

***EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, HIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08520***

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**DATE: June 7, 2010**

**The Board of Education of the East Windsor Regional School District held a Regular meeting on Monday, June 7, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hightstown High School cafeteria.**

**ITEM 1. WELCOME**

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: Paul Connolly, Bruce Ettman Suzann Fallon, Bonnie Fayer, Christine Harrington, Bob Laverty Susan Lloyd, Kennedy Paul and Alice Weisman.

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Michael Dzwonar, Interim Superintendent  
Kurt Stumbaugh, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
David Coates, Board Legal Counsel

Fire Code Compliance: Ms. Weisman 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 3.A APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Having read the material received, Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Mr. Paul, to approve the agenda. On a roll call vote, the motion to approve was carried unanimously.

**ITEM 3.B RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Mr. Paul, 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 June 7, 2010.

This closed session concerns: Personnel Matters, Litigation, Contract Negotiations, & Attorney Client Privilege. 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, the motion to approve was carried unanimously.

**ITEM 4. RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Debbie Feaster, Director of Personnel introduced the presentation of the 2009-10 Governors Teachers Awards; the EWRSD and Mercer County Teacher of the Year; and EWRSD Retirees.

Ms. Feaster read a summary of their achievement and contribution to the District for each teacher.

A. Governor’s Teacher Recognition Awards 2009-2010 winners:

- 1) Catherine Anzuini – High School
- 2) Irene Taylor– Kreps School
- 3) Toni Halsey – Drew School
- 4) Mary Devanney – McKnight School
- 5) Susan Zibbe – Rogers School
- 6) Pat Laudati – Black School

B. EWRSD and Mercer County “Teacher of the Year” – Lisa Tanikawa Brown

C. EWRSD Employees Who Are Retiring:

Victoria Bain	Cynthia Braddock	Sandra Cohen	Michelle Corsi
William Daley	Joanne Dowd	Fran Finkelstein	Suzanne Friedland
Frances Gilbert	Ricky Goldin	Sharon Kelsall	Diane Kenny
Willie Lewis	Alice Meola	Irma Metviner	Catherine Ladner
Esther Michaels	Judith Miller	Marylou Miller	James Napier
Joan Nichols	Blanca Ohler	Debra Ostroy	Sandra Peltz
Margaret Scott	Irene Taylor	Joan Tyson	Theresa Phillips
Phyllis Vannozzi	Pauline Whaley	Helen Zyontz	

**5. RECESS**

**6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Weisman gave a brief announcement about the upcoming Middle and High school graduations and expressed her best wishes and gratitude to all for another successful year.

**7. ELEMENTARY REDISTRICTING**

Ms. Weisman introduced the topic of Elementary Redistricting. Mr. Dzwonar then gave a detailed presentation of the redistricting plan for the elementary schools.

**8. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kathleen Fallon of East Windsor, and a teacher at GNR, spoke in support of retaining the Repro. Center.

The fifth grade yearbook is produced there and it is a very cost efficient and professional job. The teachers and parent groups support keeping Repro open.

Stephanie Muller of East Windsor commented that redistricting will cause her child to attend a third school in 5 years. Students in the same neighborhood should be in the same school

Sudharani Yerraveli (sp?) of East Windsor, lives very close to McKnight but now child is going to WCB.

Tony Catana of East Windsor, asked about the capacity of each school. The plan appears simplistic.

Laurie Berman East Windsor spoke in support of keeping the Repro. Center open.

Heather Szeles of Hightstown commented on students being sent from McKnight to Rogers. Wants more details on this and requests student ambassadors to help with the transition.

Kathleen Carvalho of East Windsor spoke in support of keeping the Repro. Center open.

Daniel McDonough of East Windsor commented that parents need more information. Will this occur again?

Christine Quigj of East Windsor has third grade twins who are affected. District must consider the children who are affected. Requests a 5th grade option offered for 2 years.

Helene Cimino, of Columbus, NJ, - District Graphics Technician, gave a detailed presentation of the savings for the District and the advantage of keeping the Repro Center open. The center has two large heavy duty copiers and other machines that take the stress and wear and tear away from the smaller school copiers. The Repro Center does much more than make copies. It provides the district report cards, programs and tickets for plays and graduations, calendars, posters, binds booklets for the teachers and more.

Thaddeus Berdzk of East Windsor spoke about the statistics of redistricting. Said the 600,000 in savings is insignificant. Claimed that considering socio-economic factors is wrong.

Clare Lumkong of East Windsor said we need more transparency. More planning is needed.

Wendy McDade of Hightstown commented that the current plan is an improvement from last year's plan. Change can be good. But unsealed, untaped letters sent home to the students robbed parents of the ability to manage the change affecting children. Regarding busing, asked how will crossing Main Street be managed.

It would be helpful if at least 2 kids from same class stay together.

Subodh Kotian of East Windsor spoke as a neighborhood representative. Kids are not happy by the split and the last minute notice. Concerned about pick up and drop off. For \$11,000 in taxes we should have better service.

Beverly Asselstine of Hightstown commented that overcrowding hurts schooling, Noted that 22 students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 21 in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 18 in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is her experience. The redistricting letter gave too short notice and should not have been given to children to bring home. Feels a block by block demographic study is needed.

Sanjay Das of East Windsor commented that the McKnight students were upset by the letter. Main issue is the budget. Does not see how \$600,000 affects a \$78 million budget and does not see how overcrowding is helped. Other districts are in better shape.

Selda Walkley of East Windsor commented that splitting up neighborhoods is not desirable. This plan makes no sense.

Sandei D'Abbraccio of East Windsor commented that her 1<sup>st</sup> grader will miss his teacher and friends. Plan was poorly done. Schools are overcrowded but this plan is not the way to go about it.

Bharat Malesha of East Windsor said it was hard to explain to children about the move.

Cathy Sharpe of Hightstown commented that the Board minutes did not indicate any thing about the upcoming redistricting and parents need more information. Parents and other public should be on the committee. Suggested school spirit wear to motivate students.

Paresh Shah of East Windsor, commented that the problem is the way the plan was communicated to the parents more than the move.

## **9. FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS**

Mr. Ettman explained the goals and history of the planning and decision making process. The goal was to balance enrollment, reduce neighborhood isolation and effect as few as possible. Budget reductions were made to the 10-11 budget and the money is important. Ethnic and economic factors were not a determinative factor. They were considered as is required by law. There were no private meetings.

Mr. Paul addressed transportation issues related to redistricting. Plan was not motivated by transportation savings. Equity in the schools is the goal. Mr. Dzwonar's presentation was well done. \$600,000 is a lot of money.

Mr. Laverty commented that we are in compliance with the open public meeting law. This is the first time the full Board has heard the full redistricting plan. The transportation committee gathered all the facts with input from a number of other staff as well, to make sure we accommodate all the academic needs of our students and have been working and deliberating for months.

Ms. Lloyd spoke on comments that were made that the Board is not doing what is best for students. This is untrue. The Board works very hard. Staff works very hard. Teachers will work hard to make the redistricting a success for the students. Agrees that the open letter should not have occurred and apologized for that. Added that the public comments discrediting the Board and calling the Interim Superintendent's presentation as poorly done were rude. Much time and effort has been put into this evening's presentation and encouraged the public to attend every meeting to be informed and involved.

Dr. Harrington, as a new Board member commented that the time commitment of Board members is very large and commendable and gave credit to the dedication of her fellow Board members. The administration and Board have the best interests of students at heart. Dr. Harrington agreed that we do owe the public an apology regarding the way the redistricting was communicated to parents. Concerns and frustrations are completely valid.

Regarding how developments are being split up, requested details of how neighborhoods were selected.

At this point, Pat Bye, Director of Transportation explained the dividing lines and the boundaries.

Ms. Fallon commented that the Board put urgent pressure on the Administration to get redistricting done.

This is the new reality of NJ public education when budgets are defeated. Further reductions must be made.

Ms. Weisman commented that people don't want to accept that significant money has been removed from our budget.

People don't want to believe that is going to have an impact they will see. Unfortunately we have lost millions of dollars and this will negatively affect our District for years. We do not have resources to operate the same way we used to. Change will occur and will continue.

#### **9A. BOARD ACTION: VOTE ON REDISTRICTING**

Mr. Laverty moved seconded by Mr. Paul, to approve the Redistricting Plan to commence with the 2010-11 school year as submitted. On a roll call vote of the Board, the motion to approve was carried unanimously.

#### **Ms. Weisman asked for Discussion or Comment:**

Mr. Ettman commented that the goal of fewest students affected has been achieved.

Mr. Connolly appreciates public comments. Please continue to ask questions. Communication is a two way street

Mr. Ettman commented that a web based email box is dedicated for public input.

Ms. Fayer thanked Mr. Dzwonar and the transportation committee for their diligence and hard work.

#### **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **11. MOTION TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS BY EXCEPTION**

- A. Staffing (with addendum added at meeting)
- B. EWRSD and Family Guidance Center Corporation Contract
- C. Professional Services for Students
- D. Out of District Placements
- E. Approval of Travel and Related Expenses
- F. Agreement to Participate in the International Business Practice Firm Network at Mercer County Community College
- G. Membership Resolution: NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association
- H. Modification of Long Range Facilities Plan
- I. Tax Levy Schedule for 2010-2011 Budget
- J. Bill List: June 7, 2010

#### **ITEM 11.A STAFFING (as submitted)**

#### **ITEM 11.B EWRSD and FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER CORPORATION CONTRACT**

This contract is an agreement between the East Windsor Regional School District (School) and the Family Guidance Center Corporation (FGCC) Family & Children's Services (FACS) for the School to retain FGCC & FACS to render behavioral health services to its employees henceforth referred to as Employee Assistance Program (EAP). For the purpose of this contract, the term "employee" shall mean district employees, spouses, dependent children and members of the immediate household.

**ITEM 11.C PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR STUDENTS**

The special education department requires services of consultants to provide children with disabilities a free appropriate public education as defined by The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission	Itinerant Services	Per fee schedule
Invo HealthCare Associates, Inc	Therapist	\$88.00 Per hour
Heidi Wolfinger, M.Ed., CCC-A/SLP, C. E. D.	Professional Services	\$115.00 per hour

**11. D OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENT OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENTS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL  
REGULAR and ESY SCHOOL PROGRAMS  
June 7, 2010**

Approval from the Board of Education is requested for the following placements:

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**Private & Public Schools**

**THE RUGBY SCHOOL**

Tuition May 20, 2010 through June 30, 2010

1. Student #9800675 Reg. \$7,151.04

**MCSSSD-Extended School Year Program**

Tuition July 12, 2010 through August 16, 010

Student	#	202054	ESY	\$	5,902.00
Student	#	602932	ESY	\$	5,902.00
Student	#	400274	ESY	\$	5,902.00
Student	#	720685	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720663	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720681	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720471	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720473	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720323	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720535	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720660	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	401101	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720492	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720404	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720251	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720296	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	402501	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	501035	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720481	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720362	ESY	\$	6,006.00

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Student	#	720263	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	799595	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720159	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720082	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720110	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720168	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720062	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720039	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	850602	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720667	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	819502	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720198	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	832595	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720025	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720101	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	200029	ESY	\$	6,006.00
Student	#	720686	ESY	\$	6,812.00
Student	#	720675	ESY	\$	6,812.00
Student	#	9800704	ESY	\$	6,812.00
Student	#	720114	ESY	\$	6,812.00
Student	#	301170	ESY	\$	6,812.00
Student	#	720532	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	701676	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	720526	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	720558	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	202065	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	202165	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	701656	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	720456	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	720262	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	8102241	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	720244	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	720500	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	720440	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	720493	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	2292214	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	720116	ESY	\$	7,462.00
Student	#	720107	ESY	\$	7,462.00

**11. E EMPLOYEE TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSES.**

ATTENDEE	LOCATION	DATE OF CONFERENCE	CONFERENCE ATTENDING	TOTAL	YTD TOTAL
					<b>\$26,987</b>
K. Stumbaugh	Business Office	June 29, 2010	NJ Association of School Business Officials "Audit & CAFR Preparation @ Doubletree Hotel in Mt. Laurel, NJ	100.00	\$26,987

**11. F AGREEMENT to PARTICIPATE in the INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS PRACTICE FIRM NETWORK at MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

This is a contract for next year which partners us with the Business Practice Firm Network and Center for Simulated Business Services located at Mercer County Community College High School Business department students will be able to utilize the services provided by the Center and get hands on experience in a business environment. This curriculum will be funded by Title IID money from NCLB for 2010-2011.

**11. G MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION: NJ STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 172 of the Laws of 1979 approved by the Governor of the State of NJ August 26, 1979, it is necessary for member schools to adopt by resolution membership in the NJSIAA. **Resolved**, the Board of Education of School District No. 1245, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as provided for in Chapter 172 Laws 1979 (N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3, et seq.) herewith enrolls Hightstown High School as a member of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association to participate in the approved interschool athletic program sponsored by the NJSIAA.

**11. H MODIFICATION OF LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLAN**

The District currently has identified a need for additional cafeteria space to accommodate the scheduling change at HHS for 10-11 school year. Space has been identified in the HHS Media Center that can be converted. State regulations require that our Long Range Facility Plan be modified to incorporate this change. This project will be small in scope and the majority of the work will be performed by in house staff. Due to time constraints and the limited funding, this project will not be submitted to SDA for funding. Board approval is recommended to authorize Garrison Architects to submit an amendment to our Long Range Facility Plan to incorporate this project.

**11. I TAX LEVY SCHEDULE FOR 2010-11 BUDGET**

The local share of the budget is supported through the local tax levy schedule for the 2010-11 budget. It is recommended that the Board approve local tax levy schedule as submitted.

**11. J BILL LIST**

The Bill and Claims Report must be approved by the Board of Education before being submitted for payment. **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education approves the payment of bills and claims in the amount of \$551,981.32 as submitted in the attached report

**Mr. Laverty moved, seconded by Ms. Fallon to approve the routine agenda items as submitted. On a role call vote of the Board, Motion to approve was carried unanimously.**

**12. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

(Name Unknown) commented that splitting up the neighborhoods and developments disrupts the community.

Hopes that the transportation committee will reconsider the bus routes that disrupt and splits up neighborhoods.

Sanjay Das of East Windsor commented that Mr. Ettman's response to his question regarding ethnic diversity goals will not be met with this plan. State mandates will not be met. Cutting \$600,000 out of the budget by eliminating positions and reducing technology will have a negative effect on our students. Noted that our neighboring districts have experienced and made reductions to their budgets without a loss of services.

Stephanie Muller of East Windsor said comments by the public were not understood. Part of a cohesive neighborhood is disrupted. Board needs to review other options. Asked about other parts of the Centex development that can be considered. Splitting up neighborhoods is not the answer. Asks Board to revisit this and look at other neighborhoods.

(Name unknown) commented he is not happy about the item timeline on tonight's agenda. Why the very important topic of redistricting placed so late on the agenda. The gravity of this issue requires a special meeting of the Board to discuss and hear public comments. Added that page 7 of the slide show is subjective and questionable. Doesn't show that serious input was given to the boundaries made. Sussex Lane in East Windsor is the most disrupted road. Dividing of Sussex Lane does not make sense.

Tony Catana of East Windsor commented that the whole redistricting concept is wrong. Goal should have been to redistrict the entire community and not do what you did to these people tonight. All areas should have been redistricted. Why was there no public comment sessions prior to the Board's decision to find out what the community really wanted. If you have been working on this issue since September, you could have made the effort to receive public input before any decision was made. The entire process was handled wrong.

Sanjay Das of East Windsor expressed astonishment that the Board made a decision so fast on such an important topic. Commented that his interpretation of the data on the NJDOE is that there is a disparity in ethnic diversity between WCB and EMK. Requested that the Board provide quantitative data.

**13. SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Ms. Fallon commented that actual students were considered rather than blocks of streets. All students are given a quality education.

Mr. Paul said reduced costs do not always equal reduced educational opportunities. He acknowledged the public's concern on the redistricting. When change impacts people they can be expected to advocate for their interests.

Ms. Weisman gave a glowing review of the Spring concert.

Ms. Fallon said the evening of the Annual Varsity Awards was a very enjoyable night. Also added that this Wednesday is the Senior Awards Night.

**14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no second executive session.

**15. OPEN SESSION**

**16. ADJOURN**

To adjourn: Ms. Fayer.

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Kurt Stumbaugh, Board Secretary