

Branchburg Township School District

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 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 8:09 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: Zoltan Ambrus, Jack Dempsey, Theresa Joyce, Cathy Palmieri, Olga Phelps, David Rehe, Patricia Santos, and Jose-Ramon Suarez.

The following member was 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 Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Dr. Suarez, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to convene at 6:42 p.m. to executive session to discuss personnel, H.I.B., and legal issues.

On a motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Dr. Suarez, and carried unanimously, the Board reconvened to public session at 8:09 p.m. with approximately 25 members of the public.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kelley gave a presentation on a piece of the tentative 2015-2016 budget.

Ms. Linskey and Mr. Cline gave a presentation on the 2 tier busing proposal for the 2015-2016 school year.

Dr. Kelley, Ms. Linskey, Mr. Cline and Ms. Gensel addressed questions and concerns presented to them by the Board on their presentation.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Nicole Young expressed her concerns regarding the proposed 2 tier busing and new time schedule. She also expressed her concern of having older students on the same bus as the younger students. She asked the Board to reconsider the 4:00 p.m. dismissal time.

Ms. Andrea Carman expressed her concerns regarding the proposed 2 tier busing and the new school hours at Whiton Elementary School.

Mr. Matt Fleming expressed his concerns regarding the drop off and pick up time schedule. He also asked how bus incident reports are processed and generated.

Ms. Robyn Abramo expressed her concerns regarding the proposed new time schedules and making the Whiton Elementary School day longer for the students.

Mr. Scott Graber expressed his concerns regarding the proposed 2 tier busing and new time schedule. He feels this will also impact family time.

Ms. Anne Lemanski expressed her concerns regarding the proposed new time schedules. She also expressed her concerns regarding the parent pick up line at the end of the day getting longer so parents can get their children to their after-school activity.

Ms. Tracy Ramos expressed her concerns regarding the proposed new time schedules and also feels this would impact family time.

Ms. June Sina expressed her concerns with the proposed 2 tier busing and having older students on the same bus as the younger students. She asked the Board to consider putting an aide on the bus.

Ms. Adriane Domareckyj told the Board she is opposed to the proposed 2 tier busing and the extend school hours. She asked the Board to reconsider this proposal.

Ms. Tara Lewandowski expressed her concerns regarding the safety of the younger students on the bus with the older students, and also the safety of the children being dropped off at rush hour. She also expressed her concerns regarding the new time schedule.

Mr. Matt Fleming asked the Board if the tentative 2015-2016 Budget is on the website for him to review.

VIII. GOVERNANCE

Motion by Mrs. Santos, seconded by Dr. Suarez 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, with Mrs. Phelps and Dr. Suarez abstaining from VIII.A.

A. Approval of Minutes

It is recommended that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of March 12, 2015.

B. Approval of Revised 2015-2016 Preschool Student District Calendar

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

IX. EDUCATION

Motion by Dr. Suarez, seconded by Mrs. Joyce that Items IX.A. through IX.F., be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

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

There was no Education Committee report.

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.

Teachers College Summer Writing Institute, Columbia University, New York, New York, June 22, through 26, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$975.00 (Account# 11-000-223-580-02-144)

Anthony Aliperti

Teachers College Summer Reading Institute, Columbia University, New York, New York, August 10, through 14, 2015, Total Maximum Cost for all Participants - \$3,870.00 (Account# 11-000-223-580-02-144 for FY16)

John Gottshalk
Lauren Knoke
Randi Morin
Erin Rimmler

Teachers College Summer Writing Institute, Columbia University, New York, New York, August 3, through 7, 2015, Total Maximum Cost for all Participants \$987.50 (Account# 11-000-223-580-02-144 for FY16)

Lisa Cashin

Boiler Operator – Low Pressure Class, Kenilworth, New Jersey, March 2, 16, 30, April 13, 27, May 11, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$550.00 (Account# 11-000-262-890-10-456)

Keith Dunford

New Jersey Music Educators Association State Conference (NJMEA), Hilton Hotel, East Brunswick, New Jersey, February 19, 20, 2015, Total Maximum Cost for all Participants - \$310.81 (Account# 11-000-221-580-02-189)

Kristine DeNicolò
Kate Maiuro

Helping Students Meet or Exceed the Common Core Standards in Mathematics (Grade 6-12), La Quinta Inn, Somerset, New Jersey, March 24, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$235.00 (Account# 11-000-223-580-04-144)

Katie Fox

2015 Pediatric Mini Med School, Overlook Medical Center, Summit, New Jersey, April 9, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$50.00 (Account#11-000-219-580-03-001)

Janet Hoffman

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
5 th Grade	RVCC to see the Play, "Lifeboat"	May 1, 2015	9:00am-12:00pm
7 th and 8 th Grade	Spain 92 Restaurant, Raritan, New Jersey	April 23, 2015	11:30am-1:30pm

C. Revision of Resolution

It is recommended that the Board approve a revision to Item IX.A. on the June 21, 2014 agenda, to reflect a change in the starting and ending conference dates (February 22 through 26, 2015) and an additional \$793.00 to the originally approved maximum travel amount, to reflect actual costs vs. the estimated costs. (*Account# 11-000-230-580-01-303*)

Carol Kelley

D. Revision of Resolution

It is recommended that the Board approve a revision to Item IX.A on the December 18, 2014 agenda, to reflect a change of dates (from January 28, 2105 to February 6, 2015).

Juliana Wiedmann
Kelly Boyle

E. Approval of Literacy Consultant

It is recommended that the Board approve Jennifer Serravallo, Literacy Consultant, to work with teachers at the K-5 level, not to exceed eight days throughout the 2015-2016 school year, at a rate of \$3,000.00 per diem, not to exceed 8 days. (*Account# 11-000-223-320-02-225 FY16*)

F. Approval of Literacy Consultant

It is recommended that the Board approve Meredith Alvaro, from Staff Development Workshops, to provide four days of training to staff at the 6-8 level throughout the 2015-2016 school year, at a rate of \$1,500.00 per diem, not to exceed 4 days. (*Account# 11-000-223-320-02-225 FY16*)

X. HUMAN RESOURCES

Motion by Mr. Ambrus, seconded by Dr. Suarez 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.

A. Approval of Revisions of Maternity Leaves

1. It is recommended that the Board approve a revised 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 9, 2015	Effective January 12, 2015 through March 25, 2015
Unpaid Maternity Leave in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act/FMLA	Effective March 10, 2015 through June 2, 2015	Effective March 26, 2015 through June 18, 2015
Unpaid Maternity Leave		Effective June 19, 2015 through June 30, 2015

2. It is recommended that the Board approve a revised Maternity Leave, as follows for Michele Jordan, Instructional Support Teacher at Branchburg Central Middle 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 April 30, 2015 through June 18, 2015	Effective May 1, 2015 through June 19, 2015
Unpaid Maternity Leave in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act/FMLA	Effective June 19, 2015 through October 14, 2015	Effective September 2, 2015 through October 14, 2015

3. It is recommended that the Board approve a revised Maternity Leave, as follows for Leah Barron, Special Education Teacher at Central Middle 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
<i>Paid Leave</i>	<i>Effective March 16, 2015 through May 29, 2015</i>	
Unpaid Maternity Leave in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act/FMLA	Effective September 2, 2015 through November 25, 2015	Effective June 1, 2015 through November 4, 2015
Unpaid Maternity Leave	Effective November 26, 2015 through June 30, 2016	Effective November 5, 2015 through June 30, 2016

B. Approval of Maternity Leave

It is recommended that the Board approve a Maternity Leave, as follows for Kristyn Perello, 6th Grade Teacher at Branchburg Central Middle 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	Dates
Unpaid Maternity Leave in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act/FMLA	Effective September 2, 2015 through November 19, 2015

C. Grant Permission for Midland Adult Services Workers

It is recommended that the Board grant permission to use workers from the Midland Adult Services Program to assist with the maintenance of grounds and bus detailing, effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, at no cost to the District (*FY16*).

D. Revision of Approval of Unpaid Leave for Branchburg Bus Driver

It is recommended that the Board approve a revision to Item X.D on the January 22, 2015 agenda, to reflect a correction to the length of approved unpaid leave (from January 19, 2015 - March 19, 2015 to *January 19, 2015 - April 19, 2015*).

