

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

MINUTES: November 9, 2009

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

Members present: Mr. Vasquezna, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Hurst, Mr. Laraia, Mr. Coolican, Ms. Barmasse, Ms. Wall, Ms. Pessoni and Mr. Gemma

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

East Hampton High School Student Council Representative: Walid Ahmad

East Hampton Middle School Student Council Representative: Sara Dickerman

Center Elementary School Student Council Representative: Abby Conklin

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Inter-Board Liaisons - None
4. Audience of Citizens - None
5. Consent Agenda
 - 5.1 October 26, 2009 Minutes
 - 5.2 Childrearing Leave

Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote Yes – Mr. Vasquezna, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Laraia, Mr. Coolican, Ms. Barmasse, Ms. Wall, Ms. Pessoni and Mr. Gemma

Abstain – Mr. Hurst

Motion carried.

6. Student/Staff Recognition
 - 6.1 Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

- 6.1.1 Mr. Vasquenza noted that this is the last Board meeting for Ms. Pessoni and Mr. Hurst. He thanked them both for their hard work and dedication while on the Board and presented them with a token of appreciation.

Mr. Hurst noted that he spent a lot of time reflecting on his eight years of service on the Board of Education. He stated, "We've persevered and excelled." There have been many changes. He noted that it's been a great adventure and he enjoyed his time while serving on the Board of Education.

Ms. Pessoni noted that she enjoyed serving on the Board of Education and working with everyone. She thanked Mr. Vasquenza for including everyone in discussions, listening and ensuring that there were not partisan divides on the Board.

The Board took a brief recess at 7:05 p.m. for refreshments to honor the two departing Board members.

The Board reconvened at 7:17 p.m.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Student Council

7.1.1 Abby Conklin, Student Council Representative for Center Elementary School reported the following:

- Hello. My name is Abby Conklin and I am a fifth grader in Mrs. Vrooman's class at Center School. This year I serve as President of the Student Council. Our other officers are Emma Cook, Vice President, Thomas Close, Secretary, and Hunter Brazal, Treasurer.
- Keeping in mind our school rules of Kindness, Respect and Responsibility we have already begun to organize our community service projects. During the month of October we participated in a food drive for the East Hampton food bank. Each classroom was assigned items to bring in, and many things were collected. This project was sponsored by Mrs. Cote's classroom and the Student Council. A parent volunteer, Mrs. Baker, arranged for pickup and delivery of all the food to the food bank. Student Council members are also signing up to work with their families as food bank helpers for the holidays.
- Our first spirit day is planned for tomorrow, the day before Veteran's Day. It will be a red, white and blue day, and we hope all students will show their spirit and wear these colors. We will continue to plan school spirit days throughout the year.
- In October fifth grade classes traveled to the Pequot Museum for a field study. This trip goes along with our study of Native Americans, and helps us really understand what tribal life was like. Students and teachers agreed it was a great trip, and our behavior was terrific.
- The Center School Press has also begun meeting. Many kids have joined this year and it is a full house in room 208 on Friday mornings. The school newspaper comes out three times a year, and has student articles, poems, illustrations and interviews. Watch for our first issue.
- Fifth grade band began practicing the second week of school. The fifth grade band has 68 members. I am in the band and play the clarinet. Fourth graders interested in

learning an instrument signed up, gotten their instruments, and have begun lessons during the month of October. There are 75 members in the fourth grade beginner band. Both fourth and fifth grade chorus rehearsals have started, and can be heard singing enthusiastically on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Our first concert will be December 16th in the High School auditorium.

- The year is off to a great start. Thank you for letting me share some of our activities with you.

7.1.2 Sara Dickerman, Student Council Representative for East Hampton Middle School reported the following:

- Mrs. Nosal has continued to bring in experts from the community for her “Meet Them Monday” programs. Conservationist Allen Petell was the most recent presenter; he brought in a black bear pelt to help illustrate his account of bear activity in Connecticut. Nutmeg Book Chats have also been held, during student lunch waves, discussing various books that have been nominated for the Nutmeg Book Award.
- The soccer and cross-country teams had very successful seasons, with winning records across the board, as well as victories over teams who often beat our teams.
- Due to the flu outbreak, the Student Council Sixth Grade Halloween Bash was cancelled, but it has been replaced with another activity for 6th graders. This will happen on December 3, the day before our first 7th and 8th grade dance.
- The block schedule continues to run smoothly; teachers report that the longer periods are allowing for deeper discussion, more hands-on activities, and greater student learning. Students are enjoying the fact that they often have less homework every night.
- 75 students from the different grades were recognized at a recent pizza luncheon for meeting the Governor’s Reading Challenge; each of those students read at least ten books during the summer.
- 30 students and 4 adults took part in a six-mile bicycle tour along the Airline Trail.
- Vinal Technical High School and Middletown High School’s Vocational-Agricultural department both came and gave presentations to students in preparation for student applications to those high school programs.

7.1.3 Walid Ahmad, Student Council Representative for East Hampton High School reported the following:

- The girls’ volleyball team unfortunately lost to Morgan on Saturday 3-0 for the Shoreline championship. However, they are still ranked 3rd in the state, and they will not let this loss hinder their dedication in the state tournament. Having received a bye for the first round, their first states game will be tomorrow at 5:00, in which we wish them the best.
- Though the girls’ soccer season has officially ended, the progress they have made this year, especially with the host of younger players, will carry over to next season. Returning players are anxious to train in the off season and make the team a threat next year.
- The boys’ soccer team lost in the Semi-finals of the Shoreline Conference tournament last week against Old Lyme. Yet, being ranked 8th in the State, they play Morgan in their first-round game tomorrow at 2:00. We wish them luck in this game, since their favorable bracket gives them a realistic shot at the state title.

- Interact Club has begun mobilizing; forming committees for winter events, such as the annual sponsoring of Breakfast with Santa and ABC Women's Shelter.
- The annual flag football tournament kicked off this week, with a range of teams competing for the coveted title of school champs. These teams can be composed of any combination of players from all grades, and even the teachers get in on the fun. Hopefully this intramural season will be just as enjoyable and competitive as in past years.

7.2 Personnel Committee

7.2.1 Mr. Hurst had no report at this time.

7.3 Policy Committee

7.3.1 Ms. Robinson noted that there are two policies on tonight's agenda for approval.

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 had no report at this time.

7.6 Financial Reports

7.6.1 Ms. Pessoni noted that the Finance Committee hasn't met. Dr. Golden noted that we anticipate a \$30,000 deficit in Special Education Professional Technical Account although this is encumbered and she is not sure where it will end up because some of it is for future services such as evaluations. She stated that she anticipates \$20,000 deficits in legal services due to arbitration and completion of negotiations from July through September. With the tuition account \$450,000 was budgeted for excess cost anticipating a 90% reimbursement. The SDE notified the Superintendent that the school district will receive only 70%. Mr. Reas will be receiving exact numbers in the next month but it is expected that the actual reimbursement will be around \$360,000. Also, she reminded them that there is one new tuition in that amount which is being applied to the IDEA grant but the transfer has not been made. She noted that in the building equipment and maintenance repair account Board members may have noticed that this account is almost completely expended. She stated that they are keeping an eye on this because there is still a long way to go in the school year. She further noted that the buildings are old and the mechanics are very old as well. The district has experienced more malfunctions than usual so far this year.

7.7 East Hampton Education Association – None

7.8 Liaison Reports - None

8. Communications

8.1 Dr. Golden reviewed the student enrollment figures as of November 2, 2009.

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

- An updated 2009-2010 List of Presentations.
- The Middlesex Consortium in partnership with Ivy Bound/Rising Start, Helping students enhance their academic futures.
- The Middle ground, October 2009.
- The Center School Chronicle, October 23, 2009 and October 30, 2009.
- Dr. Golden noted that in response to Ms. Bliss' question regarding the advertisement – Ivy Bound: The district belongs to a consortium of seven school districts to which all

contribute. This is one of the services the districts were able to offer students at a great reduction as a part of this consortium. She noted that the usual price is \$550 but consortium students only pay \$250. Donna Finkelstein is the coordinator for the many activities and services provided through our consortium. She planned and implemented the diversity conference which took place two weeks ago, the career fair, and professional development experiences for teachers.

9. Program Presentation

9.1 The 2008-2009 Final Strategic School Profiles

9.1.1 Dr. Golden noted that the Strategic School Profiles provides the district with an excellent opportunity for staff and students to inform the community how the schools are doing both districtwide and in the schools and to share the most important accomplishments with the Board as well as plans for improvement. The Strategic School Profiles provides comparative data to the State which can help in planning the future. A discussion followed.

10. Unfinished Business

10.1 Policy 5125, Student Records; Confidentiality (Second Reading)

10.1.1 Motion by Mr. Laraia, seconded by Ms. Robinson, to approve Board of Education Policy 5125 based on the recommendation of the Board of Education Policy Committee and the administration. A discussion followed.

Dr. Golden noted that there was a question from Mrs. Wall regarding the 45 days to provide records. She explained that this is a direct quote from the statute which the attorney says should be there to meet the requirement of the statute. She assured the Board that obviously, the administration does and will continue to do far better than that in providing materials to parents.

Vote Yes – Mr. Vasquenza, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Hurst, Mr. Laraia, Mr. Coolican, Ms. Barmasse, Ms. Pessoni and Mr. Gemma

Vote No – Ms. Wall

Motion carried.

10.2 Policy 5141.21, Administering Medications (Second Reading)

10.2.1 Motion by Mr. Hurst, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to approve Board of Education Policy 5141.21 based on the recommendation of the Board of Education Policy Committee and the Administration. Discussion followed.

Dr. Golden noted that there was a question about the section which deals with parent requests for medical assistance on field trips. It is important to note that this was the old policy as well and not part of the changes brought forward by the policy committee. Dr. Golden spoke with the principals and they said it is not a problem. The statute has required that we accommodate these requests if we receive them. We do not receive very many. All coaches are trained and on the rare occasion schools get such a request, they either send a nurse or more often, the parent accompanies the child to take care of medical needs.

Voted unanimously.

11. New Business - None

12. Future Business - None

13. Personnel Actions

13.1 Board approval is requested to grant Stacey Vasquez's request for a disability leave commencing on approximately February 2, 2010 through approximately six weeks after the delivery of the baby.

14. Goal Report - None

15. Audience of Citizens - None

16. Adjournment

16.1 Motion by Mr. Hurst, seconded by Ms. Pessoni, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Barmasse
Secretary

JB/JAG/RS