

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education, November 26, 2007

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a regular meeting on Monday, November 26, 2007 at the Hightstown High School cafeteria.

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, Bonnie Fayer, (arrived at 7:50pm), Suzann Fallon, James Hauck, Robert Laverty, Vice President, Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul, Alice Weisman, President. 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.....” (Board President pointed to the emergency exit.)

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, Mr. Laverty, Mr. Paul, and Ms. Weisman.
Members voting no: none. Members abstaining: none. Motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM 3B. RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Mr. Dolgon, 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 November 26, 2007. This closed session concerns:

1. Personnel Matters
2. Contract Negotiations

(Item 3: Litigation was removed)

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

Members abstaining: none. Motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM 4A. APPROVAL OF 2006-07 AUDIT

B. APPROVAL OF CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR 2006-07 AUDIT

Mr. Lavery moved seconded by Mr. Hauck to approve the 2006-07 audit as submitted. (Copy is on file in Board Secretary's office for review.)

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

Members abstaining: none. Motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Lavery moved seconded by Ms. Fallon, to approve the corrective action plan for the 2006-07 audit. (Copy on file in Board Secretary's office for review).

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

Members abstaining: none. Motion was carried unanimously.

I, Kurt Stumbaugh, Secretary of the Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, **HEREBY CERTIFY** that this is a certified copy of the unapproved minutes of the regular Board meeting of November 26, 2007.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said Board of Education this 27th day of November, 2007.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary

Discussion: Mr. Dolgon commented on the need for a 6% fund balance rather than 2% that is the maximum allowed. The state mandated 2% is too low. Ms. Lloyd and Mr. Lavery inquired on additional details on student activities accounts processes.

ITEM 5. BOARD POLICY – FIRST READING OF POLICY #2415.20 NCLB COMPLAINTS

Ms. Kearns outlined the new policies and related regulations. The Board members discussed the mechanics of the NCLB complaint regulation.

ITEM 6. BOARD POLICY- SECOND READING OF POLICY #8461 REPORTING VIOLENCE, VANDALISM, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE

Mr. Lavery moved seconded by Mr. Hauck to approve the Board policy #8461, “Reporting Violence, Vandalism, Alcohol and other Drug Abuse, as submitted.
(Copy on file in Board Secretary’s office for review.)

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

ITEM 7. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM 8. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Ms. Fallon: commented on alumni communications.

Mr. Dolgon: commented on news article regarding the pilot autism program. Appears as an attempt to pressure the Board and will not affect the Board’s deliberative process.

Mr. Bolandi: responded that all proposals will be thoroughly reviewed.

Mr. Lavery: expanded on the same topic. The newspapers’ printing of the self serving press releases that are related to the autism program proposal is misguided.

Ms. Weisman also commented on the article. It is the most recent event in a long standing pattern. The Windsor Hights Herald should not be our paper of record.

Mr. Ettman: the cynical approach and creation of conflict as a vehicle for discussion is very distasteful. This Board of Education is a focal point for much public comment.

Ms. Lloyd: commented on the horror of the Hamilton Twp. School District bus tragedy. We will take this opportunity to focus attention on the importance of safety and bus discipline.

Mr. Bolandi responded that drivers work very hard to maintain order on buses and safety is always at the forefront of our efforts. We work diligently every day to prevent tragedies.

Mr. Hauck: Many young children have a false sense of immortality. Horseplay can lead to tragedies.

Ms. Fallon: commented that the onboard bus cameras will provide comfort and assurance to students and parents.

ITEM 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Bolandi invited all to participate in the various holiday events in the district. The next Board meeting will be on December 17, 2007. DARE graduations are coming up.

ITEM 10. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

Mr. Lavery moved seconded by Mr. Hauck to approve the routine agenda items listed below by exception.

- A. Staffing
- B. Authorization for Emergent Hiring Pending Completion of Criminal History Check
- C. Volunteers
- D. Donations to HHS*
 - 1.) Varsity Ice Hockey Team
 - 2.) \$500 Check from Exxon/Mobil
- E. Approval of Travel Related Expenses
- F. ESL After School Tutorial Program Funded by NCLB/ESL
- G. District Goals
- H. Award of Bids & Contracts: School Bus Video System
- I. Approval of Minutes for November 12, 2007
- J. Board Secretary's Report
- K. Treasurer's Report
- L. Transfer Report
- M. Bill List

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

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

*Ms. Fallon commented that the donations are acknowledged and appreciated.

Item 10B – Authorization for Emergent Hiring Pending Completion of Criminal History Check

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Mr. Hauck, that the Board of Education approve the submission of applications for emergent hiring pending completion of the criminal history background check to the County Superintendent for the following individual(s):

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Ronto Rooney | Student Kidcare Instructor |
| Stephanie Stevenson | School Social Worker |

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

I, Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary of the Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, **HEREBY CERTIFY** that this is a certified copy of the unapproved minutes of the regular Board meeting of November 26th, 2007.

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Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary

Item 10H: Onboard Color Digital Video Recording Systems for School Buses

At the November 26, 2007 meeting of the East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education, Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Mr. Hauck to authorize and approve the following:

WHEREAS, formal bidding was conducted on November 21, 2007 and the lowest responsible bid for the color digital video camera system was submitted by Accetron Corporation,

BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education award the bid to Accetron Corporation of Edison, NJ for the amount of \$66,800.00.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Hauck, Mr. Laverty, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, and Ms. Weisman.

Members voting no: none Members abstaining: None. Motion was carried: unanimously.

I, Kurt Stumbaugh, Secretary of the Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District, **HEREBY CERTIFY** that this is a certified copy of the unapproved minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education on November 26, 2007.

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Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary

ITEM 11. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ITEM 12. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Dolgon: the Red Cross holiday event is coming up.

Mr. Lavery: extended his acknowledgement for the good work on the audit report and their efforts are appreciated.

ITEM 13: CLOSED SESSION

ITEM 14: OPEN SESSION

- The negative press coverage of the District by the Windsor Hights Herald was further discussed. The monthly columns offered by the Herald written by the District may not be in the best interest of the District. The stories already submitted by the administration should be re-offered for the columns. The Board should write a letter critical of the Windsor Hights Herald editorial policies.
- Mr. Coates gave an update on legislative initiatives. The results of the recent general election have changed the landscape and we will see how the lame duck session plays out.
- A public relations professional proposal may be discussed.
- Action item for Dec. 17th meeting authorizing an appeal to legislative actions related to school funding.
- Student representative on Board of Education was discussed.

ITEM 15: ADJOURN

Ms. Fallon moved to adjourn at 9:40 pm.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary