

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2015

Executive Session – 6:30 p.m.

Public Meeting – 8:00 p.m.

Branchburg Municipal Building

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m. by Board Vice President, Patricia Santos, who stated that the meeting was convened in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, the Sunshine Law; notices were sent to the *Courier News*, filed with the Township Clerk and posted in the Branchburg Township Schools.

The following members of the Board of Education were present: Zoltan Ambrus, Jack Dempsey, Theresa Joyce, Cathy Palmieri, Olga Phelps, and Patricia Santos.

The following members were absent: Carmela Noto, David Rehe, and Jose-Ramon Suarez.

Also present were: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol Kelley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary Theresa Linskey, and no members of the public.

II. The assembly saluted the flag.

III. Statement of Adequate Notice

IV. The Secretary called the roll.

V. CALL TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Palmieri, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to convene at 6:30 p.m. to executive session to discuss personnel, H.I.B., and legal issues.

On a motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Palmieri, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to adjourn executive session at 7:55 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Palmieri, and carried unanimously, the Board reconvened to public session at 8:02 p.m. with approximately 30 members of the public.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kelley congratulated the middle school students who participated in the Lighthouse Regional Competition for Odyssey of the Mind.

Dr. Kelley invited the Odyssey of the Mind group advisor, Mrs. Suzanne Updegrave and the students to introduce themselves and share with the Board and the community how their participation in this activity impacted them as a learner.

Mrs. Updegrave thanked the Board for inviting her and her students to attend the board meeting, and invited them to the state finals in Haddonfield, New Jersey on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

Dr. Kelley thanked Mrs. Updegrave and the students for coming to the board meeting.

Mr. Matthew Barbosa, Principal of Branchburg Central Middle School, Ms. Kristen Kries, Vice Principal of Branchburg Central Middle School, and Mrs. Karen Dudley, Supervisor of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and the Arts (STEM) did a presentation on the proposed changes to the middle school schedule for the upcoming school year. After the presentation, the administrators addressed questions presented to them by the Board.

Dr. Kelley spoke about the proposed two tier bussing recommendation. She said this recommendation will be able to be made without changing the starting and ending time for Whiton Elementary School.

Dr. Kelley thanked Ms. Linskey, the district's Business Administrator and Mr. Cline, the district's Transportation Supervisor for their hard work on the two tier bussing recommendation.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Paul Noone addressed the Board with his concerns regarding the PARCC preparation costs, the declining enrollment, the possible cut in staff, and teacher prep times.

Mr. Tim Spork addressed the Board and expressed his concerns over the proposed 2015-2016 Branchburg Central Middle School schedule and the elimination of technology teachers.

Ms. Noel Maroon invited Dr. Kelley and the Board to the Stony Brook School Spring Concert being held on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Branchburg Central Middle School large gym.

Ms. Robyn Abramo expressed her concerns over the elimination of the technology teachers and the additional workload that may fall on the other teachers. She also expressed her disagreement with the elimination of the strings program.

Mr. Sean Andersen thanked Dr. Kelley and the Board for re-evaluating the two tier bussing schedule. He also asked the Board to review the line items and the rate increase potential for the proposed budget.

Ms. Marie Cinque, 8th grade Language Arts teacher at Branchburg Central Middle School, spoke about the language arts scores, as well as her concerns of the proposed 2015-2016 Branchburg Central Middle School schedule.

Ms. Adriane Domareckyj asked the Board for clarification of the RTI class. She also expressed her concerns over the elimination of the technology staff, and her concerns over the new class sizes. She also thanked the Board for keeping the hours at Whiton Elementary School.

Ms. Kim Lordi expressed her concerns to the Board about the elimination of technology teachers and the burden it may have on the other teachers. She also expressed her concerns over the purchase of new chromebooks.

Ms. Jill Geller asked the Board to clarify the percentage of students taught by GATE teachers.

VIII. GOVERNANCE

Motion by Mr. Dempsey, seconded by Mrs. Palmieri that Items VIII.A. through VIII.C. be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items VIII.A. through VIII.C. were unanimously approved by Roll Call.

A. Approval of Minutes

It is recommended that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of March 26, 2015.

B. Approval of Summer Hours

It is recommended that the Board approve the following summer hours for all District Offices: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, effective July 6, 2015 through August 21, 2015.

C. Approval of Bylaws on First Reading

It is recommended that the Board approve the following bylaws on First Reading:

Bylaw #	Title
0134	<i>Board Self Evaluation (Revised)</i>
0152	<i>Board Officers (Revised)</i>

IX. EDUCATION

Motion by Mr. Dempsey, seconded by Mrs. Palmieri that Items IX.A. through IX.C., as amended, be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items IX.A. through IX.C., as amended, were unanimously approved by Roll Call.

There was no Education Committee Report.

Mrs. Santos said the next Education Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

A. Conferences/Travel

WHEREAS, the employees listed below are requesting Board of Education authorization to attend the conferences/workshops listed below; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at stated function was previously approved by the chief school administrator as work related within the scope of the work responsibilities of the attendee and within the funds budgeted for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at the function was approved as promoting delivery of instruction or furthering efficient operation of the school district; and fiscally prudent;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes attendance at the stated conferences/workshops and reimbursement for the related expenses in accordance with Board policy on conference and workshop attendance.

Revitalizing Your Library Space to Enhance Your Library Program, Fairfield, New Jersey, May 20, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$235.00 (Account# 11-000-223-580-08-144)

Pauline Carl

Transportation Conference, Atlantic City, New Jersey, April 30, 2015 through May 1, 2015, Total Maximum Cost for all Participants - \$425.00 (Account# 11-000-270-580-07-000)

Robert Cline
Orlando Macario

Motivation Matters: Planning Engaging Literacy Instruction, New Brunswick, New Jersey, April 13, 2015, Total Maximum Cost for all Participants - \$110.00 (Account# 11-000-223-580-08-144)

Catherine Ellis
Amanda Roper

2015 Pediatric Mini Med School, Overlook Medical Center, Summit, New Jersey, April 9, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$116.00 (Account# 11-000-219-580-03-001)

Debra Warren

Teachers College Summer Reading Institute, Columbia University, New York, New York, August 10 through 14, 2015, Total Maximum Cost -\$965.00 (Account# 11-000-223-580-02-144 for FY16)

Kristen Murphy

B. Approval of Out-of-District Special Education Placement

It is recommended that the Board approve the following High School Out-of-District Special Education placement, School Year Program and Personal Aide, as noted, to be paid by purchase orders through the General Fund, and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

Program/Location	Student ID #	Tuition/Aide	Effective Dates
Union County ESC 45 Cardinal Drive Westfield, NJ 07090	#7411890574	SY: \$37,728.00 Aide: \$21,756.60 Total tuition: \$59,484.60	SY: January 5, 2015 through June 23, 2015

C. Approval of Education Policies on First Reading

It is recommended that the Board approve the following policies on First Reading:

Policy #	Title
<i>P2622</i>	<i>Student Assessment (M) (Revised)</i>
<i>P3212</i>	<i>Attendance (Revised)</i>
<i>P4212</i>	<i>Attendance (Revised) (formally P4211 – Attendance)</i>
<i>P5200</i>	<i>Attendance (M) (Revised)</i>
<i>P3218</i>	<i>Substance Abuse (M) (Complete Replacement)</i>
<i>P4218</i>	<i>Substance Abuse (M) (Revised)</i>

X. HUMAN RESOURCES

Motion by Mr. Ambrus, seconded by Mrs. Joyce that Items X.A. through X.E., be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items X.A. through X.E. were unanimously approved by Roll Call.

There was no Human Resources Committee report.

The Board thanked Mrs. Carolyn Suarez for her 26 years of service to the district.

A. Approval of Revisions of Maternity Leave

It is recommended that the Board approve a revision to Item X.A.1. on the March 26, 2015 agenda to reflect a change of Maternity Leave as follows for Lisa Cashin, 2nd Grade Teacher at Whiton Elementary School, as noted, in accordance with provisions of the B.O.E./B.T.E.A. Agreement (which is in effect from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016).

Type of Leave	Original	Revised
Paid Maternity Leave	Effective January 12, 2015 through March 25, 2015	Effective January 12, 2015 through <i>March 24, 2015</i>
Unpaid Maternity Leave in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act/FMLA	Effective March 26, 2015 through June 18, 2015	Effective <i>March 25, 2015</i> through <i>June 18, 2015</i>
Unpaid Maternity Leave	Effective June 19, 2015 through June 30, 2015	Effective June 19, 2015 through June 30, 2015

B. Approval of Revision for a Step Correction

It is recommended that the Board approve a revision to Item X.F (Claire Lerner, School Psychologist at Branchburg Central Middle School) on the March 12, 2015 agenda to reflect a correction from Step 1, Level 182 to Step 3, Level 182.

C. Approval for Teachers to Work New Parent Orientation

It is recommended that the Board approve Kindergarten/First Grade Teachers, at the Whiton Elementary School, to work New Parent Orientation, April 21, 2015, at their per diem rate, for 1.5 hours each.

Christy Bitner
 Lisa Quinn
 Janice Apsley
 Amanda Roper
 Lisa Arencibia

D. Approval of Student Teacher

It is recommended that the Board approve Sarah Pawlak, an Elementary Education/Special Education Dual Major Student, at Seton Hall University, to student teach at Whiton Elementary School, effective September 1, 2015 through December 13, 2015, with the cooperating 3rd Grade Teacher to be Elizabeth Janiec.

E. Acceptance of Retirement Notice

It is recommended that the Board accept the retirement notice of Carolyn A. Suarez, part time Secretary to Student Services and part time Secretary to Instructional Services, effective July 1, 2015, with many thanks for her 26 years of dedicated service to the students and staff of the Branchburg Township School District.

XI. BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. Dempsey, seconded by Mrs. Joyce that Items XI.A. through XI.C., be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items XI.A. through XI.C. were unanimously approved by Roll Call.

Mr. Ambrus said the Business Committee met and discussed the implementation of a wrestling program and the concern of the available space in the building for the program.

A. Bill List

It is recommended that the Board approve the List of Bills for the period March 27, 2015 through April 9, 2015, totaling \$672,664.24, and ratify the Payroll for the period March 26, 2015 through April 9, 2015, totaling \$891,602.85.

B. Approval of Business Policy on First Reading

It is recommended that the Board approve the following policy on First Reading:

Policy #	Title
P8630	Bus Driver/Bus Aide Responsibility (M) (Revised)

C. Acceptance and Award of Bid for Cameras' and Equipment Supply Installation

It is recommended that the Board acknowledge the following bids for the Cameras' and Equipment Supply Installation project which were received on March 25, 2015:

Name	Base Bid #1	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt. 3	Alt. 4	Total
Tech Services	\$91,508	\$0	\$2,950	\$3,936	\$2,400	\$100,794
Triad Services	\$110,573	\$1,000	\$7,600	\$8,200	\$10,500	\$137,873
Haig Services	\$68,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$7,000	\$82,500

It is recommended that the Board award the contract for the Cameras' and Equipment Supply Installation project to Haig Services for \$82,500 to be paid through Account #12-000-400-450-01-612 and there are sufficient funds in the 2014-2015 budget.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

XIII. BOARD FORUM**XIV. BOARD LIAISON REPORTS**

Mrs. Joyce said the PTO met on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 where Dr. Kelley and administrators attended to talk about the proposed budget changes.

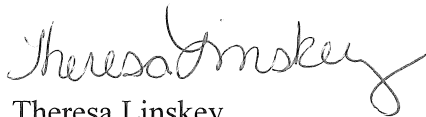
Mrs. Joyce said the next PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 where there will also be a preview of the Branchburg Cookbook.

Dr. Kelley said that at the next board meeting the final budget topic presentation will be given by Ms. Alison Watkins, Supervisor of Language Arts and Humanities, Mr. Frank Altmire, Principal of Stony Brook School and Rebecca Gensel, Principal of Whiton Elementary School. The administrators will be presenting the recommendations in the budget that speak to the district's priorities in helping students learn and grow at their own rate by individualizing instruction.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Ambrus, seconded by Mr. Dempsey, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theresa Linskey
Board Secretary/Business Administrator