

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, HIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08520

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date: APRIL 12, 2010 7:30 p.m.

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a Regular meeting on MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hightstown High School Cafeteria, located at 25 Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ.

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 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: Paul Connolly, Stu Dolgon, Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer
Bob Laverty, Kennedy Paul and Alice Weisman

Members Absent: Susan Lloyd (with advance notice)

Also Present: Michael Dzwonar, Interim Superintendent
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.)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. A APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Laverty moved seconded by Ms. Fallon, to approve the agenda with the following revision: the addition of a second executive session (item 7A). On a roll call vote of the Board, motion to approve was carried unanimously.

3. B RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Laverty 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 closed sessions during its regular meeting on April 12, 2010. These closed sessions concern:

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.

(Ms. Fayer and Mr. Paul arrived at 7:40 pm.)

4. PRESENTATION: ELEMENTARY LITERACY PROGRAM

Ms. Gayle Parker, Curriculum Supervisor, gave a detailed presentation on the Elementary Language Arts Program using a PowerPoint demonstration. (Copy on file in Board Secretary’s office and in Curriculum Office.)

Comments on Presentation:

Ms. Fallon asked how many professional development hours are needed to bring the Wilson Program on board. Ms. Parker responded it would take a full day during summer plus ongoing support via training the trainer so that one special needs teacher is a recognized specialist.

Mr. Dzwonar gave his experience with early reader programs. He has seen 100's of kids who have responded very well to this program of early intervention. We are talking about teaching our kids to read. There are a number of programs we can go to but this one appears to be the one that is best integrated with various interventions and has the best program you can start out with in kindergarten. During Mr. Dzwonar's time as interim superintendent he plans to have additional curriculum presentations to showcase the initiatives underway that improve student achievement.

Mr. Lavery asked about the implementation plan for elements of the program. Ms. Parker confirmed we are making sure all components including this new program are in the literacy block for next school year.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Dzwonar updated the Board on the mailing of the budget flyer. He noted the frequent questions that we receive about the budget are summarized in the budget flyer in a "FAQ" section. The information is also on the website.

Mr. Dzwonar gave congratulations to social studies high school teacher Stu Wexler for receiving the James Madison Fellowship Award. This award is given to only one individual statewide.

6. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Christine Harrington of East Windsor commented on the presentation this evening. She commended the District in their effort to improve reading curriculum. We are moving in a very good direction. The research is very clear and it is nice to see that the work done by the National Reading panel of 2000 is being put to practice in our district. It is true that a lot of students who don't read on grade level by the end of grade three never get up to grade level without significant intervention and the Wilson Program is up there in terms of best research program.

Rob Thibault of Hightstown commented on the budget information on the district web site. He specifically noted the information listing the possible consequences of a defeated budget, and called it scaremongering. He pointed out the District ranks 48th with respect to total cost per pupil, making us one of the most efficient school districts in the State (out of 105 districts). As we are right in the middle, it doesn't make sense that we are considered "most efficient" when we are clearly only in the median. He was critical of the EWEA president, and questioned why the Board would sign off on an EWEA collective bargaining agreement that provides such a lavish salary increase to the teachers.

Jim Fidler of East Windsor, commented on the consideration of an interim solution, such as pay to play for sports as a measure to eliminate the possibility of an impact on our sports programs.

David Golembieski of East Windsor commented that he read a newspaper account of the budget regarding the 27 administrators. Asked what they do to earn such high salaries. He has done some research and we have 7 social workers and 7 school psychologists and asked whether we need this many.

7. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Lavery commended Mr. Dzwonar and Ms. Parker on the curriculum presentation. This is what our business is, to evaluate and to improve curriculum. We are not a financial control body. We look forward to regular presentations on curriculum. Tonight's presentation is an example this is what the administrators do, and what the Board expects our administrators to do - to evaluate the best practices in the educational communities around the world and to bring those lessons to our district and fine tune the offerings of our curriculum.

Ms. Weisman commented over past 5 or 6 years the district has significantly improved. The major factor is the contribution and tremendous work done by our administrators. A district cannot run without the efforts of the administrators, just as it cannot run without the teachers.

Mr. Dzwonar gave details of content supervisors' qualifications and required skills and responsibilities. The supervisors have specific content area expertise to make highly valuable contributions to the District curriculum. They should not be ridiculed.

