

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
April 5, 2017
EAST WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL – Auditorium**

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chair C. Simonelli called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ATTENDANCE

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

Also present: Dr. C. DeBarge, K. Hellerich, L. Foxx, D. Rouillard, M. Ryan, H. Thomas, M. Maltese, EWEA President J. Jette, BOS Liaison D. Nelson, community members

S. Morgan joined the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

IV. OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

The 3rd quarter Outstanding Student Award recipients were introduced to the Board by their respective building principal:

Gianna Hutchins – BBES

Allison Bancroft – EWMS

Isabella Puziewicz - EWHS

V. VISITATION

M. Maltese, Director, EW Parks and Recreation, introduced the 2017 Limerick Contest Winners to the Board:

Grades K-1: Thomas Bloznalis (not present)

Grades 2-4: Trinity Langan

Grades 5-8: Russell Williams

Grades 9-12: Kara Lanz

VI. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

None

VII. MINUTES

On a motion by R. Reichle, 2nd by W. Raber, the Board voted to approve the March 22, 2017 meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Emily Syme, 72 Windsorville Road, noted she did not have a problem with the Suffield Agri-Science program, but cannot understand why we would break past tradition and allow students to attend a program other than Rockville.

Bridget Beann, 33 Skinner Road, an 11th grade student at Rockville, stated she has not had any less of an educational opportunity by attending the Rockville FFA program.

Jennifer Syme, 72 Windsorville Road, noted her concern with the additional cost to the district relative to transporting students to Suffield. She also noted that Rockville relies on East Windsor to run their programs; sending students elsewhere will hurt their programs. She is not sure why the superintendent made this decision without Board input.

Valerie Galinski, 227 South Main Street, informed the Board her daughter was one of the five students accepted into the Suffield Agri-Science program. She spoke to the Suffield application process, and informed the Board her daughter has been in 4-H since grade 2. The animals she cares for are located in Suffield, so the Suffield program is a good fit for them.

Jason Bowsza, 121 East Road, noted he was informed of this matter through the BOF budget workshop and referenced language in state statute 10-65 (b) relative to the district's responsibility to provide vocational programs for our students. He requested the Board vote to establish a policy to outline this matter.

Chair C. Simonelli shared the contents of a written letter from Ms. Lois Noble (in her absence), 180 Wells Road, regarding her daughters current attendance at a magnet school and recent acceptance to attend the Suffield Agri-Science program in the fall.

Ryan Donahue, 19 Omelia Road, spoke to his daughter's interested in the agricultural programs and their recent visits to many of the available programs. He appreciates the superintendent giving students a choice in this matter.

IX. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Student Representative D. Couture shared the recent news and events at all three schools.

X. SCHOOL REPORTS

1. Broad Brook Elementary School – L. Foxx and M. Ryan outlined the BBES Empathy & Giving initiative:
 - Goal & Overview of Spirit Days
 - Student Charitable Acts
 - Student In-School Acts of Empathy
2. East Windsor Middle School – K. Hellerich and EWMS teacher M. Willard summarized the recent National History Day activities, including 2 student submissions to the Manchester National History Day Contest – “Taking a Stand in History.”

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE

1. Community Partnership Award – On a motion by R. Reichle, 2nd by D. Swaim, the Board voted to accept the Community Partnership Award as presented. The vote was unanimous.
2. Last Day of School – On a motion by S. Morgan, 2nd by W. Raber, the Board voted June 16, 2017 as the last day of the 2016-2017 school year (180 days) for students, pending no additional emergency days. The vote was unanimous.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

1. Updates:

- a. Broad Brook Elementary School Modular Project – Dr. Kane reported they are awaiting the installation of windows, which should occur in mid-May. We will be able to use a soft plastic barrier, as opposed to a hard barrier, while the abatement project is taking place, as long as students are not in that area. The re-do of the planting and sidewalks will also be scheduled for completion.
 - b. Alliance District School Buildings Grant – Grant #1: We are in the process of closing out the projects (by June 30). Grant #2: The grant was hand-delivered on March 30. We should receive notification in a month. Some of the projects will take place this summer, others will be done throughout the year, prior to June 2018.
 - c. FY18 Budget – Dr. Kane noted Chair C. Simonelli recently presented the FY18 budget to the BOF. No deliberations took place that evening, but the BOF later deliberated at a budget workshop and voted to give us a 2% increase over the FY17 budget. The BOF did not inform the Board that the BOE budget would be discussed at that workshop. The next BOF meeting is scheduled on April 7 to finalize the budget. Dr. Kane recommended the Town seek a legal opinion regarding the FOI regulations to discuss an item that is not included on an agenda. This may be a violation of FOI to discuss an item not on the agenda and also to take a vote when not on the agenda. She also informed the Board of the recent discussion to establish a 1% fund. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is not required; the BOF can just establish the fund and it would be a BOE account.
 - d. Foreign Language Trip – In wake of the violence in London, the Board was provided with a copy of the principal's letter to parents of students attending the trip. As it was the decision of the parents to send their children on trip, Dr. Kane wanted to inform the Board the trip is still on schedule for April 7-14.
2. Agri-Science Programs – Chair C. Simonelli stated the Board had previously discussed this subject and came to consensus in favor of Dr. Kane's recommendation. Dr. Kane also reiterated that in January she informed the Board of the parent request to send their child to Suffield Agri-Science program. At that time, she shared the following:

- Tuition is the same for all Vo-Ag programs
- Our van can transport our students to Suffield
- The CT Department of Education (CSDE) states a district can determine one or more schools as Vo-Ag choices for their students
- She spoke to both Vernon and Suffield superintendents. The only concern with Vernon is whether students are going elsewhere due to their disappointment with the Rockville program, which is not the case. It was conveyed to Dr. Kane, they are attending Suffield to retain their 4-H friendships.
- She stands by her decision to allow these students to attend the Suffield program. At the January meeting, it was the BOE consensus to allow participation in the Suffield program.

R. Reichle noted she is a Rockville alumnus and met her husband there. She is concerned of the demise of the Rockville FFA program. The tradition has always been “East of the River goes to Rockville, the rest go to Suffield.”

C. Simonelli noted she wishes all East Windsor students attended East Windsor schools, but that is not the case today with magnet and private school options.

Dr. Kane noted the Vernon superintendent did not comment this would hurt their program.

Due to the absence of a policy, Dr. Kane and the Board through consensus committed these resources to these parents.

Further discussion ensued on this matter, including the agreement that this issue was discussed among the Board when the inquiry was first made. This matter will be brought to BPR to establish a policy.

It was, again, the consensus of the Board to stand behind the commitment to the five families who have made application and have been accepted to the Suffield program for the 2017-2018 school year, and to establish a policy relative to this matter for future reference.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE

None

XIV. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

None

XV. LIAISONS' REPORTS

K. Carey-Trull reported her attendance at the BBES SGC meeting on April 3. She noted they are looking for additional volunteers to serve on the council.

XVI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Aly Angell, 12 Highland Avenue, reported she rides the bus for over an hour in the morning and 45 minutes in the afternoon. It makes for a long day for those students who are attending out-of-district schools.

Emily Syme, 72 Windsorville Road, also spoke to the length of time they are on the bus to and from school and requested it be researched with the bus company.

Christine Angell, 12 Highland Avenue, stated her daughter attends Rockville. She believes the recent decision is part of “back door” politics, being the decision has already been made. She thanked the Board for listening to their concerns this evening.

Valerie Galinski, 227 South Main Street, noted back in the day it was a tradition for only male students to be accepted to these programs. At one time, tradition broke to allow female students into the program. She also informed the Board and community that there is a short window of time to make application, interview, and receive acceptance or be

declined for the program. The program is not going to take away from either school. Giving choices may keep children in school. It was not their intention to hurt the Rockville program by making application to Suffield.

Glenn Reichle, 27 Harrington Road, stated he, too, is an alumnus of the Rockville program. He still does not understand why we are sending students to 2 different locations that offer the same programs and why we are spending the money to transport to both. Chair C. Simonelli reiterated our van could transport to Suffield at no extra cost to the district.

XVII. MISCELLANEOUS

K. Carey-Trull noted how impressed she was with the recent All-District Concert at EWHS.

Chair C. Simonelli informed the Board of a recent email she received from CAPSS Executive Director, Dr. J. Cirusuolo, which was sent to all Board Chairs regarding teacher pension costs being assigned to local municipalities. Dr. Kane noted she has drafted letters to our two senators on the district's behalf.

S. Morgan informed the Board of the Clam Chowder Event at the American Legion on Friday, April 21 with proceeds going toward EWHS scholarships. He also noted they are selling raffle tickets to raise money for the Veterans Memorial.

On behalf of the administration, Dr. Kane stated they are working with staff on how the schools will be participating in the 250th celebration.

XVIII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Calendars of Events
2. EWMS *Wildcat*
3. BBES Newsletter

XIX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for a session this evening.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by N. DeSousa, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalesnik
Recording Secretary

Randi Reichle
Board Secretary

Approved: 4/19/17