

Minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 25, 2010

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, HIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08520

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2010 7:30 p.m.

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a Regular meeting on Monday, October 25, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hightstown High School Cafeteria located at 25 Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ.

Members Present: Paul Connolly, Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer, Christine Harrington, Bob Laverty, Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul and Alice Weisman
Also Present: Dr. Edward Forsthoffer, Chief School Administrator
David Coates, Board legal counsel
Thaddeus Thompson, Assistant School Business Administrator
Absent: Kurt Stumbaugh, SBA/Board Secretary (with advance notice)

ITEM 1. WELCOME

Board President Alice Weisman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Act Statement as follows:

“Written advance notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with law. Minutes of this meeting are being kept by the Board Secretary and will be made available promptly to any member of the public requesting them from the Board Secretary at the Administration building 25A Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ. Minutes will be provided at cost and in accordance with Board policy.”

Ms. Weisman asked “Are there any Board members present who believe this meeting to be in violation of the Open Public Meeting Act?” No one objected. “There being none, we may proceed.”

Fire Code Compliance: Ms. Weisman made the following announcement: “In compliance with the fire code of the State of New Jersey, I call your attention to the emergency exit for this room, which is located.....” (Ms. Weisman pointed to the emergency exit.)

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 3.A APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Having read the material received, Mr. Laverty moved to approve the agenda.
On a roll call vote of the Board, motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM 3.B RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Laverty read the following resolution for Board approval:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District will hold a closed session during its regular meeting on October 25, 2010. This closed session concerns:
Personnel matters, Litigation, Contract matters, and Attorney /Client Privilege.

Minutes will be available in accordance with Board policy when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.
On a roll call vote of the Board, Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

ITEM 4. RECOGNITION OF JACK DUNN, HHS TEACHER OF AP U.S. HISTORY

Kevin Akey, Curriculum Supervisor, made the following presentation:

The Advanced Placement program at HHS gives our students the opportunity to complete college-level coursework for credit or advanced placement in college. To be successful in the U.S. History AP program, students must demonstrate analytical skills and master enduring understandings necessary to make informed judgments about concepts and problems in United States history.

The EWRSD Board of Education would like to recognize HHS history teacher Jack Dunn for his students' outstanding performance on the Advanced Placement U.S. History Exam. For the first time in HHS history, all students registered for the test achieved a score of four or five. The exam is scored on a scale of one through five where a score of three indicates that a student is qualified to receive college credit; a score of four indicates that a student is well-qualified to receive college credit; a score of five indicates that a student is extremely well-qualified. Nationally only 11% of students taking the AP U.S. history exam score five while 18.8% of students score a four.

This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to Mr. Dunn's professionalism, pedagogical skill and dedication to our students.

The Board commends and congratulates Mr. Dunn for his ongoing commitment to skill-based, rigorous instruction.

ITEM 5. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC HEARING ON VIOLENCE AND VANDALISM DATA 2009-10 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Forsthoffer began his presentation with an explanation of the reporting process. Each year every school district in NJ reports to the State any incidents they've had with respect to violence and vandalism. Reports from each of our six schools were transferred electronically to the State using a system called the EVVRS (Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System).

Dr. Forsthoffer compared the prior year's (08-09) numbers to last year's (09-10) numbers using a PowerPoint presentation. He explained the four major reporting categories: Violence, Vandalism, Weapons and Substance Abuse. He also noted that these reports give information about the offenders, victims and what actions were taken.

In the 2009-10 school year, the total number of incidents dropped from 102 to 75 for the four reporting categories.

Under acts of Violence, we had the most dramatic total decrease.

Under Vandalism (which includes such sub categories as burglary, property damage, arson), we also had a dramatic total decrease or zero incidents. There also was a decrease in out of school suspensions, as a result of fewer incidents. And with a decrease of incidents we have a decrease in the number of offenders and victims from the previous year.

Police notifications have increased and one reason for this is our continued vigilance to be responsive to all acts of violence and vandalism.

Under Weapons category, the District saw an increase in one area: possession of other weapon (other weapon is defined for example as: book, pen knife, cigarette lighter, scissors sharp pencil, razor).

Under Substance Abuse category, the District unfortunately saw an increase in use of alcohol and marijuana and one incident of student in possession of drug paraphernalia.

The District employs Student Assistance Counselors at the middle and high school who work with the students who have issues with substance abuse.

Dr. Forsthoffer stressed that we should never settle for anything that is greater than the number zero in all these categories. He noted that programs and interventions are in place at all grade levels to help achieve that goal. Schools are addressing issues early to try and keep future acts from occurring.

