

Minutes of the Regular Meeting November 8, 2010

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, HIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08520

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2010 7:30 p.m.

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a Regular meeting on Monday, November 8, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hightstown High School Cafeteria located at 25 Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ.

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

ITEM 1. WELCOME

Board President Alice Weisman 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.

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.”

Fire Code Compliance: Ms. Weisman 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.....”
(Ms. Weisman pointed to the emergency exit.)

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 3.A APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Having read the material received, Mr. Laverty moved seconded by Ms. Fayer to approve the agenda. On a roll call vote of the Board, motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM 3.B RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Laverty 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 a closed session during its regular meeting on November 8, 2010. This closed session concerns: Personnel matters, 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

ITEM 4. PRESENTATION: AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Ms. Weisman, Board President, read aloud the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, America's schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing each new generation with the tools to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, schools are the primary influence in children's lives aside from their families; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials in a common enterprise; and

WHEREAS, education employees - be they custodians or teachers, bus drivers or librarians - work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, there is nothing more crucial to the health and the future of our nation than education,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Alice Weisman, serving as President of the East Windsor Regional Board of Education do hereby proclaim November 14 - 20, 2010, as the 89th annual observance of American Education Week.

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer to approve the November 14th to 20th, 2010 celebration of American Education Week in the East Windsor Regional School District. On a roll call vote of the Board,

Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

ITEM 5. RECOGNITION: HHS RAM PAGE ADVISORS

- Elizabeth Dunn
- Kate Featherston
- Ram Page Staff

Dr. Forsthoffer recognized the achievements of the students and staff who create the Ram Page high school newspaper. Dr. Forsthoffer and Ms. Weisman presented the awards. Curriculum Supervisor, Mr. Kevin Akey, read the following statement:

The East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education would like to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Dunn, Ms. Kate Featherston and the staff of the Ram Page for winning the Award for General Excellence in Division B at the fall conference of the Garden State Scholastic Press Association at Rutgers University on October 25, 2010. In addition, the Board would also like to recognize Kyle Hoagland for winning Second Place in the Columns Competition and HHS alumnae Chloe Rothbloom for winning Second Place in Opinion Writing. These prestigious awards are a testament to the professionalism, guidance and direction which Ms. Dunn & Ms. Featherston have provided since taking over the Ram Page two years ago. These awards also acknowledge the Ram Page staff's long hours of work, the dedication to their craft, and pride in their newspaper. As the Chief Judge, Janet McKinney noted in her award to the Ram Page, "Congratulations to the journalists of the Ram Page staff. The school community is fortunate to have dedicated and hard-working journalists to produce a thorough, accurate and insightful publication. It is obvious the students take their rights and responsibilities seriously. The Ram Page is an amazing publication offering something for everyone." Be proud of your professional product. Best wishes for continued success with journalistic achievements."

We can only add to this our heartfelt appreciation for your achievement. Congratulations!

Students on the staff of the Ram Page include:

Gavin Gendler Edgerton, Kyle Hoagland, Robert Cedric Kroeckel, Aime Lonsdorf, Jaimie McHale, Megan Mitchell, Samuel Henry Nathanson, Valentina Osorio, Alexander Stephen Petak, Aysha Qamar, Abigail Schwendeman, James Silverstein, Joel Valdiviezo, Justine Maria Wassef.

ITEM 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Forsthoffer gave updates on the following:

- School Faculty lunch meetings at each school will be completed by Thanksgiving.
- Recognition of all people who have made donations to the District will take place at the Nov. 29, 2010 meeting.
- Next week he and the principals and vice principals will attend “Gang Awareness Training” held by the prosecutor’s office in Mercer county. This is an annual event.
- The HHS production of “Our Town” will be presented on Nov. 19 and 20th.
- The Fall Sports season is coming to an end. Winter sports will commence in December.
- Community Unity meeting coming up next week at Mount Olivet Church. Dr. Forsthoffer will attend.

ITEM 7. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

ITEM 8. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Ms. Fayer expressed disappointment at the NJDOE Commissioner of Education’s refusal to meet with the NJEA teachers at the recent New Jersey School Boards annual conference.

Ms. Harrington thanked Dr. Forsthoffer for the technological advancements evident on the District website.

She noted that the narrated PowerPoint presentations provide information that is very useful to the community.

Mr. Laverty commented on the ETS conference center meeting of the County School Boards conference, and the discussion of shared services that took place. Mr. Laverty also commented that November 20, 2010 is the NJSBA Delegate assembly. A resolution put forth by Lawrence Township Board of Education will be voted on. This resolution concerns the matter of students attending public schools that live in tax exempt housing. The local property tax exemption should be removed and the non-public school should have to pay the local property tax portion of the per student cost of education. Mr. Laverty is highly in favor of voting for the adoption of this policy.

Ms. Weisman also expressed support for the resolution.

Ms. Weisman commented that the HS varsity Boys Soccer team made it to the semifinals. The marching band had their final competition and they came in 13th out of 21 and received over an 87 score which is the highest score that has ever been achieved in a band competition. They deserve a lot of kudos and credit for their efforts.

Mr. Paul commented that the middle school varsity boys soccer team finished an undefeated season for the second year in a row.

Ms. Weisman commented on the State’s imposition of salary constraints. This hinders and diminishes the local control of the school boards. Our ability as a board to negotiate with our employees is hampered as the 2% cap talk takes away any real negotiation ability on the part of the board as an employer. All factors that go into local control are being stripped away.

Mr. Ettman commented that if we are going to have the hard 2% cap on everything, one wonders what the school election would be for. Can people vote down a required budget? He expressed concern with the cookie cutter approach to budget and salaries being imposed on Districts. Restricting salaries to not go above a certain amount eliminates the ability to negotiate and leads to mediocrity along the ranks. People with real talent will leave the State. In the last few years we really tried to bring in the most talented people to the district. Proud of what we have accomplished in the last few years, and the districts’ efforts are being reduced by the political process. The administration is telling us to strive for parity and this makes no sense.

Dr. Forsthoffer announced that the monthly presentation by the Curriculum Supervisors will begin with a math department presentation by Sandy Small.

ITEM 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ITEM 10. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE AGENDA ITEMS

At each of the regular meetings of the Board of Education, the Board is requested to approve the list of routine agenda items in one action.

Note: Item 10 I was removed to be voted on separately with discussion.

- A. Staffing
- B. Emergent Hiring
- C. Travel Related Expenses
- D. Winter Sports Schedule for HHS
- E. Revised 6-8 Middle School Gifted and Talented Curriculum – on Sharepoint
- F. Supplemental Educational Services Provider Contracts
- G. Field Trips
- H. Donations
 - 1) Corner-Copia Plants to EMK
 - 2) School Supplies from Wal-Mart to WCB
 - 3) Second Generation Holocaust Education Fund to “O” Ambassador Club of HHS
- I. ~~School Calendar for 2011-12~~*voted on separately
- J. Volunteers/Chaperones
- K. Approval of Minutes: October 25, 2010 Regular Meeting
- L. Mileage Reimbursement
- M. Joint Transportation Agreement with West Windsor-Plainsboro School District
- N. Bill List for Nov. 8, 2010

ACTION: “Having read and reviewed the materials received, Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer, to approve the routine agenda items as submitted.

Ms. Weisman thanked all the people who donated to the district.

A. STAFFING

B. EMERGENT HIRING

It is recommended that the Board approve the submission of applications for emergent hiring pending completion of the criminal history background check to the county Superintendent for the following individual(s): Shaun Seip – Teacher

C. TRAVEL RELATED EXPENSES

November						
D. Feaster	Personnel	March 11, 2011	NJAGC Conference for Gifted Children - Crown Plaza Somerset, Bridgewater, NJ	134.00	134.00	
D. Nemeth	Personnel	March 11, 2011	NJAGC Conference for Gifted Children - Crown Plaza Somerset, Bridgewater, NJ	134.00	134.00	
T. Halsey	Drew School	March 11, 2011	NJAGC Conference for Gifted Children - Crown Plaza Somerset, Bridgewater, NJ	134.00	134.00	
A. Polanski	McKnight School	March 11, 2011	NJAGC Conference for Gifted Children - Crown Plaza Somerset, Bridgewater, NJ	134.00	134.00	
Total for Month					536.00	
YTD Total						2,986.99

D. WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE FOR HHS - As submitted (on Sharepoint website)

E. SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROVIDER CONTRACTS

Board Approval is recommended for the submitted Supplemental Educational Services Provider contracts between the East Windsor Regional School District and the following educational providers:

- **Kendall Park Learning Center**
- **ClubZ! Tutoring of Central NJ**
- **iSpace, Inc.**
- **Dean's Learning Center, L.L.C**

These contracts will be charged against NCLB Title 1 funds.

G. FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips planned for Melvin H. Kreps School:

5/17 & 18/2011	6 th Grade - "In Real Life" George Street Playhouse 9 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, NJ
11/12/2010 Rain Date 11/19/10	7 th Grade - Service Project for Township Etra Park, East Windsor, NJ
11/19/10 Rain Date 11/24/10	7 th Grade - Service Project for Township Wiltshire Park, East Windsor, NJ
11/19/2010 Rain Date 11/23 & 24/10	7 th Grade - Service Project for Township "Turnpike" Park, Off Old York Road, East Windsor, NJ

Field Trips planned for Walter C. Black School:

11/22/2010	Grade 3 – Lenape Exhibit NJ Museum of Agriculture College Farm Road, New Brunswick, NJ
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Field Trips planned for Hightstown High School:

11/26/10	Marching Band Santa Parade, Hightstown, NJ
12/3/10	Hispanic National College Fair – TCNJ 200 Pennington Rd., Ewing, NJ

H. DONATIONS

1. The Corner-Copia, Plants to EMK

The Corner-Copia of 299 Princeton-Hightstown Road, East Windsor, NJ donated tulips and daffodils to the Ethel McKnight School. The plants were used as part of the school's garden club initiative.

2. School Supplies from Wal-Mart to WCB

Ms. Jessica Utz, Store Manager, of Wal-Mart, 839 Route 130, East Windsor, NJ 08520 would like to donate school supplies to the Walter C. Black Elementary School. The school supplies include pencils, notebooks, binders, scissors, flash cards, and folders.

3. Second Generation Holocaust Education Fund to "O" Ambassador Club of HHS

Ms. Marianne M. Meyer, Director of Educational Outreach, Second Generation Holocaust Education Fund P.O. Box 1421, Hightstown, NJ 08520, has donated an additional \$100 to the "O" Ambassadors Club of Hightstown High School. The funds are to be used to offset the transportation costs for the club's trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

I. SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2011-2012

Voted on separately.

J. VOLUNTEERS/CHAPERONES

The following have offered to volunteer/chaperone at the Perry L Drew School:

Lindsay Lesser	Kaneeze Husain
Francine Iannelli	Daniel and Melanie Kalyna
Susan Mcnamee-Saeed	Pamela Marino
Mary Alice Bertrand	Sushma Himanshu
Pamela Marino	Bonnie Spinelli
Andrea and Nic Baverov	Robyn Switsky
Tina Cognato	

The following have offered to volunteer/chaperone at the Kreps Middle School:

Jamie Velez	Kerry Kelly	Casey Fox
Fazina Achaibar	Linda Demko	Josh Leyh
Caryn Birish	Kerrie Peterson	Ross Gary
Donna White	John Rupp	Sharon Falitz
Fran Newell	Gervin Trejos	Christine Nickerson
Paula Gargiullo	Edward Fago	Francine Hezrony
Rachelle St. Phard	Anita Vaingankar	Robyn Switsky
Jeffery Clark	Chrysanthe Newton	Carolyn Freedman
Sybil Terrell	Archana Christino	Meenu Kohi
Suzanne Simon	David Alexander	
Steve Kelly	Kelly Murphy	
Lori Dolnick or husband Robert Dolnick		
Cathy Wroblewski or husband Gary Wroblewski		

The following have offered to volunteer/chaperone at the W.C. Black School.

Marc Badik	Tom LeChard
Andrew Borg	Gregory Madden
Mark Borosko	Rocio Mena
Alix Castro	Dimas Muniz
James Chirido	Lucie Nadeau
Shashi Cukkemane	Christopher Rosenberger
Pamela Deiss	Gillian Roth
Carolyn Chippino	Rita Savur
Neha Desai	Carol Sisterhen
Evan Dorfman	Ruth Ann Traylor
Greg Dreyer	Kenneth Turco
Barbara Green	
Josemon Joseph	
Michael Krutman	
Frank Lazzaro	
Helen Lazzaro	

K. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 25, 2010 REGULAR MEETING

As submitted. On file in Board Secretary's office and on District Website.

L. MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

State travel regulations require the Board of Education to approve in advance payment for school related travel. The District compiles a list of individual(s) who may routinely receive the standard IRS mileage reimbursement rate for district related travel in accordance with collective bargaining agreements and unaffiliated employee terms of employment.

- Wendy Demko Clerk
- Pam Benkin Teacher

It is recommended that the Board approve district staff listed above as eligible for reimbursement for district related travel for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

M. JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT WITH WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

BE IT RESOLVED that the East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education approves the following joint transportation agreement for the 2010-11 school year with the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District (Host District) as indicated below:

East Windsor will be the "Joiner District" for the following routes (destination):

Route #	# East Windsor Students	School	Joiner District Annual Cost
NHA	2	New Hope Academy	\$10,377.00

N. BILL LIST

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approves the payment of bills and claims in the amount of \$381,889.89 as submitted in the attached report.

Ms. Weisman thanked all the donors for their generous donations that were approved this evening.

ITEM 10 I. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2011-2012

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Mr. Paul, to approve the 2011-2012 EWRSD calendar as submitted.

Discussion:

The Board discussed the pros and cons of the new 2011-12 calendar. Having the day after Labor Day as the first day of school is a change from our past practice of school starting on the Thursday after Labor Day. The Board also discussed the pros and cons of ending school early on June 14 in 2012.

Mr. Stumbaugh polled the Board, and on a roll call vote, motion to approve the 2011-12 calendar was carried unanimously. (**Calendar is available for review on District Website.**)

11. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Ellen Burns of East Windsor, expressed her thanks to Board member Bonnie Fayer for speaking up and commenting on the newspaper item about the Education Commissioner's lack of communication with teachers at the NJSBA convention. She also commented that the Association is in a very difficult position with the current Christie administration. We are all working for same goals and Governor Christie's polarizing actions are discouraging.

12. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Lavery commented on the middle school Gifted and Talented curriculum description on the district website. The curriculum plans are well developed and impressive. Encourages all to check it out.

Ms. Weisman commented that on Saturday night, November 13, the HHS After Prom Committee is holding a "Bingo Night" fundraiser.

13. OPEN SESSION

14. ADJOURN

Mr. Ettman moved to adjourn.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary