

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

**MINUTES: April 26, 2010**

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Mr. Vasquenza, at 5:30 p.m. in the East Hampton High School Library/Media Center.

Members present: Mr. Vasquenza, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Laraia, Mr. Coolican (arrived at 5:40 p.m.), Ms. Wall, Ms. Lane and Mr. Gemma

Members absent: Ms. Barmasse and Mr. Piteo

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 Middle School Student Council Representative: Sara Dickerman  
Center Elementary School Student Council Representative: Thomas Close  
Memorial Elementary School Student Representatives: Jared Thomas and Katie Nikolov

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Inter-Board Liaisons - None
4. Audience of Citizens - None
5. Consent Agenda
  - 5.1 April 1, 2010 Minutes
  - 5.2 April 5, 2010 Minutes

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

6. Student/Staff Recognition - None
7. Committee Reports
  - 7.1 Student Council
    - 7.1.1 Jared Thomas and Katie Nikolov, Student Representatives for Memorial Elementary School reported the following:

We took the CMTs at the beginning of March. We both thought it was easy. We did many things to get ready for the CMTs. We had a non fiction Reading Frenzy and at

the end we had an evening where we did activities that had to do with non-fiction books and we had a chance of earning a prize. Katie won the Perfection game.

We both enjoyed the Brain Show. It was loud and funny and we both won when we were on stage answering questions and dancing. The PTO had the Brain Show the Monday before we took the CMTs. It was fun. Our teacher also gave a special treat after every test we took. It made taking the test exciting for us.

Over the past month all of third grade has been learning about the African continent. The last Friday in March we had Africa Day. I was with different children from each of the classrooms. We went to centers and did an African activity. In one class we learned about what it was like to live in Africa as a young person. In another class we made rain sticks from cardboard tubes. We are now doing research on animals in Africa.

We both like math, especially multiplication. Katie said multiplication is a quick way to do repeated math. I like basketball when I have gym and I really enjoy reading many different types of books, such as Gregor the Over Lander and Shadow Children series. Mrs. Hill, the librarian reads us stories and we enjoy that.

I too enjoy reading. My favorite books are from the series, Little House on the Prairie. And my favorite special is gym because I like to run. And I like soccer because you get to run a lot. Many of my friends don't run when we play soccer, but I do.

We think Memorial School is a great place to learn and have fun!!☺

7.1.2 Thomas Close, Student Council Representative for Center Elementary School reported the following:

Hi. My name is Thomas Close and this year I am the Student Council Secretary. I am in fourth grade in Mrs. Nichols' class.

This year the Student Council has sponsored many community service projects. In February, we held a "Crayons for Cancer" drive. We collected used crayons for Connecticut Children's Medical Center. They use the funds for their Family Fund. This fund supports such things as daily parking for families, needed meals, and also Treasure Chest prizes for young patients.

In March we sponsored "Hats for Haiti". For a dollar donation, you bought a pass to wear a hat for the day. We raised \$264 for Save the Children to support the survivors of the January earthquake in Haiti.

This month we are holding a "CATALES" drive. Catales is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of homeless cats and kittens. We are collecting cat toys, cat and kitten food, and needed supplies.

There are other events happening at Center School. Last week we had the Center School chorus/play production "Bebop with Aesop." It was a terrific play, with performances both Thursday and Friday evening. On Thursday morning third graders came from Memorial School to see the play. On Friday morning we had visitors from Wintergreen School come. They were members of the fourth grade band. They saw the play, spent some time in fourth grade classrooms, and then played music selections with our own fourth grade band members.

The salmon eggs in our tank have hatched into alevin. We are carefully monitoring them. Soon, they will reach the fry stage, which is when we will release them. Right now, release is set for May 3<sup>rd</sup> into the Salmon River.

Lastly, we held another school spirit day last week. On Wednesday, we had a mismatch day where students could mix up their clothing items. It was lots of fun for all who joined in.

I hope you enjoyed hearing about what's happening at Center School. Thank you for letting me share our news.

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

- The student council's Pennies for Patients drive resulted in a donation of \$3200 to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to help in their programs for patients with blood-borne cancers. Christianna Ward, the Pennies for Patients campaign coordinator, came to the middle school last week to accept our check, and also was interviewed on PantherPostLive, our morning news broadcast.
- The drama club is getting started with its preparations for the spring musical. More than 60 students are participating in the show, which will open the first weekend in June.
- The baseball and softball teams started their seasons with wins last Friday, and have high hopes for the rest of the season.
- The middle school chorus will be singing at the Connecticut State House this Wednesday, singing the National Anthem to open the legislative session. 74 students will be touring the state house prior to their performance.
- The "Live in the Library" program continues at EHMS, with various speakers coming in to talk to students about what they do. A husband and wife scuba diving team will be coming in next week, and Mr. Mannes, one of our school counselors, brought in his guitars and did a performance and talk with a group a few weeks ago.
- Open Rec Day, celebrated after the end of the CMTs, brought two hours of activities, games, and contests to EHMS. Students celebrated their efforts on the tests by playing basketball, competing at Dance Dance Revolution, and making greeting cards for service members, among the twenty different activity choices.
- This Friday and Saturday, two bike trips will take place on the Airline Trail, led by Mr. Fidler and EHMS staff. Students will strap on their helmets and hit the trail for what has become an EHMS tradition.

## 7.2 Personnel Committee

7.2.1 Mr. Coolican had no report at this time.

## 7.3 Policy Committee

7.3.1 Mr. Laraia had no report at this time.

## 7.4 Curriculum Committee

7.4.1 Mr. Reich noted that the Curriculum Committee met April 19<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the Connecticut Accountability Learning Initiative \*(CALI) presentation by Dr. Gasper, the Summer School updates they prepared responses to Mr. Piteo's questions regarding the Importance of Play for the Education and Social Development of Young Children.

## 7.5 Transportation, Buildings and Grounds Committee

- 7.5.1 Mr. Gemma noted that the Transportation, Buildings and Grounds Committee met April 19<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the Nichols Bus Third Party Inspections and the High School Renovation Project.

## 7.6 Financial Reports

- 7.6.1 Ms. Robinson had no report at this time.

## 7.7 East Hampton Education Association – None

## 7.8 Liaison Reports

- 7.8.1 Mr. Vasquenza noted that he attended a meeting discussing the Charter revision process, the process for filling board vacancies and term limits. A discussion followed.

- 7.8.2 Ms. Robinson noted that the Public Relations Sub Committee is actively trying to get the word out about the budget and encouraging people to vote.

## 8. Communications

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

- The letter of transmittal to the town manager of the teachers' contract
- The Board & Administrator for School Board Members, April 2010.
- The 2010-2011 Board of Education Meeting Schedule.
- A memo from Mr. Fidler regarding an Internet Safety Assembly (4-22-10).
- News & Notes, April 16, 2010.
- The East Hampton High School Newsletter, April 8, 2010.
- The Center School Chronicle, April 8, 2010 and April 2, 2010.
- Memorial's Bulletin Board, April 23, 2010, April 8, 2010 and April 1, 2010.
- Communications from the Superintendent's Desk, April 29, 2010.
- Dr. Golden noted that she attended the Center School play and it was wonderful. Kudos to Ms. Jukkola, Ms. Lane, Ms. Ashburner-Smith and all of the many volunteers.

## 9. Program Presentation - None

## 10. Unfinished Business

### 10.1 Discussion of the High School Renovation

- 10.1.1 Dr. Golden noted that there was conversation during the budget process regarding the boiler at the high school. This led the Transportation, Buildings and Grounds Committee to reconsider the option chosen by the Board. While NEASC is cited often as to why the renovation is needed, there are many other programmatic and infrastructure issues which need to be addressed as well.

Scheme 3 is the one the Board approved – to do the science rooms, an athletic complex and minor upgrades.

This is a \$16,078,425 project which after a 47.3% reimbursement would cost the town \$8,454,409.

There were two renovate as new proposals:

Scheme 2 for \$42,586,775 with a 47.3% reimbursement which would cost the town \$22,443,230 and Scheme 4 for \$40,742,737 with a 47.3% reimbursement which would cost the town \$21,599,132.

The difference between scheme 2 and 4 structurally is that scheme 2 moves the science facilities as in the less costly renovation and adds an athletic wing (not in a very good place but could be moved to the other end which would result in demolition of the two wings) and scheme 4 takes the existing footprint and renovates it as it is addressing those needs in the current footprint.

- 10.1.2 Motion by Mr. Gemma, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to forward a conceptual plan that renovates the High School as new to the Town Council for its consideration and review. A discussion followed.

It was the consensus of the Board to speak with Friar Associates and Mr. Grzyb to find out the impact of the boiler replacement.

- 10.1.3 Motion by Mr. Gemma, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to rescind the previous motion. Voted unanimously.

- 10.1.4 Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to table item 10.1.1. Voted unanimously.

## 11. New Business

### 11.1 Proposed List of 2010 High School Graduates

- 11.1.1 Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Lane, to approve the proposed list of 2009-2010 High School graduates. Voted unanimously.

### 11.2 Race to the Top Application

- 11.2.1 Dr. Golden noted that as Board members may remember, she mentioned she would be bringing the Race to the Top Application to the Board to consider signing on as a supporting LEA. As the agenda reporting form states, LEAs will eventually be asked to do these reforms anyway and if the state is unsuccessful in winning one of these awards, Dr. Golden stated that she suspects LEAs will still be asked to do these reforms as unfunded expectations. In fact, much of the work is being done already in the district. There will be a small amount of funding attached to this for East Hampton – around \$40,000 was what the district was told last time around - which would amount to about \$10,000. Dr. Golden stated that it makes sense that the Board would sign on so that if the state is successful, there would have a little bit of funding rather than no funding. The lack of buy in by LEAs and Unions was one of the major reasons Connecticut was scored lower on the rubric which was provided for the Board.

The core elements of the RTTT application are on the second page of the Commissioner's letter. It is beginning to look like in the reauthorization of ESEA or NCLB that national standards will be put into effect. From what the SDE can discern, the standards already in place will only need minor tweaking to align with the national standards. Likewise with assessment, many towns have been working on data systems and it would be a benefit to have a system state-wide that would be a repository and analysis tool for all of the school data. Great teachers and leaders is the most controversial aspect of the grant in that

incentives are hanging out there. And of course, the last category does not apply to the East Hampton school district.

Ms. Lane and Ms. Wall noted that they do not like the federal government reducing elective offerings. Mrs. Robinson also expressed her dislike of this kind of interference.

- 11.2.2 Motion by Mr. Coolican, seconded by Mr. Gemma, to approve a letter of commitment to join the Race to the Top. A discussion followed.

Vote Yes – Vasquenza, Mr. Coolican, Mr. Laraia and Mr. Gemma

Vote No – Ms. Robinson, Ms. Wall and Ms. Lane

Motion carried.

12. Future Business - None

13. Personnel Actions - None

14. Goal Report - None

15. Audience of Citizens - None

16. Adjournment

- 16.1 Motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Laraia, to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m.  
Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Wall  
Secretary

SW/JAG/RS