

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 10, 2019
East Windsor High School – Room N4**

**DRAFT
Amended 8/1/19**

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, S. Morgan, D. Swaim, F. Neill, Dr. C. DeBarge

Absent: W. Raber, N. DeSousa

Also present: Dr. P. Tudryn, E. Keleher, Student Representative, A. Trull, community members

A motion was made by K. Carey-Trull to add a GoFundMe option to tonight's agenda. Chair C. Simonelli informed the Board they would be discussing options later on in the agenda.

N. DeSousa joined the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

IV. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

None

V. MINUTES

On a motion by S. Morgan, 2nd by R. Reichle, the Board voted to approve the June 12, 2019 Special Meeting/Executive Session Minutes. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by S. Morgan, 2nd by R. Reichle, the Board voted to approve the June 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. The vote was unanimous.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Wendy Parker, 171 Greenwoods Lane, spoke in favor of JV sports and noted the positive impact it has on our students. She thanked the Board for volunteering their time to do what they do.

Chandra Campanelli, 2 Rye Street, started by sharing it is not her intent to ask the BOE to do a fundraiser to bring back JV sports but, rather, she is proposing a back-up plan in the form of a donation. She, too, outlined the positive impact sports has on our students and the negative alternative outcomes that may occur without them. She requested for the Board to make a motion to include a vote to accept a donation under the guarantee that it will be used for what it is intended, JV sports. She informed the Board that she already has a committee that is dedicated to raise funds (\$20,000) for this initiative.

Jeff Ostrout, 2 Rye Street, noted he is learning that the toughest job by the Board is to make budget decisions. He outlined his intent to start a GoFundMe page to raise funds to reinstate JV sports. He is aware Pay to Play is not viable this school year, due to the fact there is no policy in place at this time relative to the matter, and, therefore, requested the Board vote to allow a donation via the GoFundMe initiative.

Al Gelsomino, 351 Scantic Road, EWHS basketball coach, shared instances where sports has had an impact on students. He noted the positive aspects sports offer to the students, i.e. friendships, leadership, stability, purpose, structure, etc. He asked the Board to please consider an option to bring JV sports back to East Windsor High School.

Kristen Blume, 96 Stoughton Road, spoke as a parent and co-president of the EWHS Booster Club. She noted both her children benefited from sports and that her son will be playing baseball in college, including that he would not be where he is today without the compassion from his coaches, both on and off the field. She shared the mission statement of the EWHS Booster Club and the constraints they encounter relative to donations, fundraising, etc. She asked the Board to consider options to reinstate JV sports.

Sarah Andrews, 144 Main Street, stated the consensus is that we are going to lose our kids without sports. She spoke of co-op programs with other schools. When recently asked where kids hang out these days, the response was that they hang out at the school for up to 13 hours a day with their peers, teachers, coaches, etc. “It is their community.... Let’s do this for them.”

Kathy Parakilas, 12 Joseph Farm Road, parent of two students, one of whom attends EWHS, spoke to her family’s participation in sports as coaches, players, etc., She also spoke to the positive impact sports has on our students. She suggested options to bring JV sports back to EWHS and stated the community is ready to hit the streets to raise the money to do so.

An unidentified parent was also present in support of the French Foreign Language Program.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: VOTE

1. Implementation of the Healthy Food Option for the 2019-2020 School Year
On a motion by K. Carey-Trull, 2nd by S. Morgan, the board of education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. The vote was unanimous.
2. FY20 Budget
Due to the outcome of the referendum, and as a result of the Board reluctantly having to conduct budget cuts at their last meeting, Dr. DeBarge shared that contract bumping rights have since been exercised and concluded. She reminded the Board that they left \$67,000 of unresolved budget cuts on the table, which will be carried over for the start of the 2019-2020 school year. She informed the Board that we may have additional

monetary changes over the summer; i.e., change in insurance status for some staff, resignations, student move-ins/move-outs, etc. Only necessary supplies for the start of the school year are being ordered; i.e., paper towels, toilet paper, copy paper, etc. She also noted that summer is the time we will have students enroll in the district and that a press release for student registration will be sent out in the near future.

No vote was required on this topic this evening.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

FY19 Budget

Dr. DeBarge was pleased to report that we ended the year in the black in the amount of \$91,956.86. She also informed the Board the EWPS Food Service Department ended with a \$120,000 shortfall. We received a written report with recommendations from a consulting food service director, per a recent visit. We will review and consider the options and recommendations once our department staff has received and reviewed the report. Dr. DeBarge's final note was that, although it is not a desirable status, we are not alone in that many CT school food service departments run in the red at the end of the year. We've been asked to look at a food service company and the information is being gathered.

In reference to the management of the budget, and as we look at changes that may still occur over the summer, Dr. DeBarge inquired as to the priorities of the Board, should we be able to do so, to reinstate staff, etc. She inquired as to their top priorities?

Discussion by the Board ensued regarding the reinstatement of JV sports and the request for the Board to vote to accept a donation from funds raised by the community.

Concerns by the Board were raised regarding the timeline in which the community would have to fundraise the approximate \$19,000 to run the programs, and the deadline to schedule JV sports (August 1).

Dr. DeBarge inquired if there were to be a shortfall in funds for the donation to run the JV program, would the Board want to offset the deficit with BOE funds when we let teachers/tutors go as the result of the referendum?

Dr. DeBarge reviewed an outline of the BOE donation and fundraising policies and noted there are liability concerns and also policy language that would require updating regarding payment of stipends from donations to the student activity accounts.

On a motion by S. Morgan, 2nd by K. Carey-Trull, the Board moved to approve the high school JV and Varsity Basketball, Baseball, and Volleyball programs upon raising \$19,000 for named sports, upon raising the full funds, according to policies for fundraising for the 2019-2020 school year. The vote was 3 yes, 5 no. The motion was defeated.

After further discussion, a motion was made by N. DeSousa, 2nd by K. Bilodeau, the Board voted to allow the superintendent to accept donations for sports. The vote was 6 yes, 2 no.

Al Gelsomino noted he would donate his coaching stipend back to the athletics program.

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On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by F. Neill, the Board voted to grant authority to the superintendent to reinstate positions/programs, as to district need, should we end up with additional funding. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to meet past 10:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

IX. NEW BUSINESS: VOTE

1. FRC Grant Application

On a motion by S. Morgan, 2nd by K. Bilodeau, the Board voted to endorse the FRC (Family Resource Center) grant application submission by the East Windsor FRC Program. The vote was unanimous.

2. Pay to Play

Dr. DeBarge noted that there is no policy in place relative to this matter and that the following considerations need to be made:

- Legal review
- Cost analysis for each sport
- Financial impact on families

Principal Keleher noted that it would be the recommendation of the administration to eliminate the Pay to Play initiative because parents/students won't pay the fee, whether they can afford to or not, and it will impact the team/sport.

Dr. DeBarge noted that the Board Policy Review (BPR) sub-committee would visit this topic once required statistics have been gathered and we have had the time to investigate the initiative.

X. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

None

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jillian Hubbard, 40 Mill Street, spoke to reallocation and prioritization of funds. She inquired if there was a way for parents/community members to help search for grants for the district. Dr. DeBarge noted that grants are identified for specific purposes and that we cannot take something previously paid for by our budget and pay for it by grant funds.

Ms. Hubbard also noted her desire to volunteer at the elementary and middle school levels, where needed. She also shared that she has ideas on making the elementary and middle school stages handicapped accessible.

Dr. DeBarge shared that Dr. P. Tudryn, Asst. Superintendent for Student Services, also opted not to take a salary increase for the coming school year due to budget constraints. The Board commended him for his generosity.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

A copy of the letter from the EWHS Booster Club regarding the electric sign for the high school was included in the Board packet for review.

The Board members took a recess at 10:03 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:20 p.m.

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On a motion by N. DeSousa, 2nd by K. Bilodeau, the Board voted to enter into executive session at 10:21 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, dismissal or the health of a public officer or employee, provided that such individual may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting. The vote was unanimous.

Absent from the session: Vice Chair R. Reichle, W. Raber

The Board came out of executive session at 10:31 p.m.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to accept the Classified Employees contract as ratified. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by N. DeSousa, 2nd by S. Morgan, the Board voted to enter back into executive session at 10:33 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:35 p.m.

On a motion by K. Bilodeau, 2nd by F. Neill, the Board voted to change Superintendent Christine DeBarge' s contract to allow up to 15 vacation days maximum to rollover annually. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion by S. Morgan, 2nd by F. Neill, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalesnik
Recording Secretary

Kate Carey-Trull
Board Secretary

Approved: