

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2020**

**7:30 p.m. – Via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/126031477?pwd=NVk1MUFWcGJHQThsKzRoTW9WNnRjZz09>

Meeting ID: 126 031 477

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**I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

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

**II. ATTENDANCE**

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

Also in attendance: D. Rouillard, A. Anderson, T. Field, L. Foxx, A. Paquette, M. Maltese, D. Mosher, EWEA President J. Jette, community members

Absent: F. Neill

**III. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS**

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Swaim, the Board voted to add “Pledge of Allegiance” to the agenda. K. Carey-Trull - yes, D. Swaim - yes, R. Reichle - yes, K. Bilodeau - yes, S. Andrews - yes, C. Sevarino - yes, W. Raber - yes, F. Neill - yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was unanimous: 9 yes, 0 no.

F. Neill joined the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**IV. COMMENDATIONS**

1. Outstanding Student Award Recipients – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter award recipients were introduced to the Board by their respective building principal:

- Zachary Brey – BBS
- Ana-Lois Davis – EWMS
- Alyssa Saparone – EWHS

2. Crystal Apple Award Recipients – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter award recipients were introduced to the Board by their respective building principal:

- Francesca Fiore – BBS
- Alison Ellis – EWMS
- Steve Burndrett, Sean Couture, Ashley Marquis – EWHS

3. Limerick Contest Winners

The 2020 Limerick Contest winners were introduced by M. Maltese. Each shared their limerick with the Board:

- Gr. K-1: Niyan Coligan
- Gr. 2-4: Kassie Keyes
- Gr. 5-8: Ava Polastry-Jones (in absentia)

**V. MINUTES**

1. March 11, 2020 - Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by R. Reichle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by K. Bilodeau, the Board voted to accept the regular meeting minutes as presented. The vote was as follows:

K. Carey-Trull - yes, D. Swaim - yes, R. Reichle - yes, K. Bilodeau - yes, S. Andrews - yes, C. Sevarino - yes, W. Raber - yes, F. Neill - yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was unanimous: 9 yes, 0 no.

2. March 26, 2020 – Special Meeting Minutes

On a motion by R. Reichle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Raber, the Board voted to accept the special meeting minutes as amended. The vote was as follows:

K. Carey-Trull - yes, D. Swaim - yes, R. Reichle - yes, K. Bilodeau - yes, S. Andrews - yes, C. Sevarino - yes, W. Raber - yes, F. Neill - yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was unanimous: 9 yes, 0 no.

**VI. FINANCIAL REPORT**

A.Paquette reported an increase in contingency (surplus) with projected savings in utilities, due to the shut-down, as well as with spring sports transportation, Kelly subs, etc. However, we were recently notified a newly registered student will be attending an out-of-district program at a cost of \$34,000 for tuition through the end of the school year.

Dr. C. DeBarge noted the Governor’s recent Executive Orders related to salaries and contracts. We continue to pay our staff salaries and insurance, as well as our transportation and special education contracts. (All of our out-of-district programs continue to provide services to our students.) She has contacted Smyth Bus and CREC to draw up modified contracts through the remainder of the shut-down. She is awaiting information from both.

A.Paquette also provided a Food Service update. He noted the trends in the changes in expenses are working. There is an “uptick” in revenues compared to last year. We’ve been projecting an annual \$120,000 deficit - we are now down to projected \$91,000.

Dr. C. DeBarge informed the Board the EWPS Food Service Department has been using all food that was on hand before the shut-down to provide continued meals to our students (approximately 400 meals a day), which has kept expenses at a minimum.

**VII. CURRICULUM REPORT**

D. Rouillard provided an update on the district’s distant learning initiatives:

- BBES has moved to “See-Saw” as a different learning platform
- We are utilizing programs we already had in district
- EWMS programs going well in terms of programming
- Vendors have released free resources for teacher access
- All district teachers are researching their own resources and sharing with others through him
- Recently, we were fortunate to distribute 120 additional laptops to BBES and EWMS students who requested one
- Staff is working hard, long days to deliver lessons to our students

F. Neill requested another round of applause to all our staff for their hard work with distance learning.

The Board commended the staff for their hard work, as well as for the YouTube staff videos that were created by all three schools for the students.

