

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

**MINUTES: February 22, 2010**

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Mr. Vasquenza, at 6:30 p.m. in the East Hampton High School Library/Media Center.
  
2. Motion by Mr. Laraia, seconded by Mr. Coolican, to enter Executive Session in the High School Library/Media Center at 6:31 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Voted unanimously.

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

- 2.1 Motion by Mr. Coolican, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to leave Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. Voted unanimously.

- 2.2 The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by the Chairperson, Mr. Vasquenza, at 7:05 p.m. in the 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  
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

3. Pledge of Allegiance
  
4. Inter-Board Liaisons - None
  
5. Audience of Citizens

- 5.1 Ms. Amy Meisler, 60 North Maple Street, noted that she received an email noting possible teacher cuts. She encouraged the Board to look for other ways to save money other than teacher elimination.

Dr. Maureen Ryan, Assistant Principal of Memorial Elementary School, noted that several teachers approached her and commented on how Dr. Golden personally delivered each letter to all non-tenured teachers and how much she truly cares about her staff.

Mr. William Dinunzio, 40 Spice Hill, noted that he is concerned about the possibility of laying off teachers. His daughter attends Memorial School and he is amazed how well East Hampton has educated her.

Mr. Coolican made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to add personnel actions 14.1 and 14.2 to the agenda. Voted unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 February 8, 2010 Minutes

6.2 February 8, 2010 Budget Workshop Minutes

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

Vote Yes – Mr. Vasquezna, Mr. Piteo, Mr. Laraia, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Gemma, Ms. Wall,

Ms. Barmasse and Ms. Lane

Abstain – Mr. Coolican

Motion carried.

7. Student/Staff Recognition - None

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Student Council

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

- The boy's basketball team won in a tight game, 40-37 against Westbrook last Wednesday on their Senior Night. Unfortunately they lost to North Branford on Friday. They are playing at Old Saybrook tonight.
- The Indoor track State Open was held this past weekend, bringing to a definitive end a very successful season. One of the few elite athletes competing at the State Open, Nate Abraham placed 8<sup>th</sup> in pole vault. In actuality he placed 5<sup>th</sup> with a height of 12'6" but because of a fault on his first jump, he was moved down to 8<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to him and the rest of the indoor track team on an enjoyable and dedicated season.
- The EHHS Winter Carnival for Haiti will be held this Friday, from 5-8. There will be activities for kids from Pre-k to 5th grade - including cookie decorating, life-sized candy land, an obstacle course, and many more. It is \$5 per person, with a \$25 maximum per family. Food will be available for an

additional cost and Haitian goods from Haiti's Back Porch will also be available for purchase. Afterwards, there will be a concert featuring local musicians for high school students. All money raised will be donated to Haiti. Our goal is to raise \$5000. We give thanks for all the support the community has already shown, and hope to see you at fantastic turnout.

## 8.2 Personnel Committee

- 8.2.1 Mr. Coolican stated that the Personnel Committee met earlier and talks with bargaining groups are ongoing.

## 8.3 Policy Committee

- 8.3.1 Mr. Laraia noted that the Policy Committee will meet in March.

## 8.4 Curriculum Committee

- 8.4.1 Ms. Barmasse had no report at this time.

## 8.5 Transportation, Buildings and Grounds Committee

- 8.5.1 Mr. Gemma noted that the Transportation, Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met but reported the following:

The Finance Committee recommended to the Town Council that the Memorial School Roof and the Memorial School Underground Tank projects be funded with a bond that will be proposed to the community shortly.

The Town Council plans to vote to send the two projects to the Town for a vote and plans to appoint a building committee for each of the projects listed above tomorrow night.

The Capital Improvement committee met last Tuesday and approved the Town Managers Capital Plan. The plan is attached. You will note that the Board of Education did quite well. If budgeted in its entirety, the Board of Education will receive a greater share of the funds than any other department.

## 8.6 Financial Reports

- 8.6.1 Ms. Robinson noted that the Finance Committee met prior to tonight's meeting and discussed the budget.

## 8.7 East Hampton Education Association – None

## 8.8 Liaison Reports

- 8.8.1 Mr. Vasquenza noted that there is a Tri-Board meeting on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School.

## 9. Communications

- 9.1 Dr. Golden reviewed the following communications for the Board:
- The Center School Chronicle, February 11, 2010 and February 5, 2010.
  - The Board & Administrator for School Board Members, February 2010.
  - News & Notes, February 12, 2010
  - East Hampton High School Newsletter, February 4, 2010.

- Memorial's Bulletin Board, February 5, 2010.
- The Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

10. Program Presentation - None

11. Unfinished Business

11.1 Proposed 2010-11 Budget

11.1.1 Mr. Vasquenza noted that he is not an economist, nor a financial planner. He is not the Chairman of the Board of Finance, nor the Town Council. What he is is the Chairman of the East Hampton Board of Education, and as such represents, and advocates for, a quality education system for the approximate 2,000 students in our schools.

He understands the realities of the current fiscal situation, but he also clearly understands that we get one chance to educate our young people. He will continue to advocate for a strong educational system and proper education funding. He offers to the other elected officials in East Hampton to perform the duties we were all elected to do, and that is put forward a budget that represents the funding we as a town need to provide quality and consistent services to our citizens, and not engage in just trying to put forward a budget that we think will pass. Mr. Vasquenza then reviewed the budget process for the Board.

11.1.2 Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Barmasse, to approve the 2010-2011 Board of Education budget at a 3.88% increase. A discussion followed.

Mr. Coolican noted that he will vote against this budget because the increase is double what was approved last year.

Ms. Wall noted that she feels the Board has to make cuts somewhere.

Mr. Piteo noted that the Board of Education should make cuts before sending it on.

Ms. Robinson noted that it's not about a budget but about what the school administrators are telling the Board that they need.

Ms. Lane noted that she agrees with Ms. Robinson and that the Board of Education is elected to provide for the school system.

Mr. Laraia noted that the Board must do what is best for the school system. If the town makes cuts to the Board of Education budget then we will have to deal with it. The Board of Education needs to put it out there what will happen with budget cuts.

Ms. Barmasse noted that every year the Board scrutinizes the budget and this year is the same. The Board of Education represents the students and

wants a quality school system. A 3.88% increase is where she thinks the budget should be and she doesn't want to move backwards.

Mr. Gemma noted that he will vote in favor of the proposed budget. The Board is an advocate for education and he believes a lower budget would hurt education. The Board isn't improving education with this budget but simply maintaining it.

Vote Yes – Mr. Vasquezna, Mr. Laraia, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Gemma, Ms. Barmasse  
and Ms. Lane

Vote No – Mr. Coolican, Mr. Piteo and Ms. Wall

Motion carried.

Dr. Golden noted that she hand delivered twenty eight letters to non-tenured teachers. This is a requirement that all non tenured teachers be notified prior to March. She stated that the school system has tried to avoid this situation. The Board approved this budget that doesn't include layoffs but she added that it is unknown what will happen with the town. She stated that it is extremely unlikely that all of those teachers will lose their jobs.

Mr. Coolican noted that it is actually a law that non tenured teachers must be notified prior to March.

12. New Business - None

13. Future Business – None

14. Personnel Actions

14.1 Motion by Mr. Coolican, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to move that the Board of Education decline to renew the teacher contracts of the non-tenured teachers discussed in executive session for the 2010-2011 school year due to job elimination as a result of budget constraints. Voted unanimously.

14.2 Motion by Mr. Coolican, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to accept the Memo of Understanding with the Administrators Union and the Board of Education for three furlough days. Voted unanimously.

15. Goal Report - None

16. Audience of Citizens

16.1 Ms. Sharon Kjellquist noted that she is concerned with a 3.88% budget increase being passed on to the town. She also congratulated the Administrator bargaining group for agreeing to concessions.

Ms. Judy Isele noted that it sounds like people were alarmed with possible layoffs. It is important to communicate the whole story. She applauded the Administrators for their concessions.

Ms. Terry Schramm, 11 Emerson Road, stated that she's been a taxpayer in East Hampton for twenty six years and she would support this budget.

Mr. William Dinunzio, 40 Spice Hill, thanked the Administrators for their concessions.

Ms. Tasha Gawkowski noted that she is a student at the High School. Classes are already over crowded and budget cuts would mean larger class sizes and possible loss of electives. All of this could impact students chances of getting into a good college.

Mr. Vasquenza encouraged everyone to stay active in the budget process and to contact the Superintendent or a Board member if you hear something that you're not sure of.

17. Adjournment

17.1 Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Barmasse, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Wall  
Secretary

SW/JAG/RS