

East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education Minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 25, 2008

The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a regular meeting on Monday, February 25, 2008 at the Hightstown High School cafeteria.

ITEM 1. Board President Alice Weisman called the meeting to order promptly at 7:32 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, 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 Ms. Fayer, to approve the agenda.

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 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 25, 2008.

This closed session concerns: 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

On a roll call vote, motion to approve the resolution was carried unanimously.

ITEM 4: PRESENTATIONS - A. TESTING UPDATE & B. REPORT CARD UPDATE

Ms. Feaster, Director of Elementary Programs & Personnel, gave a detailed presentation on the standards-based report card.

Michael Dzwonar, Assistant Superintendent, gave a detailed presentation on the EWRSD State Testing Data. (Report is on file in the Board Secretary's office.)

ITEM 5. TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION – ADOPTION OF TENTATIVE 2008-09 BUDGET

The Superintendent gave a detailed presentation on the tentative 2008-09 Budget and updated the Board on Revenue Enhancement/Cost Avoidance Initiatives.

Mr. Dolgon inquired about the travel maximum. The School Business Administrator responded to the \$125,241 amount.

Mr. Lavery moved, seconded by Ms. Fayer, to approve the 2008-2009 Tentative Budget, and to authorize the Chief School Administrator and the School Business Administrator to submit to the Mercer County Superintendent of Schools the attached 2008-09 tentative budget which includes:

Total Operating Fund Budget of \$75,209,360 and a
Local Tax Levy of \$53,719,279,
Total Special Revenue Fund Budget of \$1,568,330,
Total Debt Service Fund Budget of \$3,671,658 and a
Local Debt Service Fund Tax Levy of \$3,497,313.

And to approve:

The school district **Travel Maximum** for 2008-09 school year to be \$125,241, and the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

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. Motion to approve 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 February 25, 2008.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said Board of Education this 26th day of February, 2008.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary

ITEM 6. TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION – COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Ms. Weisman, introduced the topic of Community Relations between the EWRSD Board of Education and host municipalities. During the governor's recent visit to Hightstown High School, the mayor of East Windsor threatened to withhold support of the Board of Education's budget until Hightstown High School is renamed East Windsor High School.

- Mr. Ettman spoke to the long history of Hightstown High School. The host municipalities need to support the Board of Education rather than punish the Board for the name of the high school.
- Ms. Lloyd asked that politics be put aside so that our students can be best served.
- Mr. Hauck asked that only responsible criticisms be put forward.
- Mr. Dolgon urged community support for the budget.
- Mr. Laverty discussed the need to address the use of district facilities and equipment by outside groups. The image of the District needs to be more closely aligned with the community.

ITEM 7. OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP – HHS

ITEM 8. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Eugene Sarafin – the same topics currently discussed by the Board of Education were discussed 40 years ago when Mr. Sarafin was a member of the Board of Education. The goal of the Board is to make the District as good as it can be.

ITEM 9. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Dolgon - commented on the challenges facing Board members. School hours were mentioned. The Superintendent responded with details on the impact of re-arranging the schedules.

ITEM 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Jennifer Beck will hold a town meeting this Wed. Feb. 27, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in Hightstown HS. No notice was received from the State Dept of Agriculture indicating we received any tainted meat products as of Feb. 25, 2008.

The Superintendent newsletter is going out this week. Additional newsletter reporting to follow.

ITEM 11. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

- A. Staffing
- B. Authorization for Emergent Hiring Pending Completion of Criminal History Check
- C. Out of District Placements
- D. Professional Services for Students
- E. Approval of Travel & Related Expense Reimbursements - Certified Staff
- F. Volunteers
- G. Revised Organization Chart for 2007-2008
- H. Approval of Minutes for February 11, 2008
- I. Addition to Food Price List – Pizza Slice
- J. Bill List
- K. Board Secretary's Report: December, 2007
- L. Treasurer's Report: December, 2007
- M. Transfer Report: December, 2007

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

On 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 to approve was carried: unanimously.

Item 11A. Staffing/Addendum to Staffing

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon to approve Mr. Dick Brinster as the freelance writer for the East Windsor Regional School District Board of Education on an as needed basis at the rate of \$250.00 per assignment.

On 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 to approve 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 held on February 25, 2008.

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Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary

Item 11B: Authorization for Emergent Hiring Pending Completion of Criminal History Check

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon to approve the submission of applications for emergent hiring pending completion of the criminal history background check to the County Superintendent for the following individuals:

Barbara Herrera	Teacher
Crystal Mirabella	Teacher

On 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 to approve was carried: unanimously.

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ITEM 12. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Eugene Sarafin – recommended formation of a citizens group to advocate budget passage. Voter turnout is very important.

ITEM 13. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Dolgon - suggested inviting the host municipalities elected officials to our public hearing on the budget.

ITEM 14. CLOSED SESSION

ITEM 15. OPEN SESSION

Mr. Dolgon – had a question on the per pupil costs, and commented on advertising the Board of Education retreat.

ITEM 16. ADJOURN

Mr. Lavery moved to adjourn meeting.

Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary