

**EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08520**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2009**

**The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a Regular meeting on Monday, October 26, 2009 the Hightstown High School cafeteria.**

**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.”

Members Present: Paul Connolly, Stuart Dolgon, Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer, Bob Laverty and Alice Weisman.

Members Absent: Susan Lloyd & Kennedy Paul (both with advance notice)

Also Present: Ronald Bolandi, Chief School Administrator  
Kurt Stumbaugh, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
David Coates, Board Legal Counsel

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**

The Board president asked those present to join in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**ITEM 3.A APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Having read the material received, Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Mr. Dolgon, to approve the agenda.

Members voting yes: Mr. Connolly, Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Laverty, and Ms. Weisman Voting no: none. Abstaining: none. Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

**ITEM 3.B RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer, to approve the following resolution:

**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 26, 2009.

This closed session concerns: Personnel Matters, Contract Negotiations, Labor Relations, & Attorney Client Privilege. Minutes of this closed session will be available in accordance with Board policy when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Voting yes: Mr. Connolly, Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Laverty, Ms. Weisman.

Voting no: none. Abstaining: none. Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

#### **4. RECOGNITION OF PERFECT ATTENDANCE FROM TRANSPORTATION**

The East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education recognizes the following individuals for maintaining perfect attendance as employees of the Transportation Department.

- Janina Adamiec – Bus Driver
- Kathleen Chamberlin – Van Attendant
- Venis Johnson – Bus Driver
- Helen Letizia – Van Attendant
- Dianna Moore – Bus Driver
- Nilda Perez – Bus Driver
- Margaret Storey – Van Attendant
- Louis Vincent – Bus Driver

Transportation Director Pat Bye presented the awards. She expressed gratitude and appreciation for the excellent service provided by the perfect attendance award recipients.

#### **5. RECOGNITION OF MELVIN H. KREPS SECRETARY, VICKY ALTAMURA**

Mr. Anthony Radano, Interim Principal at the Melvin H. Kreps Middle School, presented a recognition award to Secretary Vicky Altamura for her dedicated service and numerous contributions to the school.

#### **6. 25 YEAR RECOGNITION AWARDS**

- Helen Letizia – Van Attendant, Transportation
- Sharon Kelsall – Bus Driver, Transportation
- John Dunn – Teacher, HHS
- Deborah Scherholz – Teacher, HHS
- Joanne Zappichi – Teacher, HHS
- Marylou Miller – Nurse, EMK
- Cheryl Nixon – Teacher, MHK
- Edward Kitner- Chief Custodian, Building & Grounds

The Building Administrators read aloud the 25 year recognition awards for the above listed staff. Mr. Bolandi read the award for Mr. Kitner in the absence of Paul Hewins, Director of Building & Grounds. MHK teacher MaryEllen Burns, read the award for Cheryl Nixon, who recently passed away and also gave a heartfelt remembrance of her colleague.

(Copies of the awards are on file in Personnel and in the Board Secretary's office for review).

Mr. Bolandi congratulated all the award recipients.

#### **7. HONORING OUR RECENTLY DECEASED EMPLOYEES**

A special mention and tribute was given to the following District staff that have recently passed away:

**Cheryl Nixon**, Kreps School Special Education teacher, also honored tonight for 25 years of service.

**Ray Wilbergh**, retired High School guidance counselor.

**Al Lozier**, retired High School guidance counselor.

Mr. Bolandi asked that a moment of silence be observed in their honor and memory.

Mr. Bolandi then thanked everyone who spoke and all the award recipients and their families for attending.

## **8. FIRST EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board held a closed session.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Bolandi spoke on the following:

H1N1 Status: The District nursing staff is on top of all updates. As of now, NJ is below the trend of number of cases. An update/status letter will be mailed out. Vaccine update will be available soon.

Mr. Bolandi spoke proudly of the High School marching band's progress under the supervision of music teachers Justin Toomey and Harrison Horowitz. Both were new to the District when they took over in July. They really made it fun and the students worked very hard. In four competitions they placed 2<sup>nd</sup> three times and they won one. Our marching band placed second in the State Championships in their division. They will compete in Allentown for the Regionals. This achievement reflects the hard work and great performance of the students, teachers and parents. Thank you to all for a really great job.

Ms. Weisman also gave accolades to the band and the music teachers. She is especially proud of the attendance at the competitions of district staff to support our band. It is greatly appreciated.

The Board discussed meeting date changes. November 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> will be cancelled. There will be one November meeting to take place on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:30 pm HHS cafeteria. This change will be advertised by the Board Secretary and on the District Website.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the meeting date change and to advertise it.

## **ITEM. 10 FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES**

The following policies are being submitted to the Board for first reading:

Policy 1220 - Employment of Chief School Administrator (Revised)

Policy 3159 - Teaching Staff Member/School District Reporting Responsibilities (New)

Policy 5460 - High School Graduation (Revised)

Policy 5465 - Early Graduation (Revised)

Policy 8760 - Pupil Accident Insurance (Revised)

The Board discussed the concept of mandated policies; that it marginalizes the governance of local Boards of Education. It was noted that the State has the right to regulate us, but it is contrary to the concept of self governing policies.

Mr. Laverty moved seconded by Ms. Fayer to approve the above policies be submitted for second reading. Members voting yes: Mr. Connolly, Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Laverty, and Ms. Weisman. Voting no: none. Abstaining: none. Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

## **ITEM 11. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Robert Thibault of Hightstown, had questions regarding the teacher's contract.

When do taxpayers who are paying for it get to see contract? What are the contract provisions?

Do we know what average NJ residents pay for health benefits?

He shared some statistics on taxpayer burden and spoke about the high rate of foreclosures in the borough and township. Asked how can Board justify approving teacher contract with 4% raise when constituents are in such dire straits.

Ms. Weisman responded that we can't speak in terms of the contract since it has not yet been ratified.

Mr. Bolandi gave an update on the ratification vote to take place on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. The Board could give answers to the questions on the contract and provide contract at the Nov. 16 meeting.

## **ITEM 12. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS**

Ms. Fallon spoke on the rate of concussion injuries to student athletes and that it should be closely monitored and preventive measures taken and asked if we knew of a new computer assessment tool called "ImPACT Test."

Mr. Bolandi responded that the district already uses this technology, and will ask the high school athletic Director, Mr. Bushelli, to present on this topic at next meeting.

Mr. Dolgon commented that he was disappointed both in the attendance at the Special meeting on October 21, 2009 and at tonight's meeting where we recognized some of the most dedicated people in our District. The local newspaper had no one present to write a story about what happened tonight and the recognitions given to members of our district family.

Mr. Ettman spoke on the negative comments featured in the local paper by an East Windsor Township council person regarding school taxes. Mr. Ettman wanted to make it clear that the Township Council has not been supportive of the District in recent years, and that clearly any decisions it makes regarding residential and commercial development has a great affect on our taxes. The Board has communicated to the township that the District is overpopulated as it is. Hopes people in community understand this.

Mr. Dolgon commented that about 4 years ago when the legislature passed a law that adversely affected us in East Windsor to the tune of about 3 million dollars the Board and administrators met with members of the legislature and they agreed the law should not have been written that way or passed that way. Does not recall any time that our municipal leaders have tried to correct this. The Board carried this argument with no support from local government.

## **ITEM 13. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION**

- A. Staffing (with addendum)
- B. Emergent Hiring
- C. Approval of Student Taking Course at Hamilton Adult High School
- D. Out of District Placement
- E. Travel Related Expenses
- F. C.H. & D.H. o/b/o D.H. v. EWRSD BOE OAL Docket No 04955-2009S
- G. Field Trip Approval
- H. Overnight HHS Ski Club Field Trip
- I. Overnight HHS World Language Exchange Trip to Paris, France
- J. Volunteers
- K. Non-Paid Clubs at HHS
  - 1. Ping Pong Club
  - 2. Artist's Union
- L. Board Secretary's Report – August, 2009
- M. Treasurer's Report – August, 2009
- N. Transfer Report – August, 2009
- O. Retro Budget Transfer Report – Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2009
- P. Bill List – October 26, 2009

### **13. A STAFFING (with addendum)**

As submitted.

### **13. B EMERGENT HIRING**

The Board is asked to 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):

Anthony Tedeschi

Computer Technician/Trainer

**13. C APPROVAL OF STUDENT TAKING COURSE AT HAMILTON ADULT HIGH SCHOOL**

Students attending Hightstown High School may request to attend the Hamilton Township Adult Accredited High School Program for the purpose of attaining credits to graduate this school year.

Student(s) requesting approval:

L.M.-M. - Student ID # 8102365 Course: Geometry 5.0 credits

**13. D OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENT - Private & Public Schools**

MARIE H. KATZENBACH SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF - New Jersey Department of Education

Tuition September 8, 2009 through June 30, 2010

1. Student	#9800434	Reg.	\$43,452.00
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Upper Freehold Regional School District-Aide

Tuition September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

1. Student	#720134	Reg.	\$27,696.35(revised)
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Thomas J. Rubino Academy

Tuition September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

1. Student	# 810068	Reg.	\$16,500.00
2. Student	#810120	Reg.	\$16,500.00

Holding 3 slots @\$16,750.00

\$50,250.00

MCSSSD-Regional Day

Tuition September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

1. Student	#400602	Reg.	\$37,649.00
2. Student	#400274	Reg.	\$37,649.00

**13.E TRAVEL RELATED EXPENSES**

TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES FOR BOARD APPROVAL OCTOBER 26, 2009					
ATTENDEE	LOCATION	DATE OF CONFERENCE	CONFERENCE ATTENDING	TOTAL	YTD TOTAL
B Kanjo	GNR	4/30/10	Libraries Unlimited Winners Workshop Edison, New Jersey	\$179.00	
B Hill	GNR	1/20/10	Centra State Health Awareness Center, Student Health - Headaches & Diabetes	\$55.00	
B Hill	GNR	5/18/10	Centra State Health Awareness Center, Student Health - De-stress Your Practice!	\$55.00	
B Hill	GNR	6/16/10	Centra State Health Awareness Center, Student Health -Can You Hear Me Now?	\$55.00	
K Haug	PLD	12/1/09	Morris-Union Jointure Commission New Providence, NJ "Autism and Asperger's Syndrome	\$140.00	
T Kalick	HHS	1/22-23/10	Softball Coaches Clinic Cherry Hill, NJ	\$100.00	
R Roohr	HHS	1/22-23/10	Softball Coaches Clinic Cherry Hill, NJ	\$100.00	
A Elko	HHS	1/22-23/10	Softball Coaches Clinic Cherry Hill, NJ	\$100.00	
J Reisig	HHS	1/15-17/10	US Lacrosse Convention Registration Baltimore Conv. Center, Baltimore, MD	\$75.00	
E Coutier	MHK	11/13-14/10	NJASL/NJ Assoc.of School Libraries,Annual Fall Conference, Hilton, East Brunswick, NJ	\$85	
			Total	\$944.00	\$8,291.00

**13.F C.H. & D.H. o/b/o D.H v. EWRSD BOE OAL Docket No. 04955-2009S**

Board Approval is requested for the proposed agreement between the East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education and the C.H. & D.H. family as submitted.

**13. G FIELD TRIP APPROVAL**

Field Trips planned for Ethel McKnight School:

March, 2010 Insectropolis Route 9 Toms River, NJ  
 April, 2010 PSE&G Greenfest, Garden State Exhibit Center Somerset, NJ  
 May, 2010 Bordentown Zoo Bordentown, NJ

**13.H OVERNIGHT HHS SKI CLUB FIELD TRIP**

The Ski Club of Hightstown High School would like do an overnight field trip to Stowe Mountain, Vermont from February 26 - 28, 2010.

**13. I OVERNIGHT HHS WORLD LANGUAGE EXCHANGE TRIP TO PARIS FRANCE**

The World Language Exchange Program of Hightstown High School would like do an overnight French exchange trip to Paris France from March 28 – April 6, 2010. Attached is information on the trip.

**13. J VOLUNTEERS**

The Board of Education approves all volunteers/chaperones who serve in the East Windsor Regional School District.

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

Amy Jablonski	Chris Edenfield	Julie Kudish	Rufiya Blank
Cindy Ettenhuber	Steven Jablonski	John Vaage	
Elissa Vaage	Diana Horowitz	Kelly Wood	
Daniel Chung	Sharon Menchaca	William Kamps	

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

Edward Murphy  
 Carole Murphy  
 Theo Caylo

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

Elizabeth Caqui	Maggie Grubbs
Lisa Ennis	Mr. LaBone
Carmen Garcia	Debbie Warfield
Barbara Greene	

**13. K NON PAID CLUBS AT HHS**

1. PING PONG CLUB
2. ARTIST'S UNION

1.Hightstown High School would like to start a new club entitled "Ping Pong Club" which would fall under the category of non-paid extra-curricular activity with a teacher advisor. The advisor for this club will be Daniel Chung, a Social Studies teacher.

2.Hightstown High School would like to start a new club entitled "Artist's Union" which would fall under the category of non-paid extra-curricular activity with teacher advisors. The advisors for this club will be Virginia Nardino, Content Specialist, and Barbara Russo, art teacher.

**13. L BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT – August, 2009**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has received the report of the Board Secretary and Treasurer for the months of August, 2009 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.

**13.M TREASURER'S REPORT – August, 2009**

The revised Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of Aug. 2009 is submitted for approval. The Treasurer's report is in agreement with the Board Secretary's report.

**13. N TRANSFER REPORT – August, 2009**

All Budget Transfers must be properly recorded, documented and approved by the Board of Education. The School Business Administrator of the East Windsor Regional School District certifies to the best of his knowledge that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-1.11 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**RESOLVED**, that the East Windsor Regional Board of Education ratifies the attached transfers between budget line items approved by the School Business Administrator as submitted pursuant to Board policy and State regulation.

**13. O RETRO BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT**

All Budget Transfers must be properly recorded, documented and approved by the Board of Education. The School Business Administrator of the East Windsor Regional School District certifies to the best of his knowledge that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-1.11 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**RESOLVED**, that the East Windsor Regional Board of Education ratifies the attached Retro Budget Transfer Report, Cycle 13, for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2009, approved by the School Business Administrator as submitted pursuant to Board policy and State regulation.

**13. P BILL LIST – OCTOBER 26, 2009**

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 \$576,093.46 as submitted to the Board.

**14. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robert Thibault of Hightstown spoke about the local newspaper not covering tonight's event. He noted there are probably similar local events honoring 25 year employees and they are also not covered. Why cover public employment? He also noted that the longevity bonus is a gift just for being in same job for 25 years. That school taxes from 2000 to 2006 in the township went up 190%, nearly doubled in six years. Asked how the Board can justify a contract that does not require teachers to pay something toward their health insurance and receive a 4% raise.

Mr. Bolandi welcomed the speaker to meet with him so he can give him the facts and the information he is requesting.

Ms. Weisman added that questions can be addressed at next meeting, and welcomed him to attend the next meeting after contract has been voted on.

**15. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS**

Mr. Dolgon commented that our school employees have affected the lives of thousands of students and parents over the course of 25 years. We make a difference. Board recognition of our teachers is definitely newsworthy.

Mr. Bolandi added that East Windsor School District teachers are underpaid not overpaid. It is tragic that we look at money vs. what these teachers do every day and they do an excellent job and he would be remiss for not standing up for our teachers. Their dedication to our kids, hard work, long hours, has made our district in last 5 years one of best in the State.

Mr. Dolgon stated that many comments posted in Windsor Hights Herald are inaccurate.

He wanted to clarify that teachers work much longer than a 9 to 3:30 day.

A lot more goes into a teacher's job and people do not understand that.

Ms. Weisman commented that as a Board, the members work very hard and we are very conscientious of our responsibilities. We balance our obligations with little help from the State. We are also taxpayers and are likewise impacted by taxes. Most important is providing the best possible education for our children Quality is valuable Fairness dictates. If members of the community are unhappy with job we have done, they are welcome to take away our seats

**ITEM 16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Second closed session was not needed.

**ITEM 17. OPEN SESSION****ITEM 18. ADJOURN**


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Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary