

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING OF
October 22, 2014
EAST WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL – Room N-4**

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. G. Michna, P. Nelson, N. DeSousa, S. Morgan, and Dr. T. Kane. Absent: N. Macsata

Also present: Dr. C. DeBarge, J. Houle (TMS), R. Labrie, R. Baker, and community members.

IV. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by C. Simonelli, the Board approved the additional agenda items: Modular Project Update and Honoring BBES Staff. The vote was unanimous.

V. MINUTES

On a motion by Dr. G. Michna, 2nd by N. DeSousa, the Board approved the October 8, 2014 meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Scott Cota, 162 Rye Street, inquired as to the method used to determine the recent snow removal/sanding bid award.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. Houle informed the Board of our current financial status:

- Results of operations for September have been posted to the TMS website.
- There are areas that show a deficit. Funding will come from grants/revolving accounts which will result in the form of transfers.

VIII. CURRICULUM REPORT

Dr. DeBarge provided an update on current curriculum initiatives as related to today's Early Release Day for PD:

- EWHS – Working on text-based questions and creating a rubric for assessment
- EWMS – Ongoing revisions to ELA/Math curriculum
- EWHS Social Studies - Looking at current curriculum and also new frameworks to collaborate with Common Core
- EWHS Science – Review of two additional assessments to use in lieu of the STAR assessment (how tasks link to the Common Core)

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE

None

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

Modular Project Update – Mr. Labrie was pleased to report they are out for project re-bid. He provided and reviewed the following:

- Revised Project Timeline (October 31 meeting changed to October 29, and time of meeting to be changed to 3:45 p.m., instead of 3:30 p.m., to accommodate the flow of bus traffic at school dismissal.)
- Preliminary Furniture/Fixtures & Equipment Timeline
- Project Activity Report (snapshot of what has occurred over the past 2 years)

Dr. Kane suggested the Revised Project Timeline and Project Activity Report be placed on the district website.

Mr. Labrie also confirmed both past projects reported as “open “ have since been closed.

Lastly, he provided an update on the window project. Due to a broken window by a student at Broad Brook Elementary, the request to have the windows tested for asbestos was addressed. The test results deemed positive. The exterior caulk contained asbestos. When replaced, it will need to be abated and the removal will need to be done accordingly. Dr. Kane and R. Baker reported the removal will take place on Saturday, October 25th. Notices have been posted at the school, on the district website, and via School Messenger to parents.

XI. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE REQUIRED

Bid Award – Snow Removal/Sanding – Dr. Houle provided the Board with a copy of the bid specifications. She reported the following:

- Two bids were received (Cota Construction, LLC & Ryan Industries, LLC) and opened in the presence of bidders
- Side-by-side analysis of bids was conducted
- Review of completion times/equipment lists
- Ryan Industries came in at a lower rate, with the exception of sanding. They have more equipment available to get the job completed

TMS made the recommendation to award the bid to Ryan Industries, LLC. It would be a one-year contract award with the ability to extend for two additional years.

N. DeSousa noted Ryan Industries, LLC is owned by a member of the EW Board of Selectman (Steve Dearborn). She inquired if this would be considered a conflict of interest. The Board was informed that we have used their services in the past. Dr. Kane stated consideration was given to price, equipment, and the ability to get the job done. Therefore, she concurs with the recommendation to award the bid to Ryan Industries, LLC. She does not feel there is a conflict of interest. However, she strongly recommends seeking a legal opinion. The Board could take a vote contingent on the outcome of the legal opinion.

The question was posed as to whether or not there were issues with the current contract (Cota Construction, LLC). Mr. Baker noted there were a couple of issues that had to be addressed relative to the readiness of the buildings in the recent past. He does not recall any prior issues with the services from Ryan Industries, LLC.

Dr. Kane stated this was going to be a politically difficult vote by the Board as both bidders are from town. She again recommended seeking a legal opinion regarding conflict of interest.

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to award the snow removal/sanding bid to Ryan Industries, LLC pending a successful legal opinion that it is not a conflict of interest. If the legal opinion states it is a conflict, then the bid will be awarded to Cota Construction, LLC. The vote was 7-1. (N. DeSousa voted in opposition.)

XII. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

Honoring BBES Staff – Dr. Kane informed the Board that plans for the EW Police Department to honor Elissa Danielle regarding the recent fox incident at BBES are complete. Chief DeMarco will honor her at the November 12, 2014 Board meeting. She recommended the Board also recognizes Ms. Daniele, Justin Piwonski, and Denise LaPre for their heroic efforts. The suggestion was made to honor them by planting a tree by the playground at BBES with a commemorative plaque at the base of the tree to include their names. All agreed.

XIII. LIAISONS' REPORT

K. Bilodeau reported her attendance at the Pension Committee meeting earlier this evening.

XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

XV. MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. Kane informed Board members of the cost to students for the upcoming international trip as requested at their last meeting. The cost without the discount for early sign-up and with insurance is \$2,830 per person.

Chair C. Mickey informed the Board of the Republican “Meet and Greet” taking place this evening at BBES.

XVI. CORRESPONDENCE

Calendar of Events

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to enter executive session at 8:29 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations with a contracted vendor.

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to adjourn executive session at 9:20 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

XVIII. ADJOURN

On a motion by C. Simonelli, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to adjourn this evening's meeting at 9:21 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalesnik
Recording Secretary

Randi Reichle
Board Secretary

Approved: 11/12/14