

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING on MAY 11, 2015

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, Hightstown, NJ, held a regular meeting on **MAY 11, 2015** at 7:30 p.m. in the Hightstown High School Cafeteria located at 25 Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ

Members Present: Pete Bussone, Tracy Carroll, Paul Connolly, Bertrand Fougnyes, Lilia Gobaira
Christine Harrington, Robert Laverty, and Alice Weisman

Member(s) Absent: 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 7:30 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

Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Bussone, that having read the material received, the Board approve the agenda as submitted.

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. Bussone 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 11, 2015. These closed sessions concern:

- 1. Personnel Matters
 - a. Employee Matters
 - b. Negotiations
- 2. Student Matters –Bullying (*attachment for BOE only*)

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. GOVERNOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Board and Administrator's recognized the following District teachers for being selected as the recipients of the Governor's Educator of the Year Award. Each building principal proudly read a narrative on their respective teacher's accomplishments and dedication to their profession.

PLD: Eileen Levy, Teacher

EMK: Jessica Myers, Teacher
Lisa Rogers, Educational Services Professional

GNR: Keally Perrone, Teacher

WCB: Eva Nyman, Teacher

MHK: Frances Lavelle, Teacher
Jolyon O'Rane, Educational Services Professional

HHS: William Kamps, Teacher
Leigh Tsujino, Educational Services Professional

Ms. Feaster congratulated everyone, and added the District is extremely proud of their achievement.

Ms. Weisman also congratulated the recipients and noted that Ms. Carroll will be representing the Board at the NJDOE luncheon in June.

5. 2014 FREDERICK JONACH PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD TO FELICIA ALEXANDER

Kreps principal, Lori Emmerson introduced Ms. Felicia Alexander as the recipient of the "Frederick Jonach Professional Leadership Award". She noted in January 2015, Ms. Alexander was honored by the Diversity Council of Kean University as the first recipient of this award in recognition of her passionate work in the area of Global Education.

6. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Harrington offered her congratulations to everyone who was honored this evening.

Mr. Connolly commented on the recent 8th grade band trip to Hershey, PA.; he thanked music teacher Hector Bravo for his efforts. It was an enjoyable two days.

Mr. Fougnyes also spoke on the music trip, his daughter had attended and agreed it was great fun.

7. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one spoke.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Baker spoke on the apartment fire this morning and noted support to the students who were affected.

Dr. Baker provided the Board with a construction update.

9. DISCUSSION: TO BROADCAST/VIDEOTAPE MEETINGS ON LOCAL TV STATIONS OR WEBSITE

Ms. Weisman opened up this topic for discussion. She commented that it has been a while since we have looked at this option, and asked the Board members to voice their opinions.

Mr. Connolly commented that it would be preferable if the public came to the meetings. We should encourage attendance.

Ms. Gobaira added that we should make sure the meetings are well advertised so public knows when to attend.

Ms. Harrington noted that meeting minutes are a great way to see what transpires at a meeting, and should be posted in a timely way. In addition, not everyone may be comfortable being videotaped.

Ms. Weisman sees some value to broadcasting portions of the meeting, for example the presentations and question and answer period that follows, either on the District website or T.V. channel. We are always looking for ways to enhance our communication to the community; this would be another outlet.

Ms. Harrington agreed that posting the presentations would be powerful; it is more engaging to watch a video.

Mr. Laverty commented that an edited version of the meeting is better; showcasing the meeting highlights.

Mr. Fougnes asked legally would there be an issue with this.

Mr. Coates, Board Attorney noted that broadcasting parts of the meeting is fine, as long as the public is aware they are watching a segment or segments of the meeting not the whole thing,

Mr. Bussone commented he basically agrees with everything that is being said and added it would give the students in the video production class more practice with the equipment.

Ms. Weisman asked Mr. Vinson, high school principal, if HS students would be able to videotape, and if they are currently doing this at the high school.

Mr. Vinson said yes they do video tape events. He could provide the Board with information on how this may be accomplished at a future meeting.

Ms. Weisman concluded the discussion and noted we will have this back on the agenda after we have gathered more information on the implementation/practicality of it.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into closed session.

The Board returned to open session at 8:40 p.m.

Ms. Weisman left the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Mr. Connolly proceeded with the meeting.

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

12. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Laverty spoke on the upcoming NJSBA Delegate Assembly he will attend. He noted one item they will be voting on is a proposal for NJSBA to adopt a policy to lobby in favor Boards of Education holding the reorganization meeting prior to the end of the year.

13. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Action: Mr. Connolly moved, seconded by Mr. Laverty to approve the following routine items:

A. Staffing

B. Bullying Report from May 4, 2015

C. Donation to HHS FIRST Robotics Team

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wargo, 24 Stonehedge Dr., East Windsor, NJ 08520 would like to donate \$100 to the FIRST Robotics Team of Hightstown High School. Mr. and Mrs. Wargo are the parents of team member Kevin Wargo. The funds will be used to help cover expenses incurred by the club including competition costs.

D. Field Trip

5-20-15(rain date 5-21-15) Service Learning Project for At-Risk 8th Grade Students
 Amazing Mutts Puppy Rescue
 19 Arneytown Hornerstown Road, Cream Ridge, NJ

E. Travel & Related Expenses

				Per Person	Total
B. Hill	GNR	June 24-27, 2015	Anticipated expenses to attend 47 th NASN Annual Conf. Philadelphia, PA	300.00	300.00
M. Tiedemann	Student Services	June 24-27, 2015	Registration to attend Dyslexia Conference, Ewing, NJ	75.00	75.00
M. Dzwonar, M. Griffin, S.Small J. Smedley K. Weiss, D. Nemeth S. Kaminsky, R. Ridge M. Beckman, M. Svoboda	Curric/ Tech/	June 29- July 1, 2015	Ten registrations to attend ISTE 2015 International Conference, Philadelphia, PA	392.00	3920.00
M. Dzwonar, M. Griffin, S.Small J. Smedley K. Weiss, D. Nemeth S. Kaminsky, R. Ridge M. Beckman, M. Svoboda	Curric/ Tech/	June 29- July 1, 2015	Anticipated expenses to attend ISTE 2015 International Conference, Philadelphia, PA	300.00	2700.00
J.Baker	Admin	June 29- July 1,2015	Registration to attend ISTE 2015 Int'l. Conference, Philadelphia, PA	464.00	464.00
Monthly Total					\$8474.00
YTD Total					\$66,645.90

F. Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 20, 2015 meeting (posted on District website)

G. Donation of Surplus Property – 199 Ford Expedition Model Truck to Hightstown Borough

This vehicle is scrap and is no longer of use, as well as taking up valuable space in the transportation yard.

H. Extend Agreement with Source for Teachers LLC for 2015-16 School year

The firm **Source for Teachers, LLC** of Cherry Hill, NJ, has provided the District with the efficient assignment of substitutes to cover teachers and other staff when absent for the 2014-15 school year.

The firm has offered the District an extension of the contract for the ensuing school year (2015-16) with 0 (zero) increase in rates.

I. Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Report for March, 2015

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received the report of the **Board Secretary** and **Treasurer** for the month of **MARCH, 2015** 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; and

WHEREAS, the report of the Treasurer of School Monies is in agreement with Report of the Secretary;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education accepts the above referenced reports and certifications, and certifies (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.

J. Transfer Report for March, 2015

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.

K. Bill List for May 11, 2015 in the amount of: \$10,034,739.32

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

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION - not needed.

15. ADJOURN

As recorded by Thaddeus Thompson, Board Secretary