Mr. Ettman commented that over the past 6 years the district has been totally restructured. We basically cleaned house and brought in people from whom we demanded a lot more than we have ever done before. We have saved money by eliminating administrative positions. The question posed to the Board on how they feel about teachers who refuse to save jobs is not a fair question. That is not what they did. The teachers refused to take a wage freeze. Whether that money would be directly used to save jobs is another question. If teachers took a freeze and we saved that money brought teachers back who were fired, how we would pay for them next year without the freeze. It is just a deferral, it is not a solution. The problem is the state tax structure. We have to re-start the system or middle income districts will never survive. Voting against a budget as a way to cross the union is shameful. The district does not assess the taxes. Our teachers and our administrators are not the enemies.

Ms. Weisman clarified teachers have not voted to accept wage freeze this option has not been put to them

Ms. Fayer commented that our budget information on the District web site is definitely not fear mongering. They are accurate facts about what areas we will be looking at to cut in the event the budget fails.

Mr. Dolgon commented that citizens who ask questions of the Board and make comments in the Herald show their interest in our District. Regarding the 4% teacher raise, he clarified that the Board and the association followed a very lengthy collective bargaining process. There was a tentative agreement that was reached back in June. We did not vote on this contract till November and there were many closed sessions between Board members on the issue. There were extensive negotiations over months. The 4 % is the result. Teachers have not been given the opportunity to vote for or against a wage freeze. The school tax system is broken under democrat and republican mishandling over many years.

Ms. Fallon commented that negotiations are very complicated. It is not just the 4 % raise and many more items are on the table besides salary. It is a give and take process. Top administrators were brought into our District and they have done excellent work. Voting against the budget will not be helpful to the District. The municipalities will then look at our numbers and may make further cuts to our budget, though they don't like doing it, their position is if the public defeated the budget, the public wants us to make further cuts. Ms. Fallon urged people to support the budget.

7A. FIRST CLOSED SESSION

8. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

- A. Staffing
- B. Out of District Placements
- C. Approval for Mileage Reimbursement
- D. Donations:
 - 1. From Hightstown Woman's Club to EMK
 - 2. From Red Paladin to EMK
- E. Field Trips
- F. Volunteers
- G. Travel and Related Expenses
- H. Settlement Agreement: A.G. & C.P. o/b/o S.P. vs. EWRSD BOE
- I. Renewal of Contract: Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission
- J. Renewal of Agreement: First Student Transportation, Inc.
- K. Annual Report of Permitted Pupil Record Retention
- L. Board Secretary's Report – February, 2010
- M. Treasurer's Report – February, 2010
- N. Transfer Report – February, 2010
- O. Bill List for April 12, 2010 approval
- P. Draft of Professional Development Plan to Submit to County Dept. of Education
- Q. Approval of Minutes – March 22, 2010

8.A STAFFING – as submitted.

8. B OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENTS: REGULAR SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Approval from the Board of Education is requested for the following placements.
Private & Public Schools:

MCSSSD-IPS Program

Tuition September 8, 2009 through June 30, 2010

- | | | | |
|------------|---------|------|-------------|
| 1. Student | #720663 | Reg. | \$40,467.70 |
| 2. Student | #720681 | Reg. | \$40,467.70 |

8. C APPROVAL FOR MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

- Please add the following employee to the list of staff eligible for mileage reimbursement for the current school year. Nichole Tomasello - Teacher

8. D DONATIONS

- HIGHTSTOWN WOMAN'S CLUB

Hightstown Woman's Club, Mrs. Shirley Olsen, President, 6 Farr Ave. Hightstown, NJ 08520 would like to donate \$200 to the Ethel McKnight School. The donation will be used for special needs students.

- RED PALADIN TO EMK

Red Paladin, Inc., Brian P. Reed, 55 Paterson Street, Suite 200, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 has donated non-working computer parts to the art teacher of Ethel McKnight school. The students will use the parts to make sculptures.

8.E FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip planned for Hightstown High School:

5/14/10	MC Teen Arts Festival – Music and Art Students Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Rd., West Windsor, NJ
5/15/10	First Robotics Team Competition Montgomery High School, 1016 Route 601, Skillman, NJ
5/21/10	AP Gov. – Washington, D.C. Exploring the Washington, D.C. Historic Area

Field Trips planned for Melvin H. Kreps School:

6/9/10	8 th Grade Trip to Liberty Lakes 1195 Florence-Columbus Road, Columbus, NJ
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Field Trips planned for Walter C. Black School:

4/27/10	Multi age classes Plainsboro Preserve, Plainsboro, NJ
4/29/10	Grade 5 Safety Patrol State Police Barracks, Ewing, NJ

Addendum to Field Trips planned for Perry L. Drew School with correct date:

<u>6/3/10</u>	2 nd Grade – Visit Pen Pals Clark Mills School, Manalapan, NJ
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8.F VOLUNTEERS/CHAPERONES

The Board of Education approves all volunteers who serve in the EWRSD.

