

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF
June 24, 2015
EAST WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL – Auditorium**

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman C. Mickey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman C. Mickey led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ATTENDANCE

Chairman C. Mickey, Vice Chair C. Simonelli, Secretary R. Reichle, K. Bilodeau, Dr. George Michna, N. DeSousa, Student Representative, D. Couture and Interim Superintendent Dr. C. DeBarge Absent: W. Raber, P. Nelson and S. Morgan

Also present: Dr. P. Tudryn, E. Keleher, H. Thomas, K. Hellerich, D. Rouillard, M. Ryan, T. Osoimalo, R. Labrie, J. Giuliano and community members

IV. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

None

V. MINUTES

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by Dr. G. Michna, the Board voted to approve the June 10, 2015 meeting minutes, as amended. The vote was unanimous.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dan Bell, 228 Scantic Road, spoke in favor of the Music Department and how important the program is to our students. He would also like to see the budget presented in “dollars and cents terms”.

Lisa Madsen, 36 Barber Hill Road, parent of an upcoming 8th Grade student, stated that her son claims “Music brings children together as a community.” He participates in Band and Music and it is her hope the Board takes full consideration before eliminating staff. She also thanked the Board for their support of our students.

Jill Turner, 89 Rockville Road, spoke to her inquires/concerns relative to the possibility of the Grade 8 move:

- Winter/summer concerts
- Daycare
- Age difference
- Busing

She commended the Board for the challenges brought before them.

Cindy Hermes, 12 Pamela Court, shared her experience and participation in Music when she was growing up and the importance it now holds in her daughter’s life. She stated students who participate in Music receive better scores in school. The Board would take possibilities away from students if they eliminated the programs and asked them to consider cutting other possible sources in lieu of these programs. She also thanked the Board for serving the community in their capacity.

Sarah Andrews, 144 Main Street, has a child going into Grade 8. He participates in sports, but was saddened to hear of the possible elimination of the Music program. On behalf of other parents in the community, she stated, “Music unites our community.”

Phyllis Barber-Smith, 46, Abbe Road, informed the Board her older children participated and benefited from the Music program while in school. She would like to see her other two children benefit in the same manner by retaining the program.

Stacy Willey, 19 Perry Lane, stated it is her hope Music at EWMS is not up for elimination.

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

D. Couture was present, but had no report to share this evening.

VIII. PERSONNEL REPORT

The Board reviewed the most recent report provided in their meeting packet.

IX. FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by Dr. G. Michna, the Board voted to postpone the report. The vote was unanimous.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE

1. Broad Brook Elementary School Modular Project Update – Dr. DeBarge reviewed the Modular Project Relocation document presented this evening, which outlined the inquiries posed by community members at the June 10, 2015 Board meeting. She also provided answers to questions posed by parents and received by email.

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2nd by R. Reichle, the Board voted to approve the movement of Grade 4 students to East Windsor Middle School, while maintaining a Broad Brook schedule for the 2015-2016 school year to accommodate the Modular Project. The vote was unanimous.

2. FY16 Budget – Dr. DeBarge informed the Board and community of her work with Mr. Goss and Ms. Canestrari relative to options for the Music program. Their recommended resolution would be the option of 2.6 staff members to cover the programs; 1 full-time position at EWHS (programs would remain intact), 1 full-time position at EWMS, and a .6 position for Grades 5-8 Chorus and sections of General Music. The Grade 4 students will be worked into one of the ensembles (4/5 or 5/6) when able.

Dr. DeBarge also reported on changes to the Guidance Department:

Due to a retirement in the Guidance Department, the full-time position was reduced to a .5 position (Grades 5-12), which allowed for a \$51,673 savings. Further review of the plan will be conducted to determine if additional services from our other staff, i.e. Social Workers, etc. will be necessary.

She also reported we have not reduced any current staff; therefore, we are able to reduce the unemployment line with a savings of \$10,000.

She also noted that we use the Bachelor's plus 30 (B+30), 5th Step as a base salary for budgetary purposes only.

S. Morgan joined the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by N. DeSousa, the Board voted to take the second Public Participation out of order to allow for further comments by the community. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dan Bell, Scantic Road, provided kudos to the Music Department staff for taking on a larger work load to keep the EWHS Music Department intact. He also provided the Board with kudos for making the difficult decisions and doing their homework.

Christine Rodrigue, 14 Sharon Lane, stated she was not pleased with the Board comment that they are sorry the public does not understand the budget calculations (made earlier in the meeting), but that she believes the documentation does not properly show the savings.

Stacy Willey, 19 Perry Lane, is happy to hear there will be continued orientation for Grade 4 students entering Grade 5. She would have liked to have seen a printed schedule for Grade 4 in this evening's presentation. She also asked for clarification about the nursing costs associated with keeping those students on the BBES timeline.

Mary Hevner, 2 Napoleon Drive, asked for clarification as to how the EWMS Music program will work.

Angie O'Konis, 19 Harrington Road, inquired if the EWMS Band/Marching Band will remain the same as it is today.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE REQUIRED (continued)

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2nd by K. Bilodeau, the Board approved the budget cuts as presented and further addressed: full-time Music position to .6 position, full-time Guidance position to .5 position, and the reinstatement of hockey and golf, while granting the administration the ability to increase the position(s), should the funding become available in the hiring process. The vote was unanimous.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

None

XII. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE REQUIRED

1. Regional Agricultural Education Consulting Committee – A vote is required by the Board to appoint Mr. Joseph Bonelli of Broad Brook, CT to the Rockville Regional Agricultural Education Consulting Committee to fill a vacancy for the Town of East Windsor.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by N. DeSousa, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Mr. Bonelli to serve on the Agricultural Consulting Committee with the condition they are afforded the opportunity to obtain an annual report and additional information if/when requested/applicable and specify the term of appointment. The vote was unanimous.

2. CT State Department of Education Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education Authorized Signatures Change Form – A vote by the Board is required to update the authorized signatories on these claim forms.

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2nd by K. Bilodeau, the Board voted to approve the authorized signatories on the two signature change forms as presented. The vote was unanimous.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION

None

XIV. LIAISONS' REPORT

None

XV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(Taken out of order and addressed earlier in the meeting.)

XVI. MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. DeBarge informed the Board the tree planting has been accomplished and the plaque has been ordered to honor staff at Broad Brook Elementary School relative to the September 2014 incident.

XVII. CORRESPONDENCE

Calendar of Events

XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2nd by K. Bilodeau, the Board voted to enter into executive session at 9:41 p.m. to discuss a pending claim and to discuss the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of a

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public officer or employee, provided that such individual may require that discussion to be held at an open meeting. The vote was unanimous.

K. Bilodeau left the session at 9:45 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:00 p.m.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by S. Morgan, 2nd by N. DeSousa, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Kalesnik
Recording Secretary

Randi Reichle
Secretary

Approved: 7/8/15