

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
May 10, 2017  
BROAD BROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Gymnasium**

**I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair C. Simonelli called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair C. Simonelli led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ATTENDANCE**

Chair C. Simonelli, Vice Chair Dr. G. Michna, Secretary R. Reichle, K. Bilodeau, N. DeSousa, D. Swaim, K. Carey-Trull, Dr. T. Kane Absent: W. Raber, S. Morgan

Also present: Dr. C. DeBarge, D. Casella, E. Keleher, K. Hellerich, D. Bidwell, students, parents

S. Morgan joined the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

**IV. VISITATION**

K. Hellerich and D. Bidwell introduced two of our three middle students in attendance this evening who participated in the recent CT Invention Convention:

Rebecca Syme - “Smart Sharpener”  
Vincent Hernandez – “Sud Stopper”

The third student, Nevaeh Hutchins, also participated, but was not able to attend this evening’s meeting. All three students went to regionals and states. R. Syme will be attending the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Chair C. Simonelli thanked Mr. Bidwell for inviting her to judge the school-wide competition again this year. She is looking forward to participating in the same capacity next year.

**V. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**VI. MINUTES**

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Morgan, the Board voted to approve the April 19, 2017 special meeting minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous.

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**VIII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no report this evening.

**IX. SCHOOL REPORT**

East Windsor High School – E. Keleher shared the recent events at EWHS:

- EWHS Supports Autism Awareness
- EWHS visits Dunkin’ Donuts Park
- 2 Students named CAS-COAC Outstanding Artists
- Students recognized at Art at the Capital

- Students named CAS-CIAC Scholar Athletes
- Students named Class S Basketball All-Stars
- “Student Spotlight” recognizes hard work by students
- College Visits
- Unified Sports Games
- United Bank Scholarship Recipients
- EWSHS Ranked #29 in the state of CT by U.S. News & World Report

Dr. Kane thanked the Board for supporting our needs to move the district forward, especially when there is opposition by community members to fund the programs that allowed us to achieve this ranking.

N. DeSousa thanked E. Keleher for “sticking with it” over the years. Consistency in administration is important.

E. Keleher presented the Board with a plaque representing the achieved ranking.

**X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE**

None

**XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION**

1. Updates:

- a. Broad Brook Elementary School Modular Project – Planting and sidewalk work to begin.
- b. Alliance District School Buildings Grant – Grant #1: Windows scheduled to arrive in mid-May. Additional asbestos will need to be removed, but it will not adjust the timeline. Grant #2: The grant has been approved and the projects will be moving forward.

Dr. Kane also noted the middle school roof project will be approved by the state next week. There is an accessibility issue that is being addressed: The high school is accessible, the middle school is not (locker rooms), the elementary school is not accessible (stage). We anticipate an audit at the middle school regarding accessibility.

- c. FY18 Budget – Dr. Kane noted the referendum failed on May 9. Discussion ensued relative to the 1% issue and an email received by J. Bowsza regarding reasonable controls on spending and the proposed Memorandum of Understanding. Chair C. Simonelli inquired if the Board would like to respond to the email, but it is not necessary as it was only his opinion. She also noted the BOS already voted not to create the Memorandum of Understanding and removed themselves from the issue. The BOF will need to determine if the fund is to be created. The 1% and non-lapsing account items should be on the May 17 BOF meeting agenda.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE**

Foreign Language Trip – April 2018 – On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by N. DeSousa, the Board voted to approve the 2018 Foreign Language trip to Spain. The vote was unanimous.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION**

1. U.S. News & World Report School Ranking – This item was discussed earlier in the agenda.
2. EWHS A.C.E.S. Program and the Impact of A.C.E.S. on Education - D. Casella provided information on Adverse Childhood Experiences (A.C.E.S.) findings and how they relate to educating diverse populations. We feel our work with this contributed to our impressive *U.S. News & World Report* ranking. Dr. Kane noted we received the award by moving underprivileged students along sooner than expected. She provided kudos to D. Casella for spear-heading our staff for the work they are doing for our students. He also provided a handout regarding information on the recent Netflix series, *13 Reasons Why*.

**XIV. LIAISONS' REPORTS**

None

**XV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**XVI. MISCELLANEOUS**

N. DeSousa shared a commendation she provided to one of our BBES custodians, Tony Kayser.

The inquiry was made as to whether or not we could fund the upcoming National Invention Convention registration costs.

K. Carey-Trull informed the Board of the EWMS musical “Oz” remix on May 19 and May 20. She also noted the EWMS Showcase Night at EWMS on May 17 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Kane reminded the Board of the Annual General Meeting of all Boards, Departments and Commissions on May 11 at Town Hall at 6:00 p.m.

S. Morgan informed the Board of the upcoming Car Show on 5/20 to benefit the dog rescue and Joe’s 10-year anniversary (in East Windsor) fundraiser.

K. Bilodeau noted the Art Award Ceremony at the Library on 5/15 at 5:30 p.m.

Chair C. Simonelli noted they will look into the email regarding the solar panels and report back to the Board with the findings. She also offered dates to Board members to conduct the superintendent’s evaluation and Board self-evaluation.

**XVII. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Calendars of Events
2. Enrollments
3. Correspondence Re: EWPS Smoothie Programs
4. EWMS *Wildcat*
5. BBES Newsletter

**XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Dr. G. Michna, 2<sup>nd</sup> by N. DeSousa, the Board voted to enter executive session at 9:54 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations. The vote was unanimous.

The Board moved to the BBES cafeteria.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:58 p.m.

On a motion by N. DeSousa, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Swaim, the Board voted to approve the ratified Contract between the East Windsor Board of Education and the CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 for July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020. The vote was unanimous.

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Swaim the Board voted to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalesnik  
Recording Secretary

Randi Reichle  
Board Secretary

**Approved:**