

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 22, 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 6:37 p.m. by Board President, David Rehe, 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: David Rehe, Patricia Santos, Theresa Joyce, Zoltan Ambrus, Jose-Ramon Suarez, Cathy Palmieri, Olga Phelps, and Jack Dempsey.

The following members were absent: Carmela Noto.

Also present were: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol Kelley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary Theresa Linskey, Board Attorney David Rubin (Executive Session Only), 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 Mr. Ambrus, seconded by Mrs. Joyce, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to convene at 6:37 p.m. to executive session to discuss personnel, legal issues and to see an ethics presentation given by Board Attorney, David Rubin.

The Board reconvened to public session at 8:14 p.m. with approximately 41 members of the public.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kelley wished everyone in the community a Happy New Year.

Dr. Kelley stated that January was School Board Recognition Month. She asked the residents of Branchburg Township to recognize the members who sit on the Board for all their time and efforts in helping our school district, and for working hard to improve the lives of the children and the town.

Dr. Kelley provided the community and the Board with a mid-year update on the districts H.I.B. claims that have been received to-date during the 2014-2015 school year. She said she will provide a copy of the report to the district's webmaster to post on the website.

Dr. Kelley said there was a Wellness Committee meeting held on January 14, 2015. She stated that at this meeting each school had the opportunity to report on the activities that they had been involved with to give students more of a voice and to help students learn how to improve their conflict resolution skills. Dr. Kelley went over the report of activities to the Board.

Dr. Kelley thanked the staff and students for their collaboration and work on this very important task.

Dr. Kelley told the community that she shared with the Board, the State Assessment materials that were provided to her by the New Jersey School Board Association. She said if a parent has any questions, they can either email her directly, or email any of the school test coordinators to get a response regarding the districts guidelines that are in place pursuant to the administration of the upcoming State Assessment.

Mr. Rehe addressed the Board and the community regarding an incident which took place in late December 2014.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Angela McVierly thanked the Board for the service they have given to the Branchburg community.

Ms. McVierly spoke to the Board about creating a district policy relating to students who would opt out of the PARCC testing.

Mr. Tim O'Connor addressed the Board concerning transportation for the non-public school students.

Mr. Peter McCabe, in support of the other parents, addressed his concerns regarding non-public transportation.

Ms. Jacquelyn LaRoche addressed the Board concerning transportation for the non-public school children. Ms. LaRoche said she would like safe and healthy bussing for her children as well as the other children of Branchburg.

Ms. Kathy Zarzicki, in support of the other parents, addressed the Board and would like more effort to be made in continuing the conversation of non-public transportation.

Mr. Paul Jijak addressed the Board concerning transportation for the non-public school students.

Mr. Robert Foley asked the Board to consider all the children of Branchburg regarding transportation and to possibly set up a special committee to look into a solution for the non-public school students.

Mr. Scott Graber addressed the Board regarding the wrestling program proposal for a shared wrestling team program.

Mr. Mike Wooby addressed the Board regarding the implementation a wrestling program at Branchburg Central Middle School.

Ms. Tracy Gorki addressed the Board regarding the transportation of non-public school students and asked the Board to give their children the same degree of respect and support every student in Branchburg deserves.

Mr. Tim O'Connor addressed the Board concerning transportation for the non-public school students and would like a response from the Board as to what the next steps will be regarding this issue and if a detailed analysis can be provided to him.

Mr. Rehe requested the Business Committee and the Business Administrator to review non-public bussing.

VIII. GOVERNANCE

Motion by Dr. Suarez, seconded by Mrs. Santos that Items VIII.A through VIII.B, be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

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

Dr. Kelley went over the revisions to the 2015-2016 School District Calendar. At the request of Mrs. Santos, the change will be highlighted and noted by the district webmaster when the calendar is reposted on the district website.

A. Approval of Minutes

It is recommended that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of January 5, 2015.

B. Approval of 2015-2016 School District Calendar

It is recommended that the Board approve the 2015-2016 School District Calendar, which is attached as Reference VIII.B.

IX. EDUCATION

Motion by Mr. Dempsey, seconded by Mrs. Santos that Items IX.A through IX.B, be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

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

Mrs. Santos said the Education Committee met on January 12, 2015 and discussed the Strategic Plan. She said the deadline for the survey that was sent out to staff and parents has been extended to the end of January.

Mrs. Santos said February 13, 2015 will be a full in-service day for the teachers. She said they will be looking at RTI screeners, and that there will be some professional development around the screeners going forward.

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.

The New Jersey State School Nurses Association Annual Weekend Conference, Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel, Iselin, New Jersey, March 27, 28, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$239.00 (Account# 11-000-219-580-03-001)

Mary Caputo

Making Best Use of iPads and Apps to Strengthen Math Instruction, West Orange, New Jersey, February 25, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$239.00 (Account# 11-000-223-580-04-144)

Katie Fox

Assisting Students with Informational Text Reading: Word Study, Comprehension and Content Learning, The Westwood, Garwood, New Jersey, March 3, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$215.00 (Account# 11-000-219-580-03-001)

Debra Gesualdo

Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey, New Brunswick, New Jersey, February 27, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$390.00 (Account# 11-000-223-580-04-144)

Patricia Maloney
Victoria Gerry

Legally Compliant IEPs and Holding Compliant IEP Meetings, Monroe Township, New Jersey, March 9, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$170.50
(Account# 11-000-219-580-03-001)

JanMarie Motz

The Rutgers Reading and Writing Conference, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, New Jersey, January 23, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$180.00
(Account# 11-000-223-580-04-144)

Kristen Murphy

Practical Strategies for Occupational Therapists to Strengthen Functional Vision and Visual Perceptual Skills to Increase School Success, Long Branch, New Jersey, January 30, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$289.00
(Account# 11-000-219-580-03-001)

Diane Scholp

Making Best Use of the iPad, Mobile Devices, and Other Cutting Edge Tools to Strengthen Learning of Students with Special Needs, West Orange, New Jersey, February 25, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$285.00
(Account# 11-000-219-580-03-001)

Diane Scholp

Facilitative Strategies and Techniques: Moving Beyond the Single Word-Hands on Training, 380 Second Ave-9TH Floor, New York, NY, January 30, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$212.99 (Account# 11-000-219-580-03-001)

Randi Venturini

New Jersey Leadership Academy, Cohort 5, Foundation for Educational Administration, Monroe Township, New Jersey, February 20, March 26, April 23, 2015,(two additional dates TBD) Total Maximum Cost - \$775.00 (Account #11-000-221-580-02-189)

Alison Watkins

B. Approval of 2014-2015 Field Trips

In accordance with Board Policy #2340 – *Field Trips*, it is recommended that the Board approve the following 2014-2015 Field Trips for students as noted, the full cost of the trip to be covered by parent fees (transportation, entry fees, and any nurse or other staff member being paid extra for the trip).

Students/School	Trip	Date	Time
6 th Grade GATE	Philadelphia University of Penn. Museum of Archaeology	April 16, 2015	8:00am-4:00pm
6 th Grade	Fairview Lakes YMCA Camp, Newton, New Jersey	September 15, 2015	7:30am-4:30pm

X. HUMAN RESOURCES

Motion by Mr. Dempsey, seconded by Dr. Suarez that Items X.A through X.H, be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

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

There was no Human Resources report.

Dr. Kelley went over items F and G on the agenda, both relating to the February 13, 2015 in-service day.

Dr. Kelley discussed item H on the agenda. She said Michelle Gay, scheduled speaker for "Between Safe and Sound", is a parent who suffered a loss two years ago with the Newtown, Connecticut incident. Dr. Kelley said she would like to have this speaker approved at this Board meeting, however, she may want to change the date so more members of the staff, as well as inviting staff of local districts, can attend. Dr. Kelley said she will be working with Ms. Heather Mastroserio, District Safety Coordinator, and the district safety team in planning this event.

A. Approval of Substitute Teachers and Substitute Instructional Aides

It is recommended that the Board approve the following Substitute Teachers and Substitute Instructional Aides as noted effective January 26, 2015 through June 30, 2015 to be paid via Payroll through the General Fund, and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget:

Veronica Ferro-Andrade
Yara Freytes-Sanchez

B. Acceptance of Retirement Notice

It is recommended that the Board accept the retirement notice of Sharon VanGlahn, Instructional Aide, Whiton School, effective July 1, 2015, with many thanks for her 14 years of service to the students, parents and staff of the Branchburg Township School District.

C. Approval of Substitute Bus Driver

It is recommended that the Board approve Mr. Dietmar Kanzler as a Substitute School Bus Driver effective January 23, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at the hourly rate of \$16.50 to be paid via Payroll through the General Fund and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

D. Approval of Unpaid Leave for Branchburg Bus Driver

It is recommended that the Board approve a three month unpaid leave for Leonard J. Palumbo, Branchburg Bus Driver, from January 19, 2015 to March 19, 2015.

E. Approval of Submission of 2014-2015 Statement of Assurance Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2014-2015 Statement of Assurance for the Branchburg Township School District Regarding the Use of Paraprofessional Staff be and hereby is approved for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education.

F. Approval of Consultants to Provide Professional Services

It is recommended that the Board enter into agreement with New Jersey Teacher to Teacher, to provide a one day training session to teachers in grades Kindergarten through 5, on February 13, 2015, at a cost of \$2,800.00 to be paid by purchase order from Account# 20-270-200-320-02-648 (Title IIA:PD Consultant) and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

G. Approval of Consultants to Provide Professional Services

It is recommended that the Board enter into agreement with Lynda Fote, from Learning Plus, to provide a one day training to teachers in grades 6 through 8 on February 13, 2015, at a cost of \$1,500.00 to be paid by purchase order from Account# 20-270-200-320-02-648 (Title IIA: PD Consultant), and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

H. Approval of a Speaker on Between Safe and Sound: A Sandy Hook Initiative

It is recommended that the Board enter into agreement with Michelle Gay, of Safe and Sound Schools, April 22, 2015 to provide lessons learned from Newtown, Connecticut, at a cost of \$3,000.00 to be paid by purchase order from Account#11-424-100-300-01-013, and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

XI. BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. Dempsey, seconded by Dr. Suarez that Items XI.A through XI.F, be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

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

Mr. Ambrus said at the upcoming Business Committee meeting they will be discussing the 2015-2016 Budget.

Mr. Rehe thanked the Donors Choose Organization for their generous gift of two document cameras and one classroom library set for Whiton Elementary School.

A. Bill List

It is recommended that the Board approve the List of Bills for the period January 1, 2015 through January 22, 2015, totaling \$1,870,772.99, and ratify the Payroll for the period January 1, 2015 through January 22, 2015, totaling \$889,406.44.

B. Secretary's Report

The Report of the Secretary for December 2014 has been submitted for Board review. As required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(3) I, Theresa Linskey, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, certify that no line item account has been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations this fiscal year.

It is recommended that the Secretary's Report for December 2014 be accepted and filed, and the Board of Education hereby certifies that no major account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(4) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

C. Treasurer's Report

It is recommended that the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2014 be accepted and filed.

D. Line Item Transfers

It is recommended that the Board accept the list of Line Item Transfers for the month of December 2014.

E. Monthly Transfer Report

It is recommended that the Board approve the December 2014 Monthly Transfer Report.

F. Acceptance of Donation

It is recommended that the Board accept a gift of two document cameras and one classroom library set for Whiton Elementary School from Donors Choose.org with many thanks for their generous donation to the Branchburg Township School District.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Woobey addressed the Board with additional input for implementing a wrestling program in the Branchburg School District.

Mr. Graber addressed the Board regarding the implementation of a wrestling program. He said he would like the opportunity to meet with Dr. Kelley and members of the Board to discuss further options.

XIII. BOARD FORUM

Mr. Ambrus said he and Mrs. Santos attended the funeral service of Mr. Al Potter, past Board President for the Branchburg Township Board of Education.

XIV. BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Rehe said the Somerville Board of Education had their reorganization meeting where two new Board members joined the existing Board.

Mr. Rehe said Somerville High School named Mr. Jeffrey Vanderbeek, who is the owner of the New Jersey Devils, as co-coach for their football program. Mr. Rehe said, on the recommendation of the Somerville Superintendent and the Athletic Director, the Board approved Mr. Vanderbeek in a stipend position of \$1.00.

Mr. Rehe said the Technology Director did an overview presentation of the technology programs in the Somerville Schools.

Mrs. Joyce said the next PTO meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center of Branchburg Central Middle School.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Dempsey, seconded by Mrs. Santos, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to adjourn at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theresa Linskey
Board Secretary/Business Administrator

1/22/2015