At the elementary level there is the "Value of the Month" program where ten values are highlighted throughout each month of the school year. In addition, student recognitions take place at monthly "Pride Ceremonies". We also have lessons given by the guidance counselors; the campfire safety program, and the "Puppets with a Mission Club" which gives a short presentation during each Pride assembly to enforce the anti-bullying effort, and the "Peacemaker of the Month" recognitions.

At the middle school, the present 7th grade attended an anti-bullying production last year. There was a school wide assembly which focused on respect, acceptance, and anti-bullying. The present 8th grade participated in a peer group anti-bullying program. In addition, the middle school students are recognized for "random acts of kindness". Guidance counselors visit each classroom and provide anti-bullying strategies to the students. We have student mediations that are conducted by our administration and our guidance counselors. Yearly themes for each grade level promote respect and responsibility. The 8th graders also conduct "NJ Courtesy" presentations. We have safeguards in place such as video cameras and campus security monitors at both the middle and high school. Students are made aware of the consequences and disciplinary measures for any infractions.

At the high school, we have seen more involvement of parents, and pro-active intervention tools based on information gathered by the security team and counselors. This and the existence of established consequences has helped to prevent any negative interactions.

Assistance from the guidance department in utilizing conflict resolution and peer mediations has been effective. We have a number of clubs and activities such as "O" Ambassadors", "Friends of Rachel" and the "Choosing to Participate" Club. Security cameras are strategically placed and consequences and discipline has been more consistent. One example is the permanent loss of privileges for any first offense.

To conclude, Dr. Forsthoffer noted that October is Violence and Vandalism Awareness month, and the report is typically presented to the public during this month.

Discussion:

Ms. Harrington commented she was pleased with the results of the report. It cannot be by accident that the numbers have decreased. Commends the preventive measures and activities taking place in the district.

Ms. Weisman expressed her concerns about bullying in the schools.

Mr. Laverty commented on the Teen PEP (Prevention Education Program) at the high school, and the possibility to have a similar program at the middle school.

Mr. Ettman questioned the results of the report regarding definition between substance abuse and possession and how results were tabulated. Dr. Forsthoffer responded that both abuse and possession were under the same category.

ITEM 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Forsthoffer gave updates on the following:

- His meeting with high school music booster parents.
- The high school Parent Teacher conferences
- NJSBA annual conference in Somerset NJ, had a number of excellent classes and workshops
- The high school Related Arts department sponsored a Fall Business Symposium.

ITEM 7. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

ITEM 8. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Ms. Weisman commented that the East Windsor Planning Board has voted no to the application for the conversion of age restricted housing to non-age restricted. She thanked the township planning Board for their action.

Mr. Coates and Mr. Ettman also also thanked the mayor and council for their support in this matter.

ITEM 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ITEM 10. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE AGENDA ITEMS

At each of its regular meetings the Board of Education is requested to approve routine agenda items in one action.

A. STAFFING

B. EMERGENT HIRING

It is recommended that the Board approve the submission of applications for emergent hiring pending completion of the criminal history background check to the County Superintendent for the following individual(s):

- Charles Pettebone –Teacher

C. OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENT: Private & Public Schools

The Newgrange School of Princeton, Inc. - Tuition October 18, 2010 through June 24, 2011

1. Student:#602686 REG. \$46,134.32

D. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

The special education department requires services of consultants to provide children with disabilities a free appropriate public education as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Name	Type of Service	Rate
The Embrace Kids Learning Center	Bedside Instruction Services	\$39.00 per hour
The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia	In-hospital School Services/Instruction	\$45.00 per hour
Eden Family of Services	Workshops/Training	Per fee schedule
Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission	Itinerant Services	Per fee schedule
Capital Health systems EMS	CPR/AED Certification	\$390.00

E. SCHOOL NURSING PLAN 2010-2011

Annually each school district must develop a School Nursing Plan. The 2010-11 Nursing Plan has been developed by East Windsor Regional School District nursing staff and reviewed by administration for Board approval this evening.

F. BULLYING REDUCTION RESEARCH PROGRAM AT EMK

Two teachers at the Ethel McKnight School would like to participate in a Bullying Reduction Study being conducted by Naomi Drew and Michael Wilson of Western Connecticut State University. The goal of this research project is to increase social-environmental factors that promote student behaviors and attitudes which would reduce the likelihood of bullying.