S. Andrews inquired if the 4<sup>th</sup> term grades would be on a pass/fall basis.

Dr. C. DeBarge informed her she will participate in scheduled phone conferences with the Governor and Commissioner of Education for updates. They will be providing guidance on graduation ceremonies, grading, portfolios, college requirements, return to school date, etc. She will share the updates upon receipt. We are not sure what other states are doing. At this point, she is only aware that Massachusetts just started their distance learning. We are way ahead of the curve when it comes to the learning plan.

K. Carey-Trull noted her appreciation for the information recently sent to students relative to AP testing, as well as for the resources provided for test administration and studies.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE**

1. FY20 Budget – There was no additional information, other than what was reported in the financial update provided earlier in the agenda.
2. FY21 Budget – As reported during the financial update, we accrued a new cost due to the need for out-of-district programming for a newly registered student. Cigna Insurance renewal rate was reported at 16%. They are now offering the renewal at 9.5% which equals a \$168,000 savings from what was budgeted. This savings and the annual cost for the new out-of-district programming balance each other out.

Chair C. Simonelli reported there was a scheduled BOF Public Hearing and Budget Workshop this evening. A report was sent to them ahead of time, on our behalf, being we were not able to attend due to our scheduled meeting. She urges the community to email budget statements to the BOF.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION**

None

**X. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE**

E-Rate Resolution

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Reichle, the Board voted to approve the Resolution for Schools and Libraries Universal Services (E-Rate) for 2020-2021. This resolution authorizes filing of the Form 471 applications for funding year 2020-2021 and the payment of the applicant's share upon approval of funding and receipt of services. The Board :

1. Authorizes the filing of FCC Form 471, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Program Services Ordered and Certification Form for the services and/or products as detailed in the attached report, "E-Rate Requests, FY 2020", for the fiscal year 07/01/2020-06/30/2021.
2. Authorizes payment of the applicant's share subject to the following conditions:
  - (1) approval of funding of the discounted portion by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and
  - (2) receipt of services during the fiscal year 07/01/2020-06/30/2021.

The vote was as follows:

K. Carey-Trull - yes, D. Swaim - yes, R. Reichle - yes, K. Bilodeau - yes, S. Andrews - yes, C. Sevarino - yes, W. Raber - yes, F. Neill - yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was unanimous:  
9 yes, 0 no.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION**

None

**XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

W. Raber, in his role in the East Windsor Athletic Club and Youth Basketball, inquired as to how scholarships will be addressed.

Dr. C. DeBarge informed him the high school administration was working on this matter.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Swaim, the Board voted to enter executive session at 8:46 p.m. to discuss the superintendent's contract. The vote was as follows:

K. Carey-Trull - yes, D. Swaim - yes, R. Reichle - yes, K. Bilodeau - yes, S. Andrews - yes, C. Sevarino - yes, W. Raber - yes, F. Neill - yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was unanimous: 9 yes, 0 no.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Swaim, the Board voted to take a ten-minute recess at 8:46 p.m. The vote was as follows:

K. Carey-Trull - yes, D. Swaim - yes, R. Reichle - yes, K. Bilodeau - yes, S. Andrews - yes, C. Sevarino - yes, W. Raber - yes, F. Neill - yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was unanimous: 9 yes, 0 no.

W. Raber left the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Executive session began at 8:55 p.m.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Andrews, the Board voted to come out of executive session at 9:56 p.m. The vote was as follows: K. Carey-Trull - yes, D. Swaim - yes, R. Reichle - yes, K. Bilodeau - yes, S. Andrews - yes, C. Sevarino - yes, F. Neill - yes, C. Simonelli - yes. The vote was unanimous: 8 yes, 0 no.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Andrews, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting. at 9:56 p.m. The vote was as follows: K. Carey-Trull - yes, D. Swaim - yes, R. Reichle - yes, K. Bilodeau - yes, S. Andrews - yes, C. Sevarino - yes, F. Neill - yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was unanimous: 8 yes, 0 no.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalesnik  
Board Recording Secretary

Kate Carey-Trull  
Board Secretary

Approved: 5/13/20