

HAMDEN HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2009

The meeting of the Hamden Human Services Commission, Town of Hamden was held at the Hamden Government Center.

Attendance: D. Cofrancesco, B. Herman, P. Krafcik, L. Ranciato, and R. Weiss

Absent: P. Bevins, C. Quinn and W. Weeks

Guest: Fran Rabinowitz, Superintendent, Hamden Public Schools

Approval of Minutes: A Motion was made to Approve the Minutes of September 16, 2009 by Commissioner Cofrancesco and seconded by Commissioner Ranciato. The Vote was Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Guest: Fran Rabinowitz, Superintendent, Hamden Public Schools joined us this evening and spoke of Education in Hamden in the public school systems.

Ms. Rabinowitz spoke of receiving an award from the Hamden Chamber of Commerce. The award is the "Choice Award". The reception will be October 28, 2009.

Ms. Rabinowitz is very proud to be part of the Hamden Public School system. She enjoys the towns' diversity and the challenge to bring to a school. This year is her third (3rd) term as Superintendent. She attends a public school on a daily basis and she believes in "the basics" of education.

There are 6,100 students in the Hamden Schools. There are 83% of the population in public schools and 17% in private schools in Hamden.

Ms. Rabinowitz's goal in Hamden is the practices of a premiere school system. Every child being successful and ready for a workplace or a college education.

What needs to be taught is "good reading" skills. Also, she is working on learning and being proficient in a second language.

There are no more than 20-25 kids per classroom. There are 3 "open classroom" schools in Hamden and they are Ridge Hill, Shepard Glen and Westwoods.

Kindergarten teachers are requesting to have an aid in the classroom but due to funds this will not be processed.

Ms. Rabinowitz meets with the principals of each school twice a month. Once in a large group and once on an individual level.

A Student Advisory Committee and a Teacher Advisory Committee was just formed and these Committees will meet once a month and share the plan for their individual school. This Teacher Advisory Committee will be two (2) teachers from every school.

There is a full-time nurse in every school. was just in effect. This will help a great deal. And also a Teacher Advisory Committee that will all meet and share with them the plan for each individual school.

Ms. Rabinowitz mentions that the Hamden Public Schools are always looking for volunteers in Reading.

The cost per student is \$13,000 per year.

Special needs children do get a full degree.

The Hamden Human Services Commission thanked Ms. Rabinowitz for joining us this evening with much information.

CORRESPONDENCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

Sub-Committee Reports:

Youth Services: Commissioner Ranciato spoke about the “after school program” having 56 participants and 10 on a waiting list. There will be a Halloween Party for children on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 from 5:30-7:30 pm in the cafeteria at the Michael J. Whalen Activity Center.

Community Services: Commissioner Krafcik reported that Community Services is having trouble getting food from the Connecticut Food Bank due to transportation.

Elderly Services: Commissioner Quinn was not in attendance this evening.

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ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Krafcik made a Motion to Adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Weiss seconded the Motion. The Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 pm.

*The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, December 2, 2009.
The November/December meeting are combined. The meeting will
be held at the Hamden Government Center at 7:00 pm. If
members are unable to attend, please contact Donna Frandy,
Recording Secretary at 287-9388.*

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Frandy
Recording Secretary

***** PLEASE BRING CANNED FOOD TO THE NEXT MEETING *****