

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

**MINUTES: March 22, 2010**

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. Piteo, Mr. Laraia, Mr. Coolican, Ms. Barmasse, Ms. Wall, Ms. Lane 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. 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

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Inter-Board Liaisons – None

Ms. Robinson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to add agenda item 10.2, Acceptance of revised letter to forward to Town Council regarding EHEA contract. Voted unanimously.

4. Audience of Citizens - None
5. Consent Agenda
  - 5.1 March 8, 2010 Minutes
  - 5.2 March 15, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes
  - 5.3 Childrearing (Leave as stated in 13.1)

Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to approve the revised minutes as discussed. Voted unanimously.

6. Student/Staff Recognition
  - 6.1 Dr. Golden noted that on February 4<sup>th</sup>, Center Elementary School presented its annual Invention Convention. The Invention Convention provides students a unique opportunity to be creative, original thinkers. Students who took part chose to do so, and attended early morning sessions in January to prepare for the event. Faculty advisors work with the students during the month of January to help them be fully prepared. They also plan and oversee the Invention Convention. Mrs. Kate Cote, Mrs. Sandra Warshaw, Mrs. Elaine Lukas, and Mr. Jon Baine serve as advisors. Each year ten finalists are chosen to attend the State Invention Convention held at Gampel Pavilion at UCONN in May.

## 7. Committee Reports

### 7.1 Student Council

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

- The blood drive was held on last Tuesday, producing phenomenal results. Student involvement and participation allowed us to exceed our goal in the amount of blood collected, totaling to 52 pints.
- The NHS sponsored walleyball tournament was held last Wednesday, proving to be even more competitive than in the past. The games in the last two rounds lasted for around an hour, and the team "From Poland with Love" left victorious.
- Spring sports officially started today, even though most teams did not make it outside due to the unfriendly conditions. We look forward to promising seasons from all teams as soon as the weather clears up.
- The drama club hosted its production, 10x10, this past weekend. It proved to be an entertaining display of short scenes in which the actors demonstrated their talents and abilities.

### 7.2 Personnel Committee

7.2.1 Ms. Robinson noted that the Board of Education is sending a letter to the Town Council regarding the EHEA contract.

### 7.3 Policy Committee

7.3.1 Mr. Laraia had no report at this time.

### 7.4 Curriculum Committee

7.4.1 Ms. Barmasse noted that the Curriculum Committee met this afternoon and reviewed the importance of play for the education and social development of young children. Mr. Vasquenza suggested after a few minutes of discussion that this topic be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

### 7.5 Transportation, Buildings and Grounds Committee

7.5.1 Mr. Gemma noted that the Transportation, Buildings and Grounds Committee met and reviewed the Conservation Plan, the Green Chemical Law, the Standardization of Cleaning Procedures and the Discharge of Wastewater Regulation.

### 7.6 Financial Reports - None

### 7.7 East Hampton Education Association – None

### 7.8 Liaison Reports

7.8.1 Ms. Robinson noted that the Board of Finance met March 15<sup>th</sup> to begin budget deliberations.

## 8. Communications

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

- The Center School Chronicle, March 12, 2010 and March 5, 2010.
- Memorial's Bulletin Board, March 12, 2010. January 22, 2010.
- The New Bellringer, March 2010.
- A letter from Mr. Charles Nichols regarding the recent bussing issues.

## 9. Program Presentation

9.1 Dr. Golden noted that the district received over \$400,000 in ARRA Stimulus funds under IDEA part B which is Special Education. The administration determined that the best use of a large portion of this money was to provide comprehensive training in the teaching of reading/writing for teachers so that at the end of two years, the district would have teachers who were highly trained in the teaching of reading to our children. Ms. LuAnn Hardacker gave the Board a brief overview of the progress of the program and answered questions from the Board.

10. Unfinished Business

10.1 Report to Board of Education on Vehicle Inspection Issues

10.1.1 Dr. Golden noted that the issue of bus inspections has caused quite a controversy across the state due to the article in the Hartford Courant on March 7. Since that time two weeks ago, Central Office has been very proactive in responding to the situation.

It is important for the public to realize that no Board of Education or their administration expects to have to review and oversee the inspection of vehicles of a contracted bus company. Most, including this Board, do not have the resources or expertise to do so on an ongoing basis. Boards of Education expect that the inspection process through the Department of Motor Vehicles is thorough and we rely on their expertise to ensure that all vehicles are safe and have no violations. But, the DMV does the inspections, take a bus out of service and in most cases does not return to do a follow up inspection. They accept the signed form from the bus contractor that the violation was taken care of and then they sign off sight unseen. I am not implying that the DMV is not fulfilling their responsibility, merely painting a picture of how the district has come to this point. With only nine inspectors, one can understand why the DMV would be unable to follow up on their work which is unfortunate.

One of our tasks was to put together a comprehensive picture of the inspections of vehicles over the past three years. We have reviewed every report on every bus that carries East Hampton children. Dr. Golden noted that she sent a letter to Mr. Nichols regarding violations of the contract. He understands this and has taken many proactive steps to address our concerns already. Mr. Nichols signed an agreement agreeing to reimburse the Board of Education for the cost of an independent inspector who will follow up on inspections of the vehicles. Mr. Nichols has been extremely helpful in identifying and providing information on all of the vehicles and is committed to continuing to work with us to assure the safety of the children. A discussion followed.

10.2 Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to accept the revised letter to be forwarded to the Town Council regarding the EHEA contract. Voted unanimously.

11. New Business - None

12. Future Business - None

13. Personnel Actions

13.1 To grant Jamie Sullivan's request for a disability leave commencing on approximately April 16, 2010 through approximately six weeks after the delivery of the baby.

14. Goal Report - None

15. Audience of Citizens

15.1 Ms. Lori Weech, Cone Road, stated that she is a bus driver for Nichols Bus and doesn't feel that everyone should have a copy of her drug test and personal information. This is personal information and it should not be shared. She also stated that seat belts on school buses are not practical.

Ms. Fran Klein of Belview Street, commended the staff on the good report on IDEA. She had a list of questions. Mr. Vasquenza instructed Ms. Klein to forward her list of questions to Dr. Golden and they will be answered.

Mr. Jim Berg suggested that the 3<sup>rd</sup> party being hired to oversee the bus violations shouldn't only be inspecting violations but all buses.

Ms. Kathy Basil questioned why East Hampton has a bus driver that is 82 years old.

Mr. Kyle Doslar stated that the bus issues are being addressed properly by the administration.

16. Adjournment

16.1 Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Wall  
Secretary

SW/JAG/RS