

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, HIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08520

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 16, 2012

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, Hightstown, NJ, held a Regular meeting on **Monday, April 16, 2012** at 7:30 p.m. in the Hightstown High School Cafeteria located at 25 Leshin Lane, Hightstown, NJ.

Members Present: Lisa Abel, Bruce Ettman (arrived 7:50 p.m) Suzann Fallon, Christine Harrington, Robert Lavery, Susan Lloyd, and Kennedy Paul
Members Absent: Paul Connolly, Bonnie Fayer (with advance notice)
Also Present: Dr. Edward Forsthoffer, Chief School Administrator
Kurt Stumbaugh, SBA/Board Secretary
David Coates, Board Legal Counsel

ITEM 1. WELCOME

Board President Robert Lavery 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." Mr. Lavery 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: Mr. Lavery made the following announcement: "In compliance with the fire code of the State of New Jersey, I call your attention to the emergency exits for this room, which are located.... " (Mr. Lavery pointed to the emergency exits.)

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 3.A APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Paul moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon to approve the agenda with addendums to the following items:
11. A – Staffing & 11.N - Bill List.

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

ITEM 3.B RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Paul moved, seconded by Ms. Lloyd 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 16, 2012. These closed sessions concern:

1. Contract Matters – Shared Services Agreement
2. Student Matters-Bullying
3. Employee Benefits

Minutes of these closed sessions 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. RECOGNITION: Stuart Wexler for publication of his book “The Awful Grace of God”

Dr. Forsthoffer congratulated and acknowledged the achievement of Hightstown High School social studies teacher Stuart Wexler on the publication of his book, *The Awful Grace of God*.

Dr. Forsthoffer read the following statement: “This book chronicles a multi-year effort to kill Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by a loose knit group of right-wing extremists who hoped to start a race war with his assassination. Mr. Wexler and his co-author, Larry Hancock of Oklahoma, spent the last seven years meticulously researching and writing this book which they hope will re-open the investigation into the assassination of Dr. King so that justice will finally be served. Mr. Wexler is an exceptional teacher in many respects, and to his credit we can add that he is an actual practitioner in his discipline. Through his example, our students have a deeper understanding of the passion and diligence it takes to perform at the highest level of one’s calling. In addition to his recent publication of this work, Mr. Wexler is also an internationally recognized investigative researcher into the assassination of President Kennedy. He speaks frequently at the annual Lancer Convention in Dallas on the Kennedy assassination. He has been interviewed by the Boston Globe, NBC news and has been featured in articles in the Mississippi Clarion-Ledger, Kirkus Review and The Daily Beast. In 2008, Mr. Wexler was selected as the recipient of the American Statistical Association National Award for a peer reviewed article on bullet chemistry. Mr. Wexler is also a James Madison Fellow and is currently pursuing his Masters Degree in Political Science at Rutgers. The Board and District administration extends our congratulations to Mr. Wexler on this significant professional accomplishment and are proud to have him on our faculty.”

ITEM 5. PRESENTATION: SPECIAL EDUCATION

Dr. Tekelah Sherrod, Director of Student Services gave a detailed and informative presentation on the District’s Special Education program and services.

Dr. Sherrod began the presentation by providing the following statistics:

- There are 592 children currently enrolled for Special Education and related services, 61 of which are in preschool.
- There are 105 out of district students (14 of which are preschoolers).
- A total of 697 students are in Special Education programs as of April 2, 2012. This number can change during the school year.
- Since September there have been 128 referrals for CST evaluations.
- As part of the special education program the District provides related services such as occupational therapy, speech language therapy, physical therapy, and counseling.
- There is a special group of students who don’t have an IEP program but require additional services. These students (there are 90) receive speech therapy only.

Ms. Sherrod continued with a very thorough and comprehensive presentation on the current program, strategies and goals for the future.

Discussion: (summary)

Ms. Harrington thanked Dr. Sherrod for her presentation. She asked about the percentage of students who are getting in-class support vs. pullout.

Dr. Sherrod responded that we have more children especially in the high school and middle school who are in-class support and pull out resource room programs

Ms. Harrington asked about the list of supplemental resources that are available and if students were getting sufficient access to these resources.

Dr. Sherrod responded yes and added that the ultimate goal is to keep our children in the general education program rather than putting in a material or resource that looks so different from what’s being done in the general education classroom.

Ms. Fallon commented on the smooth transition with students in the Wilson program. She has learned that students really appreciated the teacher continuing with them into the next grade at the level they left off at. This is a good way to transition and is appreciated.

Mr. Ettman commented on the statistic that 39% of classified students are Spanish and asked if that is considered an unusually large percentage.

Dr. Sherrod responded yes it is and we are being monitored by the State as to our number of Hispanic students that are being classified within the population of communication impaired.

Ms. Harrington commented regarding the performance data for special education students, and asked how the program evaluated.

Dr. Sherrod responded that progress is being measured by the student's IEP (Individualized Educational Program). It is difficult to compare one child's performance to another as their IEP is geared to their particular needs.

Ms. Fallon asked about the progress of each child, and how we measure or assess growth.

Dr. Sherrod responded there is a yearend IEP conference that addresses whether the goals and objectives of the IEP were met, and to determine the placement of the student for the following year.

Dr. Harrington commented that it is a complicated population to serve due to the varied needs but a very important one we are attending to.

Dr. Forsthoffer added that Special Education is an area that is a real conundrum. The goal is to take students that are already behind and get them up to grade level. He expressed great respect for all involved in the task at hand.

| (A lengthy discussion ensued among the Board members and CSA on the subject.)

ITEM 6. FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES

A. POLICY 9181 – Volunteer Athletic Coaches

B. POLICY 9180 – School Volunteers (Revised)

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.2 indicates a school district can require a criminal history record check of school volunteers provided the Board reimburses the applicant for the cost of the criminal history record check. This provision presents financial and practical issues for school districts that are considering requiring a criminal history record check for volunteers. Some districts want the "regular basis" volunteer to have a criminal history record check, but do not want to require a criminal history record check of "special occasion" the one time per school year volunteer. Policy Guide 9180 has been revised with options to not require a criminal history record check for *any* volunteer or to require a criminal history record check for the "regular basis" volunteer. The difficulty in classifying volunteers and the added expense of reimbursing the applicant has caused most districts to not require a criminal history record check for volunteers. Policy Guide 9180 has been revised to offer options available to a Board.

Policy Guide **9180** is **RECOMMENDED**

B. 9181 – Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants (Revised)

Strauss Esmay Associates has a separate policy for volunteer athletic coaches. Policy Guide 9181 has been expanded to include volunteers who help with co-curricular activities other than sports. In addition, this Policy Guide provides the option of requiring a criminal history record check for these volunteers with the cost to be reimbursed to the applicant by the Board. If a district requires these volunteers to have a substitute credential, the person would have to complete a criminal history record check at their expense in order to obtain the substitute credential.

Policy Guide **9181** is **RECOMMENDED**

Mr. Paul moved seconded by Ms Fallon to approve these policies on first reading.

Mr. Laverly asked for discussion.

Dr. Forsthoffer made some recommendations for changes to these policies. The Board and he discussed at length the wording and implications of these policies, provided their opinions on the matter and made suggestions for revisions. It was determined that specific sentences should be revised further or be eliminated.

As a result, Ms. Harrington made a motion to remove the sentence/wording of “Volunteers must be persons of known character, responsibility, and integrity”... from both policy 9180 and 9181. Ms. Fallon seconded.

Mr. Paul added that he will modify his original motion to include that the last paragraph of Policy 9181 be changed to indicate that fingerprinting expenses for volunteer coaches and co-curricular activity advisors are to be reimbursed by the district.

Mr. Stumbaugh further added that the minutes will reflect that the original motion was modified.

Ms. Lloyd commented that she would like the district to develop some kind of guideline that can be given to all volunteers that would indicate what we expect of them. This would be helpful to the parents.

Dr. Forsthoffer agreed with that idea.

**Action on Item 6 A & B. – First Reading of Board Policies
9180 – School Volunteers (Revised) & 9181- Volunteer Athletic Coaches**

Voting yes: Ms. Abel, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Harrington, Mr. Lavery , Ms. Lloyd and Mr. Paul.

Voting no: Mr. Ettman

Abstaining: no one

Motion was carried with 6 “yes” votes.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Forsthoffer gave brief announcements on the following topics:

- East Windsor Regional Governor’s Teacher Recognition program. Congratulated all the winners. Acknowledged that there were a lot of great candidates to choose from.
- Special Education Transition Fair. Many parents attended and vendors were able to provide information.
- Calendar for Memorial Day weekend was confirmed.
- Focus School List – will have more information after he attends webinar on Wednesday.
- Curriculum Fair was a very big success and was an extraordinary achievement for all involved. Many attended.

8. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke

9. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Ms. Fallon agreed that the curriculum fair was amazing. There was so much to experience. Congratulated all the teachers, and Ms. Feaster for a great evening.

Kennedy Paul asked about the reorganization meeting.

Mr. Coates commented that the Board will have to address some of the reorganization items with the new board members in January meeting. There are still unanswered questions as to exactly how this will proceed.

Mr. Lavery commented on the meeting date for May. It was determined that May meeting will take place on May 14.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Mr. Paul moved seconded by Ms. Fallon to approve the routine items by exception with addendums.

- A. Staffing
- B. Emergent Hiring
- C. Bullying Report from March 26, 2012
- D. Approval of Governor’s Teacher Award Winners
- E. Out of Distinct Placement
- F. Opening of One Preschool Disabilities Program
- G. Travel and Related Expenses
- H. Depression Prevention Initiative from Rutgers University at HHS
- I. Donation from Girl Scout Troop 70246 to MHK
- J. Joshua Medina Memorial Award for HHS
- K. Field Trips
- L. Volunteers
- M. Approval of Minutes – March 26, 2012
- N. Bill List for April 16, 2012
- O. School Calendar

A. Staffing – as submitted.

B. Authorization for Emergent Hiring Pending Completion of Criminal History Background Check

- Mara Baskin - Teacher

C. Bullying Report

Board approval of the bullying report as discussed during executive session at the March 26, 2012 meeting

D. East Windsor Regional School District/Governor’s Teacher Recognition Award

On March 29, 2012 a panel consisting of administrators, teachers, a parent and a Board member met to review the nominating forms for the EWRSD Governor’s Teacher Recognition Award. They recommended the following teachers:

- Karen Haug - WCB
- Crystal McCabe – PLD
- Kourtney McMenamin - EMK
- Mirah Skillman - GNR
- Angela Swain - MHK
- Kathryn Featherston – HHS

It is recommended that the Board submit to the County Superintendent of Schools the above names as recipients of the Governor’s Teacher Recognition Award and that the Board permit the teachers to participate in the recognition program given by ETS.

E. Out of District Placements in Public and Private Schools

Applied Behavioral Concepts, Inc.

Tuition April 2, 2012 through August 13, 2012

1. Student:	#720019	REG.	\$ 64,125.00
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Thomas J. Rubino Academy

Tuition March 19, 2012 through June 30, 2012

1. Holding 1 high school slot			\$ 6,600.00
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F. Opening of one Preschool Disabilities Program Effective May, 1, 2012

Approval is requested to open one Preschool Disabilities Program for the pm session in the Grace Norton Rogers School of the EWRSD due to an increase in enrollment.

To establish a new program/service:

1. Document the unmet student needs that will be addressed by the proposed program.
 - Students will have access to opportunities to develop social emotional behavioral and academic skills in an education setting. Individual and small group activities will be planned and implemented based on the needs of the students.
2. Describe the proposed program and explain how it will meet student needs:
 - a. Age range of student: 3-5 years old
 - b. the Creative Curriculum will be implemented to address the standards specific to the development of preschool aged students.
 - c. Students will be educated in their neighborhood school with their age appropriate peers.
 - d. When appropriate, students will attend scheduled school based activities to include by not limited to assemblies social functions extended school experiences, etc; as well as interactions with peers during the delivery of related services.
 - e. Teacher .5 and one Educational Assistant

G. Employee and Travel Related Expenses

G. Parker	Rogers School	May 30, 31,2012	Registration to Attend 2012 NJTESOL/NJBE Spring Conference, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ	274.00	274.00
K. Natalizio	CTG Supervisor	May 30, 31,2012	Registration to Attend 2012 NJTESOL/NJBE Spring Conference, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ	239.00	239.00
J. Becerra J. Reyes A. Castaneda T. De La Rosa M. Berman R. Perez	Bi Lingual Teachers	May 30, 2012	Registration to Attend 2012 NJTESOL/NJBE Spring Conference, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ	159.00	1,164.00
J. Friedmann B. Teran M. Roux B. Feliciano I. Wolfson	Bi Lingual Teachers	May 31, 2012	Registration to Attend 2012 NJTESOL/NJBE Spring Conference, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ	159.00	970.00
L. Tanikawa Brown	Bi Lingual Teacher - Presenter	May 30, 31,2012	Registration to Attend 2012 NJTESOL/NJBE Spring Conference, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ	85.00	85.00
P. Nojiri	Student Services	April 19,20, 2012	Registration to Attend 2012 NJ Speech & Hearing Association (NJSHA) Convention, Ocean Place Resort & Spa, Long Branch, NJ	275.00	275.00
Total for Month				0.00	3,007.00
YTD Total					31,799.29

H. Depression Prevention Initiative from Rutgers University for HHS

Rutgers University has developed a program called Interpersonal Psychotherapy-Adolescent Skills Training (IPT-AST) which helps schools address the problem of adolescent depression. The program was approved for the Melvin H. Kreps School at the May 2, 2011 Board of Education meeting. Hightstown High School is seeking Board approval to have the program as well, not only for continued service to students already identified at Kreps and who will be at the high school in the 2012-2013 school year, but also for existing high school students.

With parental consent, the testing they do will identify students who are suffering from depression and provide them with some counseling services. The students would then be broken up into groups to receive counseling; some from IPT-AST and some from the school counselors. It will be a beneficial process to the students regardless of who provides the counseling. After the students have completed the prevention groups, Rutgers will train school counselors in IPT-AST. Students will continue to be assessed by a clinical evaluator from the Rutgers Staff several times over a 2.5 year period (before the program, mid-program, post program, 6 month follow-up, 1 year follow-up, 18 month follow-up, and a 2 year follow-up). These evaluations will track the impact of the program and how to improve it. There is no cost to the school district to participate. It is recommended that the Board approve the implementation of the Interpersonal Psychotherapy-Adolescent Skills Training program, which is a depression prevention initiative, from Rutgers University at Hightstown High School.

I. Donation to the Kreps School from Girl Scout Troop 70246

Girl Scout Troop 70246 and Mrs. Patricia Dill, Leader, 223 Hickory Corner Rd., East Windsor, NJ 08520 would like to donate "gently used" field hockey equipment to the Melvin H. Kreps Middle School. The equipment was purchased from the sales of the troop's cookie money.

J. The Joshua Medina Memorial Award

Mr. Mike Russo, wrestling coach of HHS, would like to establish the Joshua Medina Memorial Award. The sports award will be given annually to the member of the Hightstown High School Wrestling Team who demonstrates perseverance, hard work, reliability, and the will to never give up. During the Sports Awards, the winner will receive a \$100 scholarship and their name engraved on a plaque in the school's display case. Joshua Medina was a 1993 graduate of HHS and a 4 year varsity wrestler. Josh was diagnosed with colon cancer 7 years ago and, unfortunately, passed away December 2011 at the age of 36.

K. Field Trips

Walter C. Black School:

Tuckerton Seaport

120 West Main Street, Little Egg Harbor, NJ

L. Volunteers and Chaperones for Approval

At WCB: Melissa Jugmohan, Paraesh Shah

At MHK: Kaneeze Husain, Dawn Schlaifer, Barbara Schreiber, Wendy Witlieb, Rosa Flores

At GNR: Nancy Distelcamp

M. Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2012 meeting

As submitted. Minutes are posted on the District Website and on file in Board Secretary's office.

N. Bill List for April 16, 2012 with addendum

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approves the payment of bills and claims as submitted in the attached reports for the grand total amount of \$177,667.80, and

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education approves the payment of bills and claims in the attached report/addendum for the additional amount of \$1,009,366.24.

O. School Calendar

The 2011-12 school calendar includes 3 days for emergency closings. Due to the favorable weather this past winter, there has been zero (0) school closings so far and now that the weather is warming up it is unlikely that we will experience a weather related school closing. Therefore, it is prudent to memorialize the schedule as previously board approved for 0 closings; and schools will be closed on May 24, 25, and 29, 2012.

Discussion:

Ms. Harrington commented that the minutes of March 26, 2012 be revised to indicate that she was absent from that meeting.

Mr. Stumbaugh responded the correction will be made on the minutes.

Mr. Ettman asked for more details on item 11.H (Depression Prevention Initiative).

Ms. Lori Stein, middle school principal, further explained the program.

Vote:

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

12. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No one spoke.

13. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

There were none.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Lavery indicated that on the agenda, one of the closed session items is labeled Contract Matters-Shared Services Agreement and there may be an action item to approve and that is the only action item we anticipate after coming back from closed session.

OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session to vote as follows:

- **APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR SHARED SERVICES**

Mr. Paul moved seconded by Ms. Lloyd to approve the Shared Services Agreement for the District Fueling Facility as submitted and discussed in closed session. On a roll call vote of the Board, motion to approve was carried unanimously.

15. ADJOURN

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary