

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

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

7:30 p.m. – Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/97061810972?pwd=MEUrR0VKaG9JMkpZaWxWY3pRNEtLZz09>

Meeting ID: 970 6181 0972

Password: 541480

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,97061810972# US (New York)

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Meeting ID: 970 6181 0972

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aeDOgsv9Ef>

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chair C. Simonelli called the meeting to order at 7:33 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, W. Raber, F. Neill, S. Andrews, C. Sevarino, Dr. C. DeBarge

Also in attendance: A. Anderson, B. Kaminski, T. Field, C. Bava, L. Foxx, M. Ryan, A. Paquette, Student Representative A. Trull, EWEA President J. Jette, community members

Absent: D. Swaim

IV. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

None

V. COMMENDATIONS

1. Outstanding Student Award Recipients – 4th Quarter

The 4th quarter award recipients were introduced to the Board by their respective building principal:

- Benjamin Ferrick – BBS
- Aaliyah Trout – EWMS
- Jarod Witzke – EWHS

2. Crystal Apple Award Recipients – 4th Quarter

The 4th quarter award recipients were introduced to the Board by their respective building principal:

- Elyse Spielberg – BBS
- Alyssa Ivanoff, Bridget Green, Dawn Bourgoin - EWMS
- Nicole Walker – EWHS

VI. MINUTES

On a motion by R. Reichle, 2nd by W. Raber, the Board approved the May 27, 2020 regular meeting minutes. The vote was as follows: S. Andrews – yes, K. Carey-Trull – yes, F. Neill – yes, R. Reichle – yes, W. Raber – yes, C. Sevarino – yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was 7 yes, 0 no.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Karen Stovolone, 2 Juniper Court, commended the high school staff and administration relative to a recent 504 meeting to support her son. She informed the Board that there is no explanation on our website for parents as to how final grades will be calculated for students, although they are aware it will be pass with distinction/pass/fail. She and other parents feel it should be spelled out for parents and included on our website.

VIII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

A. Trull shared the news and events at all three schools.

IX. PERSONNEL REPORT

The Board reviewed the current report provided in their meeting packet.

X. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Paquette reviewed the updated report provided to the Board in their meeting packet:

- Numbers will be finalized from funding sources
- Review of revised projections and unencumbered funds
- As of 6/2, we are still holding with a projected surplus of \$583,579.87 – We are also making plans for purchasing required PPE, materials, and supplies
- We are financially where we expected to be at this time
- The federal government has lessened the restrictions on special education grants, i.e. carry-overs. We are still moving on as planned and will carry-over the allowed 2%

XI. CURRICULUM REPORT

On a motion by W. Raber, 2nd by R. Reichle, the Board voted to table this item. The vote was as follows: S. Andrews – yes, K. Carey-Trull – yes, F. Neill – yes, R. Reichle – yes, W. Raber – yes, C. Sevarino – yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was 7 yes, 0 no.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE

1. FY20 Budget
2. FY21 Budget

Both items were discussed under the Financial Report section of the agenda. No vote was required.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

None

D. Swaim joined the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE

1. Superintendent Evaluation – Chair C. Simonelli outlined the recent superintendent evaluation conducted by the Board based on the following categories:

- I. Educational Leadership
- II. Organizational Management
- III. Community and Board of Education Relations
- IV. Personal and Professional Qualities and Relationships

The evaluation was based on accomplishments according to our district goals. Chair C. Simonelli, on behalf of the Board, thanked Dr. DeBarge for her hard work, work ethic, and dedication. She commended her for all the work that was done this year, especially under the current circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. DeBarge praised our staff for their hard work and stated how grateful she is for her working relationship with the Board. She expressed her gratitude to the Board, staff, parents and community for their collaborative role in moving the district forward, and noted how proud she is to work for the EWPS.

On a motion by R. Reichle, 2nd by F. Neill, the Board voted to extend the superintendent's contract for 1 year, through the end of 2023, with a 2.25% increase in her base salary. The vote was as follows: S. Andrews – yes, K. Carey-Trull – yes, F. Neill – yes, R. Reichle – yes, W. Raber – yes, C. Sevarino – yes, D. Swaim – yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was 8 yes, 0 no.

Chair C. Simonelli noted Dr. DeBarge did not opt for a salary increase for this year and the Board thought it would be fair to provide an increase for the coming school year for all her hard work this year and associated with the pandemic.

2. Job Descriptions:

- a. Director of Buildings & Grounds - Dr. DeBarge noted the current position is a stipend position. She feels it should be outside of the union due to the supervisor and evaluative duties. This job description reflects the expectations of the supervisory and evaluative duties, as well as a high level of budgetary oversight, and will not have an impact on cleaning, repairs, etc.

On a motion by R. Reichle, 2nd by W. Raber, the Board voted to accept the new job description as written. The vote was as follows: S. Andrews – yes, K. Carey-Trull – yes, F. Neill – yes, R. Reichle – yes, W. Raber – yes, C. Sevarino – yes, D. Swaim – yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was 8 yes, 0 no.

- b. Director of Food Service – Dr. DeBarge noted this position was also a stipend position added to the current work load. She also feels it should be outside of the union due to increased budget responsibilities, increased trainings, evaluative tasks, etc. It is less than a full-time position being it is 40 hours a week for 40 weeks. This position was reflected at 30 hours a week according to a recent report from a consultant.

On a motion by R. Reichle, 2nd by W. Raber, the Board voted to accept the new job description as written. The vote was as follows: S. Andrews – yes, K. Carey-Trull – yes, F. Neill – yes, R. Reichle – yes, W. Raber – yes, C. Sevarino – yes, D. Swaim – yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was 8 yes, 0 no.

Both job descriptions will now go under personal service and will be removed from the union.

Dr. DeBarge and the Board members wished both current Director of Buildings and Grounds, Roger Baker, and current Director of Food Service, Perry Kokofsky well in their upcoming retirement.

XV. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

Reopening and COVID-19 Updates

Dr. DeBarge referred to the summer guidelines previously provided to the Board:

- We are working under the assumption that these guidelines will be put into effect for the fall so we have started planning in a conservative manner
- We are using information that has been heard in the “rumor mill” and from information received by the EWEA

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- We have looked at classroom square footage. According to the guidelines, we will only be able to accommodate 11 people in the classroom, including the teacher, para, students – Some areas are larger and may accommodate a bit more
- Transportation is a factor
- In working with the bus company according to the guidelines and based on current numbers, we can transport half of high school students and half of middle school students. Due to the high enrollment at the elementary school, transport would require 22 buses, which the bus company would not be able to accommodate. Only 11 students per bus would be allowed, compared to the prior 70 students per bus. We will await further guidelines and models that will be supported by the Department of Education
- Ordering PPE – All staff and students will be required to wear masks all day, including on buses
- Staff and students would be asked to provide their own mask, but we would need to provide one to those who arrive without one
- We've ordered infrared thermometers, plexiglass dividers to allow for appropriate distance between public and office staff, and we have arranged for installation of touchless faucets and paper towel dispensers
- We have started to re-open buildings to calendar year staff (administrators, secretaries, nurses, etc.). Each must sign up on a calendar on the days they have the need to be in the building, as to eliminate high volumes in the buildings according to the guidelines. The buildings will not be open to the general public
- Summer School – We are not in a position to guarantee we could implement all conditions for summer school, so students will not attend the program on site
- Credit recovery will be done online and monitored by a staff member, as has been done in the past
- The Extended School Year Program will be conducted virtually
- The State recommends offering support to students who were disengaged during distance learning to provide ongoing instructional support during the summer, i.e. ESL students, etc.
- Dr. DeBarge offered the Board the opportunity to participate on any of the re-entry sub-committees
- We can not establish a final plan relative to meals as we do not know how we will be re-entering until we receive further guidelines
- We continue to work with our head of the health district, Patrice Sulik
- We will look to evaluate our roll-out of distance learning to establish which areas we excelled in, and which we could improve
- Student engagement is one of our biggest challenges
- “Social Stories” for students are being considered so that students will know what to expect in classroom set-up and what staff will look like in PPE upon return
- As a means to limit student anxiety, we encourage parents to continue talking to their children to inform them that everyone will be wearing PPE upon re-entry
- We understand parent concerns for their children relative to re-entry

XVI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

XVII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Enrollment
2. Letter: Board Member Resignation – The RTC is aware of our Board vacancy. Community member, Heather Spencer has posed interest in the position and has been endorsed by the RTC.

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3. Article, “What Post-Katrina New Orleans Can Teach Schools About Addressing COVID Learning Losses

Discussion also ensued as to potential sensitivity or bias training that will take place regarding the recent racial incident across the country.

F. Neill informed the Board of her participation in a recent Pension Board virtual meeting. They have requested an RFP for investment services to address retirement plan options to staff.

Dr. DeBarge noted there will be a parade for the EWHS Class of 2020 at 6:00 p.m. on June 18. The offer was made to Board members to watch the parade in front of Central Office on South Main Street.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by R. Reichle, 2nd by F. Neill, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting. at 9:16 p.m. The vote was as follows: S. Andrews – yes, K. Carey-Trull – yes, F. Neill – yes, R. Reichle – yes, W. Raber – yes, C. Sevarino – yes, D. Swaim – yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was 8 yes, 0 no.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalesnik
Board Recording Secretary

Approved: 6/24/20