

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Office of the Board Secretary
13 Swift Drive
Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey 08234

MINUTES

October 29, 2019

REGULAR MEETING

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Procedural: 1.1 Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

Procedural: 1.2 Open Public Meetings Statement

New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, on Friday, January 4th, the Egg Harbor Township Board of Education gave notice of this meeting to "The Press" and "The Current of Egg Harbor Township." Notice was also given, that day, to the Egg Harbor Township Clerk and posted on the bulletin board in Township Hall.

Procedural: 1.3 Roll Call

Members present

Kristy Bird, Pete Castellano, Tamika Gilbert-Floyd, Michael Price, Marita Sullivan, Amy Summer, Barbara Szilagyi, Ray Ellis, Lou Della Barca

Also Present: Dr. Kim Gruccio/Superintendent, Mr. John Davis/Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Santilli/Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Chandra Anaya/Registered Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Dr. Terry Charlton/Director of Human Resources, Mrs. Amy Houck-Elco/Board Attorney

2. RESOLUTION - EXECUTIVE SESSION - October 29, 2019

Action: 2.1 Recess to Executive Session at 6:06 PM

RESOLVED, that the Egg Harbor Township Board of Education shall meet in executive session on October 29, 2019 immediately, for the purpose of discussing Personnel, Litigation and Attorney-Client Privilege.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the discussion of each subject matter in executive session will be disclosed to the public when the matter has been settled, unless such is otherwise prohibited by law.

Discussion: 2.2 Personnel

Discussion: 2.3 HIB Case Review

Discussion: 2.4 Student Discipline Review

Discussion: 2.5 Attorney's Report

Action: 2.6 Reconvene Open Public Meeting at 7:03 PM

3. PUBLIC MEETING OPENING

Procedural: 3.1 Call to Order at 7:06 PM

Procedural: 3.2 Open Public Meetings Statement

New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, on Friday, January 4th, the Egg Harbor Township Board of Education gave notice of this meeting to "The Press" and "The Current of Egg Harbor Township." Notice was also given, that day, to the Egg Harbor Township Clerk and posted on the bulletin board in Township Hall.

Procedural: 3.3 Roll Call

Members present

Kristy Bird, Pete Castellano, Tamika Gilbert-Floyd, Michael Price, Marita Sullivan, Amy Summer, Barbara Szilagyi, Ray Ellis, Lou Della Barca

Also Present: Dr. Kim Gruccio/Superintendent, Mr. John Davis/Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Stephen Santilli/Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Chandra Anaya/Registered Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Dr. Terry Charlton/Director of Human Resources, Mrs. Jamie Shoemaker/Assistant to the Business Administrator, Mrs. Amy Houck-Elco/Board Attorney

Procedural: 3.4 Flag Salute

4. MINUTES

Action: Approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Egg Harbor Township Board of Education held on September 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2019

Motion by Kristy Bird, second by Marita Sullivan to Approve Minutes Items 4.1 through 4.7

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Kristy Bird, Pete Castellano, Tamika Gilbert-Floyd, Michael Price, Marita Sullivan, Amy Summer, Barbara Szilagyi, Ray Ellis, Lou Della Barca

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Presentations: 5.1 #EHTPride Superintendent's Monthly Report and Video
Dr. Gruccio presented the Superintendent's Monthly Report

Recognitions: 5.2 2020 NMSQT/PSAT Scholarship Competition
Ms. Patricia Connor, EHT High School Principal, recognized the students that were commended based on their PSAT scores

Mr. Ellis left the dais at 7:17 PM and returned at 7:18 PM

Dr. Gruccio continued to deliver the Superintendent's report, recognized Mr. Matthew Guenther for his daily acts of kindness, and also recognized Mr. Michael Price for his heroic act

Presentations: 5.3 NJSLA ACCESS DYNAMIC LEARNING MAPS 2019 Spring Assessment Report
Mr. John Davis, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Lily Moss, Supervisor of English/Language Arts and Mr. Gregory Ryan, Supervisor of Mathematics presented their data results and strategies for student growth and achievement in ELL and Mathematics

Presentations: 5.4 CTE Curriculum Presentation
Mrs. Carmelita Graham, Supervisor of Business, spoke about the Career and Technical Education Program

Mrs. Gilbert-Floyd left the dais at 7:43 PM and returned at 7:48 PM

Presentations: 5.5 Policy 5756 Presentation
Mr. Stephen Santilli, Assistant Superintendent, spoke about the policy process, in regards to Policy 5756 for Transgender Students
Mrs. Houck-Elco added that Mr. Santilli was referencing the 2006 Amendment to the New Jersey Law of Discrimination
Dr. Gruccio thanked the administrators for their research and presentations

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Reports: 6.1 Student Representatives, Nicholas Seppy and Grace Baumgartel, Report on School Current Events, School Sports, and Activity Achievements

7. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Information: 7.1 Guidelines for Public Comments at the Board of Education Meeting

Mico Lucide-24 Westover Circle-spoke about the Transgender Policy, thanked Mr. Santilli for his presentation and spoke about the penalty under the Comprehensive Equity Plan

Duncan Bevilacqua and Zakaria Senan-Drama Club EHTHS Seniors-asked about the Board's contribution to the playbill

Tom Biglan-Retired Local Police officer-spoke about transgender and gender confusion in brain development of young children

John Serbin-5071 Fernwood Avenue-spoke about transgender sports

Kevin Ray-Pastor in EHT-spoke about gender ideology

Dr. Natakia Chestnut Lee-spoke about the QSAC submission, Policy 9140 and a Citizen Advisory Committee

Mike-Retired Police Officer-spoke about the Transgender Policy and communication between children and parents, and also about NJ Statute 2C:14-4

George Riley-EHT Parent-spoke about cyber security, privacy and the Federal Law under FERPA, and asked to speak about a cyber security issue

Mrs. Houck-Elco recommended speaking about cyber security at the next comment portion of the agenda

Dave Sonnie-28 Poplar Avenue-spoke about Board Members roles and representing the people of the district

Noelle Hires-Clinical Social Worker at Cape May Tech-spoke about transgender in the Cape May district, training and education, and NJ Law

Mr. Della Barca demanded order to allow Ms. Hires to speak

John Hazelwood-EHT Senior-thanked the Board for the Transgender Policy

Deborah Ellis-EHT Resident-spoke about children changing in the bathrooms, and about DYFS regulations

Jennifer DiMaio-EHT Resident/Teacher-thanked the Board Members for their dedication and spoke about the Transgender Policy and teacher rights

Christina Brown-EHT Resident-spoke about child abuse, in regards to transgender students and Christian beliefs

Hector-EHT Resident-spoke about brain development in children

Melissa Tomlinson-4859 Hawthorne Lane-spoke about trauma in children, including transgender students and Board Members position to protect the children

Frankie Lane-EHT Resident-spoke about creating different facilities, and parent rights to inform their children

Dana Levin-EHT Resident-spoke about becoming educated about transgender

Mrs. Sullivan requested a break

Mr. Davis clarified scoring for NJQSAC Curriculum and Instruction

Mrs. Sullivan left the dais at 8:56 PM

Mr. Della Barca announced a five (5) minute recess at 8:57 PM

Meeting reconvened and called to order at 9:08 PM

8. FINANCE/OPERATIONS

Ms. Anaya gave an update on the vestibule project and informed the Board of future meetings that are to be scheduled for district Reorganization and possible proposals for Eagle

Action: 8.1 Transfers for Ratification 2019/2020

Action: Approve Finance Item #8.1

Motion by Barbara Szilagyi, second by Pete Castellano to Approve Finance Item 8.1

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Kristy Bird, Pete Castellano, Tamika Gilbert-Floyd, Michael Price, Marita Sullivan, Amy Summer, Barbara Szilagyi, Ray Ellis, Lou Della Barca

Action: 8.2 Bills for Payment

Action: 8.3 Purchases (per Board Policy #6421)

Action: 8.4 Out of District Travel

Action: 8.5 Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement

Action: 8.6 Accept Gifts, Grants and Donations (per Board Policy #7230)

Action: 8.7 Financial Report of the Board Secretary for August 2019

Action: 8.8 Board Report and Receipts and Expenditures for August 2019

Action: 8.9 2019/2020 Out of District Tuition - Special Education
Action: 8.10 Asset Disposals - District
Action: 8.11 2019/2020 Out of District Tuition Contract for McKinney Vento Act Students Sent
Action: 8.12 2018/2019 G.E.H.R.H.S.D. Transportation Jointure - Arthur Rann School
Action: 8.13 2019 G.E.H.R.H.S.D. ESY Transportation Jointure
Action: 8.14 2019/2020 G.E.H.R.H.S.D. Transportation Jointure
Action: 8.15 2019/2020 Professional Consultants
Action: 8.16 2019-2020 Atlantic County Special Services Transportation Agreement Addendum
Action: 8.17 2019/2020 University of Phoenix School Affiliation Agreement
Action: 8.18 2019/2020 Professional Development Services
Action: 8.19 Submission of the Security Vestibule Project Documents to the NJDOE

Action: Approve Finance Items #8.2 through #8.19

Motion by Marita Sullivan, second by Barbara Szilagyi to Approve Finance Items 8.2 through 8.19

Discussion: Kristy Bird stated her reservations on Finance Item 8.19 and her objection to not having Eagle on the plan
Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Kristy Bird, Pete Castellano, Tamika Gilbert-Floyd, Michael Price, Marita Sullivan, Amy Summer, Barbara Szilagyi, Ray Ellis, Lou Della Barca

9. PERSONNEL

Action: 9.1 Elimination/ Creation of Position(s)
Action: 9.2 Resignation(s)/ Retirement(s)
Action: 9.3 Transfer(s)
Action: 9.4 Appointment(s)
Action: 9.5 Leave(s) of Absence
Action: 9.6 Adjustment(s)
Action: 9.7 Approve Personnel items #9.1 through #9.6

Action: Approve Personnel items #9.1 through #9.6

Motion by Kristy Bird, second by Michael Price to Approve Personnel Items 9.1 through 9.6

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Kristy Bird, Pete Castellano, Tamika Gilbert-Floyd, Michael Price, Marita Sullivan, Amy Summer, Barbara Szilagyi, Ray Ellis, Lou Della Barca

Dr. Gruccio introduced the newly appointed staff members that were in the audience

Mr. Della Barca welcomed the newly appointed staff members and wished them luck in their new positions

10. POLICY

Action: 10.1 Policy 3159 - Teaching Staff Member/School District Reporting Responsibilities (M), (Revised), Single Reading
Action: 10.2 Policy 3216 - Dress and Grooming Teaching Staff, (Revised), Single Reading
Action: 10.3 Policy 4216 - Dress and Grooming Support Staff, (New), First of Two Readings
Action: 10.4 Policy 5111 - Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M), (Revised), Single Reading
Action: 10.5 Policy 5756 - Transgender Students (M), (New), First of Two Readings
Action: 10.6 Regulation 1400 - Job Description (M), (Revised), Single Reading

Action: Approve Policy Items #10.1 through #10.6

Motion by Barbara Szilagyi, second by Pete Castellano to Approve Policy Items 10.1 through 10.6

Discussion: Mrs. Szilagyi spoke about the Transgender Policy, informed the Board that she will give the Committee suggestions for the second reading of the policy, and spoke about having a Citizen Advisory Committee

Mrs. Gilbert-Floyd spoke about the Transgender Policy and the inclusion of ALL students and ALL people

Mr. Della Barca requested order to allow the Board Members to speak

Mr. Ellis spoke about including everyone for an open discussion to do what's right for the children

Mrs. Sullivan spoke about the bathrooms, and parents' rights in regards to the Transgender Policy

Mrs. Szilagyi withdrew her motion due to her disagreement of the Transgender Policy

Motion by Pete Castellano, second by Tamika Gilbert-Floyd to Approve Policy Items 10.1 through 10.6

Discussion: Mrs. Summer spoke about addressing concerns for the second reading of Policy Item 10.5 to discuss privacy and other options

Mr. Della Barca spoke about the District divided community and the Policy Committee's next steps with the Transgender Policy, and the District's compliance with the law to keep all students safe.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Kristy Bird, Pete Castellano, Tamika Gilbert-Floyd, Michael Price, Marita Sullivan, Amy Summer, Barbara Szilagyi, Ray Ellis, Lou Della Barca

No: Marita Sullivan and Barbara Szilagyi for Policy Item 10.5

Abstain: Ray Ellis for Policy Item 10.5

11. NEW BUSINESS

Action: 11.1 NJQSAC Submission

Action: 11.2 Broad Settlement Agreement Docket No. ATL-L-654-16 as Discussed in Executive Session

Action: 11.3 EHT PAL Shop With A Cop Event EHTSD Bus Usage on December 7, 2019

Action: Approve New Business Items #11.1 through #11.3

Motion by Michael Price, second by Pete Castellano to Approve New Business Items 11.1 through 11.3

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Kristy Bird, Pete Castellano, Tamika Gilbert-Floyd, Michael Price, Marita Sullivan, Amy Summer, Barbara Szilagyi, Ray Ellis, Lou Della Barca

12. OLD BUSINESS

Action: 12.1 Affirm HIB Determination Report and Student Discipline Waiver

Motion by Kristy Bird, second by Marita Sullivan to Affirm HIB Determination FMS01-1920 and Student Discipline Waiver D01-1920 as discussed in Executive Session

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Kristy Bird, Pete Castellano, Tamika Gilbert-Floyd, Michael Price, Marita Sullivan, Amy Summer, Barbara Szilagyi, Ray Ellis, Lou Della Barca

13. COMMUNICATIONS

Information: 13.1 Board Calendar

Information: 13.2 NJSBA Upcoming Events

Information: 13.3 #EHTPRIDE Festival Letter

14. COMMENTS

Mrs. Bird spoke about assumptions and the difficult role of a Board Member

Information: 14.1 Guidelines for Public Comments at the Board of Education Meeting

Christine Piper-Egg Harbor City Resident-spoke about transgender students, safety for the children and the Board following the law

Erin Kee-EHT Student-spoke about speaking to the students, the Transgender Policy and losing funding

Carrie Jorgenson-300 Ohio Avenue-spoke about struggling students and asked about plans to assist those students

Danielle Camp Smith-Northfield Resident-spoke about transgender students using the bathroom, participating in sports and the need for a definitive policy

Susan Fisher Brown-EHT Resident-spoke about transgender students, being taught to love and speaking to the children

Chrissy Martin-EHT Resident-spoke about teachers using numerous genders and pronouns, and spoke about the ramifications of the drugs and medications used by transgender students

Tom Douglas-Misty Lane Court-spoke about the Transgender Policy and in doing what's right for the school and speaking with the students

Jonathan Wilson-EHT Resident-asked about tracking the medication of transgender students that participate in sports, and parent communication

Debbie Off-EHT Resident-spoke about the having unisex restrooms, the required documentation for a medical accommodation as opposed to someone who is transgender and not requiring documentation

Judy Alton-EHT Resident-spoke about transgender students having a bathroom, and stated her appreciation to the Board for their effort and heart

Devin Morris-EHT Student-spoke about transgender students being afraid

Suzanna-EHT Resident-spoke about parents' rights and transgender students playing sports

Richard-EHT Resident-asked about distinguishing between home abuse and school abuse and staff training

Carl Mason-3057 Fernwood Avenue-spoke about transgender and class rank

Bob Dailyda-EHT Resident-thanked Mr. Santilli for the history of the Transgender Policy, spoke about the policy and involving the community

Mason Brown-EHTHS Student-thanked the Board for what they do and spoke about Transgender Policy and safety of the students

George Riley-EHT Resident-spoke about FERPA, state laws, everyone having a voice and a personal cyber security issue

Kim Riley-EHT Resident-spoke about child protection and bullying

Mico Lucide-24 Westover Circle-spoke about student privacy, parent/child communication and conversations about predatory behavior

Lisa Ziegler-Mother from previous meeting-spoke about being Christian and transgender students

Kevin Ray-Pastor in EHT-offered to assist in building bathrooms

Mr. Ellis left the dais at 10:23 PM

Information: 14.2 From the Board Members

Mrs. Gilbert-Floyd spoke about the public comments made, the next Policy Committee meeting, and about passion and landmark cases

Mrs. Sullivan stated a Transgender Policy is needed, recommendations will be made and spoke about safety for all children

Mrs. Houck-Elco spoke about the NJSIAA state agency rules regarding transgender students playing sports

Information: 14.3 From Administration

None

Mr. Ellis returned to the dais at 10:31 PM

15. ADJOURNMENT

Action: 15.1 Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Marita Sullivan, second by Amy Summer to Adjourn the Meeting

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Kristy Bird, Pete Castellano, Tamika Gilbert-Floyd, Michael Price, Marita Sullivan, Amy Summer, Barbara Szilagyi, Ray Ellis, Lou Della Barca

Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 10:32 PM

Respectfully Submitted.

Chandra D. Anaya, CPA
Registered School Business Administrator/Board Secretary