

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING on MAY 4, 2015

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, Hightstown, NJ, held a regular meeting on MAY 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hightstown High School Cafeteria located at 25 Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ

Members Present: Pete Bussone, Tracy Carroll, Paul Connolly, Bertrand Fougnes
Christine Harrington, 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 7:00 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

"Having read the material received, I move the agenda be approved as submitted."

Action: Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the agenda with the addition of a third item under 3B. (Executive Session): Negotiations- EWEA & EWRSSA.

Vote: On a roll call poll of the Board, Motion to approve was carried unanimously with 8 '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 two closed sessions during its Regular Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2015. These closed sessions concern:

1. Personnel – Employee Matters
2. Student Matters – Bullying Attachment for BOE only
3. Negotiations for EWEA & EWRSSA

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 8 'yes' votes.

4. RECOGNITION: Elementary School Science Fair Winners

The 2015 EWRSD Elementary Science Fair was held on February 26, 2015 at the Kreps Middle School. Approximately 20 science projects representing four elementary schools were submitted, judged, and available for public viewing. Students earning awards at all levels recently represented the EWRSD at the Mercer County Science and Engineering Fair. Ms. Samantha Kaminsky, Curriculum Supervisor, led the recognition of the Science Fair Winners and handed out certificates of merit to the participants.

Perry L. Drew 5th grade student Brinda Ambal earned the top spot for her project titled “Are *Icicles Clean* ?” Perry L. Drew 4th grade student Emma Dailey, was named second prize winner for her project “ *Cupcake Wars.*” Perry L. Drew 4th grader Jacob Newman took third place prize for his project, “The *Effects of Drag on Paper Airplanes.*”

In addition to the grand prize winners, several students received an honorable mention from the judges.

- Saahiti Somu, 4th grade, Ethel McKnight Elementary School
- Jason Vagrin, 4th grade, Ethel McKnight Elementary School
- Katherine DeMarco, 5th grade, Grace Norton Rogers Elementary School
- Vidhi Challani, 5th grade, Perry L. Drew Elementary School
- Arav Raval, 5th grade, Perry L. Drew Elementary School

The following twelve additional students participated in the science fair and submitted noteworthy projects.

<u>Ethel McKnight School:</u>	Ameya Keertikar,	Brooke Vagrin,	Sahaan Shyam
<u>Perry L. Drew School:</u>	Nistha Amit Sheth,	Rowena Kannaiyan,	Keerthi Kannan,
	Omkar Iyer,	Renee Titicula,	Deepak Kannan,
	Sarah Poruanthattil,	Jason Otoo Appiah	
<u>Walter C. Black School:</u>	Shivani Shankar		

The students who received grand prize or honorable mention went on to compete at the 2015 Mercer Science and Engineering Club.

- Jason Vagrin won the award of Meritorious Achievement for his project “A *Battery That Makes Cents.*”
- Katherine DeMarco won the award of *Superior Achievement* for her “As *Clean as a Kitchen Sponge?*”

On behalf of the Board, Board President Ms. Weisman congratulated all the winners and wished them continued success.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into closed session.

6. PERSONNEL ACTION

This item was removed from the agenda at the meeting.

7. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Ms. Harrington commented she is looking forward to increased opportunities for the high school and especially middle school students with the incoming new District Athletic Director.

Dr. Baker suggested creating teams at the middle school so that students can play against each other.

Mr. Paul commented we should ascertain what sports are not represented before adding teams to what we already have.

8. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Saravanan Kunju of East Windsor asked the Board about the possibility of providing lights on the tennis courts/field.

9. PRESENTATION & PUBLIC HEARING ON 2015-2016 BUDGET

Mr. Thaddeus Thompson, District School Business Administrator, presented to the Board and public the final budget numbers for the 2015-2016 school year. The Board offered their comments and questions to Mr. Thompson during the presentation. As this was a public hearing, Ms. Weisman asked the public for any comments on the budget. There were none. **(a user friendly version of the 2015-16 Budget is available on the District website.)*

10. RESOLUTION for APPROVAL OF 2015 -2016 BUDGET

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

WHEREAS, the tentative budget for the East Windsor Regional School District was presented to the Board of Education and approved for submittal to the County Superintendent at the March 9th, 2015 meeting, and **WHEREAS**, since that time, changes have been made to the budget which were implemented into the final 2015-2016 budget up for approval this evening,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the East Windsor Regional Board of Education approves the revised 2015-2016 proposed budget as the FINAL 2015-2016 budget, and authorizes the Chief School Administrator and Business Administrator to submit to the Mercer County Superintendent of Schools the 2015-2016 budget which includes a

- **Total Operating Budget of \$81,791,006** and a
- **Local Operating Budget Tax Levy of \$61,483,692**
- **Total Grants and Entitlements Fund Budget of \$1,772,167**
- **Total Repayment of Debt Fund Budget of \$3,299,553** and a
- **Repayment of Debt Fund Tax Levy of \$3,167,898,**

RESOLVED: there should be raised for operating budget, **\$61,483,692** tax levy for the ensuing school year 2015-2016.

Vote: On a roll call poll of the Board, Motion to Approve was carried unanimously with 8 ‘yes’ votes.

11. BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES ON APPROVAL ON SECOND READING

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the following policies as submitted on SECOND reading:

P 8505 - Wellness Policy/Nutrient Standards for Meals and Other Foods – Revised/Mandated

P 8507 - Breakfast Offer Versus Serve (OVS) – New/Recommended

P 8508 - Lunch Offer Versus Serve (OVS) – New/Recommended

8505 – Wellness Policy/Nutrient Standards for Meals and Other Foods (Revised)

School districts received a Memorandum from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDOA) on August 1, 2014 indicating the Model Nutrition Policy previously accepted as a Wellness Policy no longer meets the requirements of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDOA) and the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA). In the Memorandum, school districts were directed to a Federal website for ideas on updating and implementing a new Wellness Policy and were informed local wellness policies will be reviewed during the USDOA administrative reviews of school lunch programs, which begin sometime in the fall of 2014. The NJDOA informed Strauss Esmay Associates it intends to release a sample Policy when the NJDOA gets more guidance from the USDOA. In the meantime and after reviewing the vast amount of information on several Federal websites regarding HHFKA, Strauss Esmay has developed a new Wellness Policy Guide 8505 for districts to consider adopting until the NJDOA releases its sample Policy. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates a local wellness policy must include, at a minimum: goals for nutrition promotion and education; goals for physical activity; nutrition guidelines; a mechanism for parent, school, and student involvement in updating the policy; and periodic measurement of policy compliance.

The new Policy Guide includes these minimum requirements with required activities. **The recommended activities in sections A.1, A.2, A.3, and A.4 of this Policy Guide were developed to not burden a school district or the food service department. A school district may eliminate, revise, or add to these activities to meet local needs.** An important and required component of this Wellness Policy is the requirement that each school compile an Annual School Progress Report as part of the required periodic policy evaluation process. This Policy Guide was developed to be a district-wide Wellness Policy for each school in the district and includes requirements for all schools and individual school goals for each elementary, middle, and high school in the district. Each school is required to complete an Annual School Progress Report that is compiled into an Annual District Summary Progress Report, which becomes the basis for periodic evaluation of the district's Policy. This option is less burdensome than having a Board adopt an individual Policy for each school in the district. A Wellness Policy is mandated; therefore, it is recommended a school district adopt Policy Guide 8505 with an understanding that Strauss Esmay will provide an update to this Policy when the NJDOA releases its sample wellness policy, if needed. A district should review this Wellness Policy Guide with the food service management staff. This Policy Guide 8505 should replace the district's existing Policy Guide 8505. Policy Guide 8505 is **MANDATED**

8507 – Breakfast Offer Versus Serve (OVS) – New

8508 – Lunch Offer Versus Serve (OVS) – New

School districts were recently informed one of the requirements of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010 is that an Offer Versus Serve (OVS) Policy must be in place for any school implementing OVS. OVS is a policy for reimbursable meals that allows students to decline a certain number of food components in the meal in order to reduce plate waste and food costs and still provide reimbursement to the program. A breakfast OVS program is optional at all grades. Therefore, a Breakfast OVS Policy is only required if the school district operates a breakfast program and desires an OVS program. A district that does not operate a breakfast program or a district that operates a breakfast program, but does not want a breakfast OVS program, does not need to adopt a Breakfast OVS Policy. A lunch OVS program is required for high school grades and is optional for all other grades. Therefore, a Lunch OVS Policy is recommended for a district with a high school and is optional for school districts that do not have a high school. A Kindergarten through grade twelve school district that does not want an OVS Policy for their non-high school students should not include the elementary and/or middle schools on the "List of Schools" in the Policy. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture, in an October 28, 2013 memorandum has indicated a Board Policy is not required; however, compliance is required. Therefore, policies 8507 and 8508 are **RECOMMENDED**.

Vote: On a roll call poll of the Board, Motion to approve was carried unanimously with 8 'yes' votes.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Baker spoke on the following topics:

- Updated the Board on the District construction projects.
- Announced Mr. James Peto will fill the position of District Athletic Director on July 1, 2015, as Mr. Bushelli's replacement, and will be responsible for the K-12 PE curriculum and coordinating sports activities in district.

High School principal, Dennis Vinson provided the details of the hiring process, and noted Mr. Peto brings tremendous experience and is up for the challenge of managing the Phys. Ed. departments and sports activities district wide.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into a second closed session.

14. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Bussone thanked Mr. Thompson, Dr. Baker and Administrators for their hard work and efforts with the budget. Mr. Fougny commented that he attended the National Honor Society Awards ceremony and it was great; and he was quite impressed to see the colleges our students have been accepted to. Ms. Harrington commented on the possibility of forming a curriculum committee. Ms. Weisman added that a personnel/curriculum committee would be a good idea.

15. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

16. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Paul that after having read the materials received, the following items be approved by exception.

A. Staffing

B. Bullying Report (as discussed at April 20, 2015 meeting)

C. Donation: Office Furniture/Appliances to WCB

Mrs. Mari Vance, 142 Oak Creek Road, East Windsor, NJ 08520 would like to donate office furniture and appliances to the Walter C. Black School. The furniture includes 1 file cabinet, 5 side chairs, 6 conference room chairs, 1 book shelf, 1 microwave, and 1 Mr. Coffee.

D. Field Trip

5-14-14 New Jersey State BOE Annual Student Recognition Ceremony - HHS Students
 Riverview Executive Plaza
 Bldg. 100 – Route 29, South Trenton, NJ

E. EWPAL Lacrosse Scholarship – Revised

The East Windsor Police Athletic Association, Mr. Paul Gazaleh, 30 Airport Rd., East Windsor, NJ 08520 would like to offer a one-time scholarship of \$250 each to two graduating seniors in the Hightstown High School Class of 2015 – one male lacrosse player and one female lacrosse player. The proposed scholarships will be presented at the Sports Awards on June 4th 2015.

(On the April 20, 2015 BOE agenda, it was incorrectly stated that the scholarship was facilitated by Mr. Gazaleh of The Chalfin Group, Inc., 45 Bridge Str., Metuchen, NJ 08840. The scholarship is actually through the East Windsor Police Athletic Association. All other information was correct.)

F. Travel and Related Expenses

				Per Person	Total
B. Hill	GNR	June 24-27, 2015	Registration to attend 47 th NASN Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA	480.00	480.00
S. Fernandez	PLD	June 24-27, 2015	Registration to attend 47 th NASN Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA	480.00	480.00
J. Baker	Admin	May 6, 2015	Registration to attend State of East Windsor Township Address, East Windsor, NJ	55.00	55.00
Monthly Total					\$1000.00
YTD Total					\$59,186.90

G. Partnership with Rutgers to Apply for Education Grant

Board approval is requested for the application of a grant in partnership with Rutgers University to the Spencer foundation. The overall objective is to collaborate, partner and address educational issues that are of mutual interest and beneficial to both parties. Timothy Cleary, Ph.D., Associate Professor, of Rutgers University chose MHK given that we have an existing relationship with the school and the district maintains comprehensive longitudinal student performance data (which is a key requirement of the Foundation grant). The goal of the initiative would be to build teacher capacity to infuse motivation and SRL skills into the classroom and that can ultimately impact student achievement.

H. Out of District Placements in Private & Public Schools

The Rugby School at Woodfield – Extraordinary Services May 4, 2015 through June 23, 2015

- 1. Student: #201216 RSY. \$ 3,850.00

I. Removal/Disposal of Surplus Property

- 1.) Wrestling Mats – MHK
- 2.) Concert Shells – HHS
- 3.) Storage Lockers - GNR
 - 1). The Kreps School Physical Education Dept. has purchased new wrestling mats to replace the old ones that are in disrepair. Board approval is recommended to dispose of the old mats.
 - 2.) The High School Music Dept. is requesting permission to dispose of 2 “Legacy Acoustical Shells” Serial # 186A1871 by Wenger. These concert shell panels are broken and no longer useful.
 - 3) As the Rogers school has 4 musical instrument storage lockers in like new condition which are not being used, the Woodbridge School District (high school music department) has expressed interest in buying them from EWRSD. The Woodbridge high school has offered to pay \$1,000. for these items and will pick them up at an agreed upon time.

J. Phoenix Advisors,LLC as District Municipal Advisor of Record

Board approval is recommended to approve the 2015-16 agreement to re-appoint Phoenix Advisors, LLC to serve as the District’s Continuing Disclosure Agent and Independent Registered Municipal Advisor of Record for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

K. Transportation Agreement with MCSSD District for the 2015-2016 School Year

The school district belongs to “The Mercer Cooperative Transportation System” (M.C.T.S) for the purpose of sharing transportation expenses of special education students sent to private and other schools located outside of the school district. Mercer County Special Services School District is the lead agency for the system. Each year the school district approves a transportation agreement to remain part of the cooperative system.

L. Board Meeting Minutes: March 9, 23, 2015 Regular Meetings and the March 30, 2015 Special Meeting.

M. Bill List for May 4, 2015 in the amount of \$1,143,672.19

Note: On a roll call poll of the Board, motion to approve the routine exception items was carried unanimously with 8 ‘yes’ votes.

17. ADJOURN

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

*(Transcribed by C. Jablonski
Confidential Secretary to SBA/Board Secretary)*