



**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
AGENDA REPORT**

Town Manager Approval: \_\_\_\_\_



Item to be presented by: Jeff Jylkka

DATE: March 23, 2010

SUBJECT: Set Town meeting date for the Memorial School Roof replacement and Memorial School underground oil tank replacement

DEPARTMENT: Finance

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RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends that Town Council approve the following resolution

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes the Chairman of the Town Council to call a Special Town Meeting to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010 in the auditorium at the East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple Street, in East Hampton, at 7:00 p.m., to act upon a resolution regarding the costs in connection with improvements to Memorial Elementary School consisting of the replacement of all or portions of the roof, removal and replacement of a fuel oil tank and related work.

BACKGROUND

The projects were approved at the Town Council's February 23, 2010 meeting.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

Change the meeting date.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
AGENDA REPORT**

Town Manager Approval: \_\_\_\_\_



Item presented by:

Jeffery J. O'Keefe

DATE: March 23, 2010

SUBJECT: Discussion with Superintendent of Schools concerning school busing issues and receipt of letter concerning East Hampton Education Association Contract.

DEPARTMENT: Town Managers Office

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RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discuss with Superintendent of Schools the recent school busing issues and receipt of letter (see attached) from the BOE concerning the East Hampton Education Association Contract.

BACKGROUND

At the March 9, 2010 council meeting members of the Town Council expressed concerns about the recent investigative report concerning the safety of our school buses in East Hampton.

The Town Manager was directed to draft a letter of concern to the Superintendent (see attached) inquiring as to the steps the school district was taking to address the concerns brought about by the investigative reporting.

The school district has taken these matters very seriously and has already sent a correspondence to parents addressing the steps they have taken (see attached correspondence to parents.)

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Judith Golden, has agreed to be present at this Town Council to discuss the steps they are taking to address school busing concerns.

In addition the Town Council is in receipt of a letter from the BOE (see attached) regarding the East Hampton Education Association Contract. Council is being asked to prepare a response to this letter.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

Other direction as determined by Town Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time.

AGENDA ITEM: \_\_\_\_\_



**Office of the Town Manager**  
*Town of East Hampton*  
*Connecticut 06424*

Jeffery J. O'Keefe  
Town Manager

Town Council  
Melissa H. Engel, Chairperson  
John W. Tuttle, Vice Chairman  
Thomas M. Cordeiro  
William G. Devine  
Christopher J. Goff  
Barbara W. Moore  
Susan B. Weintraub

March 10, 2010

Dr. Judith Golden, Superintendent of Schools  
Town of East Hampton  
94 Main Street  
East Hampton, CT 06424

Dear Dr. Golden:

At the March 9, 2010 council meeting I was directed by the Town Council to draft a formal letter to you inquiring about the ongoing school busing issues. Certainly, the recent articles in the Hartford Courant and the Middletown Press have brought to light concerns over school bus safety and the bus contractor's maintenance practices.

Council members are getting inquiries from concerned parents about the safety of their children on the school buses.

I was asked to seek a formal response from you concerning several things. If you would provide a formal written response to the following it would be very useful to the Council members to respond to constituency concerns.

1. Early in the school year a child was left on the bus, with no supervision, for a long period of time. What policies and procedures have been implemented to insure that doesn't happen again?
2. The recent investigative reporting has indicated that the Town's current bus contractor ranks third from the bottom on the list for "buses being put out of service" because of maintenance & safety related concerns. Has the school district investigated these findings and/or what are your plans to do so?
3. What is the school district's response to this investigative reporting? What has been the school bus contractor's response to these concerns?
4. What steps is the school district taking or what steps is the school bus contractor taking to raise their maintenance practice standards, to insure the safety of those students riding the buses?
5. Will the school district be considering hiring an outside (third party) mechanical expert maintenance auditor who specializes in auditing bus maintenance practices and inspections to inspect contractor buses on at least an annual basis? (I have some experience with these type auditors and could help with this).
6. What other steps is the school district taking in response to these or any other ongoing busing concerns?

A timely response from you would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Jeffery J. O'Keefe  
Town Manager

# Communications *From the Superintendent's Desk*



EAST HAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Volume II Issue 3

March 12, 2010

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Dear Parents/Families:

Last week there was a report on bus company inspection violations in the Hartford Courant. Nichols Bus Company was near the top of the list of companies with inspection violations on vehicles. Please be assured that we have taken this issue very seriously.

There were 115 vehicles owned by Nichols cited in the paper of which 42 are vehicles in service in East Hampton. We have collected the inspection reports on all of the vehicles used in East Hampton from 2006 until the most recent inspection and we are in the process of reviewing all of those.

The Assistant Superintendent and I met with Mr. Nichols, who is cooperating in every possible way, and we have required many actions from him to be assured that the buses are roadworthy each day. Mr. Nichols has assigned an employee to double check the daily inspections drivers are required to do such as cleaning the inner windshields, tightening the seat cushions and so on. I am also reviewing the bus contract with our attorney to ensure that all conditions have been and will continue to be met.

For your information, there are 9 DMV inspectors who must inspect over 13,000 vehicles in the state each year. Once an inspection is done and violations are listed, it is the responsibility of the bus company to make the repairs and sign off that they have been done. The form is then submitted to the DMV without re-inspecting the vehicles however the DMV has the authority to return at any time to re-inspect. Our goal is to hire an independent consultant who will ensure that all violations have been corrected following each inspection.

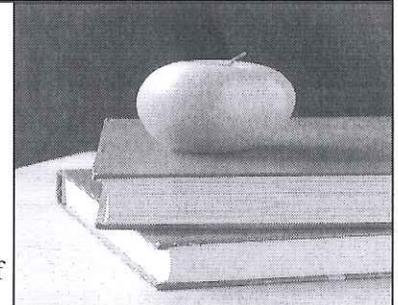
The Transportation, Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board of Education, the Board Chairperson, the Assistant Superintendent and myself will meet with Mr. Nichols and develop a plan of corrective action which will be presented to the Board of Education at the March 22, 2010 meeting.

It is not usually the job of Boards of Education to oversee the inspection of vehicles, however in this situation, we would be highly remiss if we did not spend the time and resources to do so while working with the bus company to take care of their responsibilities as well.

I want to assure you that we have reviewed every vehicle as of today including inspections that have occurred within the past two months and can say that there are no mechanical violations or issues on any of the buses in which East Hampton children ride at this time. We will continue to monitor this constantly and any vehicle which is not deemed safe will be removed from service.

Please know that your children's safety is of paramount concern to us and to the Board of Education and we will take every action necessary to ensure their safety.

Sincerely,  
Judith A. Golden, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



"EDUCATION IS THE WINDOW TO A CHILD'S FUTURE"

EDUCATE THE WHOLE CHILD. WE WANT ALL OUR CHILDREN TO BE:

- SAFE,
- HEALTHY,
- ENGAGED,
- SUPPORTED,
- CHALLENGED

## Talk With Me

**BLOG:**

<http://drjgolden.blogspot.com>

**EMAIL:**

[jgolden@easthamptonci.org](mailto:jgolden@easthamptonci.org)



**EAST HAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

94 Main Street  
East Hampton, Connecticut 06424-1119  
TELEPHONE (860) 365-4000  
FAX (860) 365-4004

**JUDITH A. GOLDEN, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**KEVIN M. REICH**  
Assistant Superintendent

**BRIAN S. REAS**  
Director of Support Services

**KAREN HITCHCOCK ASETTA**  
Business Services Coordinator

March 9, 2010

Town Council  
East Hampton Town Hall  
20 East High Street  
East Hampton, CT 06424

Re: East Hampton Education Association Contract

Dear Members of the Town Council:

As members of the Town Council may recall, a discussion regarding the above mentioned contract was held at the Tri-Board meeting of February 24, 2010. The Board of Education expressed to the Town Council the concern of the EHEA that they were reluctant to open their contract because it was required to be submitted to the Town Council who could request further changes and send it to arbitration. At that meeting, those Council members in attendance stated that they would accept any changes submitted by the Board of Education immediately with no changes. Mrs. Engel also stated they would be willing to put it in writing.

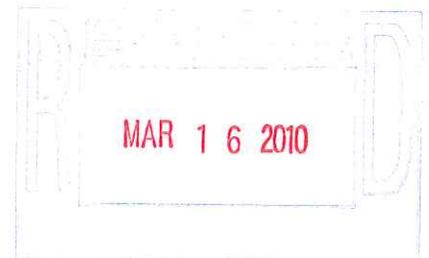
On March 8 at the regular Board of Education meeting, the Board voted on a formal request that the Town Council do as they stated they would. The Motion passed by the Board of Education is attached. This is a request that the Town Council pass a motion that states that they will accept the changes submitted by the Board of Education and that they will affirmatively vote on the contract changes at the meeting immediately following the submission of the contract by the Board of Education rather than leaving it open for 30 days.

We are hopeful that we will be successful in negotiating with the EHEA in the next several weeks and this decision by the Town Council could be an important factor in any decisions that are made.

The Board of Education thanks you in advance for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Michael Vasquenza, Chairman  
East Hampton Board of Education



**Nancy Hasselman, CCMC  
Collector of Revenue  
Town of East Hampton**

March 19, 2010

To: The East Hampton Town Council

Please find copies of tax refunds for your review. The total refunds equal \$4,072.49.

Thank you for your assistance.

*Nancy Hasselman, CCMC*

Nancy Hasselman, CCMC  
Collector of Revenue

9.46 +  
2,908.77 +  
132.93 +  
111.71 +  
294.29 +  
457.22 +  
158.11 +  
4,072.49 \*