

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 29, 2007**

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a special meeting on Tuesday May 29, 2007 at the Hightstown High School cafeteria.

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.”

Members Present: Stuart Dolgon, Bruce Ettman, Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer, James Hauck, Robert Laverty, Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul (arrived at 7:45), Alice Weisman.

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Ronald Bolandi, Chief School Administrator; Kurt Stumbaugh, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and 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. Fayer, to approve the agenda.

On a roll call vote, members voting yes: Mr. Dolgon, Mr. Ettman, Ms. Fayer, Mr. Hauck, Mr. Laverty, Ms. Lloyd, 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 May 29, 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.

2007-08 FINAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

(ITEM 4)

The Superintendent gave a detailed status report of the 2007-08 budget. The School Business Administrator gave an update on costs associated with building use. The Board members discussed at length the pros and cons of imposing building use fees. There will be a board agenda item to revise the building use fee schedule. A policy will be introduced.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

(ITEM 5)

The Board attorney gave a detailed narrative on the impact of recently adopted legislation including A-1 and A-5, and how these impact the East Windsor school district.

Mr. Laverty moved seconded by Mr. Hauck, to endorse the assembly A-1 letter and transmit same to our legislature.

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

FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLIC COMMENT *

***(ITEM 5A- MOVED FROM ITEM 8 ON AGENDA)**

Gene Sarafin – Made expansive comments on the flawed budget voting process and restoration process. East Windsor Recreation should pay rent.

Jim Fidler – Gave an opinion on user fees and summer recreation. He feels the debate over user fees points out that these costs should be assigned to users. Repercussions of a no vote needs to be publicized. Election related communication should be expanded.

Nancy Walker Laudenberg – said pool user fees would be a burden to Y based lap swimmers.

Leonard Millner – asked for an explanation of building use code. Opined that the Board of Ed. taking over summer recreation is not advisable. Mr. Millner had several questions about the 2007-08 budget. The Superintendent gave a detailed response, specifically related to state restrictions on funding defeated questions. Mr. Millner commented that privatization of busing is a good idea. \$675,000 is a tangible amount that deserves attention.

Matt P.....?(name on sign-in sheet not legible) – had several questions about budget mechanics. The Superintendent gave a detailed explanation on base budget increases. Pay to Play is a Board of Ed. item. A-1 defects were not well thought out by the legislature. Our efforts attempt to repair the damage.

Amanda Porter – The community action service center board members clarified they are an academic enrichment program not a recreation program. Primary constituents are at risk students. Would like to work collaboratively with the district. Technology should be deployed, for example, surveys.

Caroline Garcia – President of Rams Club. Technology should be exploited. More PR would benefit. Building use changes are supported but pay to play is not. Grants should be pursued.

Mike Foss – commented on class time 40 minutes to 60 minutes. Asked why are more staff required? The Assistant Superintendent gave a detailed explanation of schedule changes.

Rita Millner – Schools should pursue local businesses for support. The Superintendent responded we do perform this effort.

Gene Sarafin – volunteered to serve on outsourcing buses.

P. Rodriguez – Local athletic team manager. Said pay to play would harm the children.

Laurie DePino – Homework burden should be reduced.

Mike Henderson – Student activity fees, (like college) should be explored.

**FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS
(ITEM 5B *MOVED FROM ITEM 9 ON AGENDA)**

Mr. Dolgon – Board must research and discuss all options. Additional outreach efforts are needed.

Mr. Bolandi – re –stated that enhanced outreach efforts are underway.

Mr. Dolgon - stated that the newspapers should be more positive.

Mr. Bolandi- stated that the district needs to take ownership of our PR outreach efforts and not assign the role to the press.-

Mr. Ettman – expressed concern with the process of the budget review and restoration process.

Legislation mandated the process. Press coverage of the budget process was analyzed and Mr. Shapiro's comments require censure.

SCHOOL ELECTION – REDISTRICTING (ITEM 6)

Mr. Lavery gave a detailed presentation on the election districts. Mercer County Superintendent of elections will be at Board of Education office on Thursday 11:00 a.m. He commented on the font and color of ballot. "Squeezing in" two languages requires more room.

MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION (ITEM 7)

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Mr. Hauck, that the Board approve the following routine items by exception, as submitted in the agenda packet.

- A. Staffing
- B. Out-of-District Placement
- C. Travel & Related Expense Reimbursements - Certified Staff
- D. Waiver for ESL/Bilingual Program 2007-08
- E. Donations:
 - 1) \$500 to Walter C. Black School
 - 2) Office Supplies to HHS
- F. Awards of Bids & Contracts -
 - 1) Copy Duplicator Supplies
 - 2) General Classroom Supplies
 - 3) Fine Art Supplies
 - 4) Health & Trainer Supplies
 - 5) Library Supplies
 - 6) Office/Computer Supplies
 - 7) Physical Education Supplies
- G. Change Order - Armour & Sons Electric
- H. Tax Levy Schedule
- I. Approval of Summer School Programs
 - 1) Kreps Summer School
 - 2) HHS Summer School
 - 3) HHS Summer Completion Program
- J. Health Benefits Program 2007-08

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

Details on the above mentioned exception items are kept on file in the Board Secretary's office.

Closed Session (ITEM 10)

The Board of Education went into closed session to discuss:
Personnel Matters, Contract Negotiations, Litigation.

OPEN SESSION (ITEM 11)

ADJOURN (ITEM 12)

Kurt Stumbaugh
Business Administrator/Board Secretary