

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF  
June 10, 2015  
EAST WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL – Auditorium**

**I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman C. Mickey called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman C. Mickey led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ATTENDANCE**

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

Also present: Dr. C. DeBarge, E. Keleher, K. Hellerich, L. Foxx, Dr. P. Tudryn, D. Rouillard, M. Ryan, L. Slate, C. Desjardins (TMS), Student Representative, D. Couture, and community members

**IV. OUTSTANDING STUDENTS**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Outstanding Student Award recipients were introduced to the Board by their respective building principal:

Nevaeh Hutchins (Grade 4)  
Isabella Schaupp-Ryan (Grade 8)  
Sarah Martin (Grade 10)

**V. VISITATION**

Chairman C. Mickey introduced the 2014-2015 CABA (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Student Leadership Award recipients from East Windsor High School: Wayne Osborne and Ashley Paleski.

**VI. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**VII. MINUTES**

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by N. DeSousa, the Board approved the May 20, 2015 special meeting minutes, as amended. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2<sup>nd</sup> by N. DeSousa, the Board approved the May 27, 2015 regular meeting minutes, as amended. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Nelson, the Board approved the June 1, 2015 special meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

**VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Chris Rudolph, 252B South Main Street, spoke to the possible reduction in the Music Department as a result of budget cuts. He supports the district-wide program. He also spoke in favor of the request to name the EWHS auditorium after Mr. Shonty.

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David M. Stanco, 14 Sunview Drive, a senior at EWHS, spoke to his support of the Arts.

David E. Stanco, 14 Sunview Drive, voiced his support of the students who participate in the Arts.

Sharon Rodriguez, 197 North Road, expressed her support of the Music Department at EWHS and the impact the loss of the program would have on our students.

Leslie Jane Hunt, 105 Tromley Road, spoke in favor of keeping the full-time Music position and also spoke to the “Theory of Multiple Intelligences.”

Neil Callahan, 8 Deerfield Drive, a sophomore at EWHS, provided statistics relative to the benefits of music.

Teri Weed, 211 East Road, noted the importance of Music/Band/Drama in our students’ lives.

Haylee Renaud, 3 Fourth Street, shared a video of various EWHS Music/Band performances evidencing student involvement in the programs. Her hope is to retain programs for underclassmen participation.

Gregory Bourgoin – 161 East Road, a senior at EWHS, stated his concern with the possible elimination of the Music Department. He would like the underclassmen to be afforded the same opportunities he was provided during his four years at EWHS.

Rudy O’Konis, 19 Harrington Road, shared his personal experiences as a participant in the Arts at EWHS and how the programs provided him confidence for college.

Charlie O’Dell, 22 Pleasant Street, parent of BBES students, spoke to the lack of community participation at the June 9 referendum. He noted our schools will not get the necessary funding unless our community participates in the referendum vote.

**IX. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

D. Couture provided an update on recent news and events at all three schools.

**X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE**

1. BBES Modular Project – Chairman C. Mickey & R. Labrie provided an update on the BBES Modular Project. The following was reported:

- The contract with ModSpace has been signed by the EW Building Committee.
- ModSpace provided an updated project timeline.
- The four classrooms will be completed by January 6, 2016, with completion of the final ten at the end of May, 2016.

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Dr. DeBarge provided three options to reallocate students during construction and information regarding other considerations. Discussion ensued on the details relative to the pros and cons of each option:

1. Option 1 – Move Grade 4 to EWMS
2. Option 1.5 – Move Grade 8 to EWHS
3. Option 2 – Move Grade 4 to EWHS

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Morgan, the Board voted to hold off on a vote on this item until after Item XV, Public Participation (Part 2). The vote was unanimous.

Dr. DeBarge also noted the following:

- All affected staff will be notified of options.
- Parents will also be informed of the plan and feedback will be solicited.
- Board will vote on an option.

2. Budget Update – As the result of a failed referendum on June 9, an additional \$36,030 will need to be cut from the original budget presented to the Board of Finance at the first referendum, totaling \$631,996 in reductions.

The original Board approved budget presented to the Board of Finance was in the amount of \$22,744,190. With three failed referendums, it has brought our budget down to \$21,618,004; a budget decrease of \$1,126,000.

Dr. DeBarge noted the intent to preserve staff.

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Reichle, the Board voted to include the addition of the Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant position and the increase of the Nurse's position to full-time status (from the Needs List). The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made at 9:45 p.m. by N. DeSousa, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Simonelli, to meet past 10:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by N. DeSousa, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Nelson, the Board voted to pause the discussion on budget and move to Public Participation (Part 2) due to the late hour. The vote was unanimous.

Stacy Willey, 19 Perri Lane, recommended making no changes to the Music Department. On another note relative to the modular project, she mentioned she has a son going into 4<sup>th</sup> grade and asked for consideration in putting 4<sup>th</sup> graders who may move to EWMS on EWMS time and not BBES time. She also suggested collaborating with Town Hall to move the 4<sup>th</sup> grade there and move Town Hall staff to the Town Hall Annex or EWHS.

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Joyce Feeney, 19 Treetop Lane, voiced her concerns with the options to reallocate students:

- Academic performance
- Disruptions to students with arrival & departure times of 4th grade students to EWMS (should be on BBES time)
- Safety/Bussing – Who will ensure students will, in fact, arrive at EWMS?
- What happens to the annual celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade transition?

She encouraged the Board to use moving students as the last resort to resolve this issue.

Mary Hevner, 2 Napoleon Drive, Noted the FRC Summer Program ran at Scout Hall. She piggybacked Ms. Willey's idea of using the Town Hall Annex for offices. She also voiced her concerns with age differentials when deciding the reallocation of students during construction. Her final note was in support of the sports programs and her recommendation to retain them in the budget.

Marie DeSousa, 10 Rice Road, stated the community voted under the assumption that no students would be displaced during construction of the Modular Project. She suggested using the \$187,000 set aside for special education to cover some of our costs. She also spoke to talk in the community of our administration being "top heavy." Her final note was the recommendation to ModSpace to provide free project services as a tax write-off.

Jim Richards, 27 Pleasant Street, spoke to the lack of space in Town to move classes/offices. He noted the timeline is not convenient, but "it is where we are at." He trusts the Board will make the right choices.

Mike Bourgoin, 161 East Road, suggested looking at someone early in their career to "light a spark" in the Music program. It will bring new opportunity to the program at a lower rate.

Steve Smith, 7 Cobblestone Drive, noted the following:  
Cut it, outsource it, kill it.... Reality is cuts have to be made.

Chris Rudolph, 252B South Main Street, noted the FRC summer program at Scout Hall is considered a camp. He requested the Board to consider all aspects of recommended cuts when determining a bottom-line budget.

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Morgan, the Board voted to take a five minute recess at 10:48 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:57 p.m.

After much deliberation, the Board made recommended reductions. There is still the need for a \$58,000 reduction.

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On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2<sup>nd</sup> by P. Nelson, the Board voted Options 1.5 and 2.0 relative to the Modular Project off the table as alternative options for reallocating our students during construction of the project. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Raber, the Board voted to table the votes relative to the Modular Project and FY16 budget to their next meeting. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by N. DeSousa, the Board voted to adjourn at 11:18 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalesnik  
Recording Secretary

Randi Reichle  
Board Secretary

Approved: