

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a regular meeting on Monday, August 27, 2007 at the Hightstown High School cafeteria.

ITEM 1 – WELCOME/SUNSHINE NOTICE

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: Stuart Dolgon, Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, James Hauck, Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul, Alice Weisman.

Members Absent: Bonnie Fayer, Robert Laverty

Also Present: Ronald Bolandi, Chief School Administrator;
Kurt Stumbaugh, Business Administrator/Board Secretary;
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.)

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. Ettman moved, seconded by Mr. Hauck, to approve the agenda.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Mr. Hauck, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: none.

Motion was carried: Unanimously.

ITEM 3B -RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Ettman moved, seconded by Mr. Hauck, to approve the following:

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 August 27, 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. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Mr. Hauck, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: none. Motion was carried: unanimously.

(Item 5 was changed to Item 4)

ITEM 4 – INTRODUCTION OF NEW NJSBA REPRESENTATIVE: DIANE MORRIS

The Superintendent introduced Ms. Morris as our new NJSBA field representative. Ms. Morris gave a brief introduction of herself and the services NJSBA offers.

ITEM 5 – VARSITY AND SUB VARSITY SPORTS PRESENTATION

Athletic Director Gary Bushelli gave a presentation on varsity and sub varsity sports, including participation list. The conditions at the athletic fields was discussed. There are unfavorable conditions at several sub varsity fields due to over-use. The benefits of astro turf are numerous. The cost is approximately \$750,000. to \$1 million per field.

ITEM 6 – PRESENTATION ON REVISED POLICY #5512.01-HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING – FIRST READING

ITEM 7 – PRESENTATION ON NEW POLICY #5512.02 – CYBER BULLYING FIRST READING

ITEM 8 – PRESENTATION ON REVISED POLICY #5600 – PUPIL DISCIPLINE/CODE OF CONDUCT-FIRST READING

Policy updates for items 6, 7, and 8 were given by Ginny Kearns. The Superintendent gave a brief expansion on the details of the revisions, and he expressed his concern over being legislated to enforce cyber bullying issues that may occur outside school hours and location. Board President, Ms. Weisman, inquired about a uniform policy/code for penalties. Ms. Kearns and the Superintendent responded that a grade appropriate standard is being developed. Follow-up training will be given this school year.

ITEM 9 – PRESENTATION ON NCLB PRELIMINARY RESULTS REPORT

The NCLB results report were given by Assistant Superintendent Dzwonar. The preliminary testing results report is to be included in the minutes. Ms. Weisman requested that a year to year comparison be presented at the community presentation in October. Mr. Ettman commented that NCLB is overly complicated and punitive.

The Superintendent gave an update on opening day procedures: Paving is done, clean up is nearing completion, curriculum development and staffing. He noted that 56 new staff members were hired over the summer. Two new vice principals are to be hired, all vacancies to be filled. New staff meeting on Tuesday. Transportation inspection passed with superior results. The Superintendent is looking forward to an exciting year with new initiatives at the middle and high school to mirror the excellent results obtained at the elementary school level. The Superintendent offered high praise to the Assistant Superintendent and his staff, and the Board of Education for their excellent efforts at improving instruction. Board President, Ms. Weisman thanked the Superintendent and shares the excitement.

ITEM 10 - FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Len Milner – commended the Superintendent and staff for their excellent work. NCLB data should be shared with public now. The transportation costs report on outsourcing indicated that pensions and benefits costs are a concern and can be avoided. This should be considered for the next budget. The term “kids” should be avoided. The Superintendent was commended.

Ellen Ogintz (teacher at EMK and president of EWEA) – it is important that all efforts be made to get the budget passed. The Superintendent indicated his support.

ITEM 11 - FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Ms. Lloyd - asked that the curriculum expo be scheduled now. The Superintendent indicated this would occur. Mr. Patten, the Hightstown mayor, has a newsletter going out and we should include our information. It was noted we do send the Board agenda package to both mayors.

Mr. Dolgon - commented on bus privatization – discussion needs to occur. For Community Ed., Kidcare and turning Point, revenue needs to be maximized. Rates are \$4.00. an hour which is very low. Should be an agenda item. The HS Pool operating costs should be studied and the pros and cons of pool closure. Mentioned that Chinese language programs should be considered.

Ms. Fallon - looks forward to working with EWEA President. Bus privatization has always been discussed and considered. The margins are tighter.

Ms. Weisman - added that district drivers have more control and a higher caliber of drivers. Privatized transportation is not always successful. Hightstown construction near WCB is now closed at start of school. Mr. Bolandi is monitoring it and working with the transportation director and principal and are considering options and will communicate to parents. The summer recreation program needs to be considered. Mr. Bolandi responded that all items are under consideration: summer recreation, transportation privatization, pay to play, Kidcare, Turning Pint and Community Ed. Meetings on legislative updates given by Board Attorney, David Coates who commented a meeting was held on pending legislation.

Mr. Ettman – voiced support for the EWEA President. Commented that transportation privatization is a complex issue and not a toss up. It should be revisited regularly. Per pupil spending is impacted by residential development.

ITEM 12 - MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Mr. Ettman moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon, to approve the following items by exception:

- A. Staffing (with addendum)
- B. Emergent Hiring
- C. Out-of-District Placements
- D. Professional Services
- E. Approval to Submit IDEIA 6B Grant Application - FY 2008
- F. Readmission of Affidavit Students (with addendum)
- G. Donations:
 - 1. Office Supplies to HHS
 - 2. Picnic Supplies for 9th Grade Orientation
 - 3. \$100 to GNR School Library
- H. Non-Paid Extra Curricular Activity - HHS
- I. Amended FY07 NCLB Grant
- J. Economics Replacement Textbook HHS
- K. Middle School Language Arts Curriculum
- L. World Language Curriculum K-5
- M. Approval of Travel Related Expenses and Reimbursements
- N. Orders of Payment
- O. Board Secretary's Report
- P. Treasurer's Report
- Q. Mileage Reimbursements
- R. Changes of Appropriation
- S. Change Orders: MHK Site Improvement
- T. Interlocal Services Agreement: Washington Township Schools
- U. Transportation Jointures
- V. Approval of Minutes June 25 & July 23, 2007
- W. Administrative Services
 - 1. Cognitive Consulting Group
 - 2. School Services Associates, Inc.

(Copies of the above exception items are on file and available for review in the Board Secretary's office.)

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Mr. Hauck, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: none. Motion was to approve routine exception items was carried: Unanimously.

ITEM 13 - SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Ogintz commented on the excellent workshops and preparations for the new school year. The efforts are appreciated.

Mr. Milner commented that a new bus study should be done. It may be a source of additional funding for the students. Also, Mr. Ettman's comments on development should be made at council meetings. Mr. Milner offered his services in our public relations efforts. Ken Boardman will contact.

ITEM 14 - SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Dolgon asked that the Board support review of Community Ed, Turning Point, and Kid Care.

Mr. Hauck clarified German language request. Ms. Weisman asked about letter regarding lacrosse. The Superintendent will look into it and respond to the Board.

ITEM 15 - CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Education went into executive session.

ITEM 16 - OPEN SESSION

The Board discussed writing a letter to the Hightstown planning board to express concerns about development decisions. Mr. Coates is to draft a letter. Ms. Weisman and Ms. Lloyd are to attend planning board meeting.

ITEM 17 – ADJOURN

Mr. Hauck moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary