

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – Wednesday, August 28, 2019
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

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

Absent: F. Neill

Also present: Dr. P. Tudryn, E. Keleher, B. Kaminski, J. Jette, EWEA President, community members

IV. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

None

F. Neill joined the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

V. MINUTES

On a motion by R. Reichle, 2nd by F. Neill, the Board voted to approve the July 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. The vote was unanimous.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

VII. PERSONNEL REPORT

The Board reviewed the current report included in their packet.

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. DeBarge reported:

- Budget is still in motion at this time of the year
- We are finalizing the hiring process in special education
- We are awaiting the result of the Alliance grant
- Available funding amounts for Title I, II, and IV grants are not yet available
- Savings from new hires for the coming school year will likely offset the \$67,500 the Board opted not to cut from the budget
- We will continue to watch the kindergarten enrollment to ensure we do not have oversized class sizes

JV Sports Update:

- We received enough in community donations to post for a JV volleyball coach and run that program, pending student interest
- As donations come in and we accomplish the threshold to include another JV sport, our athletic director will keep the website, staff, and students updated

W. Raber noted he had in-hand donations to make this evening:
\$2,000 from the East Windsor Athletic Club, Inc.
\$500 from East Windsor Youth Basketball, Inc.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE

FY20 Budget – There are no changes at this time to warrant a vote.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

None

XI. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE

None

XII. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

Topics for Communication

As a result of the amount of misinformation that is being shared within the community, Chair C. Simonelli proposes the creation of a monthly fact sheet, in line with the Superintendent's Corner segment published in the monthly school newsletters, to address the following topics:

- Overview of special education
- In-district special education services
- Restorative Practice
- General education requirements
- Social/Emotional Behavior
- Budget 101
- Mandates
- Other services; ELA, Tutoring, etc.

How will this information be communicated?

- On our district website www.eastwindsork12.org
- Share link on social media
- Inclusion in monthly parent newsletter

The EWPS Facebook page is in the works, but needs to be created outside the district due to the fact Facebook is intentionally blocked to staff/students via our server.

XIII. LIAISONS' REPORTS

None

XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

XV. MISCELLANEOUS

E. Keleher stood before the Board and thanked them for their support of him and our students during his eight-year tenure at East Windsor High School. Mr. Keleher has accepted a position at Fitch High School, Groton, CT, beginning full-time September 30, 2019. He expressed how pleased he is with the progress that has taken place at East Windsor High School and that he will miss everyone.

The Board commended him for all his work and wished him well.

Dr. DeBarge reminded the Board that B. Kaminski, assistant principal, is in place and that Mr. Keleher would be with us on a part-time basis through September 27.

Her plan is not to conduct a search for a new principal until the winter, as the mindset is that we will not have a wide selection of candidates that would leave their district during the beginning of a school year, should we conduct a search now. Her intent is to sign an interim principal until a replacement has been hired.

S. Morgan noted had he not looked at his district email, he would have found out about Mr. Keleher’s new appointment via social media. Dr. DeBarge informed him that staff was informed, followed by an email to the Board.

Dr. C. DeBarge reviewed a list of projects that were approved for funding for our teachers through Donors’ Choose by Horace Mann. We received a total of \$6,580.78 in funding for our teacher requests.

Dr. C. DeBarge informed the Board of the new approach taken by the high school administration/staff relative to cell phone use in the classroom. A letter was sent to parents regarding the options that will be offered to students to eliminate the use in class. (The same expectation of no phones in the classroom will hold true for EWMS.)

K. Carey-Trull inquired about an update on the Food Service Department. Dr. C. DeBarge noted this matter would be up for discussion at their next meeting.

XVI. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Calendars of Events
2. Donors Choose Project Spreadsheet

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by S. Morgan, 2nd by N. DeSousa, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Kalesnik
Recording Secretary

Approved: