

Minutes of the Regular Meeting: January 25, 2010

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, HIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08520

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: JANUARY 25, 2010 7:30 p.m.

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

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 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 (7:44 p.m. arrival,) Bob Laverty, Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul and Alice Weisman

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Thomas F. Butler, Interim School 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.)

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ITEM 3.A APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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. Connolly, Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Mr. Laverty Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul and Ms. Weisman. Voting no: none Abstaining: None

Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

ITEM 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 January 25, 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, Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

ITEM 4. DISCUSSION ON 2009 NCLB REPORT

Assistant Superintendent, Michael Dzwonar gave a very detailed presentation on the NCLB (No Child Left Behind) 2009 testing results for Hightstown High School and Kreps. Assistant Superintendent Deborah Feaster gave details on the elementary grades results. It was noted that many of the elements indicating District progress do not contribute to its annual yearly progress (AYP) measurement, and increases in advanced proficient are not credited to a school's AYP.

Mr. Dolgon asked why districts are constrained when communicating NCLB results.

Mr. Dzwonar indicated that federal statutes mandate all NCLB elements.

Mr. Ettman commented that the District has dramatically improved all aspects of our instructional program, contrary to local published reports. Having punitive labels applied by NCLB are counterproductive.

Mr. Ettman also commended the administration on all the positive results that have been achieved over the past 5 years.

Mr. Dzwonar commented that inaccurate reporting by the local press inflames the situation and does not serve the district or its constituents.

Ms. Fallon asked if there is any compensation given for how long the students are with us.

Mr. Dzwonar answered that students that come in during the school year do not count for that year's numbers.

ITEM 5. DISCUSSION ON 2010-2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Butler gave an update on the 2010-11 calendar. Ms. Feaster explained the rationale for the start up week of school. The pros and cons of when to schedule the first day of school were weighed.

It was decided it was in the best interest of all involved to start school *after* Labor Day and not before as we did last year.

Mr. Dolgon asked if it ever was considered to have the first day of school on Sept. 13 and noted that school is ending very early on June 16th.

Ms. Feaster said that was a consideration but we already locked in our graduation date with the Sovereign Bank Arena for June 16, 2010, which had to be done one year in advance.

Mr. Dolgon commented that according to the 2010-11 District calendar, the Board election and Budget vote would take place during Spring break and may deprive people of being able to vote if they are on vacation.

Dr. Butler commented on the possibility of the State changing the date of the school board elections to be in November. At this point we don't know what the state is going to do. He asked the Board to approve the calendar as is and if there has to be any adjustments made to it then we can do so.

ITEM 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Butler reported to the Board on the many positive comments he has heard from parents about the District. There was concern when Mr. Bolandi left as to whether we will be able to continue moving forward with the initiatives he had put in place. Dr. Butler commented that the transition has been somewhat seamless and the district continues to move forward with the plan that is in place.

Dr. Butler also spoke on the following:

- The upcoming Kreps school musical. Dr. Butler encouraged everyone to attend.
- The District's Haiti relief activity and the efforts/activities of students and staff.
- A letter from the East Windsor Health Department indicating that Feb. 6 is HINI vaccine date.

ITEM 7. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

ITEM 8. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Ms. Fallon asked if any of our students or families were impacted by events in Haiti.

Mr. Beckman, Supervisor of Student Services, responded that several students’ families were affected. The high school and elementary school counselors are responding to their student’s need for counseling on the subject.

Mr. Dolgon commented on the illegal move of “checking” an opponent from behind in ice hockey games. He wondered if the District should consider putting the word “Stop” on the back of student player’s helmets as they do in Canada to discourage this practice.

Dr. Butler commented that he will speak to and follow up with the athletic director on this point.

ITEM 9. FIRST EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into closed session.

ITEM 10. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Board approval is requested for the following as submitted:

- A. Staffing
- B. Travel Related Expenses
- C. New/Revised Courses for HHS
- D. Professional Services for Students
- E. Annual Update to Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement
- F. Field Trips
- G. Volunteers
- H. Approval of Minutes: December 21, 2009 January 6, 2010, January 11, 2010, January 13, 2010
- I. Board Secretary’s Report: November, 2009 (revised to reflect audit adjustments)
- J. Treasurer’s Report: November, 2009 (revised to reflect audit adjustments)
- K. School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Reports
- L. Bill List
- M. Approval of the 2010-11 School Calendar

10. A STAFFING – as submitted. Copies on file in Board Secretary’s office.

10. B TRAVEL RELATED EXPENSES

TRAVEL & RELATED EXPENSES for BOARD APPROVAL JAN. 25, 2010					
ATTENDEE	LOCATION	DATE OF CONFERENCE	CONFERENCE ATTENDING	TOTAL	YTD TOTAL
					\$19,286
Angela Castaneda Terry DeLaRosa Betzaida Feliciano Lisa Tanikawa- Brown	PLD	May 18 - 19, 2010	NJTESOL/NJBE 2010 Spring Conference , Double Tree & Garden State Exhibit Center	\$756.00	

Minutes of the Regular Meeting: January 25, 2010

Paul Hewins	Building & Grounds	March 30, 2010	NJSBGA- Mercer County Chapter 14th Annual Conference/Expo - Homeland Security	\$100.00	
Frank Vespe	MHK	February 10, 2010	Stevens Institute of Technology - "Encouraging Students Towards Stem & IT Careers" - FEA Conference Center - Monroe Township	\$95.00	
Sharlene Clark	Tech Center	February 22, 2010	Skillpath Seminars - The New Jersey Conference for Women - Hilton Garden Inn - Raritan Center	\$149.00	
Sharon Falitz	Admin	February 22, 2010	Skillpath Seminars - The New Jersey Conference for Women - Hilton Garden Inn - Raritan Center	\$149.00	
Irene Murt	Business Office	February 22, 2010	Skillpath Seminars - The New Jersey Conference for Women - Hilton Garden Inn - Raritan Center	\$149.00	
Debbie Feaster Michael Dzwonar Dr. Sherrod Sandy Small	Admin	March 19, 2010	The College of New Jersey, Education Interview Days - Ewing, NJ	\$75.00	
Kurt Stumbaugh	Business Office	February 9, 2010	NJASBO- Update FMLA/Workers Compensation and Payroll Practices and Procedures - Double Tree Hotel - Mt. Laurel	\$100.00	
				\$1,573.00	\$19,286.00

10.C NEW/REVISED COURSES FOR HIGHTSTOW HIGH SCHOOL

Please approve the following Courses for Hightstown High School for 2010-2011.

PERSONAL FINANCE *Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 Credits 2.5*

This course provides students with the knowledge, skills and ethical values to make important consumer and financial decisions that impact themselves, their families and their local and global communities. In this course, students learn money management; credit and debt management; planning personal finances; banking, saving and investing; becoming a critical consumer; risk management and insurance; and civic financial responsibility. This successful completion of this course satisfies the requirement for financial and economic literacy effective with the 2010-2011 grade nine class. (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5(a) 1v)

BUSINESS PRACTICE FIRM HONORS (Replaces International Business)

Grades 11 and 12 Credits 5.0

Prerequisites: Introduction to Computer Applications and/or Recommendation of the Teacher
 Using an international business model, the students work as team members in a simulated business firm. The students have the opportunity to perform various Business functions (I.e., purchasing, accounting, marketing, human resources) as the firm transacts business with students in other simulated companies both in the U.S. and in other countries. Students are involved in decision-making, critical thinking, and team activities.

DIGITAL DESIGN II Grades 10, 11, 12 *Credits 2.5*

Prerequisite: Digital Design I with Final Grade of B+ or A

Digital Design II is intended for students that have already taken Digital Design I and would like to learn advanced techniques, and use additional graphics software included in the Adobe Creative Suite to produce Commercial Art and Fine Art. Students will be using several different tools to produce a single work. Some of the Commercial projects may include creating Brochures, Menus, Advertisements, Interior Design Floor Plans, Interior Design Rendering, and Package Design. Fine Arts projects will include Digital Drawing, Digital Painting using the Wacom Tablet, Photo Montage, and Digital Animation.

WOODWORKING and DRAFTING DESIGN Grades 9 *Credits 5.0*

This course provides students with the opportunity to experience both mechanical drafting and wood construction. Students will be trained in conventional drafting methods as well as basic computer aided design. The design will be used to create individualized wood projects where the students will utilize hand tools and power equipment under the guidance of a skilled craftsman. This course serves as an introductory course for both advanced courses in Cabinetmaking and Computer Drafting.

10. D PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

The special education department requires services of consultants to provide children with disabilities a free appropriate public education as defined by The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Name	Type of Service	Rate
Therapeutic Rehabilitation Services, LLC	Occupational Therapy	\$34.00 per 20 minutes
DAYTOP	Home Instruction	\$45.00 per hour

10. E ANNUAL UPDATE TO UNIFORM STATE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

The East Windsor Regional School District has agreements with the East Windsor Township Police Department and the Hightstown Borough Police Department regarding procedures to be followed by the police departments and the school district when a police presence is required or is requested by the school district.

Each year the chief school administrator and the two chiefs of police are required to meet to discuss the agreements to determine if any changes are needed. The meeting with the Chief of Police for East Windsor and the Chief of Police for Hightstown took place on January 19, 2010. No changes are being recommended. Board approval is requested to submit the updates to the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement with East Windsor Township and Hightstown Borough to the Mercer County Superintendent of Schools stating that the agreements remain unchanged and procedures have been developed, with contact people identified, to implement specific provisions of the memorandum of agreement.

10. F FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip planned for Hightstown High School:

2/7/10 First Robotics Team – First Tech Challenge
NJIT - Zoom Fleischer Athletic Center
323 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ

***Revised** date: Field Trip planned for Hightstown High School:

1/21/10 Child Development Class
Kids Kottage Learning Center
659 Abbington Drive, East Windsor, NJ *Was originally approved for 1/23/10.

10. G VOLUNTEERS

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

The following people have offered to volunteer/chaperone at the Walter C. Black School:

Maria Conde; Mrs. Fiordelisi; Mrs. Hemby; Mrs. Iyer; and Mrs. Kilkenny

10. H APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dec. 21, 2009, Jan. 6, 2010, Jan. 11, 2010 and Jan. 13, 2010.

As submitted. Available for review on District website and on file in Board Secretary's office.

10. I BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT for November, 2009 (revised to reflect audit adjustments)

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received the report of the Board Secretary and Treasurer for the month of November, 2009 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 revised Board Secretary's report re-submitted to reflect adjustments made by the auditor, for period ending November 30, 2009.

10. J. TREASURER'S REPORT for Nov., 2009 (revised to reflect audit adjustments)

The Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of November, 2009 is re-submitted for Board approval. The report has been revised to reflect adjustments made by the auditor.

The Treasurer's report is in agreement with the Board Secretary's report.

10. K SCHOOL BUS EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL REPORTS

School bus emergency evacuation drills must be conducted twice each school year according to the New Jersey Administrative Code (NJAC 6A:27-11.2). Drills were conducted for the first half of the school year with the entire student body participating in a rear door evacuation of the bus. School administrators/principals are responsible for organizing and overseeing the drills. It is recommended the Board approve the school bus emergency evacuation drill reports for Hightstown High School, Melvin H. Kreps, Perry L. Drew, Ethel McKnight, Grace N. Rogers, and Walter C. Black Schools as submitted.

10. L BILL LIST

The Bill and Claims Report must be approved by the Board before being submitted for payment. RESOLVED: that the Board of Education approves the payment of bills and claims in the amount of \$1,221,756.54 as submitted in the attached report.

10. M. APPROVAL OF 2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

As submitted. Available on District website and for review in Board Secretary's office.

ACTION:

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

ITEM 11. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

ITEM 12 SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Dolgon commented on critical comments that are posted in the press. These are not based on substance. These naysayers never show up at Board meetings and they never make contact with our Administrators. It is frustrating that their voices get heard in the newspaper and are given equal weight to the actual facts.

ITEM 13. SECOND EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into closed session.

ITEM 14. OPEN SESSION

ITEM 15. ADJOURN

Mr. Paul moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary