

Date of Board Approval: Feb. 23, 2015

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING on FEBRUARY 5, 2015

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, Hightstown, NJ, held a regular meeting on FEBRUARY 5TH, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Training Room 807 located at 25A Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ (This meeting was rescheduled from January 26th due to snow).

Members Present: Pete Bussone, Tracy Carroll, Paul Connolly, Bertrand Fougnyes, Lilia Gobaira (7:25 p.m.), Robert Laverty, and Alice Weisman

Member(s) Absent: Christine Harrington, Kennedy Paul

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 the public 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. A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. NEW BOARD MEMBER OATH OF OFFICE: Bertrand Fougnyes

Mr. Thompson, Board Secretary administered the oath of office to Bertrand Fougnyes.

3. A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Bussone, that having read the material received, the Board approve the agenda with the following changes:

- Item 3B: Resolution Executive Session – as submitted
- Item 4: Presentation on State Mandates (has been rescheduled for Feb. 9, 2015 meeting)
- Item 12.A: Revised Staffing - 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

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District will hold two executive sessions during its meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2015.

These closed sessions concern:

1. Student Matters – Bullying
2. Student Matter – Discipline Hearing
3. Superintendent Contract (*added at meeting*)

Minutes of the 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 carried unanimously with 6 'yes' votes.

4. PRESENTATION: Update on State Mandates – rescheduled for future meeting.

5. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Mr. Bussone commented that he was privileged to attend the QSAC meeting and expressed his awe of the fantastic team we have here at the District leading our kids; thanks to everyone, and added that our District is in good hands.

Mr. Fougny commented that he is sorry to have missed the last meeting, (he was ill). Spoke briefly on his experience at the NJSBA New Board Member Retreat/Orientation weekend he attended for his Governance I mandated training. Found it very informative and enjoyable.

6. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT - No one spoke.

7. SECOND READING OF BOE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Bussone, to approve the following policies and mandated regulations as submitted to the Board on SECOND reading:

- A. P 2412 - Home Instruction Due to Health Conditions – Revised/Mandated
- B. P 2417 - Student Intervention and Referral Services – Revised/Mandated
- C. P 2481 - Home or Out-of-School Instruction for a General Education Student for Reasons Other than a Temporary or Chronic Health Condition - Revised/Mandated
- D. P 5200 - Attendance – Revised/Mandated
- E. R 5200 - Attendance – Revised/Mandated
- F. P 5610 - Suspension – Revised/Mandated
- G. R 5610 - Suspension – Revised/Mandated
- H. P 5611 - Removal of Students for Firearms Offenses - Revised/Mandated
- I. R 5611 - Removal of Students for Firearms Offenses - Revised/Mandated
- J. P 5612 - Assaults on District Board of Education Members or Employees -Revised/Mandated
- K. R 5612 - Assaults on District Board of Education Members or Employees - New/Mandated
- L. P 5613 - Removal of Students for Assaults with Weapons Offenses – New/Mandated
- M. R 5613 - Removal of Students for Assaults with Weapons Offenses – New/Mandated
- N. P 5620 - Expulsion – Revised/Recommended
- O. P 8462 - Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children – Revised/Mandated
- P. R 8462 - Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children – Revised/Mandated

- Vote: On a roll call poll of the Board, motion to approve was carried unanimously with 6 ‘yes’ votes.

2412 – Home Instruction Due to Health Condition (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1 – Home or Out-of-School Instruction Due to a Temporary or Chronic Health Condition was re-adopted with several minor revisions and several significant revisions. The new code eliminates the requirement that the teacher providing home instruction must be certified for the subject, grade level, and/or special need of the student. The new code only requires that the teacher be a certified teacher. Secondly, the new code eliminates the number of required instruction hours for a student on home-instruction due to a temporary or chronic health condition. Policy and Regulation Guides 2412 have been revised to incorporate the new administrative code provisions. **Policy and Regulation Guide 2412 are MANDATED**

2417 – Student Intervention and Referral Services (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.1 – Establishment of Intervention and Referral Services was re-adopted with minor revisions. The revisions in the re-adoption are mostly language changes that will have little impact on how a school’s I&RS Team functions. Policy and Regulation Guides 2417 have been revised to incorporate the new administrative code provisions. **Policy & Regulation Guide 2417 are MANDATED**

2481 – Home or Out-of-School Instruction for a General Education Student for Reasons Other Than a Temporary or Chronic Health Condition (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-8.2 – Home or Out-of-School Instruction for a General Education Student for Reasons Other Than a Temporary or Chronic Health Condition was readopted with several minor revisions and one significant revision. This administrative code section, Policy, and Regulation covers the student who is not temporarily out of school due to health, but due to waiting for placement in an alternate education program, suspended more than five days (short or long-term), or that is court ordered to receive instructional services at home or other out-of-school setting. The home instruction hours and number of times per week did not change; however, the teacher only needs to be a certified teacher and is not required to be certified in the subject, grade, or special needs area of the student. Policy and Regulation Guides 2481 have been revised to incorporate the new administrative code provisions. **Policy and Regulation Guide 2481 are MANDATED**

5200 – Attendance (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.8 – Attendance was recodified to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 and readopted with several significant changes. Policy Guide 5200 has been revised to incorporate the revisions in the readopted code. The most significant changes are in the revised Regulation Guide 5200. A new section “B” was added to the Regulation Guide concerning attendance recording. The new code, for practical purposes, establishes three types of absences: excused absences, unexcused absences that count toward truancy and unexcused absences that do not count toward truancy. The Department of Education has indicated the only excused absences are absences for observance of religious holidays and Take Your Child to Work Day as excused by the Department of Education. A district determines unexcused absences that do not count toward truancy with all other unexcused absences considered unexcused that count toward truancy. Section “C” of the Regulation Guide provides a list of absences school districts have typically considered excused, but now must be considered unexcused absences that do not count toward truancy. The district may determine unexcused absences that do not count toward truancy from the list provided in the Regulation Guide. In addition, the re-adopted code reduces some of the actions required when a student is out with four, as well as five to nine cumulative unexcused absences that count toward truancy during the school year. A new section was added in the re-adopted code that provides specifics regarding the referral to either Municipal or Superior Court for the student who is considered truant - out ten or more times for unexcused absences that count toward truancy during the school year. The excused and unexcused absence requirements in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 should not be confused with a high school district’s policy to deny course credit to a student for missing a certain number of classes regardless of whether it is an unexcused absence that counts towards truancy or an unexcused absence that does not count toward truancy. N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6 does not address a school district’s ability to deny course credit for unexcused absences. The new Policy and Regulation Guide provides an option for the denial of course credit for secondary students. This option may be revised to meet a district’s preference. The new administrative code, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6, is confusing in defining student absences and defining a distinction between unexcused absences that count toward truancy and unexcused absences that do not count toward truancy is very important. The required responses of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6(a)4. are required for unexcused absences that count toward truancy only. The Department of Education was helpful in providing clarification on this issue. Regulation Guide 5200 must be adopted by the Board as required by administrative code. **Policy and Regulation Guide 5200 are MANDATED**

5610 – Suspension (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2 – Short-term Suspensions and N.J.A.C. 6A:7.3 – Long-term Suspensions were re-adopted with minor revisions. Provisions related to suspensions of students due to firearm offenses and assaults were removed from this Policy and Regulation Guide as these issues are addressed and updated in other Policy and Regulation Guides in this Policy Alert. Policy and Regulation Guides 5610 have been revised to incorporate the new administrative code provisions. Regulation Guide 5610 must be adopted by the Board as required by administrative code. **Policy and Regulation Guide 5610 are MANDATED**

5611 – Removal of Students for Firearms Offenses (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.5 – Removal of Students for Firearm Offenses was re-adopted with minor revisions. Policy and Regulation Guides 5611 concern students who are convicted of possessing a firearm on school grounds, commit a crime in possession of a firearm on school property, or knowingly possess a firearm on school grounds. Policy Guide 5611 has been revised to incorporate the revisions in the re-adoption. However, Regulation Guide 5611 included in this Policy Alert should replace the district’s existing Regulation 5611 as the Regulation Guide in this Policy Alert has been completely revised to better align with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.5. Regulation Guide 5611 must be adopted by the Board as required by administrative code. **Policy and Regulation Guide 5611 are MANDATED**

5612 – Assaults on District Board of Education Members or Employees (Revised)

R 5612 – Assaults on District Board of Education Members or Employees (New)

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.7 – Assaults on District Board of Education Members or Employees was re-adopted with minor revisions. Policy and Regulation Guides 5612 concern students who assault Board members or school employees not involving the use of a weapon or firearm. The existing Policy Guide 5612 has been revised with additional language included in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.7. Policy Guide 5612 did not have a corresponding Regulation Guide; however, a new Regulation Guide 5612 has been developed that aligns with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.7. Regulation 5612 must be adopted by the Board as required by administrative code. **Policy and Regulation Guide 5612 are MANDATED**

5613 – Removal of Students for Assaults with Weapons Offenses (New)

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.6 – Removal of Students for Assaults with Weapons Offenses was re-adopted with minor revisions. Policy and Regulation Guides 5613 concern students who assault a teacher, administrator, school employee, Board member, or another student on school grounds with a weapon, except a firearm. These provisions were included in Policy and Regulation 5611, but have been removed from Policy and Regulation Guides 5611 in this Policy Alert and are now addressed in this new Policy and Regulation Guides 5613. Regulation 5613 must be adopted by the Board as required by administrative code.

Policy and Regulation Guide 5613 are MANDATED

5620 – Expulsion (Revised)

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.5 – Expulsion was re-codified to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4 and re-adopted with minor revisions. A Board of Education may expel a general education student from school, but the Board is still required to provide an alternative education program until the child’s twentieth birthday.

Policy Guide 5620 is RECOMMENDED

8462 – Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children (Revised)

N.J.S.A. 6A:16-11.1 – Adoption of Policies and Procedures for Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children was re-adopted with minor changes. Policy and Regulation Guides 8462 have been revised to incorporate these minor changes. Regulation Guide 8462 must be adopted by the Board as required by administrative code. **Policy and Regulation Guide 8462 are MANDATED**

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Baker spoke on the following topics:

- The QSAC staff did a tremendous job; the whole team worked hard as evidenced by the volume of data they provided. He and the County Superintendent visited McKnight and Kreps School a was very impressed and it went extraordinarily well.
- The numbers of HIB (Harrassment/Intimidation/Bullying) complaints are lower. Appears that “Character Education” is having some impact.
- The administrators and staff are preparing for the upcoming PARCC testing. A tremendous amount of effort is going into this.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into closed session.

10. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Connolly spoke on the next upcoming finance committee meeting.

Dr. Baker commented that the contractor is erecting a temporary enclosure around the new elevator construction site at the high school so that they can continue to work during the inclement weather. Also, regarding the Kreps roof leaks - unfortunately the weather has also been an issue in resolving this matter.

Ms. Weisman noted that Mr. Laverty and Ms. Carroll are willing to be part of the upcoming EWRSSA negotiations committee, and thanked them for their commitment.

Mr. Fougnyes commended the High School National Honor Society Spanish students who are doing tutoring in this subject at the Kreps school. It is a wonderful program.

11. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – No one spoke.

12. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Fougnyes to approve the routine agenda items as submitted.

Vote: On a roll call poll of the Board, motion to approve was carried unanimously with 7 'yes' votes.

A. Staffing – as submitted

B. Bullying Report from January 8, 2015 – as discussed at Jan. 8, 2015 meeting

C. Donation to the HHS FIRST Robotics Team

Ms. Bettina Kelly, 24 Stonehedge Dr., East Windsor, NJ 08520 would like to donate \$500 to the FIRST Robotics Team of Hightstown High School. The donation will be used for expenses incurred with the club and its competitions.

D. New Non-paid Clubs:

1) National Business Honor Society at HHS

Hightstown High School would like to start a new club entitled "National Business Honor Society" which would fall under the category of a non-paid extracurricular activity with a teacher advisor. The advisor will be Amy Kramer, one of the business teacher's at HHS. The club's direction will be to promote and recognize academic achievement and excellence in business education on the secondary level.

2) National Honor Society – French at HHS

Hightstown High School would like to start a new club entitled "National Honor Society - French" which would fall under the category of a non-paid extracurricular activity with a teacher advisor. The advisor will be Peggy Romans, one of the French teachers at HHS. The club's direction will be to promote and recognize academic achievement and excellence in mastering the French language.

3) National Honor Society-Spanish at HHS

Hightstown High School would like to start a new club entitled "National Honor Society - Spanish" which would fall under the category of a non-paid extracurricular activity with a teacher advisor. The advisor will be Candice Bland, one of the Spanish teachers at HHS. The club's direction will be to promote and recognize academic achievement and excellence in mastering the Spanish language.

4) Ping Pong Club – at MHK

The Melvin H. Kreps School would like to start a new club entitled "Ping Pong Club" which would fall under the category of a non-paid extracurricular activity with a teacher advisor. The advisor will be Frank Vespe, one of the assistant principals at MHK. The club will promote a healthy competition and a positive social outlook amongst all three grades at Kreps.

E. Overnight Field Trip – NJ DECA Competition in Cherry Hill, NJ

The DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) of HHS would like to have an overnight field trip to Cherry Hill, NJ from February 22-24, 2015 to participate in the NJ DECA State Competition. Attached is information on the field trip.

F. Field Trips

2/28/15 HHS ROBOTICS competition

3/1/15 Hatboro-Horsham High School, 899 Horsham Rd. Horsham, PA

G. Out of District Placement

Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired - State of New Jersey

Tuition December 12, 2014 through June 30, 2015

1. Student: #102293 RSY \$ 1,164.00

The Rugby School at Woodfield

Tuition January 5, 2015 through June 22, 2015

1. Student: #720474 RSY \$ 39,230.19

H. Travel Related Expenses

R. Floom	HHS	Feb 19-20, 2015	Registration to attend Fred Pryor Excel Seminar, Princeton, NJ	128.00	128.00
S. Tafone N. Barakat	Student Services	Feb 19, 2015	Two registrations to attend Autism Conference, Mount Laurel, NJ	165.00	330.00
S. Tafone	Student Services	Feb 19, 2015	Anticipated travel expenses to attend Autism Conference, Mount Laurel, NJ	50.00	50.00
N. Barakat	Student Services	Feb 19, 2015	Anticipated travel expenses to attend Autism Conference, Mount Laurel, NJ	75.00	75.00
T. Sherrod M. Dzwonar M. Tiedemann 2 additional supervisors TBD	Admin	April 17, 2015	Registration fee to attend TCNJ Interview Day, Ewing, NJ	100.00	100.00
S. Rozycki	WCB	Feb 9, 2015	Registration to attend Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Monroe, NJ	150.00	150.00
N. Farias	PLD	Feb 4, 2015	Registration to attend NJASCD Annual Conf. "The Core Six", Monroe Twp. NJ	149.00	149.00
L. Behrens	PLD	Feb 19-21, 2015	Registration to attend NJMEA Academies, East Brunswick, NJ	150.00	150.00
G. Freihaut	Guidance	Mar 20, 2015	Registration to attend Facing the Future 23, Princeton, NJ	175.00	175.00
E. Alexander E. Gertel	Guidance	Feb 19-20, 2015	Two registrations to attend All Kids Can Succeed!, Cherry Hill, NJ	215.00	430.00
H. Gladkowski	GNR	Feb. 9, 2015	Registration to attend Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Monroe, NJ	150.00	150.00
J. Heim M. Ribeca M. Jones	Bldg. & Grounds	Feb. 6, 2015	Three registrations for VAT Refresher Course, Ocean, NJ	70.00	210.00
Monthly Total					\$11,282.26
YTD Total					\$35,022.30

- I. HHS Spring Sports Schedule (on district website)**
- J. MHK Spring Sports Schedule (on district website)**

K. Approve Perkins Amendment for FY2014-15

The Perkins Amendment will reallocate the necessary funding for educational programs to meet the needs of students taking part in Perkins approved activities during the 2014-2015 school year including: busing for Student Learning Experiences, supporting the DECA program’s trips and registration for tournaments, and provide the necessary funding for educational supplies, including Chromebooks, to meet the needs of our students Capstone projects in the Perkins approved programs. The amendment will read:

Function/Object	Total Amount
100-300	\$10
100-600	\$20,266
100-800	\$3,000
200-100	\$2,125
200-200	\$552
200-500	\$3,006
200-600	\$500

L. Approve Carryover Amendment of FY 2014-15 Title 1A, 2A and 3

Authorizes the submission of the NCLB amendment for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, and accepts the grant carryover \$31,985 Title 1 Funds, \$3,097 Title 2 Funds, \$5,107 Title 3 Funds from the previous FY 2014 NCLB. The No Child Left Behind allocations for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 totals \$721,814 distributed as follows (allocations are attached):

TITLE/DESCRIPTION	FUNDING	FUNDING WITH CARRYOVER
TITLE IA	\$458,035	\$490,020
TITLE IIA	\$85,537	\$88,634
TITLE III	\$114,584	\$119,691
TITLE III Immigrant	\$23,566	\$23,566

M. Approve HHS Elective: Tomorrow’s Teachers for Fall, 2015

Tomorrow’s Teachers is an elective course for high school juniors and seniors who aspire to become teachers. The course is taught for a minimum of one class period each day for a year. The course includes four themes: Experiencing Learning; Experiencing the Profession; Experiencing the Classroom; and, Experiencing Education. A variety of hands-on activities and a strong emphasis on observations, and field experiences are required. Emphasis is also placed on teaching in critical shortage subject areas. Tomorrow’s Teachers is supported by The Center for Future Educators at TCNJ, the NJ Education Association and the NJ Department of Education who are inviting high school teachers to apply and participate in this training program.

N. Declaration & Removal of Surplus Property

The following schools/departments are requesting Board approval that the items listed be declared as surplus property for disposal/recycling/donation.

•MHK PE Dept.	6 workout/exercise machines	Broken/not useful
•MHK Art Dept.	1 rolling industrial arts caddy	Unusable
•Community Svs.	80 headphones	Obsolete
	1 fax machine	Broken

O. Joint Transportation Agreement with Morris County Educational Commission

BE IT RESOLVED that the East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education approves the attached joint transportation agreement with the Morris County Educational Services Commission for the purpose of transporting public, nonpublic and special education pupils on established routes as assigned by the EWRSD Board of Education for the 2014-2015 school year.

P. Refunding of 2005 District Bonds (first reading)

The Business Administrator is requesting Board approval of the refunding of all or a portion of the outstanding school bonds of the District issued in the original principal amount of \$6,330,000, dated December 21, 2015; appropriating not to exceed \$3,750,000. per the attached refunding bond ordinance.

Q. Tuition Agreements with Mercer County Vocational Technical Schools

The High School currently has students attending Mercer County Vocational Schools for the 2014-2015 school year on a shared-time basis. The fee for each regular education high school student is \$750.00.

- The total amount for 54 students to attend VoTech is \$40,500.
- The fee for each special education high school student is \$1,500.
- The total amount for 57 students to attend VoTech is \$85,000.

These placements are facilitated through the high school guidance department.

R. Substantial Completion of Exterior Door Replacement at HHS, MHK, PLD

This (revised) exception item will replace the one approved on January 8, 2015 meeting. It is to clarify that the District exterior door replacement project has been deemed as “substantially completed” and not closed. (In addition, also approved at that meeting: C&M Door Controls, Inc. change order to credit the original contract amount by \$10,000.)

S. Bill List for Feb. 5, 2015 in the amount of: \$837,944.83

Discussion:

Mr. Bussone asked for clarification regarding the paid/non-paid clubs at the high school.

Mr. Vinson, high school principal, explained that paid clubs are negotiated and advisors receive stipends for their service. The non-paid clubs are initiated by a staff member or students who want to start a club and provide the information to him (Mr. Vinson) where he will determine if it merits recommendation for board approval. He noted most paid clubs have started out as non-paid clubs.

Mr. Fougnyes asked for clarification on the Bond Refunding agenda item.

Mr. Thompson responded we have a 10 year old bond eligible for refunding which requires Board approval. Also, one of the guidelines to be met is that this action must be to save the District money. It will lower the district debt service payment and results in relief for tax payers by lowering the tax burden

Mr. Coates noted that on the agenda this evening, an item was inadvertently not included under executive session. He requested a motion to add “Superintendent’s Contract” to the list of items for discussion under executive session.

Action: Mr. Connolly moved seconded by Ms. Carroll, to include “Personnel Matter: Superintendent’s Contract” to the agenda for discussion in executive session.

Vote: On a roll call poll of the Board, motion to approve was carried unanimously with 7 ‘yes’ votes.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board went into closed session to conduct a discipline hearing.

14. OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session and took the following action:

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Bussone to accept the resolution as read in closed session and as presented to the Board Secretary, regarding student #602463.

Vote: On a roll call poll of the Board, motion to approve the Resolution was carried unanimously with 7 'yes' votes.

15. ADJOURN

As recorded by Thaddeus Thompson, Board Secretary

(Transcribed by C. Jablonski, Confidential Secretary)