

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a regular meeting on Monday, March 12, 2007 at the Hightstown High School cafeteria. Board President Alice Weisman called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 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: Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer, Robert Laverty,
Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul, Ricardo Perez, Alice Weisman.

Members Absent: James Hauck

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

COMPLIANCE WITH FIRE CODE

The Board president 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.....” (Board president pointed to the emergency exit.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (ITEM 3A)

Having read the material received, Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon, to approve the agenda.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Etman, Ms. Fallon, Mr.Laverty, Ms.Lloyd, Mr. Perez, Ms. Weisman. (Ms. Fayer and Mr.Paul had not arrived yet).

Members voting no: None Members abstaining: None

Motion was carried Unanimously.

RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION (ITEM 3B)

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by 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 a closed session during its regular meeting on March 12, 2007. This closed session concerns:

- 1. Personnel Matters
- 2. Contract Negotiations
- 3. Litigation

Minutes of this closed session 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. Etman, Ms. Fallon, Mr.Laverty, Ms.Lloyd, Mr. Perez, Ms. Weisman. (Ms. Fayer, and Mr. Paul had not arrived yet).

Members voting no: None Members abstaining: None

Motion was carried: Unanimously.

ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET 2007-2008 (ITEM 4)

The Superintendent gave a comprehensive presentation on the 2007-2008 tentative budget. The Tax Levy Cap Calculation presented the large problem of creating a \$4 million gap.

Total General Fund Budget of	\$70,178,534.
Local Tax Levy of	\$51,022,302.
Total Special Revenue Fund Budget of	\$ 1,944,528.
Total Debt Service Fund Budget of	\$ 3,689,883.
Local Debt Service Fund Tax Levy of	\$ 3,410,856.

It is recommended that the Board request approval of a spending growth limitation adjustment due to:

Increase in health care costs in the amount of \$675,176.

STATEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR SEPARATE PROPOSALS:

It is recommended that the following statements be included in the sample ballot question:

RESOLVED, That there should be raised an additional \$1,500,000 for General Funds in the same school year (2007-2008). These taxes will be used exclusively for the establishment and operation of a full day kindergarten program. Approval of these taxes will result in a permanent increase to the district's tax levy. These proposed additional expenditures are in addition to those necessary to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

RESOLVED, That there should be raised an additional \$680,000 for General Funds in the same school year (2007-2008). These taxes will be used exclusively for the continued operation of courtesy transportation services including all non-mandated transportation activities.

Approval of these taxes will result in a permanent increase to the district's tax levy. These proposed additional expenditures are in addition to those necessary to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

RESOLVED, That there should be raised an additional \$110,000 for General Funds in the same school year (2007-2008). These taxes will be used exclusively for the continued operation of sub varsity athletic programs and various other co-curricular programs. Approval of these taxes will result in a permanent increase to the district's tax levy. These proposed additional expenditures are in addition to those necessary to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

RESOLVED, That there should be raised an additional \$3,000,000 for General Funds in the same school year (2007-2008). These taxes will be used exclusively for the continued operation of Non T&E programs. Approval of these taxes will result in a permanent increase to the district's tax levy. These proposed additional expenditures are in addition to those necessary to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

TRAVEL MAXIMUM

It is recommended that the Board of Education establish the school district travel maximum for the 2007-08 school year at the sum of \$123,141 and that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon that the Board approve the 2007-2008 tentative budget and authorize the Chief School Administrator and the School business Administrator to submit to the Mercer County Superintendent of Schools the tentative budget as submitted:

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Laverty, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, Mr. Perez, and Ms. Weisman.

Members voting no: None. Members abstaining: None.

Motion carried: Unanimously.

The Board President opened the meeting to public questions and answers on the budget.

Laurie DePino – asked how budget reductions would impact Middle School reconfiguration. The Superintendent responded that budget cuts would limit the planned reconfiguration.

Dave Winrow – asked what special ed. cuts would be imposed. The Superintendent responded that class sizes would be affected by consolidating.

Rob Krauss – asked about separate proposals. The Superintendent indicated that full day kindergarten and courtesy bussing questions would be allowed by the State.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVE GRANT (ITEM 4A)

The Board accepted the submission of the grant application for \$400,000. for the Governor's Initiative Grant, for two years, June 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009.

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Ms. Lloyd that the Board approve the Governor's Initiative Grant as submitted.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Lavery, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Perez, and Ms. Weisman.

Members voting no: None. Members abstaining: Mr. Paul.

Motion was carried.

TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION: PRIVATIZATION OF TRANSPORTATION (ITEM 5)

The Superintendent gave a detailed presentation on transportation privatization. See attachment.

George Michael, bus driver gave a driver's perspective.

Mr. Michael also served on the committee. The personnel cost savings represents employee benefits. Many districts have a difficult experience with outsourcing. The care and compassion of district staff will be missed. The consolidation of vendors could present problems later. The Superintendent indicated strong support for the fine job performance of the transportation staff.

Kevin Walt – Transportation staff member: The current mix is a 50 -50 balance which gives flexibility to district. Current operations have been made very efficient.

Marty Silver : said he was a substitute bus driver since 1997.

Mr. Perez: asked for an equipment sale clarification. The Superintendent responded only busses would be sold, not the building. Current percentage of outsourced is 20, with 80% in house.

Mr. Paul asked how savings would be used. The superintendent explained current year cost avoidance and one time revenue of bus sales.

Mr. Lavery reported on the successful and objective work of the committee.

Mr. Ettman – also expressed gratitude for the committee work. Also commended transportation director for her excellent work of making the transportation department an efficient one.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP – FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION-HHS (ITEM 6)

Information item only,

FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (ITEM 7)

Parent (Name not recorded) – Parent gave his experience of his son being lost by contracted driver more than once. It was a harrowing experience. Parent supports in district staff.

Jane Cormack – Safety should remain a priority. As a West Windsor Plainsboro employee, she shared the difficulties they are having with vendors.

Yong Quan – requested bus stop change for his pm kindergarten daughter to pick up only. The Board president indicated a written response would be given.

Laurie DePino – Curriculum changes at the Middle School are welcomed and encouraged.

FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENT ITEM 8

Mr. Ettman – commented that pending legislation is helped by our community members’ efforts. PTA, Community Ed. And the Superintendent’s efforts are to be commended.

Ms. Weisman – encouraged continued community support of the district, especially at budget time.

Mr. Lavery – encouraged public support.

Mr. Perez – requested Senator Codey be included in our outreach efforts.

Ms. Fallon – commented on the excellent performance of “Oliver” at the High School

Ms. Weisman – Agreed “Oliver” production was excellent. Excellent work on the presentation.

TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION (ITEM 9)

This item was tabled until the budget reductions are clarified.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE #88 (ITEM 10)

Closeout work is winding down.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 11)

Community support was urged for the district initiatives. Senator Karcher’s efforts are appreciated.

MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION (ITEM 12)

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Ms.Fayer that the Board of Education approve the routine items as submitted.

On a roll call vote, motion was carried Unanimously.

SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (ITEM 13)

No comments were made.

SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS (ITEM 14)

There will be a special meeting of the Board of Education on Monday, March 19, 2007 at the High School cafeteria at 6:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION (ITEM 15)

OPEN SESSION (ITEM 16)

ADJOURN (ITEM 17)

Ms. Fallon moved to close the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary

