

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF  
May 14, 2014  
EAST WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL – Auditorium**

**I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman W. Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**III. ATTENDANCE**

Vice Chairman W. Schultz, R. Raber, K. Bilodeau, Dr. G. Michna, N. DeSousa, R. Reichle and Superintendent T. Kane. Absent: Chairman C. Mickey, Secretary C. Simonelli (She was in attendance at the BOF budget workshop on behalf of the BOE), S. Morgan

Also present: H. Thomas, Wendy Gage and community members.

**IV. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**V. MINUTES**

On a motion by W. Raber, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. G. Michna, the Board approved the minutes from the April 23, 2014 regular meeting with the requested amendments. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by W. Raber, 2<sup>nd</sup> by K. Bilodeau, the Board approved the minutes from the April 28, 2014 special meeting with the requested amendments. The vote was unanimous.

**VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Walter Kruzel, 21 Charmley Road, Enfield, a former student and current business owner in Enfield, was present at the recent dedication of the EWHS track to Mr. George Croft. He stated his concern about the shop condition and offered his assistance to bring the shop back to the “glory” it once was.

Jessica Johnson & Kara Denis (Girl Scout Troop #10116) spoke of their disappointment relative to the lack of library staff at Broad Brook Elementary School and the impact it has on student reading. Students are not able to sign out reading materials due to the lack of staff and allotted time for teachers to complete this task.

Theresa Denis, 45 Perry Lane, PTO Treasurer, spoke of her concern with the lack of tutors in the schools and the need to change the perception of the Town. She offered the assistance of the PTO in any manner needed. She provided kudos to the Board for the hard decisions they have to make. She asked for consideration to maintain/keep the current programs.

Sharon Rodriguez, 197 North Road, informed the Board and community her family recently moved to East Windsor from Alabama. Initially, she thought she would somehow enroll her children in the Enfield schools, being she purchased her home on the Enfield/East Windsor border. She has no regrets keeping her children here in the district, due to the help of Dr. Kane and Dr. Tudryn.

Steve Smith, 7 Cobble Stone Drive, a resident, parent and Ellington coach stated his desire to move out of town. He states the district has nothing to offer his children and, in his opinion, that they are being “sub-served.” He asked where the town stands relative to insufficient funding by the state.

Dr. Kane noted the Board feels conflicted with entering into a “back and forth” during Public Participation discussion. She stated the Board has a different opinion than Mr. Smith and will respond to his statement at their next meeting.

K. Bilodeau invited Mr. Smith to attend future meetings. She stated the Board does its best with limited funding, and that good things are happening in the district. Mr. Smith noted statistics state differently. The district may have wonderful plans, but with no resources. K. Bilodeau reminded him of rule #5 under Public Participation guidelines.

**VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no student representative in attendance at this evening’s meeting.

**VIII. SCHOOL REPORT – East Windsor High School**

Ms. H. Thomas, Assistant Principal, reported on the following:

1. Improving Reading Achievement
2. Courtyard Update
3. Track Dedication to Mr. George Croft
4. Athletic Field Grant (Urban Action Grant)

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE**

Wellness Policy Revision – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Raber, the Board approved the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Wellness Policy. The vote was unanimous.

**X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION**

1. Modular Project Update – R. Labrie and J. Giuliano were present to provide an update on the BBES modular project. Mr. Labrie was pleased to report they received all required state/town approvals required for the project and that they have initiated the bid process. Bids will be available to prospective bidders on May 16, 2014 with the scheduled date for bid opening on June 6, 2014. Mr. Labrie requested the Board vote to award the bid at their meeting on June 11, 2014.

Secretary C. Simonelli, S. Morgan, and M. Chapulis (TMS) joined the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

2. EWMS Roof Status - Mr. Labrie also provided an update on the EWMS roof project. He recently met with Kim Lord, Town Treasurer relative to the reimbursement rate/bond cost. The town cannot absorb the cost of the roof this year, but will be able to do so next year via Capital Improvement. If they were to move forward with the project this year the tax rate would increase. He recommended delaying the project this year and begin the project at this same time the following year. He confirmed the roof issues are not a structural problem, but a roof leaking problem. It does not pose a safety issue.
3. FY14 Budget Update – Dr. Kane reviewed a spreadsheet relative to the latest financial/budget status as provided to the Board and made part of the record. As of today, May 14, 2014, the district has a projected balance of \$22,658.
4. Health Clinic at EWHS Update – W. Gage reported the school-based health clinic will open on Monday, May 19, 2014, at EWHS. The clinic will be located within the nurse's office (without taking place of the nurse's office) and will service students that are sick, require physical examinations/immunizations, athletic physicals, etc., during the hours of 7:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. Students will enroll in the clinic via signed documentation by a parent/guardian. There is no cost to the EWPS or Town; it is strictly a grant funded program.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE**

None

**XII. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION**

1. Policy 1331: COMMUNITY Relations/Smoke-Free Environment – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading
  2. Policy 6111: Instruction/School Calendar – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading
  3. Policy 6141: Curriculum Design/Development/Evaluation – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading
- All three policies will be placed on the May 28, 2014 agenda for a vote by the Board.
4. FY15 Budget/Referendum Results – C. Simonelli reported the good news that the bottom line for the BOE budget has not changed as a result of the failed first referendum. They cut approximately \$500,000 from the amount of the first referendum. Those additional cuts were on the town side in the form of health insurance, i.e. new employees opting out of the insurance incentive, negotiations with dental insurance provider, restructuring and refinancing debt service, cuts to roads, salt, sand, etc. Old mill rate increase was .96, new mill rate increase is .29, the proposed new mill rate is 30.07, and BOF recommended budget is \$35,916,783, which is a 3.09% increase over last year's budget. The next referendum is scheduled on May 27, 2014. Kudos to the Town Treasurer for all the hard work by her and her staff.
  5. Urban Action Grant Program – Ms. H. Thomas presented this item in her school report provided earlier in the meeting.

**XIII. LIAISONS' REPORTS**

None

**XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Marie DeSousa, 10 Rice Road, stated she asked about the modular at the last Board meeting. She understood the project was moving along, but has seen no progress and was informed tonight it is just going out to bid. She also inquired if the EWHS health clinic would also become a community-based clinic. She would have thought the grant would benefit the community, as a whole, and not just students. She inquired about the ramifications of liability if the community was able to utilize the clinic. Dr. Kane provided clarification regarding the modular project. All the paperwork has been completed, in conjunction with the Town Building Committee, to make sure all deadlines were met. They opted to obtain the services of an independent evaluator to evaluate our project as not to prolong the process due to lack of state staff. It is noted directly in the bid that in order to be a successful bidder, they must be able to construct, deliver and provide occupancy on August 22 for the 4 piece modular and November 8 for the 10 piece modular. As for the health clinic, Dr. Kane reported that EWPS applied for a health center grant and was not awarded one. The EWHS health center is funded by CHC and grants they have received. Our liability insurance covers visitors to our buildings or events. CHS would cover any liability relative to treatment.

Steve Smith, 7 Cobble Stone Drive, asked for clarification on CHC and direct billing relative to the health clinic. He also inquired if the fallback incentives for the modular project bidder are in the form of money or percentage. He also asked what the % of unencumbered funds was relative to the budget balance of \$22,658. He stated that we better hope nothing happens to expend this money now to the end of the school year.

Therese Kowalksi, 21 Church Street, stated she was pleased to learn there were no further cuts to the BOE budget as of now. She inquired as to the next steps relative to layoffs.

**XV. MISCELLANEOUS**

Dr. Kane provided answers to questions posed by the public at the last BOE meeting regarding tutors, paras, number of students who visit the nurse's office and the duration of their stay.

W. Schultz suggested looking at the policy/procedure for replying to public participation.

He commented on one of Mr. Smith's comments relative to the district. He outlined all the programs, instructional changes, etc. that have been implemented over the past few years that prove there are good things going on in our schools.

W. Raber recommended reviewing the Use of School Facilities policy.

S. Morgan thanked Dr. Kane for reaching out to our legal counsel to verify the legality of postponing that start time of this evening's meeting.

**XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Morgan, the Board voted to enter into executive session to discuss the employment of an employee at 9:24 p.m. The Board convened in Room N-4 at 9:39 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:59 p.m.

On a motion by S. Morgan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Reichle, the Board voted to meet past 10:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2<sup>nd</sup> by K. Bilodeau, the Board voted to enter back into executive session at 9:59 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

The board adjourned executive session at 10:41 p.m.

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by S. Morgan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Raber, the Board voted to adjourn. The time was 10:41 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalesnik  
Recording Secretary

Catherine Simonelli  
Secretary

**Approved: 5/28/14**