

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT**

Amended 3/26/14

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 26, 2014
EAST WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL – Room N-4**

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chairman W. Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman W. Schultz led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ATTENDANCE

Vice Chairman W. Schultz, Secretary C. Simonelli, W. Raber, N. DeSousa, K. Bilodeau, Dr. G. Michna, S. Morgan, R. Reichle, and Dr. T. Kane Absent: Chairman C. Mickey

Also present: C. DeBarge and community members

IV. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to accept the added agenda item: Community Resources Evening. The vote was unanimous

V. MINUTES

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by C. Simonelli, the Board approved the February 12, 2014 minutes, including the recommended amendments. The vote was unanimous.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Andrew Vining (108 North Road) would like to see an improvement in communication between school personnel and parents.

Nick Macsata (Highland Avenue) inquired about the options for after school programs for his three young children (all under the age of 5). Dr. Kane informed him the district offers after school programs for PreK-elementary age students through the FRC at Broad Brook Elementary School. It is open to all members of the community, offering a wide variety of activities at a reasonable rate. She also noted EWMS offers after school clubs and intramural sports, while EWHS offers after school clubs and sports.

It was noted the town does not have a Teen Center or Boys and Girls Club. East Windsor Public Schools is applying for a planning grant to explore the feasibility of this in our community.

On a motion by S. Morgan, 2nd by K. Bilodeau, the Board voted to take the agenda out of order to act on the added agenda item (New Business: Discussion) Community Resource Evening. The vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS: Community Resource Evening

The recent death of our student was a devastating tragedy. The district will offer a Community Resource Evening on March 11, 2014, at East Windsor High School, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. to provide families with useful information and resources regarding drug addition and mental health concerns. Dr. Kane outlined the services EWPS has put in place over the last three years; a safe school climate officer, Advisory classes at the high school, social workers in all buildings, CHC counseling in all buildings, the EWPS partnership with the EWPD, and new safety policies including the ability to conduct searches with dogs which was approved in December.

In addition, Chief DeMarco and Dr. Kane are requesting a School Resource Officer (SRO) be funded through their budgets. (This request was made prior to the recent tragedy.) The community previously had a SRO through a grant, but when the grant ended, the community did not fund the position. They plan to bring this before the town for an added appropriation so it can be started right away.

This is a community issue. Dr. Kane has resources available regarding school-based services for anyone who may request such information and offered packets of available services to those attending the Board's meeting. The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits school staff from speaking about students and their programs. Dr. Kane stated she realizes it can be frustrating to parents and the community that information is released on a need-to-know basis only.

The Community Resources Evening will be conducted in three parts. The first will include speakers to provide information. The second will include booths, both manned and unmanned, where those attending can gather information on services available. The last will be breakout sessions where small group discussions will be held that will allow for more interactive questioning and discussion.

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT

A copy of the current personnel report was provided and made part of the record.

IX. FINANCIAL REPORT

M. Chapulis reported the state's estimate for the excess cost grant is \$290,000 which is lower than last year and significantly lower than this year's projections. A more thorough explanation will be provided at the BOE budget workshop On March 3, 2014.

X. CURRICULUM REPORT

The Board was invited to attend a presentation for parents regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment in the EWHS auditorium at 6:00 p.m., prior to their meeting. Mrs. DeBarge provided a brief overview of the presentation. Mrs. DeBarge informed the Board that this year will be a field test and districts will not be held accountable for student results. The state will be looking at test statistics and will do an analysis of the test in order to help with its development.

Taking the test this first year provides EWPS with the opportunity to test our technology and make adjustments to process, networks or hardware if issues arise. This will better position EWPS for when the Smarter Balanced Assessment replaces the current CMT and CAPT.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE REQUIRED

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2nd by W. Raber, the Board conducted a second reading and approved the following policies: 1312a, 1312b, 2151, 9120, and 9320. The vote was unanimous.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE REQUIRED

2013-2014 School Calendar – Proposed Amendment – Given the number of snow days used thus far, the Board must vote to modify the current student school calendar from 182 days to 180 days. The staff will be required to work the additional two days. These days will be utilized for curriculum work and work associated with our transition to a one-to-one environment. At this time, we also need to be mindful that winter is not yet over and also need to consider the ongoing modular project. The Board will consider use of April vacation at their discretion, if necessary.

On a motion by N. DeSousa, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to amend the 2013-2014 school calendar as presented. The vote was unanimous.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

BOE Policies 3130 and 6141.321 (1st reading) – These policies were included in Board packets for their review. They will be included on their next agenda for a second reading and approval.

XV. LIAISONS' REPORT

K. Bilodeau reported the Education Foundation approved the technology grant submitted by Frank Lopes. They also approved money to the Little League.

Dr. Kane requested the Foundation discuss the use of Geissler's receipts. K. Bilodeau informed her that the topic had been discussed.

XVI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nick Macsata (Highland Avenue) asked the BOE to consider cost-free after school activities, bringing Health Ed in at the lowest levels and to consider adding the DARE program.

Andrew Vining (108 North Road) noted his concern that we do not currently have a DARE program.

Christine Duggan (34 Skinner Road) stated the DARE program was cut due to funding. She asked the community to consider reinstating the program, whatever it takes for funding.

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Marie DeSousa (10 Rice Road) asked if they would consider moving the Community Resource Evening to 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Grace Balula (Newberry Road) was sorry to hear the news via Facebook. She inquired as to how parents are notified of these issues. Dr. Kane stated the need to follow procedures based on FERPA guidelines. School staff is not allowed to talk about students and their programs.

Discussion ended due to FERPA guidelines. Nick Macsata asked if discussion could be moved into executive session. Dr. Kane informed the community that there are specific reasons to meet in executive session. This matter does not fall under any of those reasons.

XVII. MISCELLANEOUS

N. DeSousa suggested that parents should pay close attention to what children are doing on social media.

XVIII. CORRESPONDENCE

EWHS Honor Roll

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

XX. ADJOURN

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2nd S. Morgan, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeBarge
Recording Secretary

Catherine Simonelli
Board Secretary

Approved: 3/26/14