

***EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08520***

**MINUTES of the PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2009-10 BUDGET AND
REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD of EDUCATION: MARCH 30, 2009**

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a public hearing on the 2009-2010 school budget followed by a regular Board meeting on Monday, March 30, 2009, at the Hightstown High School auditorium. (The Board remained in the auditorium for their meeting following the Budget public hearing.)

ITEM 1. WELCOME

Board President Alice Weisman called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 being kept by the Board Secretary and will be made available promptly 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.”

Members Present: Stu Dolgon, Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer, James Hauck,
Bob Laverty, Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul, Alice Weisman.

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Ronald Bolandi, Chief School Administrator
Kurt Stumbaugh, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
David Coates, Board Legal Counsel.

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

The Board president asked those present to join in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ITEM 3A APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Having read the material received Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Mr. Hauck to approve the agenda. On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Hauck, Mr. Laverty, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, and Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: none. Motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2009-2010 BUDGET

Mr. Bolandi reviewed the sequence of the meeting, and conducted the Public Hearing on the 2009-10 Budget. Public comments and questions were received by township and borough residents.

Several follow up questions that were asked referred to health benefits, administrative costs, district factor group comparisons with other Mercer County districts and spending guide comparisons.

In addition the following topics were addressed:

Additional budget reduction (it was noted this would have an impact on other valuable areas).

Enrollment/class size.

Health Benefits - they went up but employee counts are down.

Cost sharing with employees.

District Operations and Maintenance – there are reductions in the maintenance area. Overtime is being reduced.

Teacher contract/salary/negotiations – the Board is not allowed to discuss negotiations.

Commendable improvement in budget cuts and programs.

Mr. Bolandi gave detailed responses to the questions and comments by the audience.

An expanded description of the \$2,000,000 reduction in supplies was presented by Mr. Bolandi. The cut was made within the approximate 25% of discretionary spending.

The vote on the budget is April 21, 2009. A budget newsletter will go out in advance. Negotiations will continue with the associations.

A discussion on building use rents was held. The District provides building use at no profit. Taxes have doubled since year 2000. More details on the quality of education programs is requested

Examples of supplies and materials were given. Mr. Bolandi emphasized that all groups of employees use negotiating. The potential increases are attributable to the district as a whole, not only the teachers.

A single payer health insurance plan is recommended. The time is now for national health insurance.

ITEM 3.B RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Mr. Paul, 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 regular meeting on March 30, 2009. These closed sessions concern:

Personnel Matters

Contract Negotiations

Litigation

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, members voting yes: Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Hauck, Mr. Lavery, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul and Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: none.

Motion was carried unanimously.

The Board held its first executive session at this time.

On return to open session:

Mr. Dolgon responded with an explanation of supplies reductions, and indicated that this public hearing and vote is publicized. He expressed gratitude to Mr. Bolandi, Mr. Stumbaugh and all administrators for their efforts in keeping the tax impact low.

ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF 2009-10 BUDGET AND RELATED BALLOT QUESTION

After the public hearing on the proposed Budget for the 2009-2010 school year, separate Board action is required to submit the Budget to the voters for approval.

It is recommend that the Board approve the 2009-2010 Budget and authorize the Chief School Administrator and the School Business Administrator to submit to the Mercer County Superintendent of Schools the 2009-10 Budget which includes:

Total Operating Budget of \$78,072,053 and a
Local Operating Budget Tax Levy of \$54,619,664
Total Grants and Entitlements Fund Budget of \$1,449,718
Total Repayment of Debt Fund Budget of \$3,679,670 and a
Repayment of Debt Fund Tax Levy of \$3,399,308.
and the Ballot Question as follows:

RESOLVED, That there should be raised for the Operating Budget **\$54,619,664.** for the ensuing school year 2009-2010.

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon to approve the budget and the ballot question as submitted. On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Hauck, Mr. Lavery, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul and Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: none. Motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM 5. FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES

The following Board Policies and Regulations are included for first reading:

Policy 5330:	Administration of Medication
Policy 5331:	Management of Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools
Policy 2460:	Special Education
Policy 2467:	Surrogate Parents and Foster Parents

It is recommended that the Board approve the submission of the above policies at a subsequent Board meeting for adoption on second reading.

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer to approve the budget and the ballot question as submitted. On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Hauck, Mr. Lavery, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul and Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: none. Motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM 6. DISCUSSION: APRIL 13TH SNOW DAY

Monday April 13th will be a give back day. Schools will be closed.
It was still undecided as to whether the Board will hold its meeting on April 13th.

(Please note the above mentioned meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2009 in the Admin. Training room at 7:30 p.m.).

ITEM 7. DISCUSSION - RESOLUTION RE: AGE RESTRICTED HOUSING CONVERSION BILL

It is in the best interest of the District Board of Education to resolve to protest the passage of the New Jersey Senate Bill #2577/Assembly Bill #3772 which would allow developers to convert already approved age restricted housing into a broader based market rate housing project.

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the Resolution to oppose the passage of the "Age Restricted Housing Conversion Bill" and to petition Governor Corzine to veto this legislation as submitted.

RESOLUTION

RE: Senate Bill S-2577/Assembly Bill A-3772
Age-Restricted Housing Conversion Bill

WHEREAS, during the current national economic emergency many businesses are being hurt; and
WHEREAS, the home construction industry has been severely affected and as a partial remedy to this situation the legislature has voted, using an emergent procedure, to place on the Governor's desk for signing a bill entitled the "Age Restricted Housing Conversion Bill" which creates significant new rights for developers who seek to convert an approved age restricted housing project into a broader based market rate housing project; and
WHEREAS, the use of an emergent procedure has the affect of cutting off debate and allowing a major change in land use policy to be enacted without careful consideration or input from affected parties; and
WHEREAS, the procedures contemplated by this bill sidestep municipal land use law as it has developed in this State and appears to invite and encourage developers, in effect, to bait Planning Boards with one plan and then upon approval switch to another less restricted use; and
WHEREAS, the East Windsor Regional School Board (Board) has an interest in the orderly development of its constituent municipalities so as to be able to plan for the number children who will need to be educated; and
WHEREAS, the Board has taken note that Hightstown Borough has very little space for new residential development and that East Windsor Township also has little land left for residential development because of sewer boundaries, zoning restrictions, publicly owned land and lands either being wetland or agriculturally preserved land; and
WHEREAS, in East Windsor Township approximately 400 age restricted housing units are approved by the Planning Board which could, under this bill, be converted to uses which would have a significant impact on the school age population of the East Windsor Regional School District; and
WHEREAS, it is ultimately unfair to the tax payers of the East Windsor Regional School District to have to provide classes and services to children, who as a result of this bill becoming law, would become eligible for enrollment in the school district upon moving into homes that were originally approved for a population without children;
NOW THEREFORE, the East Windsor Regional School Board does hereby resolve to protest the method of passage by the legislature and the substance of the "Age Restricted Housing Conversion Bill" and does further petition Governor Jon Corzine to veto this legislation forthwith.
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that a true copy of this Resolution be delivered to Governor Corzine by messenger on Tuesday, April 1, 2009 and that true copies of this Resolution be delivered to our State Legislative Representatives and to the Mayors, Councils and Planning Boards of East Windsor Township and Hightstown Borough.

Discussion: Mr. Coates gave details of the Age Restricted Housing Bill. The Board voiced support for the resolution as it has a significant impact to our District.

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer to approve the Board resolution to protest the Age Restricted Housing Conversion Bill now before the Senate and Assembly.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Hauck, Mr. Laverty, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul and Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: none. Motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Bolandi read from the “April Fool’s” issue of the HHS student newspaper.

ITEM 9. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

ITEM 10: FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Ms. Fayer commented on an excellent “Night of Music”

Mr. Hauck also commented on the “Night of Music” and announced his retirement from the Board of Education after six years. He was roundly thanked for all of his service.

Mr. Ettman reminded all that members of the Board of Education are unpaid volunteers.

Ms. Fallon commented on favorable press coverage regarding Mr. Walsh’s appointment to the Naval Academy; NCAA coaches.

ITEM 11. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

- A. Staffing**
- B. Emergent Hiring**
- C. Travel Related Expenses**
- D. Honorary Employee for a Day Program - MHK Students**
- E. Field Trip Approvals**
- F. Volunteers**
- G. Approval of Minutes: March 16, 2009**
- H. Renewal of Contract: First Student Transportation**
- I. Modifications to District Technology Center**
- J. Board Secretary’s Report – January, 2009**
- K. Treasurer’s Report - January, 2009**
- L. Transfer Report – January, 2009**
- M. Bill List – March 30, 2009**

11.A STAFFING – as submitted

11.B AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENT HIRING PENDING COMPLETION OF CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK for the following individual(s):

Kenneth Wilson

Teacher

11.C TRAVEL RELATED EXPENSES – FOR BOARD APPROVAL

Travel Expense 3/30/09					
Mark Beckman	Student Services	April 29, 2009	Best Practices in Transition Planning Workshop -Piscataway, NJ	\$10.00	
Lora Inglisa	Student Services	April 29, 2009	Best Practices in Transition Planning Wkshop,Piscataway, NJ	\$10.00	
Mark Beckman	Student Services	May 11, 2009	13th Annual NJAPSA Director Academy in Ocean Place Hotel, Long Branch, NJ	\$149.00	
Tekelah Sherrod	Student Services	May 11, 2009	13th Annual NJAPSA Director Academy in Ocean Place Hotel, Long Branch, NJ	\$149.00	
Kristen Jones	Student Services	April 30, 2009	Designing Programs for Students with Moderate to Severe Cognitive Disabilities in General Educ.. Program: Focus on Communication / Social Skills - Dayton, NJ	\$15.50	
Rachel Raimondo	Student Services	April 30, 2009	Designing Programs for Students with Moderate to Severe Cognitive Disabilities in General Educ. Program: Focus on Communication / Social Skills - Dayton, NJ	\$15.50	
Jean Greaves	Kreps	March 30, 2009	"Boosting Your Students' Reading Performance" - Cherry Hill, NJ	\$199.00	
Joan Tyson	WCB	April 17, 2009	Annual School Counselor Conference - Kean University *Reimbursed by EWEA	\$15.00	
			Total	\$563.00	YTD \$33,873.99

11.D HONORARY EMPLOYEE FOR A DAY PROGRAM - MHK STUDENTS

Susan Palladino, a Special Education teacher at the Melvin H. Kreps School, would like to have students participate in a modified work related activity at a local store. The students would work from 9:30am to 1:30pm with a half hour for lunch. They would be accompanied by a teacher or teacher's assistant to coach and supervise the tasks assigned by the store's representative. The tasks would include straightening clothing, greeting customers, folding, replacing bags on the corrals at the checkout area, etc. At the end of the day, each student would receive a certificate presented by a store representative to commend their efforts as an honorary employee of the company. It is recommended that the Board approve the above described Honorary Employee for a Day Program.

ITEM 11.E FIELD TRIPS for BOARD APPROVAL

Field Trip planned for Melvin H. Kreps School:

5/19/09 Chamber Repertory Theatre "Encore"
The Strand Theatre, Lakewood, NJ

Field Trip planned for Perry L. Drew School:

4/22/09 Disney Nature Earth Event
Multiplex Cinemas at Town Center, East Windsor, NJ

ITEM 11.F VOLUNTEERS FOR APPROVAL

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

For the Walter C. Black School:

Alejandra Aguilar	Mrs. Farr	Teresa Panza
Dayse Armijos	Ernestina Gaytan	Wendy Reiss
Navdeep Bhathal	Mrs. Hudgins	Isab Isabel Urigiles
Richard Bobor	Luis Jarama	
Misael Chinchay	Mr. Juvelier	
Becky Edgerly	Mrs. Khandra	

11.G APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FOR MARCH 16, 2009

As submitted: copy available for review on District Website.

11. H RENEWAL OF CONTRACT: FIRST STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

The East Windsor Regional School District transports special education, non-public, and vocational school students to specific destinations. It is in the best interest of the District to renew its current contract with First Student Transportation Inc. for the 2009-2010 school year for the following routes:

Non Public Route: #408A – St. Gregory’s School for the amount of \$48,610.80 and
 Non Public Route: #208A – Notre Dame High School for \$44,827.20
 Total Contract amount: \$93,438.00

It is recommended that the Board approve the renewal of its non-public transportation contract with First Student Transportation for the 2009-10 school year.
 Discussion: The renewal of non public transportation will provide the desired services to our constituents.

11.I MODIFICATION TO DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The District has currently identified a need for reconfiguring the physical space that is presently occupied by the Technology Center in the Hightstown High School.
 The bulk of the work will be performed by the District maintenance staff, but the project still requires NJDOE submission and a Long Range Facility Plan update.
 The project will be classified as an “other capital project” and will not be eligible for State funding.
 It is recommended that the Board authorize Garrison Architects to modify our Long Range Facility Plan and to submit the Technology Center project to the Department of Education.

11.J BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT FOR JANUARY, 2009

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received the report of the Board Secretary and Treasurer Treasurer for the month of November, 2008, 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;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education accepts the above referenced reports and certifications and certifies that after review of the Secretary’s monthly financial report (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.
 Approval of the Board Secretary’s report for the period ending January 31, 2009 is recommended.

11. K TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2009

The Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of January, 2009 is in agreement with the Board Secretary's report. Board approval is recommended for the Treasurer's report for January, 2009.

11. L TRANSFER REPORT FOR JANUARY 2009 for APPROVAL

The East Windsor Regional School District submits to the County School Business Administrator an updated report of budget transfers and changes in revenue and appropriations on a monthly basis.

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.

11. M 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 approve the payment of bills and claims in the amount of :\$1,463,305.92

ACTION ON ITEM 11: APPROVAL OF ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer to approve the Routine agenda items by exception as submitted.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Hauck,

Mr. Lavery, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul and Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: none.

Motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM 12. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

ITEM 13. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

A fund raiser that involves hosting a group of bands was discussed.

ITEM 14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board held its second closed session.

ITEM 15. OPEN SESSION

ITEM 16. ADJOURN

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary