

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, HIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08520

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 20, 2013**

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, Hightstown, NJ, held a Regular meeting on May 20, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hightstown High School Cafeteria located at 25 Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ.

Members Present: Pete Bussone, Paul Connolly, Suzann Fallon, Christine Harrington,
Robert Laverty, Kennedy Paul, Alice Weisman

Members Absent: Lisa Abel, Bonnie Fayer (with advance notice).

Also Present: Kurt Stumbaugh, SBA/Board Secretary

David Coates, Board Legal Counsel

Also Absent: Dr. Edward Forsthoffer, CSA (with advance notice)

1. WELCOME/SUNSHINE NOTICE

Board President Robert Laverty called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 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." Mr. Laverty 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."

Fire Code Compliance: Mr. Laverty made the following announcement: "In compliance with the fire code of the State of New Jersey, I call your attention to the emergency exits for this room, which are located.... (Mr. Laverty pointed to the emergency exits.)"

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. A APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Paul moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon, to approve the agenda with the following change to Exception Item 11.A1: the removal of the appointment of Assistant SBA position.

- On a roll call vote of the Board, motion to approve was carried unanimously.

3. B RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Paul moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon, 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 May, 20, 2013. These closed sessions concern:

1. Student Matters - Bullying
2. Personnel Matters
 - a. Assistant School Business Administrator Position
 - b. Request for Extended Unpaid Leave by Employee

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

- On a roll call vote of the Board, motion to approve was carried unanimously.

Prior to the beginning the evening's business, Mr. Lavery requested that the Board and everyone present share a moment of silence to note the passing of one of our recent graduates and past member of the Robotics team, Ryan Branstrom.

4. PRESENTATION: HHS TEAM MERCURY ROBOTICS TEAM

High School teacher, Christopher Gregory and members of the Robotics Team gave a summary report of their 2012-13 school year activities including the seven awards they had earned. He presented a video of the team's hard work and accomplishments. Mr. Gregory expressed the team's gratitude to the Board and the team sponsors for their significant support.

5. RECOGNITION: MHK 3rd PLACE NJ HISTORY BOWL WINNERS

The National History Bowl is a history quiz competition for teams of students throughout the USA. Founded in 2010, the National History Bowl is in its third school year of qualifying tournaments, leading to the National Championships in Washington, DC and Arlington, VA in the spring of 2013. Five 8th grade students from the Melvin H. Kreps Middle School participated in the Central Jersey History Bowl, competing against ten other teams. Students Robert Kaiser, Douglas Fisher, Dhruv Samdani, John Titicula, and Ronin O'Connor came in 3rd place and they are eligible to compete in the National Championship this May. The Board of Education is very proud of the accomplishment of these 8th graders and wished them continued success in all their future endeavors.

6. RECOGNITION: HHS WINNERS AT 2013 FCCLA STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Board of Education honored the student members of Hightstown High School's Family Career and Consumer Leaders of America (FCCLA) and their club advisor Ms. Denise Stoby. Under Ms. Stoby's guidance and tutelage, the FCCLA was awarded four gold medals, four silver medals, and two bronze medals at the recent State Leadership Conference.

Gold medals were awarded to:

- Vanessa Cobos.....First Place Gold, perfect score of 100 for Personal Patchwork
- Aakanksha Malesha.....Second Place gold medal for Cake Decorating and \$500 scholarship to Johnson & Wales University
- Ivana DiazGold medal for 'Successories'
- Faraz RahmanGold medal for 'Manners Matter'

Silver medals were awarded to:

- Kevin George.....Luncheon Menu
- Darryl Smith.....Luncheon Menu
- Ramzi Husein.....Cake Decorating
- Alex Jarama.....Bread Basics

Bronze medals were awarded to:

- Karen Yuen.....Fashion Design
- Ryan Coleman.....Entrepreneurship
- Victoria Lapinski.....awarded the Presidential Award and J. Stanbridge Smith III was recognized for Most Valuable chapter member. In addition to all of the student success, congratulations go to Ms. Denise Stoby who was recognized as the Karen Opyoke Outstanding FCCLA/FHA Advisor 2013 for the entire State of NJ.

7. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Kerrie Peterson of Hightstown, NJ, is a parent of five District students current and former. She read from a handout that she provided to the Board in regard to the topic of suicide. In the mid-eighties, she was living in a town near Plano Texas, when Plano had an episode of 18 high school students and one adult that died within a year from suicide. She noted how the high occurrence of suicide continues, and it appears we are not doing enough and need to do more. She added that according to the CDC, suicide is the third leading cause of death in ages 10-24. Teens are very good at not showing signs of suicidal tendencies and we need to communicate more on mental health issues. We strive for the best educational skills for our kids but are not providing students with coping skills for depression and other mental ailments. We need the tools now to respond and reach out. Maybe a task force can be considered.

Jonathan Martin a 2012 HHS graduate, commented that the pressure and competition to get good grades for college entry is very intense. The two recent suicides of former HHS students were his classmates. He spoke on how the Vo-Tech students were laughed at and made fun of, as if they weren't smart. This is wrong and that stigma has to end. Vocational Education is a good alternative for a lot of people College is not for everyone and grades are not everything. Non-academic alternatives should be encouraged as well.

Kevin Keveaney, a 2012 HHS graduate shared his feelings on this issue. Suicide is a very difficult topic to discuss. The intense competitive academic environment is not healthy. Kids don't know how to deal with it. People should not jump to conclusions about others. He stressed that we need to teach acceptance and focus on this at an early age.

Amanda Porter of Hightstown commented that she just finished her master's degree in counseling services which included training on suicide prevention. Adults need to start giving kids permission to talk about this topic openly. Communicating does not put kids at a greater risk. Research shows that talking about suicide is helpful. This must be made an option.

Miranda Peterson Contreras, a HHS senior, commented that her sophomore year was very difficult, and stressed the importance for kids to have an outlet to discuss their problems. She would not speak to a high school guidance counselor and knows many students feel that way too. We need more outlets and options to seek advice. Kids are afraid of being judged so they deal on their own.

Ariel Contreras a 2010 HHS graduate gave an emotional account of her high school experience. She had issues that she discussed with a guidance counselor but they were of no help. She described herself as a smart student who belonged the drama club and band. Everyone would think that things were going great for her. In reality the ones who are smiling and always happy, are the ones who are hurting the most.

Charles Coates of Hightstown commented that the District needs to reevaluate the effectiveness of the guidance office staff. More effective counselors must be made available. Also, the stigma attached to those seeking mental health therapies must change. We need an effective outlet for students who are introverts and can't express themselves and to stop assigning blame to the victim and the parents. This is a very serious issue.

8. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Ms. Weisman thanked everyone who spoke on this crucial issue. She agreed that as a district we have made strides in addressing the bullying and harassment issues, and it is clear that we need to create better programs for suicide prevention. We need to analyze what we are doing, and what needs to be done. Pete Bussone commented that it takes courage to speak out on this topic and is grateful for everyone's comments this evening. This is a problem for all generations. Adults go through the same things and we have to find the coping skills to get through tough times. Mr. Bussone added that as a new Board member he would like to be brought up to speed on what the district is doing to address this problem. Suggested a status report on current resources offered and forming a committee to move forward with this effort.

Ms. Fallon also noted she would like to see a report on mental health resources currently offered in the district. She agreed that maybe a committee could be formed to report to the Board about what if any training may be needed.

Ms. Harrington commented that we can do more; and partnering with students could be considered. This is not solely an East Windsor District issue. The assumption is that our guidance counselors and child study teams are on top of this, but we need to know what exactly is being done and destigmatize the issue. A school climate survey is also needed.

Mr. Paul commented that students need different outlets/resources than what is currently offered. Alternative options are must be pursued, to determine other means of support that are out there.

Mr. Laverty commented that he agrees with all the Board's suggestions this evening and that we need to do a lot of work to destigmatize mental health issues and make it a lot easier for kids to seek out help and talk about it. He thanked Ms. Peterson for her extensive research on the subjects and will make sure that Dr. Forsthoffer gets a copy of it. In addition, Dr. Forsthoffer will listen to the recording of this evening's meeting to get a sense of what was said and discussed.

9. PRESENTATION: ADOPTION OF NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS CORE RESOURCE TO SUPPORT COMMON CORE MANDATE

Michael Dzwonar, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, gave a comprehensive presentation on the new middle school mathematics common core mandate. A question/answer period followed.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Not needed.

11. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Mr. Paul moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon to approve the routine agenda items listed below as submitted.

- A. Personnel Matters
 1. Staffing (*with appointment of new Assistant SBA removed*)
 2. Request for Extended Unpaid Leave by Employee (*to be voted on separately*)
- B. Bullying Report from May 6, 2013
- C. Donations from the Hightstown Woman's Club to East Windsor Schools
- D. Endo Pharmaceuticals Donation to WCB
- E. Field Trips
- F. New Middle School Math Core Resource Aligned to Common Core
- G. Travel & Related Expenses
- H. HHS Fall Sports' Practices to begin on August 12, 2013
- I. Approve Operation of Summer Remedial School at Melvin H. Kreps Middle School
- J. Approve Operation of a HSPA Remediation at Hightstown High School
- K. Approve Operation of a Summer Bridge and Step Program

F. New Middle School Math Core Resource Aligned to Common Core

Our current middle school math core resource is Math Course 1, 2 and 3 from Glencoe. It is not aligned to the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics as it was written in 2006. The state of New Jersey has adopted the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and has mandated that Grades 6 – 8 fully implement these standards beginning September 2013. Complying with the state mandate to align curriculum and resources to the CCSS, a textbook adoption committee was formed in the fall of 2012. This committee was charged with reviewing and rating all core textbooks aligned to the Mathematics CCSS. Based on the results of this analysis, it was determined that the Big Ideas Math from Houghton Mifflin would best meet the overall needs of the migration to the CCSS and thus it is recommended that this series become the new core resource commencing in the 2013-2014 school year. It is recommended that the Board approve the adoption of Big Ideas Math as the 6-8 mathematics core resource.

G. Travel & Related Expenses

N. Haeuptle	GNR	Aug 12-16, 2013	Registration to attend Summer 2013 Week-Long Institute, Randolph, NJ	729.00	729.00
E. Gertel E. Alexander	WCB GNR	May 29, 2013	Two Registrations to attend 2013 Anti Bullying Conference, Galloway, NJ	99.00	198.00
D. Nemeth K. Weiss	C&I	July 30-Aug 1, 2013	Reg. to attend "Preparing for Teacher & Principal Evaluation", Monroe Twp. NJ	280.00	560.00
Total for Month					4,531.00
YTD Total					42,507.83

H. HHS Fall Sports’ Practices to Begin on August 12, 2013.

Board approval is recommended.

I. Approve Operation of Summer Remedial School at Melvin H. Kreps Middle School

Application to operate a remedial-program summer school will be filed with the Mercer County Office of Education by May 30, 2013. The summer school would be housed at the Melvin H. Kreps Middle School and will run from Tuesday, July 8, to Wednesday, July 31, 2013 (Monday-Thursday: 15 days) from 9 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. The program is funded via NCLB for academically eligible students 6th graders through entering 8th graders. Certified teachers will provide academic support in literacy. Bus transportation will be provided. All Funding is provided through the NCLB Title IA federal grant.

J. Approve Operation of a HSPA Remediation at Hightstown High School

Application to operate a remedial-program summer school will be filed with the Mercer County Office of Education by May 30, 2013. The summer school would be housed at HHS and will run Tuesday, July 8, to Wednesday, July 25, 2013 (Monday-Thursday: 12 days) from 9 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. This program is funded via NCLB. Students eligible for HSPA remediation will have failed the mathematics and/or English HSPA. Certified teachers will provide academic support in both language arts literacy and mathematics. Students will utilize a specific HSPA intervention. Bus transportation will be provided. All Funding is provided through the NCLB Title IA federal grant.

K. Approve Operation of a Summer Bridge and Step Program

Application to operate a remedial-program summer school will be filed with the Mercer County Office of Education by May 30, 2013. The summer school bridge and step program would be housed at the Hightstown School. The Summer Bridge program will run Tuesday, July 8, to July 25 (Monday-Thursday: 12 days) from 9 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Then the Step Program will run from Monday July 29, to August 23, 2013 (Monday-Friday: 20 days) from 9 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Both programs are funded via NCLB. Eligible Summer Bridge students will be academically at-risk entering 9th graders. Certified teachers will provide academic support in both language arts literacy and mathematics. Eligible Summer Bridge students will be academically and socially at-risk entering 9th graders. The Summer Step program will be utilized to help prepare eligible students to build the necessary skills to meet

the rigors of the standards of college and career readiness and stay on track for high school graduation. Bus transportation will be provided. All Funding is provided through the NCLB Title IA federal grant.

L. Approve Submission of the 2012-15 Race to the Top Amendment

In the original grant proposal East Windsor Regional School District created a budget with a plan for Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Performance Evaluation Training and Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Performance Evaluation System annual fee for configuration, setup, and licensing. We are correcting the description and the function codes of the amendment to more accurately represent and describe how the district utilized the grant money for the costs incurred for the evaluation training, system configuration, setup, and licensing. The amendment will also more accurately reflect the total amount spent on the IPAD purchase.

The amendment will read:

- 200-300 Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Performance Evaluation System annual fee for configuration and setup of the evaluation system = \$3000
- 200-500 Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Performance Evaluation System license fee for one year license using the cost basis \$24 per x 481 = \$11,544. Subsequent years will be paid by district.
- 200-300 Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Performance Evaluation training provided by Stronge and Assoc. Ed. Consulting: two day evaluator training and teacher training session on the evaluation system using the cost basis of \$5627 for the 2-days with the district paying the remainder of the \$9000 total cost for the 2-day training.
- IPAD, 32 GB with Wi-Fi, AppleCare+, for hand-held recording of teachers' observations
- 22 administrators x \$700.64 = \$15414

The hand-held computers will be used by evaluators to record observation data from walk-throughs and formal observations. Because the evaluation data is accessible over the district's internal network, it will be possible to edit and analyze data from any point using a virtual private network connection. It will also allow the observer to concurrently view the SIS ensuring that reports include student information.

M Out-of District Placement in Private & Public Schools New Hope Academy

Tuition April 16, 2013 through June 28, 2013

1. Student: #601000 RSY \$ 7,653.55

N Professional Services for Students

The special education department requires services of consultants to provide children with disabilities a free appropriate public education as defined by The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

<i>For 2012-13 school year:</i>	Type of Service	Rate
Silvergate Prep Gen Psych Educational Company	Homebound/Bedside Instruction	\$50 per hour
<i>For 2013-14 school year:</i>		
Preferred Home Health Care and Nursing Services, Inc.	Nursing Services	Per Fee Schedule
Heidi Wolfinger, M.Ed., CCC— A/SLP, C.E.D.	Professional Services	\$130.00 per hour

O. Approval of Minutes for May 6, 2013 meeting - As submitted. Posted on District website.

P. Increase of Travel Expense Maximum for 2012-13 school year

The total amount of funds budgeted for 2012-13 District employee travel is close to being exceeded as we approach the end of the school year. It is prudent and in the best interest of the District to raise this number (\$40,648.) to a more accurate and realistic representation of the district's travel expenses. It is recommended that the Board approve the 2012-13 maximum travel expenditure total to be \$52,785.

Q. Health Benefits Renewal for 2013-14

The 2013-14 District employee medical and dental insurance plan is up for renewal, The submitted documents provide details of the renewal with Aetna (medical benefits provider) and Cigna (dental coverage). For health insurance, overall premiums will increase by 12 %. It is recommended that the Board approve the renewal of Medical and Dental insurance coverage for 2013-14 school year as submitted.

R. Renewal of Membership with NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 172 of the Laws of 1979 approved by the Governor of the State of NJ, August 26, 1979, it is necessary for member schools to adopt by resolution membership in the NJSIAA. Board approval is requested to adopt the following Membership Resolution in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association for Hightstown High School. **RESOLVED:** the Board of Education of School District No. 1245, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as provided for in Chapter 172 Laws 1979 (N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3, et seq.) herewith enrolls Hightstown High School as a member of the NJSIAA to participate in the approved interschool athletic program sponsored by the NJSIAA.

S. Declaration and Removal of Surplus Property -HHS English Books; MHK Library Books

- HHS English Dept. Books & MHK Library Books

The High School English Department is in possession of books it would like to discard due to wear and tear over the years. The Melvin H. Kreps librarian has weeded through the school library's book collection and submits to the Board a list of outdated and /or damaged books that are of no longer useful service. It is recommended that the Board approve that these books be declared as surplus property and that they may be disposed of or recycled at the discretion of the department head/librarian. The list of books is to be discarded are posted on the Districts Sharepoint website and on file in the Business Office.

T. Renewal with Petroleum Traders, of Fort Wayne Indiana for District Fuel

At the June 11, 2012 meeting of the EWRSD Board of Education, the Board approved the Fuel bid award to Petroleum Traders of Fort Wayne, Indiana for the purpose of supplying the district with unleaded gasoline and ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. As the agreement contained a clause that allowed the District two one-year options to renew with this company, and since Petroleum Traders continues to provide the district with a low price margin; Unleaded Regular Gasoline Min. 87 Octane Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel

+/- Margin: -.006 +.014

and excellent service, it is in the best interest to renew the agreement with Petroleum Traders for the 2013-14 school year for fuel service. It is recommended that the Board approve the renewal of contract for unleaded gasoline *and* for ultra low diesel fuel to Petroleum Traders of Fort Wayne Indiana, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

U. Bill List: May 20, 2013

Approval for total Bills and Claims of: \$10,107,572.93

12 SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

13. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Bussone asked about the District policy in relation to volunteer coaches. He knows of someone who would love to volunteer. Does the HS accept volunteer coaches? Mr. Lavery indicated that he will check with Dr. Forsthoffer on this.

Mr. Lavery reported on the Spring Delegate Assembly of the NJ School Boards Association, which he attended at Mercer County Community College Conference Center. He prefaced his remarks by noting that NJSBA is a public school advocacy organization that provides school board related services and mandatory training. The Delegates meet twice a year to discuss and vote on policies and issues that are currently under deliberation in State and Federal governments, and whether to lobby for a change to the law. He spoke on the following topics that were discussed and voted on at this meeting.

1. Policy change on gun control; to enforce existing laws and regulations with some minor changes to language.

This was passed.

2 Cap on CSA compensations - a number of schools boards have adopted their own resolutions to support the idea to roll back the cap on superintendent compensation. Districts may individually choose to endorse its own resolution.

Passed.

3. To oppose the State policy allowing host municipalities to *without notice* decide to change school election/budget vote date. Passed.

There was a presentation by a representative of "Building One NJ" an organization that focuses on the changing demographics of towns and outlying suburbs and their effect on school policies and municipal zoning

Mr. Lavery also noted that the State currently has a tax on our SDA funds; and unbeknownst to Districts has passed back to them some of the costs of financing the loans. The EWRSD budget has been hit this year with an increase of about 50% due to this. This is money that was supposed to be subsidized by the State

Mr. Stumbaugh, SBA explained the background of this matter and how it has affected our district. He indicated the Board could by resolution oppose this, and will have this on the next agenda.

14 EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into closed session

15. OPEN SESSION

16. ADJOURN

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary