

**Date of Board Approval: November 17, 2014**

**Department: Business Office**

**SUBJECT: MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING on OCTOBER 6, 2014**

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, Hightstown, NJ, held a regular meeting on October 6, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hightstown High School Cafeteria located at 25A Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ

**Members Present:** Pete Bussone, Tracy Carroll, Paul Connolly, Bertrand Fournies Lilia Gobaira, Christine Harrington, Robert Laverty, Kennedy Paul and Alice Weisman

**Also Present:** Dr. James C. Baker, Interim Chief School Administrator  
Thaddeus Thompson, 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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the revised agenda with the following revisions:

- Addendum to Staffing
- Addendum to Executive session: Legal/contract matters

Vote: On a roll call poll of the Board, Motion to approve was carried unanimously with 9 'yes' votes

**B. RESOLUTION: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District will hold one executive session during its Meeting on Monday, October 6, 2014. This closed session concerns:

1. Student Matters - Bullying
2. Attorney Client Privilege/Contract matters

Minutes of this closed session 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 9 'yes' votes.

**4. PRESENTATION: NEW ATHLETIC WEBSITE HHS**

High School teachers James Peto and Andrew Elko provided a presentation on a new website they created dedicated to high school athletic events. This website would have tabs and links for accessing strong points of our athletic program with sports related information such as announcements, dates, photos, videos and and many other options. They noted with the free version of the website, advertising is an issue that must be considered. The paid version gives us our own domain and more control. At the end of the presentation, a question and answer period ensued; and the Board thanked both teachers for their efforts.

**5. REPORT: CURRICULUM UPDATE – CHANGES IN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Mr. Dzwonar Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Assessment showed the Board and public the NJDOE latest broadcast regarding the changes in high school graduation requirements and testing windows. (This broadcast has also been posted on the District website). He noted that it is still very early in its inception and we can expect changes and tweaks. The challenge is how to accommodate the schedule while minimizing any interference with instruction. More information is forthcoming and any updates will be made available to parents.

**6. ~~Report: Unaccompanied Students~~** - This item was removed from the agenda.

**7. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ronald Cohen of East Windsor asked if our curriculum schedule will enable students to be ready for the PARCC test in March. Will the District be able to teach the students what is required by that time?

Mr. Dzwonar responded we would be forced to teach within a specific time frame for the March assessment. The curriculum will be mapped appropriately. We follow the national curriculum for States that have PARCC assessments. This forces us to teach within a specified time frame. This is the reason why we spend so much time revising the curriculum guides.

Sean O'Connor of East Windsor commented on the Common Core State Standards and noted that the public opinion out there is that it's causing psychological unwellness and undue anxiety for students. He showed how the common core method or approach to mathematics is convoluted and illogical, requiring the kind of critical thinking that is impossible for some students to grasp. Asks the Board and public to talk to our senators on how dangerous the common core is to our children. Also mentioned his concern about security of student data, and how can we know what is shared out there.

Janis Haddock of East Windsor asked questions on the measures that will be taken if students don't pass the test in their succeeding grades and how will this affect their ability to graduate.

Mr. Dzwonar responded that the State sets what is passing to graduate. How the State sets the graduation standards is separate from the PARCC. This will be a topic of discussion at a future public forum on the PARCC testing.

Shauna Margerum of East Windsor asked about the time frame for the PARCC tests. Will it cause our libraries and computer labs to be closed to students who opt out of the test. There should be valuable options for these students. Suggested a curriculum be provided for these students. Also, expressed concern about the cost of PARCC testing and technology to support it.

Mr. Dzwonar commented our goal is to minimize the disruption to the student's school day. We will not lose the use of library or computer labs all day.

Dr. Baker added that we won't have the non-testing students sitting idle all day. Will provide them with something valuable to do. We are up against State mandates.

Andrea Cohen of East Windsor agreed with Ms. Margerum's comments. She too has same concerns about what will happen to kids who are not taking the test. She noted that she finds it very disturbing that we are forced to teach to the test. The State Board of Education needs to hear from the local districts. We have to vocalize that these tests are not in the best interest of our students.

Robert Cohen of East Windsor, a senior at HHS, expressed his opinion that he sees no negative impact of the common core and of the testing among his cohorts. He feels standardized tests have significant merit and can give feedback on student's weaknesses. The test grades can also be a positive in that they also show the progress a student has made. Mr. Cohen also referred to the topic he spoke of at the last meeting regarding curriculum grading. High school is fortunate to have one of only three students in the nation to be accepted into Princeton Plasma Physics lab. This student can only graduate on a 4.0 scale and repeated his request for the Board to consider allowing deserving students the highest available credit.

Ms. Weisman acknowledged his comments and responded that the Board is at present in discussion on this matter.

## **8. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS**

Mr. Bussone pointed out he is wearing a blue shirt today in support of “Bullying Awareness” month. He also spoke about the high cost of high school letter jackets. He has asked the high school principal to research more affordable options. Students have pride in their school and should be able to display it. Mr. Bussone also spoke on lacrosse parents who opt to purchase helmets for their kids in lieu of using district helmets. Very concerned on the condition of our districts helmets are and if they meet safety standards.

Ms. Gobaira commented on the testing issues. She noted we should move forward and be ready for a lot of challenges; be ready to adapt to changes. Supporting our kids is most important.

Mr. Fougnes commented we should have regularly scheduled updates for parents and community on the PARCC testing process. There is much anxiety out there, this is new to all of us.

Ms. Weisman added that as more information becomes available from the State we will keep parents and community aware and updated and a public forum will be scheduled.

Mr. Laverty commented that the Facebook page “East Windsor Cares” has a lot of posts and discussion regarding these topics of concern. Mr. Laverty also spoke on technology for testing; we need to train our students to be ready with such skills as to how to compose an essay on the computer. Appropriate technology training in the classroom would be worthwhile.

Ms. Gobaira added that most students are comfortable with technology and feels they would adapt well.

Ms. Harrington appreciates Mr. Dzwonar’s presentation on the tests. In addition, she also looks forward to seeing the athletic website up and running.

Mr. Connolly thanked Mr. Dzwonar for keeping us updated on the latest State broadcasts. He noted he is glad to the community members attend the meetings. He added that a lot of changes are going on in the State which we have no control over. He agreed with Mr. Bussone’s comments on the importance of sports helmet safety.

## **9. FIRST READING OF BOE POLICIES**

A. Policy 9180 – School Volunteers (Revised/Recommended)

B. Policy 9181 – Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors / Assistants  
(Revised/Recommended)

A lengthy discussion ensued about the wording and intent of these policies, and the requirements of volunteers. It was decided to table action on first reading as the wording was too broad and too general. A more narrow and cohesive version of the policies may be considered at a future date.

## **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Baker gave a summary of the topics discussed at the recent Administrative Council meeting.

They included:

- The respiratory virus concerns and preventative measures we are taking. Assured that all teachers and nurses are monitoring the students; and we are encouraging hand washing and use of hand sanitizers.
- We will make sure we have enough Chromebooks to meet our needs and train our students to work with them, and noted the importance of teaching students keyboarding/ touch typing.

- He spoke about increased articulation between schools. The emphasis is on communication between school administrators; to share the major issues they are addressing in their buildings and remedial actions.
- Professional Development for our teachers will be scheduled for the changes we intend to implement going forward.
- Attended a presentation at Rutgers regarding the benefits of character education program in school districts. We can keep it within the curriculum content process. Set up norms and values for appropriate behavior with the goal to decrease incidents of violence, vandalism, harassment, and intimidation. Strive to make our district virtually bullying free.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board went into closed session.

**12. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one spoke.

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

Ms. Weisman suggested going forward; the meeting space in the cafeteria will be located at the other end of the cafeteria, closer to the closed session area.

**14. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION**

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Paul, that “having read and reviewed the materials received, the Board approves the listed routine agenda items as submitted.”

- A. Staffing
- B. New Non-Paid Club at HHS
  1. Teens for Animals
  2. DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America)
- C. *Travel & Related Expenses (voted on separately)*
- D. Out of District Placement
- E. Professional Services for Students
- F. Joint Transportation Agreement with Hamilton Twp. Board of Ed.
- G. Declaration and Removal of Surplus Property –HHS media equipment
- H. Approval of Minutes for August 11, 2014 and September 8, 2014 Regular Meetings
- I. Roosevelt Transportation Contract for 2014-15 school year
- J. Bill list for October 6, 2014
- K. Roosevelt Tuition Contract for 2014-15 school year
- L. Approval to Reject All Bids HHS New Science Labs and Re-bid for this project.

Discussion: The Board posed questions to Mr. Thompson regarding details on the bid results and reasons for the re-bidding. Mr. Thompson responded accordingly.

Vote on exception items except 14. C Travel

On a roll call poll of the Board, motion to approve was carried with 9 ‘yes’ votes.

Mr. Connolly moved seconded by Mr. Bussone to approve Item C. Travel and Related expenses

Voting yes: Mr. Bussone, Ms. Carroll, Mr. Connolly Ms. Gobaira Ms. Weisman

Abstaining: Mr. Fougnyes, Ms. Harrington, Mr. Lavery, Mr. Paul

**A. Staffing:** as submitted

**B. New Non-Paid Clubs at HHS**

**1. Teens for Animals**

Hightstown High School would like to start a new club entitled “Teens for Animals” which would fall under the category of a non-paid extracurricular activity with a teacher advisor. The advisor will be Helene Weintraub, a math teacher at HHS. The students will volunteer their services at local animal shelters and spread awareness.

**2. DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America)**

Hightstown High School would like to start a new club entitled “DECA” (Distributive Education Clubs of America) which would fall under the category of a non-paid extracurricular activity with a teacher advisor. The advisor will be Kelly Gaskill, a business teacher at HHS. The club will prepare students in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management through competitive events and volunteer opportunities.

**C. Travel and Related Expenses**

T. Thompson	Business Office	Oct 28-29, 2014	Reservations at Trump Taj Majal to attend NJSBA Annual Conf. T. Thompson, R. Lavery, B. Fougnes, C. Harrington, K. Paul, J. Baker, M. Dzwonar, M. Beckman, I. Reitano (nine rooms)	202.11	1,819.00
M. Beckman	Student Services	October 21, 2014	Registration to attend Strauss Esmay Harrassment, Intimidation & Bullying Workshop, Toms River, NJ	150.00	150.00
J. Smedley K. Cifuentes	Guidance	October 24, 2014	Two registrations for Identifying and Managing At-Risk Youth, Edison, NJ	100.00	200.00
T. Sherrod M. Beckman M. Tiedemann	Student Services	March 13, 2015	Three registrations for NJASPA "The Year In Review", Long Branch, NJ	149.00	447.00
T. Sherrod M. Beckman M. Tiedemann	Student Services	January 22, 2015	Three registrations to attend NJASPA "Hot Legal Special Ed Topics", Tinton Falls, NJ	30.00	90.00
T. Thompson	Business Office	October 30, 2014	Reg. to attend Fall School Law Forum at NJSBA Workshop, Atlantic City, NJ	249.00	249.00
I. Reitano	Transp.	Nov 8-11, 2014	Registration to attend NAPT Summit, Kansas City, MO	399.00	399.00
M. Dzwonar K. Akey M. Griffin S. Kaminsky D. Nemeth S. Small, K. Weiss	Curric.	Nov. 3, 2014	Seven registrations to attend NJASCD: Chromebooks & the Common Core, Monroe Township, NJ	135.29	947.00
Monthly Total					\$4301.00
YTD Total					\$11,798.79

**D. Out of District Placement**

**Collier School**

Tuition September 15, 2014 – June 18, 2015

1. Student: #9801250 RSY \$ 54,334.80

**Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired - State of New Jersey**  
Tuition September 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

1. Student: #102996 RSY \$ 1,800.00

**Manalapan-Englishtown Regional Board of Education**  
**Howard C. Johnson School**

Tuition September 4, 2014 – June 22, 2015

1. Student: #101002 RSY \$ 57,547.00

**Mercer County Special Services School District – Personal Assistants**

Tuition September 4, 2014 through June 19, 2015

1. Student: #720168 RSY \$ 36,075.00  
2. Student: #720263 RSY \$ 36,075.00  
3. Student: #101460 RSY \$ 36,075.00  
4. Student: #720101 RSY \$ 36,075.00  
5. Student: #720114 RSY \$ 36,075.00

**Morris School District**

Tuition September 4, 2014 – June 24, 2015

1. Student: #201024 RSY \$ 15,544.00

**SHIP Midland Park**

Tuition September 4, 2014 – June 24, 2015

1. Student: #101002 RSY \$ 57,547.00

**Youth Consultation Services**

Tuition September 4, 2014 – June 30, 2015

1. Student: #102989 RSY \$ 53,699.40

**Joseph F. Cappello School**

Tuition September 4, 2014 through June 19, 2015

1. Student: #103008 RSY \$ 50,875.00  
2. Student: #101488 RSY \$ 45,325.00  
3. Student: #103009 RSY \$ 57,350.00  
4. Student: #101167 RSY \$ 45,355.00  
5. Student: #101731 RSY \$ 50,875.00  
6. Student: #102959 RSY \$ 50,875.00  
7. Student: #102364 RSY \$ 50,875.00  
8. Student: #102363 RSY \$ 50,875.00  
9. Student: #720686 RSY \$ 57,350.00  
10. Student: #101163 RSY \$ 57,350.00  
11. Student: #101155 RSY \$ 57,350.00  
12. Student: #103228 RSY \$ 50,875.00  
13. Student: #9801141 RSY \$ 50,875.00  
14. Student: #103565 RSY \$ 50,875.00  
15. Student: #101515 RSY \$ 45,325.00  
16. Student: #101858 RSY \$ 57,350.00  
17. Student: #102545 RSY \$ 50,875.00  
18. Student: #101460 RSY \$ 57,350.00

19. Student:	#103265	RSY	\$ 50,875.00
20. Student:	#102895	RSY	\$ 50,875.00
21. Student:	#102550	RSY	\$ 50,875.00
22. Student:	#102984	RSY	\$ 50,875.00
23. Student:	#101059	RSY	\$ 50,875.00
24. Student:	#101805	RSY	\$ 50,875.00
25. Student:	#102514	RSY	\$ 50,875.00
26. Student:	#102304	RSY	\$ 50,875.00
27. Student:	#201999	ESY	\$ 5,900.00

**Mercer Elementary School**

Tuition September 4, 2014 through June 19, 2015

1. Student:	#720440	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
2. Student:	#720481	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
3. Student:	#701696	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
4. Student:	#720532	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
5. Student:	#701656	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
6. Student:	#103189	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
7. Student:	#103680	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
8. Student:	#8102241	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
9. Student:	#202165	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
10. Student:	#720456	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
11. Student:	#603194	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
12. Student:	#720526	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
13. Student:	#720473	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
14. Student:	#720558	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
15. Student:	#720535	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
16. Student:	#102993	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
17. Student:	#20199	RSY	\$ 45,325.00

**Regional Day School**

Tuition September 4, 2014 through June 19, 2015

1. Student:	#602932	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
2. Student:	#402503	RSY	\$ 40,885.00
3. Student:	#102662	RSY	\$ 40,885.00

**Mercer County Special Services School District**

**Mercer High School**

Tuition September 4, 2014 through June 19, 2015

1. Student:	#720296	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
2. Student:	#839477	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
3. Student:	#102994	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
4. Student:	#201060	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
5. Student:	#720107	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
6. Student:	#720244	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
7. Student:	#720323	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
8. Student:	#501035	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
9. Student:	#720168	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
10. Student:	#500595	RSY	\$ 39,590.00
11. Student:	#832595	RSY	\$ 45,325.00

12. Student:	#102380	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
13. Student:	#720263	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
14. Student:	#402219	RSY	\$ 39,590.00
15. Student:	#720116	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
16. Student:	#720404	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
17. Student:	#2292214	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
18. Student:	#2271214	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
19. Student:	#839505	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
20. Student:	#720198	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
21. Student:	#102566	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
22. Student:	#720082	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
23. Student:	#600565	RSY	\$ 39,590.00
24. Student:	#720251	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
25. Student:	#720101	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
26. Student:	#720367	RSY	\$ 57,350.00
27. Student:	#720660	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
28. Student:	#720114	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
29. Student:	#402126	RSY	\$ 45,325.00
30. Student:	#799595	RSY	\$ 45,325.00

**E. 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
Alexander Road Associates	Psychiatric Evaluations	\$495.00
Capital Health	Auditory Processing Evaluations	Per Rate Schedule

**F. Joint Transportation Agreement with Hamilton Twp. Board of Education**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education approves the joint transportation agreement for the 2014-15 school year with the Hamilton School District as indicated below:

**East Windsor will be the “HOST District” for the following route (destination):**

Host District’s (EWRSD)Route #	Destination	Joiner District (Hamilton)Annual Cost
K-12	Melvin H. Kreps School	\$21,000.

Start date: 9/22/14 - End date: 6/18/15

**G. Declaration and Removal of Surplus Property – HHS media equipment**

The High School Library currently has older model television/VCR players and DVD players that are in disrepair and no longer useful. These items are taking up much needed space in the school library. Board approval is requested to dispose of or recycle these items at the discretion of the school business administrator. A list of these items are on file in the Business office.

**H. Approval of Minutes for August 11, 2014 and September 8, 2014 - Posted** on District website.

**I. Roosevelt Transportation Contract for 2014-15 school year.**

The Roosevelt Public School District in Monmouth County, is requesting transportation services for its 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who attend the East Windsor Regional School District for the 2014-15 school year.



- The Roosevelt District Transportation cost for 2014-15 school year (which includes HHS, MHK, and Sypek Shuttles: is \$43,160.98
- The Roosevelt District Transportation cost for 2014-15 the Activity Routes (HS, MHK and HS/MHK) is: \$17,512.20

**J. Bill list for October 6, 2014** in the amount of \$377,807.34

**K. Roosevelt Tuition Contract for 2014-15 school year**

The East Windsor Regional School District has a sending /receiving relationship with the Roosevelt Public School District. East Windsor is the receiving District for Roosevelt's seventh through twelfth grade students, and this has been an ongoing relationship. The 2014-15 tuition contract will have a modest 2% increase in tuition rates from last year. The Memorandum of Agreement (Tuition Contract) with the Roosevelt School District is submitted for Board approval.

**L. Approval to Reject all Bids for HHS New Science Labs Project and to Rebid for Said Project**

On October 1, 2014 bids were received, open and read aloud for the HHS New Science Labs and Elevator Project. After thorough review of the bids by the Business Administrator, it was determined all bids received were above the District budgeted amount. It is in the best interest of the District to reject all bids and re-bid the project, in the effort to receive bids closer to the budgeted amount.

**15. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Not needed.

**17. ADJOURN**

As recorded by: **Thaddeus Thompson**  
**Board Secretary**