

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education March 29, 2007**

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a special meeting on Thursday, March 29, 2007 at the Hightstown High School cafeteria. Board President Alice Weisman called the meeting to order at 7:35 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: Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer, Robert Laverty,  
Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul, Ricardo Perez, Alice Weisman.

Members Absent: James Hauck

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

**COMPLIANCE WITH FIRE CODE**

The Board president 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.....” (Board president pointed to the emergency exit.)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA (ITEM 3A)**

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

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Laverty, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Perez, Ms. Weisman. (Mr. Paul did not arrive yet).

Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: None. Motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION (ITEM 3B)**

Mr. Lavery 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 March 29, 2007. This closed session concerns:

1. Litigation

Minutes of this closed session will be available in accordance with Board policy when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Lavery, Mr. Perez, and Ms. Weisman. (Mr. Paul did not arrive yet). Members voting no: None. Members abstaining: None. Motion was carried unanimously.

**CLOSED SESSION (ITEM 4)**

The Board entered into closed session to discuss litigation.

**OPEN SESSION (ITEM 5)**

The Board returned to open session.

**PRESENTATION OF 2007-2008 BUDGET (ITEM 6)**

The Superintendent gave a detailed presentation on the 2007-08 budget. He made formal recommendations to approve the base budget, separate questions for courtesy busing, staffing and full day kindergarten.

**POLLING HOURS CHANGE (ITEM 7)**

The Superintendent gave an update on polling hours and locations. He recommends all efforts be made to allow the best opportunity for voting. Mr. Perez indicated the voting was disorganized. The Board Secretary will coordinate with the Board of Elections to make the voting process as smooth as possible.

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer, to approve the change in polling hours for the annual school election and budget vote to start at 2:00 p.m. and close at 9:00 p.m.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Lavery, Mr. Paul, Mr. Perez, Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: none. Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

**FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (ITEM 8)**

Laurie DePino – asked for details on the G&T program. The Superintendent responded that the additional staff would be used to expand the program and increase instruction time. Debbie Feaster offered the details on entry requirements and program operation.

Chuck Rowley - asked about mechanics of separate proposals and the tax impact. The Superintendent responded that the tax increase would be a permanent increase to the base levy.

Stu Dolgon – Commented that the EWRSD administrative costs are lower than most. Also commented on the importance of restoring those funds to the base budget.

MaryEllen Burns – expressed gratitude to the Board of Education and administrators for their efforts and asked about the tax impact of the questions.

Vibha Patel – asked about the mechanics of the busing separate proposal. The Superintendent responded that the non-mandated busing has been removed from the base budget and if the question passes, the courtesy transportation will be restored.

**FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS (ITEM 9)**

Mr. Perez, Mr. Paul, Mr. Ettman all expressed gratitude to the Superintendent for his efforts.

Mr. Ettman - commented that the benefits of supporting the budget will well serve the community.

Ms. Weisman – commented that the budget was presented well and easy to understand.

Mr. Laverty –commented the State's budget controls lose sight of the education program.

Ms. Fallon – thanked the Board and Administration for their efforts.

Ms. Lloyd – thanked the Superintendent for the easy to understand budget presentation.

Mr. Bolandi – thanked the Board for their accolades. He acknowledged the tireless efforts of his building administrators and central office staff.

**APPROVAL of 2007-08 BUDGET & RELATED BALLOT QUESTIONS (ITEM 10)**

**Base Budget**

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer, to approve the 2007-08 budget and authorize the Chief School Administrator and the School Business Administrator to submit to the Mercer County Superintendent of Schools the attached budget which includes:

Total General Fund Budget of \$71,769,831 and a  
Local Tax Levy of \$52,192,974,  
Total Special Revenue Fund Budget of \$1,944,528,  
Total Debt Service Fund Budget of \$3,689,883 and a  
Local Debt Service Fund Tax Levy of \$3,410,856.

On a roll call vote members voting yes: Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Laverty, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, Mr. Perez, Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: none. Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

**RELATED BALLOT QUESTIONS (ITEM 10)**

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer to approve that the following statements be included in the sample ballot questions:

**Courtesy Transportation**

**RESOLVED**, That there should be raised an additional \$680,000 for General Funds in the same school year (2007-2008). These taxes will be used for the continued operation of courtesy transportation services including all non-mandated transportation activities. The additional levy will provide funds for drivers, aides, supplies, benefits and equipment operating costs related to non-mandated courtesy transportation activities. The taxes, if raised, will be used exclusively for this purpose. Approval of these taxes will result in a permanent increase to the district's tax levy. These proposed additional expenditures are in addition to those necessary to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

**Non T&E Programs**

**RESOLVED**, That there should be raised an additional school year \$910,000 for General Funds in the same school year (2007-2008). These taxes will be used for the continued operation of Non T&E programs. The additional levy will provide funds for new staff members needed for the implementation and operation of new non T&E programs. These positions are completely new hires to support improved and expanded programs and services in the district. These taxes, if raised, will be used exclusively for this purpose. Approval of these taxes will result in a permanent increase to the district's tax levy. These proposed additional expenditures are in addition to those necessary to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

**Full Day Kindergarten**

**RESOLVED**, That there should be raised an additional \$1,500,000 for General Funds in the same school year (2007-2008). These taxes will be used exclusively to hire new staff members, purchase supplies and provide transportation for the establishment and operation of a new full day kindergarten program. Approval of these taxes will result in a permanent increase to the district's tax levy. These proposed additional expenditures are in addition to those necessary to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

On a roll call vote members voting yes: Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Laverty, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, Mr. Perez, Ms. Weisman.

Members voting no: none Members abstaining: none

Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN (ITEM 11)**

Mr. Ettman moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

  
Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary