

Date: May 5, 2014

Dept.: Business Office

SUBJECT: MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING on MARCH 24, 2014

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, Hightstown, NJ, held a regular meeting on March 24, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Hightstown High School located at 25 Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ

Members Present: Pete Bussone, Paul Connolly, Suzann Fallon, Lilia Gobaira, Christine Harrington, Robert Laverty (arrived 7:40 p.m.) Kennedy Paul, Alice Weisman

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Edward J. Forsthoffer, Chief School Administrator
Thaddeus Thompson, SBA/Board Secretary
David Coates, Board Legal Counsel

1. WELCOME/SUNSHINE NOTICE

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 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."

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Paul moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon to approve the agenda with an addendum to staffing and with a change to the agenda as follows:

- Move the second executive session to take place after Item #15 (Second Board Comment).

Vote: On a roll call poll of the Board, Motion to approve was carried unanimously with 7 'yes' votes.

B. RESOLUTION: EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 Monday, March 24, 2014. These closed sessions concern:

1. Board Member Vacancy - Applicants
2. Contract Matters – Consultant
3. Negotiations – EWMA
4. Litigation Updates
5. Student Matters – Bullying (Attachment for BOE only)

Minutes of these closed sessions will be available in accordance with Board policy when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

**4. RECOGNITION: MHK FACULTY ADVISOR & STUDENTS FOR 2012-13
AWARD WINNING ISSUE OF RED INK MAGAZINE – Richard Christiano-Advisor**

For the *seventh* year in a row, Kreps’ literary magazine, *Red Ink*, received recognition by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). This honor, rank of “excellent,” is especially impressive since the awards are given predominantly to magazines at the high school level. The Melvin H. Kreps School was one of only a few middle schools that were chosen. *Red Ink* includes many different genres of writing from all members of the Kreps’ community. We are fortunate that so many students and teachers contribute their work. This honor speaks to the level of excellent writers and artists in our school.

Dr. Forsthoffer and the Board of Education were proud to recognize Mr. Christiano, faculty advisor, and his staff of talented students. They thanked them for the hard work and dedication put forward to produce a stellar publication every year!

The members of the *Red Ink* staff:

ADVISOR: Richard Christiano

EXECUTIVES

Executive Editors: David Alvarez, Parnika Puri

Executive Artists: A.J. Pandina, Stephanie Rosenthal

Executive Designer: Tara Lonsdorf

EDITORS : Karla Baquero, Karan Buddala, Sree Chinta, Sanjana Duggirala, Oslene Johnson, Bianca Martinez, Zeal Patel, Kaitlyn Riggio, Gregory Scatko, Rachael Scott and Olivia Thiel

ARTISTS : Alexa Ferst, Swarali Korgaonkar, Sarah Maung, Joshua Poravanthattil, Bryan Rodriguez, Alyssa Sedacca and Jessie Smires

EDITORS and ARTISTS : Emily Ackerman and Shea Hazzon

5. RECOGNITION: YOUTH ART MONTH

Dr. Forsthoffer and the Board recognized and congratulated the talented artists who had their work selected to represent the District from the Kreps middle school and high school during “Youth Art Month.”

The participants were:

TEACHERS: Tamika Diaz, Amy Gawrys, Heather Lisk

Artwork displayed at the NJPAC Center in Newark – Brittany Pochick

Artwork displayed at The State House – Samara Lorber, Kenneth Kaneshiro, Ravena Kumar

Artwork displayed at Art Works in Trenton

MHK Students

Akshada Rajadhyksha

Anushka Subrahmanian

Brynn Peterson

Carlos Suarez

Esha Keertikar

Francesca Esposito

Griffin Burd

Haley Weinstein

Jessie Smires

Paul Chaber

Sophia McClellan

HHS Students

Korie Protnoy

Kenneth Kaneshiro

Ravena Kumar

6. INTERVIEW OF APPLICANTS TO FILL VACANT SEAT ON BOARD (EAST WINDSOR)

The Board Secretary received four letters from East Windsor residents who expressed interest in filling the vacant seat on the Board due to the untimely passing of Ms. Lisa Abel.

Each of the four applicants were asked to appear at this meeting to speak in open session and were provided with three key questions to respond to: Why they would like to be a Board member; what they feel they can bring to the Board; and if they would consider running for a permanent seat. Each applicant took turns at the microphone (in no specific order). The following is a summary of each applicant's remarks.

The first to speak was Ms. Shauna Margerum

Ms. Margerum noted she is a longtime resident and knows the community. She described her strong commitment to public education and detailed her own extensive background in the education realm and how that experience can benefit the District. She added that we have a great school system and wants to see that continue, and to maintain the integrity of our quality education. She noted her interest in applying for a seat on the Board is not politically driven or anything of that nature. She is only interested in what benefits our students. She noted she is not sure at this time if she would run for permanent office.

The second to speak was Bertrand Fougnyes

Mr. Fougnyes began his comments with acknowledging the tragic situation that brought us here this evening, and recognized Ms. Lisa Abel for her service and dedication to the Board. He noted that he is a huge advocate of public education. We have an excellent school system and the level of staff and classes we offer is amazing. As he does data analysis for a living and he can hopefully bring that knowledge to the table. He added we have to respect our resources and realize there is not infinity of money out there. We are here to manage a budget and support the curriculum; maximize the usage of our dollars. Regarding the open seat in November, he will definitely put his name on the ballot.

The third to speak was Michelina Thornton

Ms. Thornton expressed her passion and desire to support education. She would welcome the opportunity to take part in keeping and maintaining a high quality and meaningful education for our children. There are changes ahead and we need to be well informed to create and develop the right policies going forward. Her entire career has been in education and she itemized her experience with federal guidelines and mandates. She has worked inside the classroom and as well as outside in the operational areas of a district. Ms. Thornton is very involved in the community and enjoys working in small groups. Would definitely run for the open seat in November.

The fourth and final individual to speak was Philip Clingerman

Mr. Clingerman noted that he is an 11 year resident of East Windsor. He offered his gratitude to the East Windsor School District for the excellent educational experience it provided for his son. He spoke on his own experience in public education as an educator and trainer, and his continued commitment to our youth. He stressed the importance of a quality education; that it gives one an edge as one goes forth into the very competitive workforce. Mr. Clingerman spoke on the importance of budgeting a school district, and as he is a director of purchasing at his own job, he has experience in this realm. Yes, he would consider running for a permanent seat on the Board.

Ms. Weisman thanked all the candidates and noted that they did not make it easy for the Board to come to a decision; all the candidates heard from tonight are very well qualified.

7. FIRST EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into closed session.

8. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBER FOR OPEN EAST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP SEAT

When the Board returned to open session, the following action was taken:

Mr. Connolly moved seconded by Mr. Bussone to appoint **Mr. Bertrand Fougnyes** to fill the current open seat for East Windsor on the Board.

On a roll call poll of the Board, the motion to approve was carried unanimously with 8 ‘yes’ votes.

9. OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Thompson, Board Secretary swore in Mr. Fougnyes as new board member. On behalf of the Board, Ms. Weisman welcomed Mr. Fougnyes as he took his seat on the panel.

10. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

11. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Ms. Fallon commented that she attended the High School POPS concert; and as always found it very enjoyable.

Mr. Connolly also commented on the concert and congratulated the students for a job well done. Would there be a video available of this performance?

Dr. Forsthoffer responded that he knows a video was done and will check to see if we can get access to it.

Ms. Fallon spoke on the possibility of adding a “quiet room” to our library. Could we look into any grant money out there to support this. It would be very helpful to our students.

Mr. Lavery commented on a rally taking place on Thursday at the State house in regard to events in Newark and Camden. There are many issues being protested and as a Board we should be aware of these concerns and matters that are being brought to the attention to our legislature and governor.

Ms. Fallon commented that the Artist Union is having a show at the high school level. She noted that we do need to support our artists and as we have quite a few professional artists in the area, consider asking them to present or speak to our art students; share their expertise.

Ms. Weisman read a letter of thanks from the High School’s FIRST Robotics Team Mercury 1089, for the Board’s continued support of their team.

Ms. Harrington welcomed Mr. Fougnyes to the Board and that she looks forward to working with him. She also asked about the recent Edison School District fire. Is there anything we can do to support them.

Dr. Forsthoffer commented we will first see what their needs are and then offer any help we can.

Ms. Harrington noted that she, along with Mr. Bussone and Ms. Gobaira, have been working on the Board of Education goals. There is still a lot of work to do. Asked about when it would be feasible to provide a draft of what they have put together so far.

Ms. Weisman suggested providing the information via email or an insert in the Board packet.

Mr. Fougnyes thanked the Board for appointing him to his seat, and is very appreciative for giving him this opportunity to serve the district.

12. PRESENTATION: CLIMATE SURVEY RESULTS PART 2 ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Dr. Forsthoffer explained that this is the second of four survey presentations. He noted this survey gives us a sense of what the elementary students feel about their teachers and school. In addition, this data will be shared with the principals and will be placed on the District website for public view. With the use of a power point slideshow and pie graphs, Dr. Forsthoffer shared the results of the school climate survey, and responses received from the 3rd - 5th grade students.

Discussion:

Following the presentation the Board discussed and commented on the student's responses and different methods that can be used to analyze the data.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Forsthoffer made the following announcements:

- Due to the tight timeline with evaluations, it appears we have to adjust the District meeting dates in May. After discussion it was decided to hold off on making any decisions until the April 7th meeting.
- Kreps principal Lori Stein and her staff have developed an exemplary model that will be in place for next school year. It is a new team system which will group the students from four teams into two teams or "Academies". The two Academies will allow for more equitable scheduling; make it academically equal and efficient and better support student heterogeneity. In addition the academic support period will be moved from the afternoon to the morning.
- Welcomed Mr. Fougnyes to the Board.
- Reminded everyone that the Curriculum Fair is April 9th, and it is one of the biggest events of the year.

14. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

15. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Harrington was the first to comment on the planned changes Dr. Forsthoffer spoke of at the middle school. She asked about the rationale for moving academic support to the morning from the afternoon.

This initiated Board discussion on the pros and cons of the moving the academic support period.

Ms. Weisman suggested that a presentation from Ms. Stein, Kreps Principal would help to clarify for the Board and parents as well, the reasoning behind the changes planned for middle school scheduling.

Dr. Forsthoffer noted that he will set this up, and this would be for information only as it is the principal's call as to how best manage their building.

Mr. Connolly welcomed Mr. Fougnyes to the Board.

15. A SECOND EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into its second closed session

We will pay a portion of the ice time and uniform expenses. For games and practices, the students will need to make their own arrangements. This co-op needs Board of Education approval from schools, conference approval, and NJSIAA approval. It is recommended that the Board approve a co-op agreement between Hightstown High School's ice hockey team and Lawrence Township's team with Lawrence being the lead school.

**E. THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANT TO THE
GMR, EMK, WCB SCHOOLS**

The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation, Dr. Elsie D. Gross, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Dr. Judith Raybern, Chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee, P.O. Box 1589, Austin, Texas would like to award teachers Ms. Toni Halsey and Ms. Allison Polanski a grant for \$1,000.00. Ms. Halsey and Ms. Polanski teach the $E=mc^2$ students in the four elementary schools. This award was sought to add a new STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) unit to the G & T curriculum. The new unit, Every Drop Matters, engages young learners in hands-on inquiry and design as they explore one of the greatest challenges of the 21st Century - universal access to clean water. This STEM unit integrates concepts of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through the environmental contexts of water resource management and conservation. This project will be implemented in the four elementary schools with the 3rd grade $E=mc^2$ students.

F. FIELD TRIP LOCATIONS

- 3/28/14 Business/Junior Achievement Job Shadow at the Microsoft Store
Freehold Raceway Mall, Route 9 Freehold, NJ
- 4/26/14 Gateway National Park
Sandy Hook Unit
128 South Hartshorne Dr., Lot D, Highlands, NJ
- 4/26/14 HHS Red Cross Club – Special Olympics Sports Complex
1 Eunice Kennedy Shriver Way, Lawrenceville, NJ
- 5/19/14 6th Grade Field Trip
Park Performing Arts Center
560 32nd St., Union City, NJ

G. OVERNIGHT TRIP – ROBOTICS TEAM TO LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FOR COMPETITION

The FIRST Robotics Team of HHS would like to have an overnight trip to participate and compete in the Mid-Atlantic Robotics Championship Event. This event will be held at the Stabler Arena of Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA. The trip will take place on April 9 - 12, 2014.

H. HOSTING SPANISH EXCHANGE STUDENTS AND ITINERARY

The Spanish Exchange Program of Hightstown High School would like to have students from Burriana, Spain stay with host families from August 15 to September 5, 2014. Only the Spanish students will be attending the trips listed below during their stay in the U.S.

- 8/15 Arrival
- 8/16 Welcome Party
- 8/17 Family Day
- 8/18 Spirit Cruise and Shopping @Jersey Garden Mall
- 8/19 Amish Country, Lancaster, PA
- 8/20 Manhattan overnight @ Hampton Inn and Broadway Show – Matilde
- 8/21 Manhattan – Empire State Building, etc.
- 8/22 Bowling
- 8/23 - 24 Family Time

- 8/25 – 27 Sheraton Four Points, Revere, MA – Boston Duck Tour, Hard Rock Café, New England Aquarium and IMAX
- 8/28 Columbus Flea Market and Philadelphia
- Labor Day Weekend – Family Time
- 9/2 Washington, D.C.
- 9/3 Princeton, NJ
- 9/4 Visit to Hightstown High School
- 9/5 Return to Spain

It is recommended that the Board approve the hosting of students from Spain for the Spanish Exchange Program of Hightstown High School from August 15 to September 5, 2014 and the corresponding itinerary.

I. CHUBB & SON TO HHS FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM

Chubb & Son, Ms. Kathleen Travinsky, Contributions Administrator, 15 Mountainview Rd., Warren, NJ 07059 has donated \$700.00 to the FIRST Robotics Team of Hightstown High School. The donation will be used to cover the Team’s competition fees and equipment supply costs.

J. TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES

J. Smedley R. Brown G. Santoleri	HHS	April 25, 2014	Three registrations to attend Violence, Mental Health and Communities Conference, New Brunswick, NJ	125.00	375.00
D. Shunk	HHS	April 28-30, 2014	Registration to attend the Catholic Colleges of Northeastern PA tour, Scranton, PA	50.00	50.00
M. Beckman	Student Services	May 21-23, 2014	Registration to attend NJASA/NJAPSA 32 nd Annual Spring Conference, Atlantic City, NJ	450.00	450.00
Monthly Total					7818.00
YTD Total					33633.19

K. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 24, 2014 MEETING

L. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH-HAZARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM FOR EWRS

In accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C.)12:100-7 State government facilities (including school districts) must comply with the Public Employees Occupational Safety & Health (PEOSH) Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) adopted on May 3, 2004. Board approval is recommended to approve the East Windsor Regional School District notice to inform the public that the District complies with the PEOSH HCS, and the District has put in place the required elements of the Standard as submitted.

M. APPOINT CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES PROVIDER FOR ROD GRANT ROOF AND DOOR REPLACEMENT/REPAIR

The District advertised a Request for Proposals for Construction Management Services for roof replacement and repair at Hightstown High School, Melvin H. Kreps Middle School, Ethel McKnight and Perry L. Drew Elementary Schools.

- The District received three proposals and the results are as follows:

	<u>Total of Fees:</u>
NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION MGT. INC	\$40,480.
EPIC MANAGEMENT, INC.	\$50,954.
GREYHAWK NORTH AMERICA, LLC	\$36,500.

After thorough review of the proposals by the Business Administrator and District Architect, the lowest responsible proposal for construction management services for the above project is from GREYHAWK NORTH AMERICA, LLC. with a total proposal of \$36,500. It is recommended that the Board approve the firm of GREYHAWK, NORTH AMERICA, L.L.C. for construction management services for roof renovation and replacement as submitted.

N. BILL LIST FOR MARCH 24, 2014 in the amount of: **\$614,146.89**

O. CONSULTANT CONTRACT AND BUDGET

As the District is about to embark upon a search for a new Superintendent of Schools, it is prudent for the Board of Education at this time to have an independent review of its proposed budget to see if it is in full alignment with the Board's priorities going forward.

P. SIDEBAR AGREEMENT WITH EWEA (added at meeting).

17. SECOND EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into a second closed session.

18. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

19. ADJOURN

*Recorded by Thaddeus Thompson
Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

Transcribed by C. Jablonski, Secretarial Assistant