

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 26, 2020
East Windsor High School – Room N4**

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chair C. Simonelli called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ATTENDANCE

In attendance: Chair C. Simonelli, Vice Chair R. Reichle, Secretary K. Carey-Trull, K. Bilodeau, W. Raber, D. Swaim, F. Neill, S. Andrews, C. Sevarino, Dr. C. DeBarge

Also present: Dr. P. Tudryn, D. Rouillard, A. Paquette, R. Syme, Student Representative, J. Jette, EWEA President, community members

IV. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

None

V. MINUTES

On a motion by R. Reichle, 2nd by K. Bilodeau, the Board approved the February 12, 2020 regular meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

R. Syme shared the news and events at all three schools.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE

1. FY20 Budget – Dr. DeBarge provided an update regarding the issue with the Hartford Choice reimbursement as discussed at the last BOE meeting. Hartford will be submitting payment for our services rendered to special education students without proof of residency verification this year, but it seems they will be looking for us to provide residence verification, prior to reimbursing us for our services rendered to students, next year. CSDE will continue to work on a resolution.
2. FY21 Budget – Our current budget proposal for next year is at a 6.11% increase. Our focus is based on “what can we continue to provide for our students?”

Cigna is talking about a 17% increase in insurance rates. We went back out to bid for insurance. One plan option would be to join the state plan which would save us an estimated \$700,000 = overall 32% savings, but all our district bargaining units would have to agree to sign on. We are awaiting information on other insurance options as well.

Dr. DeBarge reviewed the list of potential cuts provided to the Board. She noted that our Town Treasurer has been consistent in saying that we should apply for an added appropriation for any unanticipated need, emergency repair, etc.

K. Bilodeau noted she does not want to discuss all potential cuts at this time. Other Board members concurred.

East Windsor Board of Education
Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2020
Page 2

Discussion ensued as to whether or not they should just bring the 6.11% budget increase forward to BOF.

Chair C. Simonelli called a recess at 8:33 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to add all but the following items back to the budget as they are not needed for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Curriculum Instruction – Contracted services (licenses for Odysseyware)
- Special education coach – will not have the need to fill a vacancy
- Special education tutor – will not have the need to fill a vacancy

The Board provided kudos to the administrative staff for their efforts in putting this budget together, as they are aware how stressful it is for all.

Dr. DeBarge shared that she spoke to all sixteen (16) staff members who may be affected by the budget cuts, and noted she included in her conversation with each of them that it is also not the recommendation of the Board to cut their positions.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by R. Reichle, the Board voted to present a budget to the BOF in the amount of \$25,564,870, which is a 6.19% increase over last year's local plus the added appropriation. The vote was unanimous.

3. 2020-2021 Calendar Update – October 30 was inadvertently shaded on the original calendar and not counted as a student day when factoring in the required 180 days. The change has been made and the last day of school has been adjusted by 1 day to June 11.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by W. Raber, the Board voted to approve the update as presented. The vote was unanimous.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

None

X. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE

Healthy Food Certification

A motion was made by R. Reichle, 2nd by K. Bilodeau on the following vote: *The East Windsor Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held.* The vote was unanimous (9 Yes, 0 No).

XI. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

None

XII. LIAISONS' REPORTS

K. Carey-Trull reported her attendance at the recent CREC meeting and legislative breakfast.

Chair C. Simonelli also reported her and Dr. C. DeBarge's attendance at the legislative breakfast. One of the items discussed was the incentive to have districts sponsor minority professionals in an accelerated program to obtain a teaching degree and then commit to hiring them after completion of the program. She noted that being we have staff we may have to cut, we would not be able to participate in this program.

She also noted that she spoke with State Representative Carol Hall this week about fully funding excess costs and a modification to the formula. Currently, the formula uses a district's PPE but this is a detriment to small districts with a higher PPE. She suggested they consider use of a state average PPE instead. Representative Hall informed her she has already submitted a bill to modify the excess cost formula. Representative Hall also noted that she submitted another bill related to having budget funds follow a special needs student in the event they move to a different school district during the school year.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Barbara Petano, 12 Stiles Road, inquired about the budget amount, should they remove the appropriation figure from the town from the budget.

XIV. MISCELLANEOUS

Chair C. Simonelli informed the Board of the following budget dates:

- March 18 – BOE budget presentation to BOF
- March 25 – BOF Public Hearing on the FY21 budget
- March 25 – BOF budget workshop (BOE budget is included on the agenda)
(We will cancel the BOE regularly scheduled meeting on 3/25 to allow attendance by the BOE at the BOF budget workshop that evening.)

Chair C. Simonelli noted she would, once again, be judging the EWMS Invention Convention on March 3.

K. Bilodeau inquired what plans we had in place relative to the Coronavirus. Dr. DeBarge noted that we receive guidance from the North Central District Health Department and monitor what we already have in place as a universal precaution.

Dr. C. DeBarge informed the Board and public that nominations for the 2019-2020 EWPS Community Partnership Award will be accepted through April 3. Information on the award can be found on the homepage of the website at www.eastwindsork12.org.

F. Neill reminded the Board time is running out to vote for East Windsor student, Mark Feeney, on the Invention Convention Facebook page post.

XV. CORRESPONDENCE

Calendars of Events

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for a session this evening.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by F. Neill, 2nd by W. Raber, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalesnik
Board Secretary

Approved: 3/11/20