

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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: MAY 11, 2009

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a regular meeting on Monday, May 11, 2009, at the Hightstown High School cafeteria.

ITEM 1. WELCOME

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: Paul Connolly, Stu Dolgon, Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer, Bob Laverty,
Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul, Alice Weisman.

Also Present: Kurt Stumbaugh, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
David Coates, Board Legal Counsel.

Absent: Ronald Bolandi, CSA*

*Ms. Weisman announced that Mr. Bolandi was not in attendance due to family illness.

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 3A APPROVAL OF AGENDA (with following modifications)

Item 6: Second Reading of Board Policies is moved to after item 11.

Item 8: Waiver for Elementary Foreign Language is removed from agenda.

Item 12A: Staffing – will have an addendum.

Item 12D: Volunteers & Chaperones is replaced with a revised version.

Item 12L: Tax Levy Schedule will have an addendum.

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

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

ITEM 3.B RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District will hold an executive session during its regular meeting on May 11, 2009. This closed session concerns:

1. Personnel Matters
2. Contract Negotiations
3. 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. Connolly, Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Laverty, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul and Ms. Weisman. Voting no: none. Abstaining: none.

Motion to approve was carried: unanimously

ITEM 4. QSAC PRESENTATION BY COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT SAMUEL STEWART

Dr. Samuel Stewart our Executive County Superintendent gave a detailed presentation on our recently completed QSAC evaluation and report. Our high performing District classification was recognized by the State.

ITEM 5. PROCLAMATION: SPECIAL EDUCATION WEEK

Ms. Weisman read the following proclamation.

WHEREAS, the public school districts and the private schools of New Jersey make a major contribution to the public welfare by preparing thousands of exceptional persons to participate as citizens of this state and as members of society; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's special education programs produce success stories every day as children with the guidance and support of dedicated teachers and parents, overcome obstacles to achieve to their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has been a nationwide leader in providing services to students with physical and learning disabilities; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's schools annually serve over 244,000 special education students; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey School Boards Association and the Association of Schools and Agencies for the Handicapped have sponsored Special Education Week in New Jersey since 1985; and

WHEREAS, the theme of this year's state celebration is "Opening the Door to Success"; and

WHEREAS, our school district is fortunate to have dedicated teachers, child study team members, support staff and parents who work together for the benefit of our community's special education children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Alice Weisman, President of the Board of Education, do hereby proclaim May 10 through May 16, 2009, as Special Education Week in New Jersey and in the East Windsor Regional School District.

Discussion:

Mr. Ettman expanded that all professionals involved in Special Education including speech therapists, occupational and physical therapists, are recognized and appreciated for their efforts.

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon to approve the proclamation for Special Education week.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Connolly, Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Laverty, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, Ms. Weisman. Voting no: none Abstaining: none

Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

ITEM 6. *SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICIES * moved to after item 11.**ITEM 7. ELEMENTARY REDISTRICTING**

Assistant Superintendent Michael Dzwonar reported on the elementary redistricting activities and the various options. He noted that Superintendent Bolandi worked with a small committee of administrators and teachers to consider the three options of redistricting. Mr. Bolandi sent a letter dated May 4, 2009 to parents and guardians indicating the three options now in review for the Board of Education. The Board will not take action on redistricting tonight. Mr. Bolandi and administrators have received comments from parents and guardians and the goal is to obtain as much parent and community feedback as possible regarding the options available. So far, 100% of the feedback was in favor of no change.

The options are:

OPTION 1. Leave the Ethel McKnight School as is with the following conditions:

- a. The understanding that class size for 5th grade will be approximately 25 students.
- b. The 2nd grade bilingual students move to the Perry L. Drew School.
- c. Lunches increase from 4 to 5 periods.
- d. Redeploying of staff in the District to assist in related areas and counseling.
- e. Continue to review enrollment at the McKnight School during the 09-10 school year.

OPTION 2. Move approximately 125 students from the McKnight School to the Grace N. Rogers School from the following areas:

Westerlea Ave. (Westerlea & Deerfield Apts.), Leshin Lane, Grape Run Road, South Street, South Main Street, East & West Ward Street, Taylor Ave., Pershing Place, Glen Street, Springcrest Ave., Spruce Court, Schuyler Street, Orchard Ave., Meadow Drive, Clover Lane, John Plant Road, Armelino Court, Davison Road, Farr Avenue, Maxwell Ave. (South of Franklin Street), South Side of Franklin Street, Cole Ave., Clinton Street.

OPTION 3. Review the possibility of making the Rogers School a 4-5 building for the entire district. If this option is chosen the McKnight School will stay as is for the 09-10 school year and district staff will have to develop a 4-5 plan during the summer and fall of 2009 for implementation in September, 2010.

It was noted that the McKnight School was built to hold 700 students. We are at 115% capacity and will continue to expand. At some point an adjustment will be needed. There are 825 students at McKnight vs. 400 students at Rogers.

The Administration's recommendation is to leave McKnight as is (Option #1).

Discussion:

Ms. Lloyd asked if by chance we get more than 825 students arriving in September, 2009 at McKnight, can we accommodate.

Mr. Dzwonar responded with this example: if we get 30 new 5th graders over the summer then we are looking at class sizes of 30-32. The statistical chance of that happening is very slim and that's the worst case scenario.

Ms. Lloyd asked about the fire code. Mr. Dzwonar responded that educationally we are below the fire code. We will continue to monitor the lunchtime occupancy.

Mr. Dolgon asked if we know how many parents have communicated regarding the redistricting issue.

Mr. Dzwonar responded he did not have the statistics but definitely more than a few.

Ms. Fayer asked if any teacher input was received regarding the educational impact on the students of redistricting. McKnight Principal, Gayle Parker, responded that the teachers will continue to provide excellent educational programs.

Mr. Paul asked about the average 5th grade class size.

Mr. Dzwonar responded that McKnight has 25 students vs. 21 in the other elementary buildings. Smaller class size is always more beneficial. Mr. Dzwonar added that McKnight is a successful school and parents support it.

Mr. Paul asked as parent feedback supports option 1, do we know if the 5th grade parents understand that their children will be in a larger than average class.

Mr. Dzwonar responded all the parents have given positive feedback towards option 1.

Mr. Ettman suggested we review all options, and conduct a survey, maybe send out a questionnaire to obtain feedback from the entire McKnight community. He commented the referendum projects were done with goal of optimum maximum size of an elementary school at approximately 700 students.

Mr. Dolgon asked about meeting State requirements as to diversity issues in the four schools and whether these options affect our ability to meet the requirements.

Ms. Weisman said the committee reviewed these issues and every option was in compliance.

Ms. Lloyd said option 2 would remove only Hightstown students from McKnight to Rogers School. This would eliminate any Hightstown student from McKnight and that would be unfair as the other 3 elementary schools have both Hightstown and East Windsor students. We need to keep this in mind should option 2 ever be seriously considered.

Mr. Laverty asked Ms. Lloyd to expand on why she objected to option 2.

Ms. Lloyd responded that having Hightstown students attend McKnight fosters the sense of community and you would want that mix to continue to build that sense of community.

Ms. Fallon spoke on her experience when her children attended 3 different schools. There is the neighborly concept of going to a neighborhood school. We should still try to preserve that if we can. We should keep looking at it from both sides and keep an open mind as we all have a stake in our schools. We have to look at the big picture.

Ms. Fayer noted that a lot of districts have the neighborhood schools that students can walk to.

Mr. Laverty feels public opinion is driving decision before the Board considers and acts and that is the wrong sequence. The Board members should consider issues first and then obtain constituent sentiment. The goal should be to consider what is educationally sound for the students. If a curriculum is not working as effectively in one school compared to another, the Board has to focus on the primary responsibility of student achievement.

Ms. Weisman responded that all options were fully addressed. Option 3 cannot be deployed for at least one year. We must analyze what makes the most educational sense and decide which way to go. We will be deliberative and pro active in our decisions.

Mr. Dzwonar expanded there is no reduction in student performance. We are not in a crisis we will put forward a comprehensive solution in a timely manner to address any issues. We have to find the best option for a long term solution.

Ms. Fayer commented on 10:45 – 12:45 lunch times. How late or early will lunch be for students. Lunch times are an important item and should be addressed.

Ms. Weisman closed the Board member discussion.

ITEM 8. WAIVER OF ELEM. WORLD LANGUAGE

Removed from the agenda at meeting.

ITEM 9: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Stumbaugh updated the Board on the progress of the roofing project. It will commence this week. We will be closing the purchase financing component tomorrow.

ITEM 10: FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT

Constance Harinxma, Hightstown: Has two children who attend McKnight. When she moved here was not really thrilled about having them go out of town to school, but McKnight is a beautiful school with good experiences. Supports redistricting and does not prefer the large class size.

Rob Thibault, Hightstown: has daughter who would be affected. Is not against redistricting. But has a problem with how this was done. Feels that information has not been given to public in a timely and effective manner. Appears that parents were informed at the last minute and the public feels shut out.

Ms. Weisman responded there is no done deal. Shutting out the public was never our intention.

Ms. Fayer responded that the McKnight PTA had a meeting before the school election and discussed the redistricting.

Mr. Thibault: selection of 125 students was not good. Feels Board is engaging in political expediency. Hightstown is much smaller community. Has only 2 representatives on the Board. Would be less likely to make a fuss than East Windsor. Hightstown residents were targeted because they traditionally vote down school budgets. Hispanic students are being targeted and marginalized. We were cut out of the decision process. 125 students will be affected and none are from East Windsor. Why is that?

Janis Haddock: Not affected now but may be later with the 4-5 option. Does not support this option. Parent involvement plummets when you have only 2 years in a school. Older students help and support the younger ones.

Kathy Zaisir, Hightstown: thinks it unreasonable for McKnight students to have larger classroom sizes when other students don't. The random way that Hightstown was selected because it happened to have the right number of students is an absurd way to approach this. We should take more time to look at this. Supports a formal poll. Hope the final decision is for the long run and a permanent long term solution.

Heather Szeles, Hightstown: Rogers and McKnight are both fabulous schools with wonderful staff. The McKnight School has gone through a lot of changes with the construction process. If option 2 is selected would like the Board to consider how it will help children to adjust. It is really unfair to those kids. She went to a district that was divided K-2, 3-5. It was a great experience. Please look at all the options and how it affects the whole district.

Steve Sharpe, East Windsor: Encouraged by the Board and Superintendent's action on the potential problem. Was this growth anticipated? Supports questions and analysis of growth rate. Need to explore population projections for the region. Regarding new development at race track – its impact needs to be analyzed.

Stephanie Muller, East Windsor: supports keeping things as is for this school year. Need more research into the options. Supports keeping neighborhood going to same school so there is cohesion. Makes it hard on the kids. We should look at redistricting across the whole district and try to keep kids in same neighborhood in same school. In favor of 4-5 building.

Jim Fidler, East Windsor: Not affected by plan 1 or 2. Whatever plan is chosen it should be a scalable plan. Option 1 or 2 are only a temporary fix. Supports further review and analysis. We should aim to make all the schools viable for a long term solution.

Cathy Sharpe, East Windsor: The neighborhood identified on option 2 seems to be a constant target. The same group is moved when redistricting occurs. Past moves have been a bandaid and have not worked. Some of the top schools in NJ have a K-3, 4-5 model. We should take into consideration the benefits from a 4-5 model. Kids are aware of the redistricting and are scared.

Steve Szeles, Hightstown. Thanked Mrs. Parker for her excellent job at McKnight. Hightstown may not be the target but that is how parents feel. Removal of current McKnight school students short changes kids and families for their investment. In favor of option 3 as a long term solution. We thought a vote on this would occur tonight. We should come up with even more options over the next year and a viable long term solution for all district students. East Windsor numbers will always outweigh Hightstown numbers. The budget has always been harder on the Hightstown resident. Feels he pays more for his children to go to school than other people are to send their children to the same school, same classroom, and same teacher. It is like paying \$2.00 for his slice of pizza when others may pay 1 or 1.50. Would like the Board to consider option 2 for next year.

Karen Salter: not directly affected right now. Kindergartner next year at McKnight. Concerned with large class size. 21 vs. 25 in a class makes a difference no matter how good the teacher is. Programs on carts are not good. We are here to represent all students not just 125. Students are resilient and adjust a lot better than parents do. Better public outreach is needed. Responsibility of the Board to make a decision that is educationally sound for all students It is not going to make everybody happy. In favor of redistricting. We need a long term solution not a quick fix.

Tony Catana, East Windsor: Is against a 4-5 school. It's a big mistake. In favor of redistricting now so kids don't go to 3 different schools. 4-5 graders do help the younger kids. Reconfigure to reduce transportation costs. His own child does not even know the kids in his neighborhood. If you are going to do this, redistrict everybody.

Dave Di Sanzo, East Windsor: concerned about class size. Smaller is much better. Alarmed that option 1 is favored. Prefers option 2 as it addresses class size problem. District should look forward to comprehensive solution. We should look at the possible District population increases in future.

Beverly Asselstine, Hightstown: Feels the district is not prepared to present these options. Options were not supported by statistics. A small percentage of students at McKnight would be moved but they are all Hightstown students. Not fair and is needlessly divisive. Tired of petty arguments between the two communities. Think outside the box and put yourself in other person's position. This is the second failure of communication with parents this year. There was Special Ed. parent meeting in February that had to be canceled. Only given 24 hour notice when rescheduled. Feels that District avoids public input and feedback. Wants to see all the data to support building program and decisions. Need to develop accurate projections. Get the numbers right this time.

Janice Sabogal, East Windsor: Kids would be impacted by change in lunch times. Financially what will the cost to district be for each option. Issue needs further analysis. Each option has an impact. Must make a concerted effort to go through all channels. Lack of communication to parents. Most parents may not even be aware of the impact of redistricting

Pam Parker, East Windsor: Attended EWRSD. Main concern is the process. It is not fair that McKnight is overcrowded. Should consider this problem but need a long term solution. Get demographics right. The population increase has been underestimated. We have had a K-2, 3-5, why did that change?? Now we are considering going back to that. Need to keep student movement within district to the minimum.

Lynne White, East Windsor: Concerned about the impact of option 3 on her child whose 504 document says "does not transition well" and wonders about the impact of this child going to 3 different schools in 3 years. Also concerned about the impact of increased transportation costs.

Ken Cohen, East Windsor: Knowledge and information should be a priority. Supports having Board meetings broadcast on local cable. Let public know what is going on. Goal should be to reduce class size. People want to be involved.

Christina Massalo, Hightstown: Purchased home in Hightstown knowing child would go to new school. Redistricting would impact ability to sell home. People in Hightstown feel discriminated against as Hightstown gets second pick for summer programs and have to pay additional fee.

Ms. Weisman thanked the public and closed public comments.

ITEM 11. FIRST BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Dolgon responded to the comment that he was biased. Mr. Dolgon defended his objectivity. Never leaned one way or another to East Windsor or Hightstown. Scores are up based on efforts of all elementary staff. Have to carefully word questionnaire to parents Over the past few years, our transportation supervisor has saved the district i.e. taxpayers over \$1 million each year in terms of reconfiguring bus routes. As far as new housing, demographic studies started in 2000-01 and the district did have a demographer speak to the Board. The Board was informed of status back then. We have had more new housing since then.

Ms. Fayer: demographic studies indicated redistricting would be needed when construction is completed. We have put off redistricting over the past years. This is just a preliminary discussion. This Board is not targeting one community. During construction students had to be moved. Had to move kids out of McKnight while it was being built to PLD and when construction was done moved them back again. We knew McKnight would overrun its numbers and we would have to redistrict.

Mr. Ettman: Our demographer did a comprehensive growth analysis. He spoke to the municipalities about anticipated growth. Back then East Windsor made a specific commitment not to approve residential growth and has not lived up to that commitment. We now have projects that were not contemplated. The Board knew based on demographic research that it was likely that there would have to be a significant redistricting and also that McKnight would probably be the focus. Hightstown was not redistricted in Mr. Ettmans's 12 years on the Board. The Board of Education does not participate in East Windsor/Hightstown border war. The inequality in Hightstown tax rates is caused by State not BOE. Transportation expenses have decreased substantially. Issues on 504's and IEP's will be addressed as there are laws involved Much long term planning did occur during building plan including redistricting. The Board does not purposely pick on Hightstown or discriminate against it. Remarks of this kind regarding lack of political expediency are stupid and nasty and have no place in the discussions. The Board makes sound and thoughtful decisions. May 4th letter does not say anything about this issue being a done deal.

Ms. Lloyd : This is our first public discussion. This is the process. We take these issues very seriously. We are not discouraging public participation. The opposite is true.

Mr. Paul: Ultimate decision will be for the education of our children..

Ms. Fallon: This is the process. Many topics come up last minute. We are discussing important issues at each meeting. We are addressing new information and new facts every day. Efforts are made to address all issues to the public in a timely manner in a public forum.

Mr. Laverty: The range of opinions is gratifying. The BOE values the input. Our decisions are based on the educational success of the students as our primary focus and this will drive the process.

Ms. Weisman: Everybody hates change. It causes disruption and nobody likes it. We have had 5 years of change for a sound purpose. Once change takes place many people can adapt and embrace it. Doing nothing is not an option. Change must happen. We must do what is in the best interest of the District and to optimize the educational process. Great care is taken to consider the concerns of all, including Hightstown. The Board never ever favors one community over the other. The Board of Education makes all decisions objectively.

There was a 5 minute recess.

ITEM 6: SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICIES

The following Board Policies and Regulations are included for approval on second reading:

Mr. Lavery read out loud the following policies up for approval on second reading:

Policy 1220 Employment of Chief School Administrator
 Policy 1620 Administrative Employment Contracts
 Policy 6423 Expenditures for Non Employee Activities, Meals, and Refreshments
 Policy 6470 Payment of Claims
 Policy 6471 Travel
 Policy 6510 Payroll
 Policy 6830 Audit
 Policy 6832 Receiving State Aid
 Policy 9120 Public Relations
 Policy 5320 Immunization
 Policy 8311 Manage Electronic Mail

Discussion: Ms. Fayer initiated discussion and regarding the policy below:

6832 CONDITIONS OF RECEIVING STATE AID

The school district, as a condition of receiving State Aid, will comply with the standards set forth at N.J.S.A. 18A:55-3 and the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6 concerning nepotism, contributions to Board members and contract awards, and the internal control requirements in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6. In addition, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.1, the school district shall be required to examine, no less than once every three years, all available group options for every insurance policy held by the district, including the self-insurance plan administered by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) Insurance Group on behalf of districts, and the district shall participate in the most cost-effective plan. This examination shall include the review of annual claims data and other experience rating information, as applicable.

The district shall also: take steps to maximize participation in the Federal Universal Service Program (E-rate) and the ACT telecommunications program offered through the New Jersey School Business Officials; participate in the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) Program offered through NJSBA, unless the school district is able to demonstrate to the Commissioner of Education that it receives goods or services at a cost less than or equal to the cost achieved by participants of the program based on an analysis of the prior two years; and take appropriate steps to maximize the local public school district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3.

The district shall refinance all outstanding debt in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61.1 et seq. for which a three percent net present value savings threshold is achievable. This refinance provision of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.1(b)5 shall also be monitored by the Executive County Superintendent or State Monitor, if applicable, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.11.

N.J.S.A. 18A:55-3

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.1

Mr. Coates explained the substance of this policy

Mr. Coates explained that the State mandates cost efficiencies. The mandate of this policy will expire soon. If it gets renewed we will have something in its place if not, you can revisit this.

The State is saying this is what we want and this is what you are going to do. You really don't have a choice but you can put a statement in the record as to how you understand it and that statement can be attached to the policy.

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer to approve the policies listed on second reading.

(All the polices are can be accessed on the District Public website).

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Connolly, Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Lavery, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, Ms. Weisman. Voting no: none Abstaining: none
 Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

ITEM 12: MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

- A. Staffing with Addendum
- B. Authorization of Emergent Hiring Pending Criminal History Check
- C. PLC Action Grant
- D. Volunteers /Chaperones (revised version)
- E. Field Trips
- F. Student to Study Abroad
- G. Donations
- H. Emily Rachel Silverstein Memorial Scholarship
- I. Approval of Travel and Related Expenses
- J. Summer Camp for HHS Marching Band
- K. Approval of Minutes: April 16, 2009
- L. Tax Levy Schedule: 2009-10 Budget (with additional page provided at mtg).
- M. Award of Bids & Contracts: Electric Service
- N. Results of FSMC Request for Proposals
- O. Required Signatures for WCB Student Activities Account
- P. Board Secretary's Report – March, 2009
- Q. Treasurer's Report – March, 2009
- R. Transfer Report – March, 2009
- S. Bill List for May 11, 2009

12A. APPROVAL OF STAFFING (with addendum)

As submitted.

12B. AUTHORIZATION OF EMERGENT HIRING PENDING CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK

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

Anthony Bartolone Teacher

12C. APPROVAL OF FIRST (PLC) PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES ACTION GRANT

The East Windsor Regional School District will have the opportunity to receive grant money in the amount of \$13,000 over the next 2 years to support the CONNECT-ED Phase II.

Phase II of CONNECT-Ed aims to bring what we have learned from Phase I ("Big Ideas Thinking" in math and science) into the classroom, help more teachers in our district understand big ideas thinking and apply it to K-12 science and math programs.

Our District PLC Leadership Team is comprised of elementary, middle, and high school teachers as well as a Supervisor and Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Programs. We have held vertical articulations (elementary-middle-high school) on four separate occasions. During those articulations and through reflective dialogue the Team has a Shared Vision on how to implement Big Idea Thinking (BIT) by engaging teachers to participate in Mini-BIMs (Big Idea Modules) which focuses on the standards and content through inquiry based learning. It is recommended that the Board approve the PLC Action Grant as submitted.

12D. APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEERS & CHAPERONES (revised at mtg.)

Hightstown High School

Carolyn Anzuini
Sue Evans

Sue Ladd
Ant Schechter

Grace Norton Rogers

John Prabhaker
Diana Lang
Gerver Grajeda
Jason Ward
Heather Teffenhart
Chrysanthe Newton

Ashraf Selim
Maria Adelaide Pablo
Valerie Lambert
Ruben Avila
William Newmeyer
Severiano Aguilar

Walter C. Black School

Mildred Abu-Bakarr
Duane Arsnow
Gurpreet Bhathal
Kelly Boani
Donald Brown
Dawn Coleman
Deidre Gocke
Ruth Guzman

Ammiah Hemby
Mrs. Jaramillo
Sherry Miller
Mark Ozorski
Pamela Farish-Ozorski
Jhansi Sadula
Mrs. Salazar
Monika Sircar

12E. APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips planned for Hightstown High School:

- 5/16/09 Robotics Competition, Montgomery Twp High School, Montgomery, NJ
- 5/29/09 2009 Senior Class Picnic, - Forest Lodge, Warren, NJ
- 6/1/09 Ecology Club - Camden Aquarium, Camden, NJ

Field Trip planned for Walter C. Black:

- 5/29/09 (6/2 rain date) First and second grade students 1800 Jacksonville-Jobstown Rd., Bordentown, NJ

Field Trip planned for Melvin H. Kreps:

- 5/22/09 E=MC² After School Program, Kean University, Union, NJ

Field Trip planned for Ethel McKnight:

- 6/1/09 Kindergarten to: Lee Turkey Farm, East Windsor, NJ (strawberry picking).

12F. STUDENT TO STUDY ABROAD

Rachel Schechter, a tenth grade student at HHS, would like to study abroad in Israel for the Spring Semester of the 2009-10 School Year. The Ramah Jerusalem High School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Secondary Schools. It is recommended that the Board approve the above student to study abroad in Israel as submitted.

12G. APPROVAL OF DONATION(S)

Jotica Talwar, 14 Thoreau Court, Hightstown, NJ 08520 would like to donate \$200 to the South Asian Club at Hightstown High School to help fund the cost of refreshments for their show.

Ms. Weisman thanked donor of the above donation for their generosity.

12H. EMILY RACHEL SILVERSTEIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The family of Emily Rachel Silverstein., who graduated from Hightstown High School in 2007 and who was tragically killed on April 9, 2009, while a sophomore at Gettysburg College, would like to honor her memory by offering the “Emily Silverstein Scholarship for a Better World” annual memorial award. This award is being established to continue Emily’s legacy of hope in action for a better world.

The scholarship will go to a graduating senior who shares Emily’s desire to work for social change. The criteria for earning this award would be an essay response of one- to five pages to the following question: “What have you done and what do you intend to do with your life to help create a more peaceful, socially just and environmentally sustainable world?”

Hightstown High School administrators, with teacher input, will make the final decision regarding the individual selected each year to receive this award.

The proposed yearly scholarship would be \$1,000 and will be presented at the Senior Awards Night beginning in June 2009.

It is recommended that the Board approve “The Emily Silverstein Scholarship for a Better World” to be awarded annually to a graduating senior, as outlined above.

12I. TRAVEL & RELATED EXPENSES

Helene Cimino	Bus. Office	May 13, 2009	Compumaster Adobe Creative Suite Users Workshop Princeton, NJ	\$199.00	
Helene Cimino	Bus. Office	May 13, 2009	Compumaster Adobe Photoshop Users Workshop	\$199.00	
Sharon Falitz	C & I	September 2 & 3, 2009	Fred Pryor Mastering Microsoft Excel - East Brunswick, NJ	\$279.00	
Thadeus Thompson	Bus. Office	September 2 & 3, 2009	Fred Pryor Mastering Microsoft Excel - East Brunswick, NJ	\$279.00	
Irene Murt	Bus. Office	September 2 & 3, 2009	Fred Pryor Mastering Microsoft Excel - East Brunswick, NJ	\$279.00	
K. Natalizio, J. Becerra, Sara Kluxen, Karitsa Soto, Blanca Ohler, Ina Wolfson, Eladio Reyes, M. Gonzalez, J.Friedmann	District Wide	May 20, 2009	NJ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/NJ Bilingual Educators	\$130.00 pp	
M. Peterson, D.Buchwald, K. Escribano	District Wide	May 19, 2009	NJ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/NJ Bilingual Educators	\$130.00 pp	
Daljeet Sandhu	District Wide	May 20, 2009	NJ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/NJ Bilingual Educators	\$55.00	
Linda Pohl	PLD	July 13-17, 2009	The National Writing Project at Rutgers Open Institute	\$350.00	
Peggy Caputo	PLD	July 13-17, 2009	The National Writing Project at Rutgers Open Institute	\$350.00	
Betzaida Feliziano	PLD	July 13-17, 2009	The National Writing Project at Rutgers Open Institute	\$350.00	YTD
Total				\$3,900.00	\$36,158.99

12J. APPROVAL OF SUMMER CAMP FOR HHS MARCHING BAND

Summer Camp for Hightstown High School will be held at Camp Saginaw August 27 through August 31, 2009.

The Camp will provide: Cabins for housing accommodations, use of CAMP’S recreational facilities including the lakefront, creek, athletic fields, and courts, indoor recreational halls, canteen area, designated campfire sites, swimming pool (if weather and operations permit), and other areas; Food service: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Snack.

Contract is enclosed: East Windsor Music Booster Association agrees to pay the CAMP, the minimum guarantee of 100 people at \$170.00 per person for a total of \$17,000. Chaperones will be charged at \$85.00 per person. An initial non refundable deposit of \$2,000 is due upon the signing of the contract.

12K. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 16, 2009

Minutes of the EWRSD Board of Education meetings are submitted for approval.

(Copies of the Board meeting minutes are available on District Public Website and in Board Secretary’s office).

12L. TAX LEVY SCHEDULE: 2009-10 BUDGET

The local share of the budget is supported through the local levy per the attached schedule for the 2009-10 budget. It is recommended that the Board approve the local tax levy schedule as submitted.

*(Copy of Tax Levy Schedule is available for review in Board Secretary’s office).

12M. AWARD OF BIDS & CONTRACTS: ELECTRIC SERVICE

On November 8, 2004 the East Windsor Regional School District approved a resolution binding the District to purchase electric generation services through ACES (Alliance for Competitive Energy Services,)

This resolution authorized ACES to obtain bids for electrical service on the District’s behalf through May, 2009.

The winning ACES electric supplier and the District’s new electric generation supply contract goes to HESS Corp. The term of the contract is May 1, 2009 to the last meter reading in April, 2010.

It is recommended that the Board approve the contract for the District’s electric service to the HESS Corporation.

12N. RESULTS of FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT REQUEST for PROPOSALS

Request for proposals were received on April 29, 2009 for Food Service Management.

After thorough review by the School Business Administrator of the proposals received, it is recommended that the District to approve Chartwells as the Food Service Management Company for the 2009-2010 school year, and for the District to initiate the execution of a new contract agreement.

**SUMMARY OF FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANY PROPOSALS
APRIL 29, 2009**

Dowling Food Service, Inc.	No proposal
Pomptonian Food Service	No proposal
Metz & Associates, Ltd.	No proposal
Nu-Way Concessionaires, Inc.	FSMC Fee: \$58,636.90
	Admin. Fee: <u>15,000.00</u>
	Total Fees: \$73,693.90
	Estimated Profit: \$50,123.16.
 *Chartwells	 FSMC Fee: \$54,302.00
	Admin. Fee: <u>70,094.00</u>
	Total Fees: \$124,396.00
	 Estimated Profit: \$72,597.00

12O.REQUIRED SIGNATURES FOR WCB STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT

Agenda Item 6D: "Depositories of School Funds" on the April 27th agenda of the reorganization meeting should be amended to read as follows:

Required Signatures for the Student Activities Account

Walter C. Black School - **Principal, Secretary, Clerk**

Board approval is recommended for the revised signators for WCB student activity account as submitted.

12P. BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT: MARCH, 2009

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received the report of the Board Secretary and Treasurer for the month of November, 2008, 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 that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

It is recommended the Board approve the Report of the Board Secretary as submitted.

12Q. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of March 2009 is submitted for approval

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

It is recommended that the Board approve the Report of the School Treasurer for March 2009 as submitted.

12R. TRANSFER REPORT

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.

It is recommended that the Board approve the Transfer Report for March 2009 as submitted.

Motion to approve above exception items:

12S. BILL LIST

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:

\$1,710,689.58

Mr. Lavery moved seconded by Mr. Paul to approve ITEM 12 – APPROVAL OF EXCEPTION ITEMS as submitted.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Connolly, Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Lavery, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul and Ms. Weisman. Voting no: none Abstaining: none. Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

ITEM 13. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rob Thibault, Hightstown NJ hoped the Board got the message from the parents tonight. Had no idea why the decision was made. Did not hear any apology from the administrators or the Board for communicating badly. Parents get the message that you really don't care what they think. Board members who insult the public and who cannot engage in dialog and cannot see how the public might think the process was secretive and looks like a specific group was targeted; and to have a board member call certain comments stupid makes one might think that Board member might not have the mental acuity necessary to be on the Board.

The message is we want improved communication and when mistakes are made apologies should be made to the public.

ITEM 14. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Ms. Fayer: there was a letter from the Superintendent went out about a month ago changing the April 27th date for redistricting discussion to May 11th. It was not a secretive event or process at all. Transportation made its presentation to the Board only recently. The Board cannot discuss anything in private when there are more than 5 members. The only time we could discuss this as a group was tonight. If you didn't see that letter we are sorry, but it did go out and I as a parent received that letter in the mail.

Mr. Connolly: Thinks of East Windsor and Hightstown as one community. His goal is to improve communication The District web site should be utilized more as a tool for communication to the public.

Ms. Weisman commented that the Board needs to convene a liaison committee. The music booster meeting is tomorrow. There are school concerts in the district taking place this week. Ms. Weisman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

ITEM 15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into closed session.

ITEM 16. OPEN SESSION

No one spoke

ITEM 17. ADJOURN

Mr. Paul moved to adjourn meeting.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary