

Minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 11, 2010

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, HIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08520

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2010 7:30 p.m.

The East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education held a regular meeting on Monday, October 11, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hightstown High School Cafeteria located at 25 Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ.

Members Present: Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer, Christine Harrington,
Bob Laverty, Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul and Alice Weisman
Members Absent: Paul Connolly (with advance notice)
Also Present: Edward Forsthoffer, Superintendent
Kurt Stumbaugh, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
David Coates, Board legal counsel

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.”

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

ITEM 3.A APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Having read the material received, Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the agenda. On a roll call vote of the Board, 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 a closed session during its regular meeting on October 11, 2010. This closed session concerns: 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.

ITEM 4. NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – STUDENT RECOGNITION

Dr. Forsthoffer introduced Ms. Jessica Cotignola, the District Guidance Supervisor who made the National Merit Scholarship presentations.

The following Hightstown High School students were recognized for achieving recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Students receiving commendations as National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists will have an opportunity to compete as finalists with other students from around the country. The students are: Ashley Mills and Edward Rozycki.

In addition, the following students were recognized as National Merit Scholarship “Commended Scholars” for their excellent academic performance. They are: Antavir Kaur, Aashay Kelkar, Megan Krishnamurthy and Monali Patel

These “Commended Students” placed among the top five percent of the more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition.

According to the Scholarship Program, there were approximately 16,000 semi-finalists who are given the opportunity to continue in the competition for 8,400 scholarships, worth more than \$36 million dollars, that will be offered next spring.

ITEM 5. PRESENTATION: NCLB and DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS

Dr. Forsthoffer gave an introduction and summary of the NCLB legislation and NCLB District Testing Report to be presented this evening. A slide show augmented the verbal information provided by Dr. Forsthoffer, Michael Dzwonar and Debbie Feaster. Mr. Dzwonar gave a detailed presentation on grades 6-12, and Ms. Feaster gave a detailed presentation on grades K-5. (the NCLB Testing Report is available for review on the District website).

Comments/Discussion:

Ms. Harrington was impressed by the scale and scope of the presentations. Appreciates the information provided on interventions and what the measures the district currently has in play. Commented that the new Wilson program will obviously take time to show some benefits. Moving forward, she recommends more Wilson-based services to students.

Mr. Ettman noted that we are a diverse community. He asked about district factor groups and commented that the more categories there are creates more opportunity to fail.

Ms. Fayer asked about how ELL (English Language Learner) students and newly transferred students affect the proficiency levels. Also asked if the State will be looking at 4th grade data this year compared to 4th grade data next year.

Mr. Dzwonar responded that grades 3, 4 5 data are bundled. We have many ELL students. Commented that across the state, students seem to do better in Math than Language Arts. The rigor of LA has increased greater than math. Mr. Dzwonar shared his views on the State’s development of testing rubrics.

Ms. Fayer commended all for the excellent report this evening.

Ms. Fallon also commended the excellent work done by all on the report. She asked about dropout rates.

Dr. Forsthoffer responded that both graduation rates and college attendance are up. In addition, SAT results are improved.

Ms. Weisman, commented that subject matter tests are to take place, and have we adjusted the curriculum to address this

Mr. Dzwonar indicated these tests may be delayed.

Sandy Small gave update on curriculum revisions over past years.

Ms. Harrington commented that individual student performance data is valuable. The State is lax in getting the scores out in a timely fashion.

Dr. Forsthoffer commented that the NJ Stars tracking software from the State is one year behind.

Mr. Laverty commented on the literacy interventions that were listed in detail. Asked if there any other specific math interventions.

Ms. Feaster responded that updated pacing guides and other math based improvements are in place.

Mr. Laverty asked about the on line resources that were mentioned and how are economically disadvantaged families who do not have computers are given additional help

Ms. Feaster responded that a variety of tools are deployed. Libraries and additional support in school is provided

ITEM 6. SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICIES

The Superintendent recommends that we have a policy in place which states that the school district may assign temporary modified duty to employees who through workers' compensation may not be able to resume all their job responsibilities.

The following policies are being submitted to the Board for second reading:

Policy 3425.1 - Modified Duty Early Return to Work Program
Teaching Staff Members

Policy 4425.1 - Modified Duty Early Return to Work Program
Support Staff Members

These new policies are available for review on the District website.

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon to approve the above policies on second reading. On a roll call vote of the Board, motion to approve was carried unanimously.

ITEM 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Forsthoffer expressed his thanks an his grateful acknowledgment to supervisors for their time and efforts to compile the data on the testing reports.

ITEM 8 FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

ITEM 9. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Fayer commented that the HHS faculty appreciates the extra class time this school year.

ITEM 10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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ITEM 11. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE AGENDA ITEMS

At each of the regular meetings of the Board of Education, the Board is requested to approve routine agenda items by exception. The following items are recommended for Board Approval:

- A. Staffing
- B. East Windsor Regional Support Staff Association Sidebar Agreement
- C. Out of District Placement
- D. Professional Services for Students
- E. Winter Sports Schedules – Kreps Middle School
- F. Travel and Related Expenses
- G. Donation of Shop Tools and Supplies to HHS
- H. Overnight Field Trip – HHS
- I. Field Trip Locations
- J. Volunteers
- K. Approval of Minutes: September 13, 2010
- L. Approval of Unemployment Insurance Trust Deposits
- M. Bill & Claims Reports for October 11, 2010 *(to be voted on separately)*
 - 1. Bill List #1 (Scholastic) for total of \$20,548.51
 - 2. Bill List #2 for total of \$4,741,862.36

A. STAFFING

B. EWRSSA SUPPORT STAFF AGREEMENT SIDEBAR

The District Turning Point Program is undergoing adjustments from prior years due to budgetary constraints.

In recognition of this matter, the Board of Education and the East Windsor Regional Support Staff Association will add a Sidebar agreement to their current contract.

C. OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENT - REGULAR and ESY SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Approval from the Board of Education is requested for the following placements:

Private & Public Schools

Collier High School

Tuition September 23, 2010 through June 30, 2011

1. Student	#500434	REG.	\$ 47,471.40
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Tuition September 8, 2010 through June 30, 2011

High Point Schools

1. Student	#720225	REG.	\$61,200.00
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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
Shari Duddy, LDTC	Evaluations	\$400.00

E. WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES MHK for Wrestling: 2010-11

Coach (es) Mr. Cox, Head

Assistant

12/7 Witherspoon away
 12/10 Timberlane home
 12/14 Commuinity away
 12/17 Pond Road away
 12/21 Fisher Home
 1/4 Lawrence away
 1/7 Grover Home
 1/11 Witherspoon Home
 1/14 Timberlane away
 1/18 Community home
 1/25 Fisher away
 1/21 Lawrence home
 2/1 Grover away
 TBA Tournament 7:00 am Robbinsville High

Matches begin at: 3:30 pm Return time for away matches: 5:15 pm

New: 9/16/11 date change 9/29/11

F. TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES

Kelly Webster	Kreps School	Oct, 6, 2010	Wellness Community Workshop - "When A Family Is Affected By Cancer: Strengthening the School's Response " - Bridgewater Manor, Bridgewater, NJ	25.00	25.00	
Total for Month					25.00	
<u>YTD Total</u>	-	-	-	-	-	<u>2,450.99</u>

G. DONATION OF SHOP TOOLS AND SUPPLIES TO HHS

Mr. Richard J Usas, Harriman Research & Technology Development Corporation, 7A Harriman Campus Road, Suite 210, Albany, NY 12206 would like to donate various shop tools, supplies, hand tools, power drills, etc. to the shop classes of Hightstown High School. This donation is from the estate of his brother Robert C. Usas who was a resident of Hightstown.

H. OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP - HHS

The Hightstown High School World Language Department would like to do an overnight trip to Granada, Spain leaving on April 6 and returning on April 22, 2011.

I. FIELD TRIPS & LOCATIONS

Field Trips planned for Melvin H. Kreps School:

5/26/11 7th Grade Band/Chorus
Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
510 Centerville Road, Lancaster, PA

Field Trips planned for Walter C. Black School and Ethel McKnight School:

10/20/10 Kindergarten to Lee Turkey Farm
10/22/10 210 Hickory Corner Road, East Windsor, NJ

Field Trips planned for Hightstown High School:

10/25/10 Ram Page Editorial Staff – Garden State Scholastic Press Assoc. Fall Conf.
Rutgers University – Busch Campus Center, Piscataway, NJ

Field Trip Locations for Approval:

Hightstown High School - 25 Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ
Melvin H. Kreps Middle School - 5 Kent Lane, East Windsor, NJ
Walter C. Black School - 371 Stockton St., Hightstown, NJ
Grace N. Rogers School – 380 Stockton St., Hightstown, NJ
Ethel McKnight School – 54 Twin Rivers Dr. South, East Windsor, NJ
Perry L. Drew School – 70 Twin Rivers Dr. North, East Windsor, NJ

J. VOLUNTEERS

The Board of Education approves all volunteers who serve in the District.
The following have offered to volunteer at the Perry L. Drew School:

Susan McNamee
Holli Lokeitz

The following have offered to volunteer at Hightstown High School:

Jeff Bernas	Julie Ely	Wayne Cokeley
Lorraine Bernas	Carolyn Gavila	Edward Healey
Sandee D	Dom Gennello	Robin-Ann Klotsky
Abbraccio	Terry Pycior	Sara Reffler
Lou D'Agostino	Erik Cokeley	

Volunteers for Grace N. Rogers, Walter C. Black and Ethel McKnight are also submitted for Board approval and are on file in the school's front office and the Board Secretary's office.

K. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 REGULAR MEETING

(as submitted) - Available for review on District website and on file in Board Secretary's office

L. APPROVAL OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TRUST DEPOSITS

During the 2009-2010 year the deposits into the Unemployment Trust Account were made using hand checks that were not included in the monthly bill lists. To correctly record these transactions we must have Board action. It is prudent to establish a large reserve in the Unemployment Insurance Trust since we were making plans to eliminate dozens of positions for the 2010-2011 year. We are anticipating similar reductions for the 2011-2012 year.

Unlike corporate employers, we are on a cash basis and must pay 100% of the Unemployment Insurance claim. The maximum claim benefit is \$600.00 per month for 52 weeks per employee. This is more than \$30,000 per employee. When the budget was being developed, we anticipated eliminating approximately 39 positions for a total potential UI liability of \$1,216,800. It is unlikely that we will incur this entire amount but it is better to have the money to pay for it if it materializes down the road. We remain the employer of record even if the employee obtains another job and then goes on unemployment. Any unspent money in the UI Trust remains available to the district.

It is recommended that the Board approve and authorize the following transfers to Unemployment Trust:

\$500,000.00 on 04/19/2010 via Check Number 4192010 and

\$600,000.00 on 06/30/2010 via Check Number 6301000

M. BILL & CLAIMS REPORTS FOR OCTOBER 11, 2010

The Bill and Claims Report must be approved by the Board of Education before being submitted for payment.

BILL LIST #1

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approves the payment of bills and claims in the amount of \$20,548.51 as submitted in Bill List #1

BILL LIST #2

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approves the payment of bills and claims in the amount of \$4,741,862.36 as submitted in Bill List #2

- Ms. Weisman wished to thank all the donors for their generosity to the district.

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer to approve the routine agenda items as submitted. On a roll call vote of the Board motion to approve was carried unanimously.

ITEM 12. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke

ITEM 13. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Harrington asked the Board for their insight on attending the NJSBA convention, as she will be attending for the first time. Several members shared their suggestions.

Ms. Weisman encouraged members to attend the township planning board's meeting to object to the code change on October 18, 2010.

Ms Fallon said tomorrow night is the Hightstown Mayoral candidate debate and encourages Board attendance.

ITEM 14. OPEN SESSION

ITEM 15. ADJOURN

Mr. Ettman moved to adjourn meeting.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary