

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES
Special Meeting – Monday, May 4, 2020
7:00 p.m. – Via Zoom**

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I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chair C. Simonelli called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ATTENDANCE

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

Also in attendance: Dr. P. Tudryn, A. Anderson, B. Kaminski, T. Field, C. Bava, L. Foxx, community members

Absent: K. Bilodeau, F. Neill

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE

1. FY20 Budget
2. FY21 Budget

F. Neill joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Dr. DeBarge noted there have been updates over this past week that, despite the school closure, may be advantageous:

- All bargaining units have agreed to switch to state insurance, which would result in a \$464,515 budget savings
- Dr. DeBarge received information that the federal government approved a waiver that removes the cap on how federal funds are rolled over to the following year; i.e. FY20 funds from Title I, II, III & IV grants could now be rolled over to our FY21 budget (approx. \$380,000)
- The waiver, Cares Act funding (approx. \$160,000), and additional savings due to the school closures (i.e., fuel for transportation, teacher and nurse substitutes, etc.) may allow us to re-allocate funds to reduce or eliminate staff cuts and offset costs in areas of critical need for the upcoming school year - some of which were not anticipated prior to the pandemic. These areas include counseling and support for those students who need greater academic, mental health, or social-emotional services due to distance learning

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The Board stressed that while this silver lining from FY20 unused funds helps offset some of our original financial needs for FY21 and those we anticipate due to the closure, it does not address the long-term impact of budget reductions to the Board of Education's proposed budgets. The savings and Cares Act funds are only due to the current COVID-19 situation. This is not going to be a recurring situation in years ahead. At the time the budget was created, we had needs that were reflected in the budget presentation.

Dr. DeBarge noted that, as is done each year, she would like to notify staff as to the status of their jobs as soon as possible, as well as informing the community of the services and supports that will be in place for students in the upcoming school year.

On a motion by F. Neill, 2nd by D. Swaim, the Board voted to allow the superintendent to rollover FY20 grant funds and use local funds to pay for our current costs, and to revisit to address any additional costs, if necessary. The vote was as follows: W. Raber – yes, S. Andrews – yes, R. Reichle – yes, C. Sevarino – yes, D. Swaim – yes, K. Carey-Trull – yes, F. Neill – yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was 8 yes, 0 no.

On a motion by R. Reichle, 2nd by F. Neill, the Board voted to enter into executive session at 7:51 p.m. to discuss the superintendent's evaluation. The vote was as follows: W. Raber – yes, S. Andrews – yes, R. Reichle – yes, C. Sevarino – yes, D. Swaim – yes, K. Carey-Trull – yes, F. Neill – yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was 8 -yes, 0 - no.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered into executive session at 7:55 p.m., after a brief recess.

W. Raber left the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:20 p.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by F. Neill, 2nd by R. Reichle, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. The vote was as follows: S. Andrews – yes, R. Reichle – yes, C. Sevarino – yes, D. Swaim – yes, K. Carey-Trull – yes, F. Neill – yes, C. Simonelli – yes. The vote was 7 -yes, 0 - no.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalesnik
Recording Secretary

K. Carey-Trull
Board Secretary

Approved: 5/13/20