E. Approval of Substitute Teacher and Substitute Instructional Aide

It is recommended that the Board approve the following Substitute Teacher and Substitute Instructional Aide, as noted, effective March 13, 2015 through June 30, 2015 to be paid via Payroll through the General Fund, and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

Kimberly Melchione
Victor Arencibia

XI. BUSINESS

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

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

Mr. Ambrus said the Business Committee met and discussed the following subjects:

- The upcoming meeting with the Diocese of Trenton regarding the Catholic School busing issue; and
- They reviewed bids received for the security camera project for all three district schools, as well as the bids received for the HVAC project at Whiton Elementary School.

A. **Bill List**

It is recommended that the Board approve the List of Bills for the period March 13, 2015 through March 26, 2015, totaling \$1,474,902.24, and ratify the Payroll for the period March 13, 2015 through March 26, 2015, totaling \$895,058.25.

B. **Secretary's Report**

The Report of the Secretary for February 2015 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 February 2015 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 February 2015 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 February 2015.

E. **Monthly Transfer Report**

It is recommended that the Board approve the February 2015 Monthly Transfer Report.

F. **Approval of Agreement with Delta Dental of New Jersey**

It is recommended that the Board approve an Agreement with Delta Dental of New Jersey, pursuant to its terms, for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017.

G. **Approval of Group Medical and Prescription Insurance Provider**

It is recommended that the Board approve an Agreement with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield to provide medical and prescription insurance coverage, pursuant to its terms, for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

H. Approval of Change Order for a Water Flow Survey

It is recommended that the Board approve a Change Order in the amount of \$1,200.00 to Lan Associates, Inc. for a water flow survey at Whiton Elementary School for the HVAC replacement project to be paid by purchase order via Account #12-000-400-450-08-612, and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

I. Approval to Rescind Contract

RESOLVED the Board of Education rescinds the contract with Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C. (“Lindabury”) effective March 31, 2015 and enters into a contract with Sciarrillo, Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC (“Sciarrillo”) effective April 1, 2015, for the balance of the term of the Lindabury contract. Hourly rates and all other terms and conditions of the Sciarrillo contract will continue as in accordance with the Lindabury contract.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Wooby addressed the Board about the importance of bringing a wrestling program into Branchburg Central Middle School.

XIII. BOARD FORUM

Mr. Ambrus thanked the parents for coming to the Board meeting to express their concerns and issues regarding the proposed 2-tier bussing and extend school day time schedule.

Mr. Ambrus said he would like to see the wrestling program incorporated into the 2015-2016 budget.

Mrs. Joyce congratulated the students who competed in the Odyssey of the Mind event. She said the students won a special award which allows them to compete in the State Championship which will be held on April 11th, 2015.

Dr. Kelley said that the students who competed in the Odyssey of the Mind event were invited to the April 9th, 2015 Board meeting.

XIV. BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Rehe said the Somerville Board of Education settled the teachers’ contract, as well as the Superintendent’s contract. He said the contract for the Superintendent, Dr. Timothy Purnell, has been settled as a five year contract.

Mr. Rehe said the Somerville High School drama club did a production of The Sound of Music which was held on March 6th and March 7th, 2015. He said the students gave a stellar performance.

Mr. Rehe said the Somerville High School robotics team completed its second competition and was awarded the creativity award which is sponsored by Xerox.

Mr. Rehe said the Somerville High School music and art students collaborated in its annual Showcase of the Arts which was held on March 19th, 2015.

Mrs. Joyce said the next PTO meeting will be held on April 7th, 2015 where Administrators will talk about the tentative budget and take questions.

Mrs. Joyce said the consignment sale has been rescheduled for May 9th, 2015.

Mrs. Joyce spoke about upcoming fundraisers, which can be found on the district website.

Mrs. Joyce said information on the Cookbook fundraiser can be found on the website.

Dr. Kelley reminded the community of the upcoming Pocketbook Bingo fundraiser.

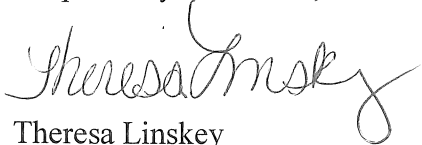
Dr. Kelley thanked the Branchburg Education Foundation for soliciting teachers to submit grants because they would like to support a lot of the work the district is doing.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Dempsey, seconded by Mrs. Joyce, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to adjourn at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theresa Linskey
Board Secretary/Business Administrator