

East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education Minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 11, 2008

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a regular meeting on Monday, February 11, 2008 at the Hightstown High School cafeteria.

ITEM 1. Board President Alice Weisman called the meeting to order promptly 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 located at 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: Stu Dolgon, Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer (arrived at 7:45 p.m.) Jim Hauck, Bob Laverty, Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul and Alice Weisman. Member(s) absent: None

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.....” (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 3A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Having read the material received Mr. Laverty 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, and Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: Mr. Laverty. Members abstaining: Mr. Paul

The agenda was modified to include ITEM C. Discussion: Board of Ed. Meeting Schedule Change Mr. Laverty moved seconded by Mr. Hauck to approve the modified agenda.

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

Motion to approve was carried: unanimously.

ITEM 3B. RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Mr. Hauck, 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 February 11, 2008.

1. Personnel Matters
2. Contract Negotiations
3. Litigation - Construction

Minutes of this closed session will be available in accordance with Board policy when the need for confidentiality no longer exists and are on file in the Board Secretary's office.

ITEM 3C. DISCUSSION: BOARD OF ED. MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGE

Mr. Dolgon - gave a strong proposal to move the meeting date from Monday in an effort to increase public attendance and participation It should not be a personal preference of the Board members.

Ms. Fallon - indicated later in the week may not be an improvement. Her vote would be Monday.

Mr. Hauck - indicated the Board of Education attendance is excellent but public's less. He advocates a trial run.

Mr. Lavery - commented on the other opportunities available to reach out to community members.

Ms. Weisman - commented her experience is that it is difficult to get people to attend meetings.

Mr. Ettman - commented that the day of the week may not change public attendance.

Ms. Lloyd - commented night of week may not matter.

Mr. Dolgon - commented that the discussion topic is important.

Ms. Weisman - suggested taping and webcasting on channel 27 broadcasting school presentations.

Ms. Fayer - indicated that attendance will be related to agenda items.

ITEM 4. SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICY

A. Policy #2110 – Philosophy of Education

B. Policy #3340 – Grievance Teaching Staff Members

C. Policy #4340 – Grievance Support Staff Members

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Mr. Hauck, to approve the board policies as submitted.

Copies are on file and can be reviewed in the Board Secretary's office.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Hauck,

Mr. Lavery, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none

Members abstaining: none. Motion to approve was carried: unanimously.

ITEM 5. ROOSEVELT TUITION CONTRACT 2008-09

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Mr. Hauck, to approve the tuition contract/agreement between the East Windsor Regional School District and Roosevelt School District as submitted.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Hauck,

Mr. Lavery, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, Ms. Weisman. Members voting no: none

Members abstaining: none. Motion to approve was carried: unanimously.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

East Windsor Regional School District

Roosevelt Public School District

THIS AGREEMENT, made this day of February 5, 2008, between the Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, Mercer County, New Jersey, hereinafter designated "East Windsor" and the Board of Education of the Borough of Roosevelt, Monmouth County, New Jersey, hereinafter designated as "Roosevelt;"

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, East Windsor and Roosevelt wish to continue to maintain a sending/receiving relationship for Roosevelt's 7th through 12th grade students whereby Roosevelt, as the sending district, and East Windsor, as the receiving district, provide for the education of Roosevelt's 7th through 12th grade students at its middle school for grades 7 and 8 and Hightstown High School for grades 9-12; and

WHEREAS, East Windsor and Roosevelt wish to provide for a method to calculate and provide for the payment of the "students sent and received" pursuant to NJAC 6:20-3.1 and also wish to establish a more formalized understanding of mutual interaction and communication, for a term of one year from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009;

NOW THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed as follows:

1. Roosevelt shall be entitled to send its residents' school children of grades 7 through 12 to East Windsor schools during the term of this agreement.

2. Roosevelt agrees to pay East Windsor tuition charges which shall be fixed as follows:

A. Methods of determining tuition charges:

1. Commencing with the 2008-2009 school year, the projected tuition charge per pupil for middle school students will be ten thousand one hundred sixty nine dollars. (\$10,169.00) and for high school students ten thousand three hundred six dollars (\$10,306.00). Special Services will be fifty four thousand three hundred fifty one dollars (\$54,351.00) consisting of 27 periods at two thousand thirteen dollars (\$2,013.00.) per period. The total 2008-2009 projected tuition will be \$782,515.00 for 26 middle school students and 45 high school students.

2. Both parties agree that when the actual tuition costs per student are finalized, any underpayment or over- payment of tuition will be paid in the second year following the tuition year. It is further agreed that the net amount due East Windsor will not exceed \$250 per student times the actual number of students covered by this contract.

3. Tuition cost for Roosevelt special education students placed out of district will be the responsibility of Roosevelt. However, the Roosevelt Chief School Administrator/Principal (CSA/Principal) and Child Study Team will be consulted on any placement decision at its inception by the East Windsor Child Study Team. Notice will be given to the Roosevelt Child Study Team regarding the IEP meeting to discuss this change of placement.

4. The Roosevelt CSA/Principal will be consulted at the inception of all proposed changes in placement that incur cost due to transportation or tuition such as but not limited to vocational or alternative school. This notice will be made prior to any parental notification of these proposed changes.

5. Any and all costs for the transportation of Roosevelt students to East Windsor will be the sole responsibility of Roosevelt. East Windsor agrees to offer whatever transportation jointure agreements are possible on an annual basis.

6. Tuition charges shall be paid annually (Sept. - June) in ten (10) monthly payments by Roosevelt to East Windsor upon Board approval at the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting.

B. Articulation between districts:

1. Both East Windsor and Roosevelt agree that articulation and communication between the two districts is a necessary part of this contract. This articulation and communication will be through the Chief School Administrator (CSA) of East Windsor and the CSA/Principal of Roosevelt. Board of Education meeting agendas will be mailed routinely to each other through the CSA of East Windsor and the CSA/Principal of Roosevelt. A CSA or CSA/Principal may request his or her counterpart to place an item or items on a Board of Education meeting agenda. If the CSA or CSA/Principal agrees, said item(s) will be placed on the agenda and the requesting district will be able to make a presentation at that time. The Board of Education holding the meeting will determine after hearing the presentation what time limits will be set on any ensuing dialogue.

2. In an effort to enhance communication and articulation between the districts, East Windsor and Roosevelt agree to:

(a) have East Windsor forward standardized test scores and report card information for all residential students being sent from Roosevelt to East Windsor to the CSA/Principal of the Roosevelt School District;

(b) allow for articulation and interaction in the area of staff development activities and district committees exploring educationally related matters.

3. East Windsor agrees to provide a program of orientation for Roosevelt sixth graders and their parents in the spring of the school year prior to 6th graders entering middle school including a one day orientation at Kreps Middle School.

4. East Windsor agrees to provide Roosevelt with a copy of its policy manual and to advise Roosevelt of any policies which may be revised or replaced that concerns or relates to the middle school or high school program.

C. Other Provisions

1. In consideration of the payment by Roosevelt to East Windsor of the sums set forth above, all Roosevelt students covered under this agreement shall be admitted into East Windsor's middle or high school and taught therein during the term of this agreement, and such children shall be entitled to and shall receive like and equal instruction to that imparted to East Windsor children of like ages, grades, and departments and shall be accorded all the rights and privileges enjoyed by the resident students of East Windsor in attendance at the schools therein.

2. If during the length of this agreement Roosevelt wishes to expand its sending relationship to include additional grade levels, East Windsor agrees to negotiate that possibility.

3. Roosevelt and East Windsor agree to commence negotiations at least three months prior to the expiration of this Agreement to consider renewal or extension of this Agreement for a further term.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The parties hereto have caused these presents to be signed by their respective Presidents and their corporate seals to be hereto affixed and attested by their Secretaries the day and year first above written.

Attest:

**Board of Education
East Windsor Regional School District**

Attest:

Board of Education, Borough of Roosevelt

ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF PRELIMINARY TENTATIVE 2008-09 BUDGET

**Removed from agenda.

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF REVISED PILOT RESOLUTION

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer, to approve the PILOT resolution as submitted.

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

***EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HIGHTSTOWN, NJ MERCER COUNTY***

RESOLUTION

**CALLING FOR STATE POLICY ON USE OF MUNICIPAL PILOTS TO
GIVE PROPERTY TAX BREAKS IN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

WHEREAS, East Windsor Township and Hightstown Borough are member municipalities of a regional school district like other municipalities in the State of New Jersey, in this case the East Windsor Regional School District; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature and Governor have stated their policy of encouraging consolidation and service-sharing by municipal governments and school districts; and

WHEREAS, published reports indicate that Hightstown Borough has considered the implementation of PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreement with a profit making developer proposing to construct approximately 130 multi-family residential units in Hightstown; and

WHEREAS, the developer is not a tax-exempt, non-profit organization or performing a burdensome public task such as cleaning up toxic properties; and

WHEREAS, the property tax structure in the State of New Jersey creates a tremendous and unfair burden upon residential property owners, especially in middle-income districts, in which the percentage of the annual property tax levy for the benefit of public education exceeds 50% of the total tax levy; and

WHEREAS, in a regional school district, any reduction of one of the member municipality's property tax levy, such as by a PILOT program, has an immediate, unfair and adverse impact on the other member municipality's taxpayers and the school district itself because it reduces critical school funding for the schools and students of the regional district, and because it requires the other municipality's taxpayers to pay a disproportionate share of the total school budget in order to compensate for the lost revenue created by the property tax breaks granted by the other municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, in the County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. We call upon the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governor to adopt legislation and/or regulations barring the approval of PILOTS or other property tax abatements by municipalities in a regional school district in favor of private developers because it reduces the total tax levy of that municipality for the funding of a regional school district to the detriment of the other taxpayers within the regional school district and is, therefore, unfair and detrimental to the public education of all of the students within the entire regional school district.

2. Alternatively, if State officials do not legislatively bar municipalities in a regional school district from approving PILOTS or other property tax abatements that provide property tax breaks to developers:

A. The State of New Jersey should require that 100 percent of the lost revenue that otherwise would have been received by the regional school district if there had been no PILOT or other tax abatement program be paid out of the proceeds of the money received by the municipality granting the PILOT or by other funds of the member municipality granting the property tax, and/or

B. The State of New Jersey should provide a school aid payment to the regional school district, adjusted up annually, to compensate for 100 percent of the lost tax revenue created by the property tax abatement program.

3. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the following:

Governor Jon Corzine
New Jersey Senate President Richard J. Codey
New Jersey Senate Minority Leader Thomas Kean, Jr.
New Jersey Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts, Jr.
New Jersey Assembly Minority Leader Alex DeCroce
State Senator Jennifer Beck
Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon
Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande
Mayor Janice Mironov, East Windsor Township
Mayor Robert Patten, Hightstown Borough
Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education
Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education at its regular meeting held on February 11, 2008.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary

ITEM 8. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Christopher Gregory, Robotics team advisor – gave a detailed summary fo teams activities. The Robotics team newsletter was distributed.

Lloyd Levitt - parent of HHS student with 504 plan. The 504 officer Mrs. Siegel has spoken with the family.

ITEM 9. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Laverty - gave update on Freeholder Tony Mack’s HS completion forum. Seminar at Monroe high school on school funding

Mr. Dolgon - expressed his appreciation for the meeting date dialogue. Re budget, need to pursue additional revenue source.

Mr. Hauck - asked for follow-up on cell tower.

ITEM 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Superintendent commented that the curriculum presentations are well attended.

ITEM 11. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

- A. Staffing
- B. Authorization for Emergent Hiring Pending Completion of Criminal History Check
- C. Approval of Travel & Related Expense Reimbursements - Certified Staff
- D. Professional Services for Students
- E. Removal of Ineligible Students
- F. Approval of Minutes for January 28, 2008
- G. Bill List
- H. PEI Kids/Safe Kids, Sound Futures
- I. Approval of Internship of Tekelah Sherrod for School Administrator

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Mr. Paul, to approve the routine agenda items by exception as submitted.

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

Copies of the exception items are on file and available for review in the Board Secretary’s office .

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

Stella Cohen - Teacher, Anthony Funari - Coach Sangita Prasad – Teacher

ITEM 12. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ITEM 13. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

None

ITEM 14. QSAC BOARD TRAINING by NJSBA Field Representative Diane Morris

Diane Morris gave a formal training session to the Board on QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum).

ITEM 15. CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into closed session at 9:50 p.m.

ITEM 16. OPEN SESSION

ITEM 17. ADJOURN

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

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary