

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a regular meeting on Monday, March 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: Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer, James Hauck, Robert Laverty, Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul, Ricardo Perez, Alice Weisman.

Members 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.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA (ITEM 3A)**

Having read the material received Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon to approve the agenda.

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

#### **RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION (ITEM 3B)**

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer, 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 March 26, 2007. This closed session concerns:

1. Personnel Matters
2. Contract Negotiations
3. Litigation

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

**PRESENTATION OF 2007-2008 BUDGET (ITEM 4)**

The Superintendent made a detailed presentation of the 2007-08 budget.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED 2007-08 BUDGET (ITEM 5)**

The Board President opened a public hearing on the 2007-08 budget.

Ms. Fayer - asked if A-1 budget law had been signed. Mr. Coates responded it is not signed and what laws would prevail was discussed.

Mr. Perez - asked about conditional veto. Mr. Coates responded that the Governor could use conditional veto. We are running out of time with April 17 election fast approaching.

Senator Panter - was given the opportunity to update the Board and community on the status of A-I. A line item veto is not available. The conditional veto is possible but A -1 is a large legislative package and veto is unlikely. The efforts to obtain a waiver were described, as were the executive order strategy. The separate proposals will be advocated.

Tom Fitzsimmons - (from assemblywoman Beck's office) expressed strong commitment to our dilemma. The Superintendent's efforts were gratefully recognized. Best strategy appears to be the separate proposals.

**Public Members:**

Eugene Sarafin - gave an impassioned opinion that this problem is caused by legislative inaction.

Craig Martin - the four million is a capital budget item and should not be a part of the 07-08 budget. The Superintendent responded that 2.5 million fund balance is permanently removed from the budget.

Kathy Goolin - asked about emergency legislation for this specific problem. Senator Panther responded that A-1 does address this issue in 2008-09. Legislation was introduced within one week. There was not enough time.

Anthony Catana - If the surplus was not spent it would still be in the fund balance. The excess of 2.5 over 2% would be removed anyway due to excess surplus. The Superintendent's explanation of the non-recurring nature of the 2.5 million fund balance contribution.

Stu Dolgon - Restated the fund balance dilemma and recognized the Board of Education for their hard work.

Frank Lucas - Separate proposals - asked what occurs when voters defeat questions.

The Superintendent explained municipal review options:

1. reduce amount
2. leave it the same
3. deny

Caroline Garcia - suggested that ballot questions be detailed with specifics on purpose and costs.

Name Unknown - asked about transportation privatization - The Superintendent gave a detailed response with the pros and cons. The superintendent recommends not to privatize.

Joe Sullivan - asked about full day kindergarten. If it is a 3<sup>rd</sup> question, will it be a problem? The Board president responded that we don't know outcome yet.

Amanda Porter - Asked what would be the average impact.

Kris Kroll - suggested 2.5 million plus 1.04 be placed on ballot. Mr. Coates responded we can only do what is permitted by statute.

Stu Dolgon - said this is not first mistake by State. State aid has been in error for many years. Mr. Dolgon gave a listing of reserve fund reductions over past several years.

Kelly Gerry - asked about host municipalities' involvement. The Superintendent responded that the mayors have received a copy of the letter requesting relief. Meetings are being scheduled with the Board.

Mr. Lavery responded that Mayor Mironov has met several times with the Board of Ed. Committee and has been very helpful. Ms. Fallon responded that Mayor Patten's office has been very helpful.

Michele Conolly – stated we are only asking for less than what were requested last year.

Craig Martin – The 2-3 % tax increase is moderate and should be passed. The performance of the district is greatly improved and should be supported by budget passage.

The Board of Education president closed the public session and called for a 5 minute recess.

**APPROVAL OF 2007-08 BUDGET & RELATED BALLOT QUESTIONS (ITEM 6)**

This item was tabled until Thursday's (March 29, 07) special meeting since the State has not approved the tentative budget.

**FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (ITEM 7)**

None.

**FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS (ITEM 8)**

The Board of Education thanked Ron and his staff for their hard work.

**APPROVAL OF 2007-08 SCHOOL CALENDAR (ITEM 9)**

The Superintendent gave an update on the school calendar development.

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Mr. Hauck to approve the school calendar as submitted.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer Mr. Hauck, Mr. Lavery, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, and Ms. Weisman. (Mr. Perez left the meeting at 9:45 p.m.) Members voting no: None, Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE #89 (ITEM 10)**

The construction attorney is preparing strategy for litigation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 11)**

There will be a special meeting of the Board of Education on Thursday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hightstown High School cafeteria.

**MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION (ITEM 12)**

- A. Approval of Travel & Related Expense Reimbursements - Certified
- B. FY 2005 NCLB Carry Over & Final Report
- C. Staffing
- D. Authorization for Emergent Hiring Pending Completion of Criminal History Check - PULLED
- E. Governor's Teacher Recognition Award Winners' Fee
- F. FY 2006 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Final Reports
- G. FY 2005 IDEA Carry Over Final Reports
- H. Professional Services for Students
- I. Donation - Computers - HHS
- J. Approval of Minutes - March 12, 2007

- K. Orders of Payments
- L. Treasurer of School Monies
- M. Board Secretary's Report
- N. Investments
- O. Approval of Changes in Appropriation
- P. Requisition for Taxes

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Mr. Hauck, to approve the routine items as submitted.

On a roll call vote: members voting yes: Mr Ettman, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Fayer Mr. Hauck, Mr. Laverty, Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Paul, and Ms. Weisman. (Mr. Perez left the meeting at 9:45 p.m.) Members voting no: None. Motion to approve was carried unanimously.

**OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS (ITEM 13)**

A. FIRST Robotics Championship – HHS

B. Spanish Exchange Trip – HHS

The Superintendent gave details on these field trips. No action was taken.

**SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (ITEM 14)**

None.

**SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS (ITEM 15)**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION (ITEM 16)**

The Board of Education held an executive session.

**OPEN SESSION (ITEM 17)**

The Board returned to open session.

**ADJOURN (ITEM 18)**

The Board President adjourned the meeting.

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Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary