

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF
August 24, 2016
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

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

Also present: Dr. C. DeBarge, A. Paquette, R. Labrie, EWEA President J. Jette, community members

IV. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

1. Special Meeting/Executive Session/Minutes – August 17, 2016
2. Policy Update: Student Parking Privileges

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to approve the added agenda items as listed. The vote was unanimous.

V. MINUTES

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to approve the 8/10/16 regular meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by R. Reichle, the Board voted to approve the 8/17/16 special meeting/executive session meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

VII. PERSONNEL REPORT

The Board reviewed and discussed the current report provided by L. Slate, Human Resource Director.

N. DeSousa joined the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

VIII. CURRICULUM REPORT

Dr. DeBarge provided an overview of the district professional development scheduled for the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year (August 29-September 1 for teachers and August 31 for paraprofessionals) and spoke briefly to the Smarter Balanced test results. A more detailed report will be provided at a future meeting.

IX. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Paquette reviewed and discussed the current report provided in Board packets. (He also noted the typographical error within the report regarding the BBES Principal's salary.)

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE

None

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

1. Updates:

a. BBES Modular Project Update/ b. Alliance District School Building Grant:

- Dr. Kane informed the Board of her participation in a walk-through of the building with administration and the EWPS Facilities Director
- Work is still underway
- The Project Manager and Town Inspector to conduct a walk-through on 8/26
- Bathrooms to be completed on 8/25
- Kitchen on schedule – to be put back together next week
- Abatement for AC unit being conducted (café/offices) and to be completed this week
- Main office may not be completed by the start of school (The back set of windows will not be in by the opening of school). Kudos were provided to the office staff for their flexibility in working in multiple areas during construction
- Carpet installation scheduled on 8/26
- Furniture delivery expected on 8/30
- Lockers completed
- Punch list being addressed
- Landscaping underway
- Paving completed near 4-unit
- Retaining wall near 10-unit complete
- Stairs done, but hand rails not yet in (ramps will be available)
- Certificate of Occupancy (CO) to hopefully be issued on 8/26, allowing teachers into the building on Monday, 8/29
- They are considering opening the building on Labor Day weekend to allow teachers to set up their classrooms (Dr. Kane stated she will petition the Building Commission for the project to pay for paraprofessionals to come in and assist teachers in setting up their classrooms, if necessary.)
- Town Planner, L. Whitten is not pleased with the air units on the 4 and 10-unit additions and believes there is a code violation. She has put her written concerns in the hands of the Building Commission
- There is \$500,000 in contingency that has not yet been earmarked from the bond that could be used to mediate this issue
- An inquiry was made relative to compensation for custodial staff for coming in over a weekend - Dr. Kane informed the Board they will be paid overtime

R. Labrie provided an update on the Playground:

- He noted the informal walkthrough by the Town & Fire Inspectors (He does not feel there will be a hold-up in receipt of a Certificate of Occupancy)
- He reminded the Board of language used to pay for removal of the rented modulares. He was able to get a reduction for removal from \$208,000 to \$120,942

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- He negotiated a contract with ModSpace (\$50,000 credit to be used at our disposal) for removing/installing playground equipment
- 2 pieces of equipment were not ADA compliant (taken out and not brought back in)
- Rickety “school bus” activity was disposed of due to age and safety issues
- One of the existing playscapes was deteriorated at the concrete ground level and was removed
- A new playground design was obtained and is to be approved by the Building Commission – If approved, completion is expected by the end of September
- He will ask for \$50,000 back from contingency from ModSpace
- He also looked into 160 ft. of wooden guardrail for additional protection
- A complete fence from the end of the playground to the end of the ball field would require 560 ft. of fencing (\$13,280) which should be Town funded (site prep/surfacing materials not included, i.e. mulch, playground surfacing)
- He also spoke to proposed grass area (no cost) as ModSpace will hydro seed which may result in a discount (Maintenance will not be an issue using current equipment.)
- He asked the Board to approve the design and recommend approval by the Building Commission

Discussion ensued regarding the surface material the students will be touching (other than rails) that could have the potential to burn them during the hot weather. Mr. Labrie informed the Board the material was constructed of plastic.

It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the playground and recommend approval by the Building Commission.

Discussion also ensued relative to installation of SmartBoards in the Broad Brook addition. The ones originally ordered do not fit into the classrooms. Therefore, an upgrade to Smart Tv’s is required.

- c. End-of-Year Budget – As a follow-up to the discussion at their August 24 meeting, Dr. Kane and A. Paquette informed the Board the associate auditor was not able to determine the discrepancy with the end-of-year budget. Our accounting system (Phoenix) shows the BOE spent down its budget, while the Town accounting system indicates approximately \$400,000 remains in the BOE budget.

The Lead Auditor will meet with A. Paquette and K. Lord on 8/25 to try to determine the cause of the difference.

BBES Open House and 65th Birthday Celebration- Dr. Kane informed the Board L. Foxx, BBES Principal, will be unavailable on 9/18, due to a family commitment, so an alternate date to hold the BBES Open House and 65th Birthday Celebration will need to be selected. She asked S. Morgan how he thought the Community Day Committee would receive the idea of holding the BBES 65th Celebration/Open House on the same day September 24th. It

was suggested she reach out to Jim Richards, Community Day Chair, to obtain his thoughts.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE

None

XV. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

Policy Update: Student Parking Privilege – 1st Reading- Dr. DeBarge reviewed the updated current policy. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed language/changes.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by R. Reichle, the Board voted to waive the second reading of this policy. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to approve the policy as presented with recommended changes, as discussed. The vote was unanimous.

XVI. LIAISONS' REPORTS

Chair C. Simonelli stated she heard the Car Show for the EW Police Department was well attended. R. Reichle and S. Morgan reported their attendance at the event.

S. Morgan noted his attendance at the recent town 250th Celebration committee meeting. They are exploring a logo for the celebration. Dr. Kane informed the Board the EWHS Art teacher was working with the committee on this initiative.

XVII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS

First Selectman, R. Maynard informed the Board they are in the process of making a new video on East Windsor. (The last one was made in 2008.) They will be looking to include a 60 second segment on the School Department.

N. DeSousa inquired if it was appropriate to contact the O'Konis student relative to his email to the Board regarding his fundraising initiative.

S. Morgan informed the Board the Veterans Council was still in the process of raising money for the war memorial and may not be able to reach their goal by Memorial Day 2017, but would look to conduct the ceremony in conjunction with the 250th Celebration.

R. Reichle informed the Board she had been contacted by a parent regarding the BBES Back to School Picnic and her concern with peanut allergies. Dr. Kane noted it was an outdoor event and that she will contact our district Nurse Leader to see what precautions will be taken.

XIX. CORRESPONDENCE

Calendars of Events (Schools and Town) were provided to the Board this evening.

XX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by N. DeSousa, the Board voted to enter executive session at 9:15 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, dismissal or the health of a public officer or employee, provided that such individual may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting, and to discuss contract negotiations. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted at 9:59 p.m. to come out of executive session before 10:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted at 10:00 p.m. to enter back into executive session. The vote was unanimous.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:30 p.m.

On a motion by N. DeSousa, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to accept the ratified contract between the East Windsor BOE and the Classified Personnel for July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019. The vote was unanimous.

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:32 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Randi Reichle
Secretary

Annie Kalesnik
Recording Secretary

Approved: 9/14/16