

Date of Board Approval: 1/8/15

**SUBJECT: Minutes of the SPECIAL Meeting on DECEMBER 6, 2014**

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, Hightstown, NJ, held a Special meeting/Board retreat on **DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> 2014** at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Training Room 807 located at 25A Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ.

**Members Present:** Pete Bussone, Tracy Carroll, Paul Connolly (9:15 a.m.), Bertrand Fougnyes, Christine Harrington (9:10 a.m.), Robert Laverty, Kennedy Paul and Alice Weisman

**Member(s) Absent:** Lilia Gobaira

**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 9:00 a.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**

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

Vote: On a roll call poll of the Board, Motion to approve was carried unanimously with 6 'yes' votes.

**B. RESOLUTION: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Action: Mr. Paul moved, seconded by Mr. Laverty, 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 Special meeting on Saturday December 6, 2014.

This closed session concerns:

A. Contract and Anticipated Litigation with ABCD Construction Co.

B. Negotiations

Minutes of the 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 '6' yes votes.

**5. Discussion: Board and District Goals**

Mr. Michael Dzwonar, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Assessments, provided handouts to the Board outlining the District Goals of 2013-14. Using these as a backdrop, he updated the Board on where the District is on achieving these goals using analysis of test results and scores.

**Goal #1. (Academic) Assess and increase student achievement by challenging each student to reach his or her highest potential.**

Goal 1.4: Students will graduate high school with the necessary skills and appropriate plan to pursue post-secondary options.

Goal 1.3: Students will graduate 8<sup>th</sup> grade prepared for the rigor of high school.

Goal 1.2: Students will finish 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading and writing above standard and with computational skills essential for middle school success.

Goal 1.1 Students will finish 2<sup>nd</sup> grade reading at or above level.

As part of the discussion on the academic goals, the following topics were discussed:

- Full day kindergarten
- Summer supplemental education
- School year supplemental education
- ESL and ELL
- Technology
- Gifted and talented program - pros and cons/criteria

**Goal #2. All students will be provided a safe, secure, and healthy learning environment.**

For this goal the Board discussed topics related to the safety and security in our school buildings. Safety is definitely a priority. Are we doing everything we can and what improvements are needed. Ascertain what other districts are doing and if those measures work well for them. Also, consider the installation of the latest technology available to provide the best possible security in our buildings. In addition, the topic of addressing student mental health issues and the district initiatives in place were discussed. Request was made for an update on this in about a month or so.

The Board briefly discussed the topic of Board of Education goals. It was agreed that Board goals closely align with the District goals. The Board will follow the calendar schedule for its online evaluation process in April and self-evaluation in May, 2015.

**6. Date of Reorganization Meeting in January, 2015.**

The Board agreed that the next meeting, in January, will *not* take place on Monday January 5<sup>th</sup>, as it is the day we get back from the holiday break. Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> was suggested as an alternate.

**7. Executive Session**

The Board went into closed session

**8. Return to Open Session**

**9. Superintendent Search**

The Board discussed the status of the new superintendent search. It was noted that the Board is very satisfied Dr. Baker's with his leadership and communication. Dr. Baker has expressed his willingness to stay on as Interim CSA for two years if necessary. The Board will re-advertise for candidates in March 2015, and keep the community updated on the progress of the superintendent search accordingly.

**10. Adjourn**

Ms. Harrington moved, seconded by Mr. Paul to adjourn meeting.

As recorded by Thaddeus Thompson, Board Secretary