointed Ms. Robinson as the Acting Secretary.

3.5 Discussion – Board of Education Committee Assignments

3.5.1 Mr. Vasquez requested that Board members contact him or Dr. Golden with their requests for committee assignments. It is his hope that a new committee list will be established by the December 14th Board meeting.

Mr. Coolican left the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

4. Inter-Board Liaisons - None

5 Audience of Citizens - None

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 October 26, 2009 Minutes

Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Wall, to approve 6.1 on the Consent Agenda.
Voted unanimously.

6.2 Childrearing Leave (14.1 – 14.2)

Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to approve 6.2 on the Consent Agenda.
Voted unanimously.

7. Student/Staff Recognition - None

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Student Council

8.1.3 Dr. Berry read the Student Council report for Walid Ahmad who was absent.

- Last Wednesday the boys' soccer season officially ended as they unfortunately lost to Lyman Memorial High School, in the semi-final round. Though this ended their streak in the state tournament, the season ought to be remembered as quite commendable, having made it far in both the Shoreline and State tournament. Returning players look forward with anticipation at next year's season.
- The same can be said of the girls' volleyball team as well. They also lost in the semi-final round last Wednesday, to Coventry. The amount of progress the team made from last year to this year is most impressive, and their success this year can be attributed to determined players and coaching staff.
- Winter athletes have already begun training for the upcoming basketball, track, and cheerleading seasons.
- This past weekend, the Drama Club hosted its first play of the year, putting on "The Worst High School Play in the World." The audience was entertained by the quirky humor and comedy. NHS, as usual, regulated the ticket selling and baked goods table, which was open to donations.
- Interact Club has begun its ABC Women's shelter project, in a noble effort to collect presents and money so that underprivileged children can have Christmas presents. The Club has yet to let the organization down, and will not this year either.

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 Financial Reports - None

8.7 East Hampton Education Association – None

8.8 Liaison Reports

8.8.1 Ms. Barmasse noted that she, Ms. Lane and Dr. Golden attended the CABE/CAPSS Convention. She gave an overview of the convention for the Board. Ms. Barmasse noted that she also attended a LEARN meeting.

9. Communications

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

- Reissue of selected Strategic School Profiles (11-18-09)
- The New Bellringer, October 2009.
- The Center School Chronicle, November 13, 2009.
- An invitation to the Board of Education Holiday Celebration on Thursday, December 17th from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the High School.

10. Program Presentation

10.1 School and District Improvement Plans

10.1.1 Dr. Golden, Ms. Turchi, Mr. Fidler and Dr. Berry reviewed the School and District Improvement Plans for the Board and answered questions.

Ms. Barmasse requested a suspension report be provided for the Board. Dr. Golden noted that Mr. Reas will prepare a summary for the Board.

11. Unfinished Business - None

12. New Business

12.1 Review of the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Proposed School Calendars (First Reading)

12.1.1 Dr. Golden noted that she would like to propose that the Board approve two calendars for next year and the year after so that the district is always a year ahead. It is much easier for planning and organizing and parents are very appreciative also. Both years are similar. The 2010-2011 school year for student starts on a Monday and the 2011-2012 school year starts on a Tuesday. The school years without snow days end on a Tuesday and Wednesday respectively. The school year 2011-2012 is a Leap Year. Dr. Golden noted that Mr. Coolican affirmed that the earlier start the better but that also would East Hampton ever consider combining February and April vacations into March?

Mr. Laraia noted that if East Hampton is going to start before Labor Day then let's stick with that.

Ms. Wall questioned whether April Vacation could be the week of Good Friday. She also questioned whether starting before Labor Day would cause problems for orientation? Dr. Golden noted that she would look into whether April Vacation could be moved to the week of Good Friday. She also noted that Advanced Placement exams begin the first week of May and field trips are also scheduled.

12.2 East Hampton Middle School Improvement plan

12.2.1 Motion by Mr. Laraia, seconded by Ms. Barmasse, to approve the School Improvement Plan developed for the 2009-2010 school year by East Hampton Middle School. Voted unanimously.

13. Future Business - None

14. Personnel Actions

14.1 To grant Robin Wilks' request for a disability leave commencing on approximately April 1, 2010 through approximately six weeks after the delivery of the baby; and an extended child rearing leave commencing on approximately May 13, 2010 through the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

14.2 To grant Kathryn Cote's request for a disability leave commencing on approximately April 22, 2010 through approximately six weeks after the delivery of the baby; and an extended child rearing leave commencing on approximately June 3, 2010 through the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

14. Goal Report

14.1 Goal 1 - Dr. Golden noted that she and Mrs. Barmasse met with Wayne and Annie Sweeney to arrange for them to facilitate the development of the vision as the foundation for strategic planning. The administration will be reviewing the community conversation list and ensuring that there is a diverse and wide ranging representation of the community in the thirty people who will take part. Dr. Golden noted that she hopes to bring the vision to the Board with a recommendation in March.

Goal 2 - The facilities work has been at a standstill but Dr. Golden expects things will begin to move forward now that the elections are over. The Memorial School roof is in the hands of the town manager who has asked Mr. Jylkka to work on the bonding. The project is ready to move forward whenever they are ready.

Goal 3 - Tonight the administration did a lot of talking about continuous student achievement – it is all tied together systemically.

Goal 4 – The administration is currently exploring options for the new budget in terms of refreshing the middle school according to the plan with another smaller lease and for another COW for the high school since the one they have is at maximum use every day. Already, teachers are asking when we are going to order more Smart Boards which means they are using them and word is spreading.

Ms. Robinson asked how often the Board reviews their goals. Now that the Board has new members perhaps it would be a good time to review the goals in the spring.

Dr. Golden stated that there will be a new Vision in January/February so the Board can review the goals in the spring.

15. Audience of Citizens - None

16. Adjournment

16.1 Motion by Ms. Barmasse, seconded by Ms. Wall, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Barmasse
Secretary

JB/JAG/RS