The program will involve lessons for 15 minutes during morning meeting once a week for 25 weeks. Approximately 50 students will be involved and there are no costs.

Parents will sign a consent form allowing their child(ren) to participate in the No Kidding About Bullying program and to allow their anonymous responses on the questionnaires to be incorporated into a study of the effectiveness of the program. Teachers will be shown how well the bullying reduction program is working and given insights on how to improve their use of the program.

G. FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips planned for Melvin H. Kreps School:

5/9/11 7th / 8th Grade Band Performance
Waterfront Park, One Thunder Road, Trenton, NJ

11/17/10 Life Skills Program
ShopRite, Route 130 North
East Windsor, NJ

Field Trips planned for Kidcare:

11/4/10 Jenkinson's Aquarium
300 Ocean Ave., Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ

11/5/10 Bounce U
410 Princeton Hightstown Rd., West Windsor, NJ

H. OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP-HHS SKI CLUB

The Ski Club of Hightstown High School would like to do an overnight field trip to Jay Peak in St. Albans, Vermont from February 25-27, 2011.

I. NON PAID CLUBS

1. Business Strategy Club at HHS

Hightstown High School would like to start a new club entitled "Business Strategy Club" which would fall under the category of a non-paid extracurricular activity with a teacher advisor. The advisor will be Patrick D'Alessandro, one of the Social Studies teachers at HHS.

2. MATHCOUNTS at MHK

The Melvin H. Kreps Middle School would like to start a new club entitled "MATHCOUNTS" which would fall under the category of a non-paid extracurricular activity with a teacher advisor. The Kreps School Principal, Lori Stein, has volunteered to be the moderator of this club and the registration fee of \$90.00 was donated by Mrs. Sanjay Shefali Challani, 9 Keats Court, East Windsor, NJ 08520. Mrs. Challani is the parent of an 8th grade student. This fee allows the Kreps School to have a team in the MATHCOUNTS competitions.

J. VOLUNTEERS

The following have offered to volunteer/chaperone at the Grace N. Rogers School:

Althea Lewis	Kildr Ruiz	Terri Farkas
Thomas Slattery	Kerrie Peterson	Nelly Rivera
Ellen Slattery	Deirdre Misiura	Padma Inguva
Kathy Zaiser	Jennifer Ginest	Karen Hussey
Mary Bissinger	Dawn Wolfe	Michael Newton Sr.
Ivette Pineda	Mellaney McPherson	Robin Machnik
Valerie Newman	Maria Mayancela	Latisha Johnson
Amanda Sotovando	Silviana Martinez	Craig Machnik
Olga Ruiz	Lori Fabian	Hilda Murillo
Ben Davis	Adam Lorber	

The following have offered to volunteer/chaperone at Hightstown High School

Roger Weck Amy Jablonski, Lauren Kamps, Bill Kryscnski, IV Bill Kryscnski, III

The following have offered to volunteer/chaperone at the Perry Drew School: Gary Beherns

The following have offered to volunteer/chaperone at the Kreps Middle School: Mike Forden

The following have offered to volunteer/chaperone at the Ethel McKnight School:

Michele Catana	Maria Sutera	Francesca Zappola
Jill Beggs	Sonia Marcos	Kathy Faup
Lisa Sannon-Jules	Erin Russo	Karen Fougnes
Laura Myers	Joseline Capre	Ivona Cookson
Naomi Shank	Coleen Schintzler	Gloria Esposito
Manju Balasubramanian	Jennifer Patricolo	Michael & Maria Horta
Nandini Debnath	Mitch & Eileen Blustein	Denise Koerner
Rachelle St. Phard	Donna Sasson	David Monahan
Bette Brottman	Dina Saldutti	

K. EXXON/MOBIL EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE GRANT TO HHS

Exxon/Mobil Corporation, Educational Alliance Program, 3225 Gallows Road, Room 7D0405, Fairfax, VA 22047 has donated \$750 to the Math and Science Departments of Hightstown High School.

Mr. Joseph A. Hooven, 1473 Lambertson Road, Trenton, NJ 08611 was the facilitator.

Mr. Sukwinder Sarao, Exxon/Mobil Station, 622 Rt. 130 South, East Windsor, NJ was the individual who presented Hightstown High School with the check

L. DONATIONS

1. Set of Golf Clubs to HHS

Mr. Walter Weinmann, 57-A Essex Road, Monroe Township, NJ 08831 would like to donate a set of golf clubs to Hightstown High School. The clubs will be used in the school's golf program.

2. Monetary Donation to the HHS Ice Hockey Team

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Badillo, 13 Buxton Drive, East Windsor, NJ 08520 would like to donate \$350 to the Ice Hockey Team at Hightstown High School. This monetary donation was the result of the following parents contributing along with the Badillos:

- Larisa Bondy
- Phil, Judy and Bill Clingerman
- Sue Schickner
- Kathy and Gerri Petty
- The Risch Family
- Andrew Hill
- Frank Reisser

The money will be used to support the team's expenses such as ice time for practice.

3. Monetary Donation to the HHS "O" Ambassadors Club

Ms. Marianne M. Meyer, Director of Educational Outreach, Second Generation Holocaust Education Fund, P.O. Box 1421, Hightstown, NJ 08520 has donated \$900 to the "O" Ambassadors Club of Hightstown High School. The funds are to be used to defray the transportation costs for the club's trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in November.

M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 27, and October 11, 2010 Regular Meetings (available for review on district website and on file in Board Secretary’s office.)

N. DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

As the District has downsized the High School library to provide space for an additional cafeteria, the library is in possession of excess furniture. As the newer and more functional furniture has been retained, the library is left with furniture that is in poor condition and of no further use to the library.

The items are: 47 chairs, 2 podium and 4 tables

It is in the best interest of the District to declare this furniture as surplus property to be offered for sale at the next District surplus property auction.

O. MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

State travel regulations require the Board of Education to approve in advance payment for school related travel. The District compiles a list of individual(s) who may routinely receive the standard IRS mileage reimbursement rate for district related travel in accordance with collective bargaining agreements and unaffiliated employee terms of employment.

Added to this list will be:

- Jessica Cotignola Guidance Supervisor
- Donna Kabak Personnel Clerk
- Linda Sauer Music Teacher

P. NON-PUBLIC AID: TEXTBOOK MATERIALS & NURSING SERVICES

- Shalom Torah Academy, East Windsor, NJ
- Better Beginnings Child Development Center, Hightstown, NJ

The New Jersey Non-Public School Initiative Program requires each Local Education Agency to verify its participation in this program each year.

The District will assist as per this program to facilitate the acquisition of textbooks, and nursing services to the Shalom Torah Academy of East Windsor and the Better Beginnings Child Development Center in Hightstown.

Textbook Materials - Amount per pupil \$56.84

Better Beginnings	(38 pupils)	Total State Aid: 2,160.00
Shalom Torah Academy	(92 pupils)	Total State Aid: 5,229.00

Nursing Services - Amount per pupil: \$67.35.

Better Beginnings	(38 pupils)	Total State Aid: 2,559.00
Shalom Torah Academy	(92 pupils)	Total State Aid: 6,196.00

Q. BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT – August, 2010

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received the report of the Board Secretary and Treasurer for the month of August, 2010 submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:17-9, and

WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A.10 (d) the Secretary has certified that, as of the date of the reports, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education accepts the above referenced reports and certifications and certifies that after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial report (appropriation section), to the best of its knowledge, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation on N.J.A.C.6:20-2A.10 (a)(1), and sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

R. TREASURER'S REPORT – August, 2010

The Treasurer's report is in agreement with the Board Secretary's report.

S. TRANSFER REPORT- August, 2010

The East Windsor Regional School District submits to the County School Business Administrator an updated report of budget transfers and changes in revenue and appropriations on a monthly basis.

The EWRSD Board of Education certifies to the best of its knowledge that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education ratifies the attached transfers between budget line items that have been approved by the Superintendent of Schools and reported to them pursuant to Board policy and State regulation.

T. BILL LIST for October 25, 2010

The Bill and Claims Report must be approved by the Board of Education before being submitted for payment.

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approves the payment of bills and claims in the amount of **\$1,948,297.49** as submitted.

Recommendation: Board approval of the routine agenda items.

Action: Having read the materials received, Mr. Lavery moved seconded by Ms. Fayer, that the Board approve the routine agenda items 10.A though 10.T as submitted.

On a roll call vote of the Board motion to approve the routine agenda items was carried unanimously.

11. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

12. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Ms. Fayer commented on the tax levy cap information given to the Board by Mr. Coates.

Mr. Lavery commented on the workshop he attended at the NJSBA annual convention. This workshop covered such topics as school district audits, financial controls, internal audits, and understanding of the role of the Board in these areas. Mr. Lavery also suggested the placement of the donations to the district on the web.

13. OPEN SESSION

14. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Thaddeus Thompson
Assistant School Business Administrator
Acting Board Secretary