

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION**MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING on AUGUST 31, 2015**

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, Hightstown, NJ, held a regular meeting on **AUGUST 31, 2015** at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Office Wing room 807A located at 25A Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ.

Members Present: Pete Bussone, Paul Connolly, Bertrand Fougnyes, Lilia Gobaira, Christine Harrington, (7:48 p.m.) Robert Laverty, Kennedy Paul, Alice Weisman

Member(s) Absent: Tracy Carroll

Also Present: Thomas Gialanella, Interim Chief School Administrator
Nicholas Puleio, Interim SBA/Board Secretary
David Coates, Board Legal Counsel

1. WELCOME/SUNSHINE NOTICE

Board President Alice Weisman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Act Statement: "Written advance notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with law. Minutes of this meeting are kept by the Board Secretary and are available to any member of the public requesting them 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."

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**3. A. MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA**

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Paul as follows: "Having read the material received, I move the agenda be approved with an addendum to staffing item, as submitted."

Vote: On a roll call poll of the Board, the motion to approve was carried unanimously with 7 'yes' votes.

B. RESOLUTION: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Connolly made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District will hold two executive sessions during its Meeting on Monday, August 31, 2015. These closed sessions concern:

1. Attorney Client Privilege
2. Negotiation Update
3. Personnel Matters
4. Superintendent Search

Minutes of these closed sessions will be available in accordance with board policy when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Vote: On a roll call poll of the Board, motion to approve was carried unanimously with 7 'yes' votes.

4. PRESENTATION ON NATIONAL SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER PROGRAM AT THE ETHEL MCKNIGHT SCHOOL

Ms. Silvana Zircher, McKnight school principal, spoke to the Board on the Ethel McKnight School Climate and Culture Committee's work (which began in May 2015) toward applying for National School of Character status. The committee includes eight members of the school community.

5. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

The Board members shared comments on the following topics:

- Food services
- Class ranking
- DEAC (District Evaluation Advisory Committee)
- Kreps play
- Posting of stipend positions
- New science labs

6. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudette Jack of East Windsor, NJ spoke to the Board.

7. FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES

The following policies submitted to the Board for first reading:

- A. P 5465 - Early Graduation – Revised/Mandated
- B. P 5756 - Transgender Students - New/Suggested

5465 – Early Graduation (Revised)

Revisions to Statewide assessment graduation requirements as outlined in the explanation above for Policy Guide 5460 require similar revisions in Policy Guide 5465 – Early Graduation as this Policy Guide also references HSPA. This Policy Guide addresses alternative high school graduation requirements for students to graduate early and be awarded a State-endorsed diploma by the Board of Education. The only significant revision in this Guide is replacing proficiency in the HSPA with a general statement that the student must have demonstrated proficiencies in the State wide assessments as required by the New Jersey Department of Education for high school graduation. This Policy Guide may need to be revised again when the reference to the old assessment requirements are replaced with the new assessment requirements in the statute or administrative code. Districts that do not have a high school do not need this Policy. **Policy Guide 5465 is MANDATED**

5756 – Transgender Students (New)

School districts have requested a Policy Guide regarding transgender students. New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination (NJLAD) prevents discrimination or harassment on the basis of transgender status, gender identity, or gender expression. However, there is little guidance for New Jersey school districts on a reasonable identification process and the accommodations to be made for an identified transgender student. Policy Guide 5756 has been developed considering laws in other States and the position of various advocacy groups. The Policy Guide requires a student's parent be involved in the identification process, enables the school district to make reasonable inquiry into the asserted gender identity if there is a credible basis for believing the identity is being asserted for an improper purpose. The Policy is not specific as to the accommodations to be made for an identified transgender student, and indicates the Superintendent or designee and the parent and child will meet to discuss such issues as name and pronoun to be used, restrooms, locker rooms, etc. This Policy Guide is very general as there is no statutory or administrative code guidance on this issue. A school district considering any transgender policy should have it reviewed by the Board Attorney before presentation to the Board for adoption. **Policy Guide 5756 is SUGGESTED**

8. SECOND READING OF BOE POLICIES AND REGULATION

The following policies are submitted to the Board for second reading:

- P 5530 - Substance Abuse – Revised/Mandated
- P 5600 - Student Discipline Code of Conduct – Revised/Mandated
- R 5600 - *Student Discipline Code of Conduct – Revised/Mandated*

5530 – Substance Abuse (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4 – Procedures for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Intervention has been re-adopted. The re-adopted code provides clarification when the Superintendent “may” and “must” disclose the identity of a student to law enforcement authorities depending on whether the student is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs or has in their possession or distributes certain substances on school grounds. The statute, N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9, defines “substance” and the administrative code, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(a), expands the statutory definition of “substances.” There are a few places in the administrative code that reference “other drugs.” However, the term “other drugs” is not defined in the statutes or in the administrative code. Therefore, the revised Regulation Guide 5530 includes a definition for “other drugs” that includes “substance” as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9 and “substances” as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1(a). This expanded definition of “other drugs” was incorporated in Policy and Regulation Guides 5530 to provide the greatest range of protection for the school district and students. The other revisions in the Policy and Regulation Guide were minor.

Policy Guide 5530 is **MANDATED** Regulation Guide 5530 is **MANDATED**

5600 – Student Discipline/Code of Conduct (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7 – Student Conduct has been updated. This Chapter includes the requirements for: a Code of Student Conduct, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1; conduct away from school grounds, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.5; and student records and confidentiality, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.8. The revisions are not significant and will not change the manner in which a school district administers its Code of Student Conduct. However, the Policy and Regulation Guide have been revised to align with the code sections and subsections and required development of a new Policy and Regulation Guide to replace the existing Guides. Most of the provisions of the Policy and Regulation Guides come from N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1 and align with the subsections of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1. There are blanks in Section E. of the Regulation Guide regarding behavioral supports to be provided to districts and Section H. under a Chart of Discipline. Section H. of the Regulation Guide provides an option for districts to include a chart in the Regulation or to have a separate Chart of Discipline in a student handbook approved by the Board. A key component of the new code is a Chart of Discipline that lists violations of behavioral expectations (offenses) and school responses to these violations (consequences). The code requires the Code of Conduct be established by the Board (Board-approved) and at a minimum, consequences are graded according to the severity of the offenses considering the developmental ages of the student offenders (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12), and their histories (first offense, second offense, and third offense). This Policy and Regulation Guide are mandated and must be approved by the Board. Policy Guide 5600 is **MANDATED** Regulation Guide 5600 is **MANDATED**

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Gialanella updated the Board on current happenings in the District.

10. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

There were none.

11. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into closed session

13. RESULTS OF ALLEGED NJ ASK 3 OFAC INVESTIGATION – MAY 9, 2013

Mr. Gialanella shared his comments on the above topic up for Board approval under exception.

4. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the routine agenda items.

On a roll call poll of the Board motion to approve all items except Item 14. H travel carried unanimously with 8 'yes' votes.

*It is to be noted for the record, that Item 14 H.: Travel & Related Expenses was passed under exception with the understanding that each board member abstains for their own travel that was listed due to conflict of interest.

A. Staffing – as submitted

B. Readmission of Affidavit Students

There were non-compliant affidavit students removed from the district attendance rolls at the July 20, 2015 Board of Education meeting. These students wish to return to the district. All required proof of residency documents, immunization forms along with complete information the district and state requires for school registration have been provided. Up-to-date, notarized affidavits, if needed, also have been provided. The Office of Community Services staff has verified each residency through home visits.

C. Approval of Revised Interim Business Administrator Contract

The revised contract for the Interim Business Administrator has been reviewed and approved by the Mercer County Office of Education.

D. Approval for EMK to Apply for the National Schools of Character Program

The Ethel McKnight School has a Climate and Culture Committee that would like to apply for the National Schools of Character program. The National Schools of Character has demonstrated that character development has had a positive impact on academics, student behavior, and school climate. The goal of the program is to help schools provide a climate where the students are being educated, inspired, and empowered to be ethical and engaged citizens. The application to the program involves a year-long commitment and is quite extensive and rigorous. The organization has Eleven Principals of Effective Character Education as their framework. They offer professional development to teachers and administrators at their National Forum on Character Education. The forum will be held October 15 – 19 in Atlanta, GA. Three members of the EMK Climate and Culture Committee would like to attend at a cost not to exceed \$1,700 per person. Once completed, the McKnight School would become part of a network of Schools of Character that serve as models and mentors to other educators and would hold this designation for five years. It is recommended that the Board approve the application requirements, including three members of the EMK Climate and Culture Committee attending the National Forum on Character Education, for the school to become a member of the National Schools of Character.

E. Approval of Results of Alleged NJ ASK 3 OFAC Security Breach Investigation

During the spring of 2013, a Perry L. Drew teacher emailed two third grade teachers at the Fountain Woods elementary School in the Burlington Township School District informing them of the types of prompts that were on the NJ ASK 3. The NJ Office of Assessments was notified and the County Offices of Education in both Mercer and Burlington were instructed to conduct a preliminary investigation. Upon completion of these two investigations, both County Offices requested further investigations. The NJDOE Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) was contacted and conducted a comprehensive follow-up investigation of the alleged breach. According to the letter from the NJ DOE OFAC dated August 14, 2015, the following was their conclusion: "As a result of the investigation, the OFAC determined the emails did not contain any confidential testing information, or any other information, that would have assisted the two teachers at the Woods School to prepare for testing; therefore, this case is considered closed. These findings were publicly reviewed and discussed at the Board of Education meeting on August 31, 2015.

F. Overnight Field Trip HHS Peer Group Connection to Princeton Blairstown Center

The Peer Group Connection Program of Hightstown High School would like to have an overnight field trip to the Princeton Blairstown Center, 158 Millbrook Rd., Hardwick, NJ from September 12-14, 2015.

G. Donations

1. Walmart to HHS Freshmen Orientation

General Manager Mr. Manjit Sidhu has facilitated a donation from Walmart, 839 Route 130, East Windsor, NJ 08520 of \$200 to the HHS Freshmen Orientation Picnic. The funds will be used to for food, refreshments, and prizes.

2. Shiseido America to HHS Freshman Orientation

Mr. Edward Houlihan, President Shiseido America, Inc., 366 Princeton Hightstown Road, East Windsor, NJ would like to donate \$150 to the 2014 Freshman Picnic at HHS. The donation will be used for food and prizes.

H. Travel and Related Expenses

				Per Person	Total
J. Peto	HHS	Dec 10-15, 2015	Hotel charges to attend NIAAA Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL	956.25	956.25
J. Peto	HHS	Dec 10-15, 2015	Anticipated expenses to attend NIAAA Annual Mtg. Orlando, FL	350.00	350.00
N. Farias	WCB	Oct 8, 2015	Reg. to attend Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Monroe Twp. NJ	150.00	150.00
T. Diaz R. Seda-Schreiber	MHK	Oct 4-6, 2015	Two reg. attend Full Steam Ahead Art Conference, Long Branch, NJ	175.00	350.00
P. Bussone T. Carroll P. Connolly B. Fougnes L. Gobaira C. Harrington K. Paul R. Lavery A. Weisman T. Gialanella N. Puleio P. Pisano M. Dzwonar	Board Members/ Administrators	Oct 27-29, 2015	Flat rate for group registration to attend NJSBA Workshop 2015, Altantic City, NJ	1300.00	1300.00
P. Bussone T. Carroll P. Connolly B. Fougnes L. Gobaira C. Harrington K. Paul R. Lavery A. Weisman T. Gialanella N. Puleio P. Pisano M. Dzwonar	Board Members/ Admin.	Oct 27-29, 2015	Anticipated expenses to attend NJSBA Workshop 2015, Atlantic City, NJ	300.00	3900.00
R. Scott N. Farias K. Cruz-Garcia P. Malta	Administrators / Bldgs & Grounds	Sept 24, 2015	Four registrations to attend School Security Plan & Prepare, Freehold, NJ	239.00	956.00
Monthly Total					\$ 9415.25
YTD Total					\$14825.55

I. Adoption of an Updated HS U.S. History Resource *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: The Americas (c.2012)* with premium online access for U.S. History I Standard and Academic classes.

In 2008, the Board approved a United States History I resource for High School Standard and Academic classes, *Rinehart and Winston: American Anthem (c. 2006)*. This text was bought in class sets with an online resource portal for teachers, as well as on line student access for each student. In 2014, the online purchase expired, leaving teachers and students with limited text access. This leaves the teachers without resources required to fully engage students in the course material and extend learning in a digital platform. This new purchase will provide greater opportunity to infuse the Common Core RH standards with primary and secondary source documents, aligned to online tasks compatible with Google classroom activities and assessments. Several texts were reviewed in June by a committee including teachers working on curriculum initiatives. They were given the opportunity to provide feedback. In August, these same committee members were invited in to evaluate the online resource and offer feedback. Based on this feedback, approval is requested for the adoption of a new primary resource, *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: The Americas (c.2012)* in our High School Academic and Standard U.S. History I courses. This update is needed in order to implement the NJ CCC SS standards as mandated by the NJDOE as well as enhance opportunities for digital assessment. The online access provides teachers with rich multimedia resources in a practical and motivational approach to help students think critically and reflectively. To complement the text, teachers will continue to use resources previously purchased for document analysis, including the DBQ Project Mini Q's and Document Library for U.S. History. Previously purchased sets in the Gilda Lehrman American History library will complement the DBQ project. Curriculum writers will work to update curriculum maps and ensure these resources support and enhance the progress indicators. Additionally, professional development will be offered to teachers to support infusion of new core resources effectively in all classrooms.

J. Adoption of an Updated HS World History Resource, *Modern World History; Patterns of Interaction (c. 2012)*, with premium online access for the HS World History Standard and Academic classes.

In 2008, the Board approved a World History resource for the High School World History classes, *Modern History: Patterns of Interaction (c. 2006)*. This text did not have an online resource portal at the time of purchase. The only auxiliary resource was a downloadable PDF text. This leaves the teachers without resources required to fully engage students in the course material and extend learning in a digital platform. This new purchase will provide greater opportunity to infuse the Common Core RH standards with primary and secondary source documents, aligned to online tasks compatible with Google classroom activities and assessments. As part of this process, several texts were reviewed in June by a committee including teachers working on curriculum initiatives. They were given the opportunity to provide feedback. In August, these same committee members were invited in to evaluate the online resource and offer feedback. Based on this feedback, approval is requested for the adoption of a new primary resource, *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Modern World: Patterns of Interaction (2012 edition)* in our Academic and Standard World History courses. This update is needed in order to implement the NJ CCC SS standards as mandated by the NJDOE as well as enhance opportunities for digital assessment. The online access provides teachers with rich multimedia resources in a practical and motivational approach to help students think critically and reflectively. To complement the text, teachers will continue to use resources previously purchased for document analysis, including the DBQ Project Mini Q's and Document Library for World History. Curriculum writers will work to update curriculum maps and ensure these resources support and enhance the progress indicators. Additionally, professional development will be offered to teachers to support infusion of new core resources effectively in all classrooms.

K. Curriculum for Five New High School Math Electives: Multi Variable Calculus, College Prep Math I & II, Probability & Statistics Game Theory, & Sabermetrics/ Math in Sports. These courses were board approved on Nov. 17, 2014 and Jan. 8, 2015 for start of 15-16 school year.

L Curriculum for Two New Middle School PE Electives: Game Creation & Fitness/Strength/Conditioning/Nutrition Game Creation and Fitness/Strength/Conditioning/Nutrition were Board approved on Feb. 23, 2015.

M. Professional Services for Students

Capitalhealth	Neuropsychology	Per Fee Schedule
Capital Health System	Auditory Processing Evaluations	Per Fee Schedule
The Children’s Specialized Hospital	Independent Evaluations	Per Fee Schedule
Roman A. Perez	Bilingual Educational Evaluations	\$450.00
Gladys Portacio	Bilingual Psychological Evaluations	\$450.00

N. Out of District Placements in Private & Public Schools

- **Eden Institute, Inc.** - Extraordinary Services

Tuition July 6, 2015 through June 21, 2016

1. Student: #101460 REG & ESY \$ 29,684.60

O. Approval of Nursing Plan for 2015-16

Annually each school district must develop a School Nursing Plan. The attached plan has been developed by East Windsor Regional School District nursing staff and reviewed by administration. The Nursing Plan is available for review in the Student Services office, and Board Secretary’s office.

P. Joint Transportation Agreement with Hamilton Public School District

BE IT RESOLVED that the East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education approves the transportation agreement for the 2015-16 school year with the Hamilton School District (joiner district) as indicated below: East Windsor will be the “HOST District” for the following route (destination):

<i>Host District’s (EWRSD)Route #</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>Joiner District (Hamilton) Annual Cost</i>
105	YALE SCHOOL	\$5,300.

Start date: 7/6/15 End date: 8/14/15

Q. Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Report for JUNE 2015 (Final)

Whereas, the Board of Education has received the report of the **Board Secretary** and **Treasurer** for the month of **JUNE, 2015** 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; and

Whereas, the report of the Treasurer is in agreement with the Report of the Board Secretary;

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), and Treasurer’s Report, 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 that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

R. Transfer Report for JUNE 2015 (FINAL)

The EWRSD submits to the County SBA an updated report of budget transfers and changes in revenue and appropriations on a monthly basis. The Board of Education certifies to the best of its knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 and 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 Superintendent of Schools and reported to them pursuant to Board policy and State regulation.

S. Bill List for AUGUST 31, 2015 in the amount of: \$2,543,932.36

T. District Transportation Bus Routes for 2015-16

The District Transportation Department provides the Board with a list of each bus route at the beginning of the school year for Board approval.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION - SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

The Board went into closed session.

16. OPEN SESSION

17. ADJOURN

As submitted by *Nicholas Puleio, Interim BA/Board Secretary*

NP/cj