The following have offered to volunteer/chaperone at Melvin H. Kreps School:

Mary Hurler	Hchristine Herr, Marie Rivera (Nolan)
Deborah Wilmer	Harinder Baja
Lissa Gjertsen	Kevin Finn
Stacey Frankell	Paul Fischbach
Christine Nickerson	

The following are chaperones for Kreps Band/Chorus NYC Trip to NYC on May 26, 2010:

Mrs. Achebe	Mrs. Charache	Mrs. Holben	Mrs. Oldis
Mrs. Ackerman	Mrs. Conchar	Mrs. Howland	Mrs. Paul
Mrs. Alston	Mrs. Delury	Mrs. Jackson	Mrs. Pohl
Mrs. Asselstein	Mrs. Duckworth	Mrs. Kelly	Mrs. Reyes
Mrs. Bazergui	Mrs. Ely	Mrs. Joseph	Mr. Saufler
Mrs. Bonacorda	Mrs. Ernst	Mrs. Kesting	Mrs. Stevens
Mrs. Brennan	Mrs. Fitzgerald	Mrs. Lanphear	Mrs. Teffenhart
Mrs. Brown	Mrs. Frischman	Mrs. McGinnley	Mrs. Tokan
Mrs. Carbone	Mrs. Gillespie	Mrs. Muller	Mrs. Tootleman
Mrs. Cardoza	Mrs. Guido	Mrs. Nicklaus	Mrs. Twersky
Mrs. Catana	Mrs. Haddock	Mrs. O'Brien	

8. G EMPLOYEE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES

ATTENDEE	LOCATION	DATE OF CONFERENCE	CONFERENCE ATTENDING	TOTAL	YTD TOTAL
					\$26,713
John Hargrove	Transportation	April 23, 2010	School Transportation Supervisors of New Jersey - Supervisor Conference,	99.00	
Patricia Bye	Transportation	April 23, 2010	School Transportation Supervisors of New Jersey - Supervisor Conference,	99.00	
Rebeca Rodriguez	Student Services	April 19, 2010	NJASSW - 49th Annual Spring Institute, Holiday Inn National Conference Center, East Windsor, NJ	90.00	
Michael Dzwonar	Administration	April 21, 2010	NJ Association of Federal Program Administrators @ Trump Marina Hotel **NCLB TitleIIA Fiscal Audit/ESEA Reauthorization	149.00	
Tekelah Sherrod	Student Services	May 17, 2010	NJASA - 14th Annual NJAPSA Director's Academy- Ocean Place Hotel, Long Branch, NJ	85.00	
Thad Thompson	Business Office	May 4, 2010	NJ Association of School Business Officials - "Records Retention & Management workshop @ Doubletree Hotel, Mt. Laurel, NJ	100.00	
Patricia Phillips	Administration	May 17, 2010	NJ-AAP (American Association of Grant Professionals) FEA Conference Center, Monroe Township, NJ	50.00	
				672.00	26,713

8. H SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT:

A.G. & C.P. o/b/o S.P. vs. EWRSD BOE- OAL Docket No. EDS00523-2010S
 Proposed agreement is recommended for approval. Confidential to BOE only.

8. I CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION FOR 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR.

The East Windsor Regional School District transports special education, non-public, and vocational school students to specific destinations. The Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission offers coordinated transportation services. They will organize and schedule routes to achieve the maximum cost effectiveness. Approval is recommended as submitted.

**8.J RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT:
FIRST STUDENT TRANSPORTATION INC. FOR 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR**

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. (NP-1) for the 2010-2011 school year for the following routes:

Non Public Route: #408A – St. Gregory’s School for the amount of \$47,041.20 and

Non Public Route: #208A – Notre Dame High School for \$44,632.80

Total Contract amount: **\$91,674.00**

8. K ANNUAL REPORT OF PERMITTED PUPIL RECORD RETENTION

State law requires Boards of Education to approve the list of permitted pupil records.

Since our District’s permitted records are in the Administrative Procedures, which the Board does not approve, the Board must specifically approve the records. It is recommended that the Board approve the annual list of permitted pupil records to be retained by the designated custodians of records as submitted.

Permitted Records Maintained by the District:

- proof of date of birth
- samples of pupil’s work
- correspondence-parents/guardians/significant others, including letters of recommendation
- assessments of the pupil’s progress, including standardized and cumulative tests, subject inventories, grade point averages, areas of strengths and weaknesses
- assessments of pupil’s aptitude
- special recognition – honors, awards
- child study team reports
- supplemental instruction reports
- teacher/staff conference reports
- disciplinary reports
- requests for records by authorized parties
- anecdotal information and assessment reports dated and signed by the individual who originated the data

8. L BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2010

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received the report of the Board Secretary and Treasurer for the month of February, 2010, 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 as submitted for period ending February 28, 2010.

8. M TREASURER'S REPORT - FEBRUARY, 2010

The Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of February, 2010 is submitted for approval
The Treasurer's report is in agreement with the Board Secretary's report.

8. N TRANSFER REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2010

All Budget Transfers must be properly recorded, documented and approved by the Board of Education.
The School Business Administrator of the East Windsor Regional School District certifies to the best of his knowledge that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-1.11 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

RESOLVED, that the East Windsor Regional Board of Education ratifies the attached transfers between budget line items approved by the School Business Administrator as submitted pursuant to Board policy and State regulation.

8. O ORDERS OF PAYMENT / BILL LIST – APRIL 12, 2010

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 in the amount of **\$1,377,226.77** as submitted in the attached report.

8. P 2010-2011 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

As required by the State Department of Education, NJAC 6A-9, each district Board of Education shall establish a local Professional Development Committee that shall work with the Chief School Administrator to create a District Professional Development Plan.

As part of the review process, the EWRSD Local Professional Development Committee respectfully asks that the Board of Education give approval for the enclosed plan to be forwarded to the County Professional Development Board for its review and assessment.

LPDC Chairperson: Darlene Nemeth

LPDC Committee Members: Lynne Woods, Peg Van Patton, Hilary Greenfield, Gail Lord

It is recommended that the Board give permission to submit the District Professional Development Plan to the County Professional Development Board as submitted.

8. Q APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 22, 2010 REGULAR MEETING

The minutes of the Board of Education meetings are submitted for approval.

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

Mr. Lavery moved seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the routine agenda items as submitted.

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

Ms. Weisman thanked the donors for their donations. (item 8.D)

9. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Brandon Castro of East Windsor commented that budget cuts are wrong, but the bottom line is what to do about it. Both sides of the political aisle are partially responsible.

Rob Thibault of Hightstown commented that the issue in NJ is not taxes. It is spending. In past 9 years the Hightstown taxpayers have seen a 55 % increase in property taxes along with the increase in sales tax and income tax. East Windsor had it worse as in 9 years they saw a 74 percent increase in property tax. A big part of that is the system has become a wealth transfer mechanism. Transfer it from the people in the private sector to those in the public sector. We have seen teachers' salaries in this district increase more than 60 % in that time period. Why and how does EWEA leadership have so much control? He asked why the Board doesn't push a little harder for teachers to accept a salary freeze.

David Golembieski of East Windsor, asked for details on the administrators and supervisors and Mr. Dzwonar responded with a brief overview of the administrators and supervisors that contribute to the smooth running of a school district of this size.

Mr. Golembieski also commented that the tax situation definitely affects the middle class most. No one is demonizing teachers. We have good teachers but we need to all get on the same page. A salary freeze may not help a lot, but it is still something.

10. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Ettman commented that demonizing teachers is not the answer and we are not here to defend NJEA or EWEA. The union leader is speaking for what the NJEA position is. We cannot escape the political elements of the property tax debate. Our legislatures have failed us year after year.

Mr. Laverty agreed the budget is a political issue. Governor Christie proved this by urging citizens to vote against their budgets if their local teacher association refused to accept a pay freeze. He knows the odds are that most districts are not going with a wage freeze. This governor represents the most obvious effort to bring in an increasing level of privatization in his attack on the public schools in the state. This is ironic for someone who wants to bring economic growth to the state. You can't have economic growth when you are slashing the education system. This will be an ongoing struggle. He ended his comments saying this is his personal opinion and not the Board's opinion.

Mr. Connolly commented that labor costs are the most expensive budget item for any district and for any business. Administrators support the teachers. They develop and implement long range plans for the school year. They articulate and direct the plan of the District's instructional mission and goals.

Mr. Dolgon commented that most politicians make their decisions on what they feel is right for the state or the country. The Board was elected without a political party and has done its best to make decisions for the public and for the taxpayers and the most recent one is the budget put before the voters. All are encouraged to vote and let their voices be heard.

Ms. Fallon commented on the importance of the Child Study Team social workers and the vital job they have in the evaluation of our special needs students.

11. SECOND EXECUTIVE SESSION

12. OPEN SESSION

13. ADJOURN

Ms. Fayer moved to adjourn at 10:30.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary