

Regular Meeting on April 11, 2011

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, HIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08520

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 11, 2011

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a Regular meeting on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hightstown High School Cafeteria, 25 Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ.

Members Present: Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer, Christine Harrington, Bob Laverty
Members Absent: Paul Connolly, Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul, Alice Weisman
Also Present: Dr. Edward Forsthoffer, Chief School Administrator
Kurt Stumbaugh, SBA/Board Secretary
David Coates, Board Legal Counsel

In the absence of a five member quorum at 7:30 pm, Dr. Forsthoffer started with the evening's recognitions while awaiting a fifth board member

Item 4. RECOGNITION: TIMES SPELLING BEE WINNER – SIDDARTH CHALLANI

The Board of Education recognized Siddharth Challani, an 8th grader at the Melvin H. Kreps Middle School, who won 1st place in The Times of Trenton Spelling Bee 2011. He competed against 34 other students. The word that awarded him first place after 12 rounds of competition was “bailiwick”. He will go on to Washington, D. C. to compete in the Nationals. The East Windsor Regional School District is very proud of Siddharth’s accomplishment and wishes him the best of luck at the Nationals!

Item 5. RECOGNITION: NJ STATE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS STATE SPELLING BEE WINNER – ANUSHKA SUBRAHMANIAN

The Board of Education also recognized Anushka Subrahmanian, a 4th grade student at the Ethel McKnight Elementary School. Anushka won 1st Place in the State Spelling Bee sponsored by the New Jersey State Federation of Women’s Clubs. In order to compete on the State level, Anushka had to be among the top 3 winners in a local contest and then enter another round of competition at the regional level. There were 18 contestants participating in the State Spelling Bee. After 5 rounds and an additional 6th round spell-off to determine the finalist, “bilingual” was the winning word. The East Windsor Regional School District is very proud of the accomplishment of this 4 th grader and wish Anushka Subrahmanian continued success in her endeavors.

Item 6. RECOGNITION: ELEMENTARY STUDENT SCIENCE FAIR PARTICIPANTS

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District recognized the 48 student from grades 3 through 5 that participated in the first ever elementary school science fair.

The students that participated are:

Joseph Carlisi, Genevieve Hope Fabian, Sindhu N. Inala, Gurleen Kaur, Meghna Mishra, Shaan Das, Gregory Scatko, Priyanka Seth, Natasha Fidler, Julia Berdzik, Connor Brophy, Vera Crabtree, Rohan Dureja, Sarah Figueroa, Angelica Horta, Sreya Kilambi, Harsh Patel, Dhymond Revan, Andre Artaud, Riti Jupudi, Billy Keenan, Revathi V. Machan, Karman Pannu, Denisse Quintanilla, Shivani Iyer, Jessie Smires, Zabir W. Rahman, Deep Joshi, Sahithi Reddy Muthyala, Sudhanva Murthy, and Purvi Shakelly

East Windsor Regional School District's science fair winners were as follows:

- 1st Place: Neil Arora, Christian Charache, Casey Weber, Samantha Colella
2nd Place: Harish Rabindran, Vikram Srinath, Gillian Roberts, Anitej Biradar
3rd Place: Kaitlyn Riggio, Alisha Das, Manas Sood, Hamza Lodhi
Honorable Mention: Nathan Diller, Srihari Subramanian, Shreya Shah, Risheek Somu, Katrina Kosmides

In addition, the above 17 students went on to the next level and participated in the 58th Annual Mercer Science and Engineering Fair at Rider University which was held on March 15, 2011.

At this event, the following students were awarded recognitions as well:

Hamza Lodhi, from Perry L. Drew received an award for Superior Achievement in the Elementary Division.

In addition, Hamza received Elementary Most Superior Award from Rider University

Casey Weber from Ethel McKnight received an award for Outstanding Achievement in the Elementary Division.

Christian Charache from Walter C. Black received an award for Meritorious Achievement in the Elementary Division.

Neil Arora, from Grace N. Rogers, received an award for Meritorious Achievement in the Elementary Division.

Anitej Biradar from Perry L. Drew received an award for Honorable Mention in the Elementary Division.

The East Windsor Regional School District congratulates all of the students that participated in the science fair and is very proud of each and every one of them.

1. WELCOME

Board Vice President Robert Laverty began the business portion of the meeting at 8:05 pm 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 kept by the Board Secretary and will be made 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.

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 exit for this room, which is located.....” (Mr. Laverty pointed to the emergency exit.)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.A APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Ettman moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer to approve the agenda with the following additions:

- Addendum to Staffing
- Hold Harmless Resolution

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

3. B RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Ettman moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer 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 April 11, 2011. These closed sessions concern: Personnel matters – Evaluation of Superintendent, Litigation, Contract Matters, and Attorney /Client Privilege. Minutes 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.

Mr. Laverty noted for the record that the Board will probably opt to postpone the evaluation of the Superintendent and Board self evaluation scheduled for this evening's second executive session.

7. PRESENTATION: SCIENCE CURRICULUM K-12

Curriculum Supervisors Darlene Nemeth, Sandy Small and Maree Griffin gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation on the District wide science curriculum.

The K-12 Science curriculum and tonight's presentation is posted on the District Website.

Discussion:

Ms. Fayer had several questions regarding the Science Test.

Ms. Small responded that the science (biology) test counts for the district not for the individual child.

At first the results of the test did not go out to parents, however last year they did and for this year we still do not know what the State plans to do. At this point, we do not have a definitive answer as to whether students who fail would have to retake the test or retake biology. Ms. Small also indicated if the State switches the test to earth science the District would be ahead of the game as most schools do not teach this subject.

Ms. Fallon asked if we had any courses that address careers in engineering.

Ms. Small responded right now we do not, but would not rule that out for the future. The Science department will look into other ways of incorporating the aspects of that subject to the attention of the students.

Ms. Fallon thanked the supervisors for their excellent presentation.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Forsthoffer made the following announcements:

- The District Newsletter went out last week. We are aware that some are receiving multiple emails and we will endeavor to fix this.
- The home and group visits to discuss the budget are going well. The feedback received is greatly appreciated.
- The Governor's Teacher Recognition Award recognition will take place at second Board meeting in May.
- April 14 is the Curriculum Fair. Very excited about this event.
- Wednesday, April 27 is the budget vote and election -polls open from 2:00 to 9:00pm.
- Encourages all to vote.

9. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

10. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Fallon is pleased to see all of our excellent students recognized tonight here with their family. It is wonderful to see how many students volunteered to participate in the Science Fair.

Ms. Harrington also congratulated all the students recognized this evening.

Mr. Laverty applauded all the Spelling Bee and Science Fair participants and winners. He added that he is very impressed and excited about the students' interest in the subject of science.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board went into closed session

12. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

- A. Staffing
- B. Emergent Hiring
- C. Approval of Governor's Teacher Award Winners
- D. Amend NCLB Funded Salary
- E. Approve NCLB Funded Salary
- F. Travel and Related Expenses
- G. HHS World Language Study Abroad Trip
- H. Field Trips
- I. Volunteers
- J. Out of District Placements
- K. Approval of March 7, 2011 and March 24, 2011 Minutes
- L. Melvin H. Kreps School Staff Afterschool Activity
- M. Bill List for April 11, 2011

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon, to approve the routine agenda items as submitted. On a roll call vote of the Board, motion to approve was carried unanimously.

Mr. Lavery thanked all District volunteers.

A. STAFFING - As submitted.

B. EMERGENT HIRING

Approval is requested for the submission of applications for emergent hiring pending completion of the criminal history background check to the County Superintendent for the following individuals(s):

- John Derezze Custodian
- Tiefeng Tai Custodian

C. EWRSD GOVERNOR'S TEACHER RECOGNITION AWARD

On March 29, 2011 a panel consisting of administrators, teachers, parents, and a Board member met to review the nominating forms for the East Windsor Regional School district's Governor's Teacher Recognition award.

The panel recommended the following teachers:

Lauren Reardon	Walter C. Black School
Shari Levantahl	Perry L. Drew School
Gail Siggelakis	Ethel McKnight School
Kim Armenti	Grace N. Rogers School
Joanna Chierici	Melvin H. Kreps School
Andrew Elko	Hightstown High School

Board Approval is recommended to submit to the County Superintendent of Schools, the above names as recipients of the Governor's Teacher Recognition award and to permit the teachers to participate in the recognition program given by ETS.

D. AMEND NCLB FUNDED SALARY

- Amend previous salary for Title III funding for Blanca Ohler, long-term substitute at Ethel McKnight and Walter C. Black Schools. Title III Funding 100% of annual salary of \$54,108 effective 3/1/11 to 6/30/11.
- Amend previous salary for Title III funding for Karitsa Mills, Ethel McKnight & Walter C. Black Schools. Title III Funding 9% of annual salary of annual salary of \$64,578 for school year 2010-11.
- Amend previous salary for Title III funding for Sandra Shafi, Melvin H. Kreps School. Title III Funding 45% of annual salary of \$63,608 for school year 2010-11. Account # 20-452-100-101-01-59-10 .

E. NCLB FUNDED SALARY APPROVAL

Approve salary for Title IA and Title IA ARRA funding for Melvin H. Kreps School after-school remedial teachers, Sarah Mason and Sandra Shafi, @ \$37 per hour, retroactive from March 21 and ending April 28, 2011.

- Account # 20-232-100-107-03-75-10
- # 20-232-100-107-10-75-10
- # 20-231-100-104-03-81-10

F. EMPLOYEE TRAVEL & RELATED EXPENSES

C. Comperatore	Student Services	May 17,2011	Registration for SPED Workshop, "Strategies that Work with Significant Challenging Behavior Problems,"Ramada Plaza Airport, Newark, NJ	215.00	215.00
J. Ciappa	Student Services	May 17,2011	Registration for SPED Workshop, "Strategies that Work with Significant Challenging Behavior Problems Ramada Plaza Airport, Newark, NJ	215.00	215.00
T. Thompson	Business Office	June 23, 2011	Registration to attend NJASBO Workshop: Audit and CAFR Preparation, Double Tree Hotel, Mt. Laurel, NJ	75.00	75.00
R. Klim	Student Services	June 9, 2011	Registration to Attend NJ Anti-Bullying 2011 Conference, Rutgers University Busch Campus Center, NJ	129.00	129.00
18 staff	MHK	May 16, 2011	Registration fee for Restraint Training Wkshop given by "Handle With Care" at MHK	2,280.00	2,280.00
T. Thompson	Business Office	May 16, 2011	Year end training for Systems 3000, Eatontown, NJ	0.00	0.00
W. McGovern	Bldg./Grounds	Jan.14 & 15, 2012 Feb. 4, 2012 Feb. 25, 2012 Mar 20, 2012	Classes Mandated by NJ 34 Hour Program Compliance to Maintain Electrical License for District Electrician- Cherry Hill NJ and Atlantic City, NJ	625.00	625.00
M. Csatari	Student Services	April 28 & 29, 2011	NJ Speech-Language Hearing Association Convention "Waves of Change" Ocean Place Resort, Long Branch, NJ	0.00	0.00
G. Bryant	Student Services	April 28 & 29, 2011	NJ Speech-Language Hearing Association Convention "Waves of Change" Ocean Place Resort, Long Branch, NJ	275.00	275.00
K. Stumbaugh	Business Office	May 4, 2011	NJASBO Professional Development Program "Understanding PERS & TPAF Retirement Plans" Hamilton Manor, Hamilton, NJ	75.00	75.00
Total for Month					3,889.00

YTD Total:

20,406.69

G. HHS WORLD LANGUAGE STUDY ABROAD TRIP

The World Language Program of Hightstown High School would like to have a Spanish Study Abroad trip to Granada, Spain from March 28 to April 12, 2012. Attached is information on the field trip.

H. FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips planned for Hightstown High School:

- 4/30/11 Ecology Club to Sandy Hook National Park, Hartshorne Drive, Sandy Hook, NJ
- 5/19/11 Annual Senior Picnic – Forest lodge, Reinmand Road, Warren, NJ
- 5/3/11 Choosing to Participate to the Historical Society of Washington, D. C
801 Ave K Street Northwest, Washington, D.C.
- 5/25/11 AP Government Class to tour Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

Field Trip planned for Kidcare:

- 6/14/11 All Kidcare Sites to Etra Park
- Rain Date 6/15/11 Etra Road, East Windsor, NJ

Field Trips planned for Ethel McKnight School:

- 5/4 & 5/5/11 Grade 2 to Historic Walnford 62 Walnford Road, Upper Freehold, NJ
- 5/27/11 Grade 1 – Insectropolis, 1761 Lakewood Road Toms River, NJ

Field Trips planned for Walter C. Black School:

- 5/24 & 6/2/11 Animal Kingdom Zoo 1800 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road, Bordentown, NJ

I. VOLUNTEERS/CHAPERONES

The Board of Education approves all volunteers who serve in the East Windsor Regional School District.

At the Grace N. Rogers School: Ana Quezada Anthony Smith Belinda Smith

At the Melvin H. Kreps Middle School: Alyse Canciello

At the Perry L. Drew School: as submitted.

(Lists of approved volunteers are kept on file in the Superintendent's office, Board Secretary's office and the respective school's front office.

J. OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENT IN PRIVATE & PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Family Guidance Center/Children's Day School - Tuition April 4, 2011 through June 30, 2011

- 1. Student #402503 REG. \$ 33,411.60

K. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- MARCH 7, 2011 Regular Meeting
- MARCH 24, 2011 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on 2011- 12 Budget.

Minutes on file in Board Secretary's office and posted on District website.

L. MHK STAFF AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITY

The Melvin H. Kreps "School Recognition and Climate Committee" would like to host a staff kickball and softball game on June 9th and 14th 2011 respectively. A facility usage form has already been submitted for usage of the Kreps softball field. The group representative is Jolyon O'Rane, 8th grade counselor .In order for this event to be covered by the district insurance policy, Board approval is required.

M. ORDERS OF PAYMENT/BILL LIST

The Bill and Claims Report must be approved by the Board of Education before being submitted for payment.

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approves the payment of bills and claims as submitted in the attached reports for the grand total amount of \$1,904,569.54

13. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Goodwin, teacher, WCB, thanked the Board for its continuing support for the Governor's Teacher Recognitions.

14. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Harrington commented that it was a pleasure to be on the committee to choose the recipients of the Governor's Teacher award. It was very rewarding to read the comments from parents and students on the excellence of our teachers. Choosing was a very difficult process. We have so many wonderful teachers.

Mr. Lavery agreed and added that this award is an opportunity for the community to recognize the contributions of our teachers to the District and be involved in the nominating process.

Mr. Lavery commented that the Board will reschedule its self evaluation and the Superintendent evaluation for another meeting before May 2nd. It was determined that Wednesday, April 27, 2011, the Board will have a Special meeting for this purpose.

15. ADJOURN

The Board took the following action prior to adjourning the meeting.

Addendum to item 12:

RESOLUTION: HOLD HARMLESS FOR FORMER SUPERINTENDENT

Whereas, Superintendent Ronald Bolandi's term of employment with the East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education ended December 31, 2009; and

Whereas, Superintendent Bolandi has agreed to provide professional guidance, support and assistance to the Board of Education and its Administration gratis for help and representing the Board/District on an as needed basis in dealing with a complaint against the Board/District or any of its employees by M.M. a person known to Ronald Bolandi;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education commits to hold former Superintendent Bolandi harmless, and to indemnify him with respect to any claims that may be brought against him arising from the post-employment activities described hereinabove to the full extent that he would have been so entitled pursuant to Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes had he remained an employee of the Board of Education.

It is recommended that the Board approves the above resolution to hold Mr. Bolandi harmless and indemnify him for his services past December 31, 2009.

Mr. Ettman moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer to approve the above resolution.
On a roll call vote, motion to approve was carried unanimously.

Ms. Fallon moved to adjourn meeting.

16. SECOND EXECUTIVE SESSION /Evaluation of CSA

Re-scheduled for April 27th, 2011 Special meeting.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary