

Branchburg Township School District

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2021

Remote Meeting - Live Streamed on District Website

Executive Session - 6:30 p.m.

Public Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

On a motion by Mr. Sarles, seconded by Mrs. Fabriczi, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to convene to public session at 6:04 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Board President, Theresa Joyce, 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: Vincent Carpentier, Cathy Curcio, Kristen Fabriczi, Noah Horowitz, Theresa Joyce, Robert Maider, Olga Phelps, Keerti Purohit and Jonathan Sarles.

The following members were absent: None

Also present were: Superintendent of Schools Rebecca Gensel and Business Administrator/Board Secretary Kelly Morris.

II. The Secretary called the roll.

III. CALL TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Sarles, seconded by Mrs. Fabriczi, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to convene to Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. to discuss Personnel, Student Matters, Contracts and Legal Issues.

On a motion by Mr. Sarles, seconded by Mr. Maider, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to adjourn Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Sarles, seconded by Mr. Maider, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to reconvene to public session at 7:41 p.m.

IV. The assembly saluted the flag.

V. Statement of Adequate Notice

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Gensel introduced the Principals, Vice Principals and Administrators, who presented awards to the recipients of the "2019-2020 Governor's Educator of the Year", and the "2019-2020 Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year".

The recipients of the “2019-2020 Governor’s Educator of the Year” award are as follows:

- Tara Forsyth – Whiton Elementary School
- Toni Lynn Burke – Stony Brook School
- Lucyna Plaza – Branchburg Central Middle School

The recipients of the “2019-2020 Governor’s Educational Services Professional of the Year” award are as follows:

- Meredith Molinaro – Whiton Elementary School
- Sarah Debraski – Stony Brook School
- Jillian Sawicki – Branchburg Central Middle School

Mrs. Dee Shober, Principal of Whiton Elementary School, thanked Tara Forsyth and Meredith Molinaro for their hard work and dedication to the students and the district.

Mrs. Kristen Kries, Principal of Stony Brook School, thanked Toni Lynn Burke and Sarah Debraski for their hard work and dedication to the students and the district.

Mrs. Tina Neely, Director of Student Services, thanked Jillian Sawicki for her hard work and dedication to the students and the district.

Mr. Matthew Barbosa, Principal of Branchburg Central Middle School, thanked Lucyna Plaza for her hard work and dedication to the students and the district.

The Board congratulated the recipients on behalf of the Branchburg Township Board of Education.

Ms. Gensel gave a district update presentation on some of the goals that were set for the district.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Randi Lee Childers, Branchburg Township Education Association President, congratulated her fellow staff members on the awards they received this evening.

VIII. GOVERNANCE

Motion by Mr. Sarles, seconded by Mr. Maider that Items VIII.A. through VIII.D. be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

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

Mrs. Joyce spoke about the following:

- She went over the primary and secondary board goals;
- COVID related items were discussed at the committee meetings; and
- An adhoc committee was created to discuss the Harlan School Road/Old York School properties.

A. Approval of Minutes

It is recommended that the Board approve the Minutes of the Executive Session and Regular Meeting of January 21, 2021.

| B. Approval of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Report | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|---|
| Building | Incident # | Date | Discussion |
| SBS | SSDS# 000975 | 1/4/21 | BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent that this incident did not meet the criteria of H.I.B. as defined in N.J.18A:37-14. |

C. Approval of Submission of Application for Special Education Medicaid Initiative Waiver

It is recommended that the Board approve the submission of an application for a waiver to not participate in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative to the County Executive Superintendent of Schools.

D. Approval of 2020-2021 Personnel Appointments

It is recommended that the following appointments be approved:

| <u>Position</u> | <u>2020-2021</u> |
|--|------------------|
| Custodian of Records..... | Kelly Morris |
| Public Agency Compliance Officer | Kelly Morris |
| Purchasing Agent..... | Kelly Morris |

IX. POLICY

Motion by Mr. Sarles, seconded by Mr. Maider that Item IX.A. be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Item IX.A. was unanimously approved by Roll Call.

Mr. Horowitz went over the policies and regulations listed on the agenda for second reading.

| A. Policies and Regulations Second Reading | | |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Policy/Regulation | Title | Discussion |
| P 7510 | Use of School Facilities (M) | Revised |
| R 7510 | Use of School Facilities (M) | Revised |
| P 8561 | Procurement Procedures for School Nutrition Programs (M) | Revised |

X. EDUCATION

Motion by Mr. Sarles, seconded by Mr. Maider that Items X.A. through X.D. be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

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

Mrs. Phelps said the Education Committee met on February 17, 2021 and discussed the following:

- Social and Emotional Specialist position for the new school year for Stony Brook School and Whiton Elementary School;
- Proposed school calendar;
- New Jersey students learning assessment test;
- Activities and workshops the teachers did on the February 12, 2021 in-service day;
- Update on math testing;
- Math curriculum review – 5 year renewal cycle;
- Math placement; and
- Special Education update to provide in-person instruction.

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 the 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.

| Conferences/Workshops | Employee/ Account Number | Date(s) | Registration Fee | Hotel | Meals /Exp. | Tolls/Parking /Mileage | Total |
|---|--|--|---------------------|-------|----------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Digital Nonfiction Reading, Writing and Notetaking Institute: Grades K-8 Virtual | Kelly Boyle 20-270-200-500-02-649 | 5/19/21- 5/21/21 | \$650.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$650.00 |
| NJ Association of School Business Officials Purchasing Update/Best Practices & NJSTART State Contract Purchasing Virtual | Lia Carrier 11-000-251-580-01-585 | 3/16/21 | \$50.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$50.00 |
| School Culture Conference Virtual | Alexandra Gallo 11-000-223-580-05-144-060 | 3/18/21 | \$59.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$59.00 |
| Integrating Sensory and Motor Learning Virtual | Maritcelly Mendez 11-000-219-580-03-001-999 | 3/11/21 | \$199.99 | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$199.99 |
| NJ Association of School Business Officials Budget Guidelines and Software Review; Best Practices in Budgeting Virtual | Kelly Morris 11-000-251-580-01-585 | 2/2/21 | \$50.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$50.00 |
| NJ Association of School Business Officials Purchasing Update/Best Practices & NJSTART State Contract Purchasing Virtual | Kelly Morris 11-000-251-580-01-585 | 3/16/21 | \$50.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$50.00 |
| Comprehensive IMSE Orton-Gillinham Training Virtual | Brienne Rodriguez 20-270-200-500-02-649 | 4/17/21 4/18/21 4/24/21 4/25/21 | \$1,275.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A | \$1,275.00 |

| B. Approval of 2020-2021 Out of District Programs | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|--|--|---------------------|-------------|
| Program/Location | Account Number | Student ID # | SY Tuition | SY Extra Services | Dates | Total Cost |
| Center for Educational Advancement School South Hunterdon, NJ | 11-000-100-566-03-109-000 | 4212290701 | \$29,029.34 (\$367.46 per diem/79 days) | \$11,850.00 (\$150.00 per diem/79 days) | 2/16/21- 6/17/21 | \$40,879.34 |
| East Mountain School Hackensack Meridian Health Belle Mead, NJ | 11-000-100-566-03-109-000 | 7130617798 | \$26,486.00 (\$323.00 per diem/82 days) | N/A | 2/11/21- 6/18/21 | \$26,486.00 |

| C. Approval of Revision of Contracted Educational Service | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|------------|---|---------------------|------------|--|------------------------|
| Vendor | Account Number | Student ID# | From | | | To | | | Discussion |
| | | | Rate | Total | Effective Dates | Rate | Total | Effective Dates | |
| Learn Well Education Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Newark, NJ | 11-000-100-566- 03-109-000 | 7130617798 | \$61.85 per hour | \$7,422.00 | 11/13/20- 2/5/21 (not to exceed 120 hours) | \$61.85 per hour | \$7,793.10 | 11/13/20- 2/10/21 (not to exceed 126 hours) | Bedside Instruction |

| D. Approval of Fundraiser | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------|---|
| School | Group | Event Coordinators | Date | Purpose |
| BCMS | Student Council | Wendy Michels | 3/17/21 | Teachers and students would play rounds of the game, Among Us that will be facilitated by a student council member and volunteer chaperones. Students would pay to play (or view via a private link) in mixed groups of teachers and students. This event would be in place of the teacher vs. police basketball game fundraiser and proceeds will go to support the Megan Rose Bradley Foundation. |

XI. HUMAN RESOURCES

Motion by Mr. Sarles, seconded by Mr. Maider that Items XI.A. through XI.K., be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

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

There was no Human Resources Committee report.

| A. Approval of Resignation | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| Name | Position | Date |
| Kristen Cardona | Team Leader-Innovators | 1/29/21 |

| B. Approval of Non-Athletic Extracurricular Stipend | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Name | Account Number | Location | Position | Stipend (not to exceed) | Discussion |
| Kathleen Gaston | 11-401-100-101-01-078-020 | BCMS | Team Leader-Innovators | \$2,149 (prorated) | Replacing Kristen Cardona |

| C. Approval of Revision of Title IV Clubs and Activities | | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Club Name | Sponsor | Account Number | From | To |
| Running Club After School (G) | Marissa McKenna | 20-280-100-101-02-659 | 120 minutes per week at 14 sessions Not to exceed \$574 | 120 minutes per week at 10 sessions Not to exceed \$410 |
| Running Club After School (B) | Joseph Larramendia | | 120 minutes per week at 14 sessions Not to exceed \$574 | 120 minutes per week at 10 sessions Not to exceed \$410 |
| Reading Magic | Elizabeth Janiec | | 60 minutes per week at 6 sessions Not to exceed \$246 | 60 minutes per week at 5 sessions Not to exceed \$205 |

| D. Approval of Personnel | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Name | Account Number | Position | Step/Level | Salary | Dates | Discussion |
| Vincent Biancamano (subject to delivery of documents) | 11-130-100-101-01-021-020 | Leave Replacement Social Studies Teacher | 1/BA | \$58,685 (prorated) | 2/19/21- 6/30/21 | Leave replacement for employees #5918 and #4880 |
| Douglas Haan | 11-000-219-104-01-165-340 | Maternity Leave Child Study Team/Psychologist | 11/150 | \$67,370 (prorated) | 3/8/21- 6/30/21 | MLR for employee #5748 |
| Rebecca Montross (subject to delivery of documents) | 11-130-100-101-01-021-020 | Leave Replacement Language Arts Teacher | 1/BA | \$58,685 (prorated) | 2/19/21- 6/30/21 | MLR for employee #5341. Rebecca will receive the daily substitute rate until teaching certification is issued |

2/18/2021

| E. Approval of Revision of Leave | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Employee # | Account Number | From | To |
| 5772 | 11-000-217-106-01-000-090 | Accumulated Sick: 9/8/20-9/21/20 FFCRA: 9/22/20-12/8/20 Unpaid Leave: 12/9/20-1/22/21 | Accumulated Sick: 9/8/20-9/21/20 FFCRA: 9/22/20-12/8/20 Unpaid Leave: 12/9/20-6/30/21 |
| 5815 | 61-910-310-110-01-001 | FFCRA: 9/8/20-9/21/20 Accumulated Sick: 9/22/20-10/12/20 Unpaid Leave: 10/13/20-2/17/21 | FFCRA: 9/8/20-9/21/20 Accumulated Sick: 9/22/20-10/12/20 Unpaid Leave: 2/18/21-6/30/21 |
| 5889 | 61-910-310-110-01-001 | FFCRA: 9/8/20-9/21/20 Unpaid Leave: 9/22/20-2/17/21 | FFCRA: 9/8/20-9/21/20 Unpaid Leave: 9/22/20-6/30/21 |
| 5329 | 11-216-100-106-01-059-090 | FFCRA: 9/8/20-9/21/20 Paid Sick Leave: 9/22/20-11/18/20 FMLA: 11/19/20-2/26/21 | FFCRA: 9/8/20-9/21/20 Paid Sick Leave: 9/22/20-11/18/20 FMLA: 11/19/20-3/1/21 Unpaid Leave: 3/2/21-5/31/21 |

| F. Approval of Revision of Maternity Leave | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| Employee # | Account Number | From | To |
| 5597 | 11-120-100-101-01-012-060 | Paid Maternity/Disability Leave of Absence: 12/1/20-2/4/21 NJ Family Leave Act/FMLA: 2/5/21-5/7/21 Unpaid Leave: 5/8/21-5/31/21 | Paid Maternity/Disability Leave of Absence: 12/1/20-2/16/21 NJ Family Leave Act/FMLA: 2/17/20-5/19/21 Unpaid Leave: 5/20/21-5/31/21 |
| 5016 | 11-424-100-178-01-013-090 | Paid Maternity/Disability Leave of Absence: 12/18/20-2/24/21 Personal Days: 2/25/21, 2/26/21, 3/1/21 NJ Family Leave Act/FMLA: 3/2/21-5/1/21 | Paid Maternity/Disability Leave of Absence: 12/18/20-3/8/21 Personal Days: 3/9/21, 3/10/21, 3/11/21 NJ Family Leave Act/FMLA: 3/12/21-5/28/21 |
| 5748 | 11-000-219-104-01-165-340 | Paid Maternity/Disability Leave of Absence: 3/10/21-4/19/21 NJ Family Leave Act/FMLA: 4/20/21-6/18/21 | Paid Maternity/Disability Leave of Absence: 3/8/21-4/19/21 NJ Family Leave Act/FMLA: 4/20/21-6/18/21 |

| G. Approval of Position Change | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| Name | Account Number | From | To | Salary | Dates |
| Patricia Rodgers | 11-000-251-100-01-529 | School Accountant | Assistant Business Administrator/ Assistant Board Secretary | \$66,000 (prorated) | 2/19/21-6/30/21 |

| H. Approval of Athletic Extracurricular Stipends | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Name | Account Number | Location | Position | Stipend (not to exceed) | |
| Justin Rogoff | 11-402-100-101-01-093-020 | BCMS | Softball Clinic | \$41 per hour (not to exceed 30 hours, \$1,230 total) | |
| Kenneth Forsyth | 11-402-100-101-01-093-020 | BCMS | Boys Lacrosse Clinic | \$41 per hour (not to exceed 30 hours, \$1,230 total) | |
| Kelly Evans Wendy Michels | 11-402-100-101-01-093-020 | BCMS | Girls Lacrosse Clinic | \$41 per hour (not to exceed 30 hours each, \$1,230 each, dependent upon total students enrolled) | |
| Kelly Evans Wendy Michels Robert Wright | 11-402-100-101-01-093-020 | BCMS | Cross Country Clinic | \$41 per hour (not to exceed 30 hours each, \$1,230 each, dependent upon total students enrolled) | |
| Robert Wright Paul Cutaneo | 11-402-100-101-01-093-020 | BCMS | Soccer Clinic | \$41 per hour (not to exceed 30 hours each, \$1,230 each, dependent upon total students enrolled) | |
| Christopher Shollenberger | 11-402-100-101-01-093-020 | BCMS | Basketball Clinic | \$41 per hour (not to exceed 60 hours, \$2,460) | |
| Robert Wright | 11-402-100-101-01-093-020 | BCMS | Baseball Clinic | \$41 per hour (not to exceed 30 hours, \$1,230 total) | |
| Scott Rourke | 11-402-100-101-01-093-020 | BCMS | Wrestling Conditioning Clinic | \$41 per hour (not to exceed 30 hours, \$1,230 total) | |

| I. Approval of Substitute | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Name | Position | Rate | Dates |
| Rebecca Montross (subject to delivery of documents) | Substitute Teacher | \$95 per day | 2/19/21-6/30/21 |

| J. Approval of Revision of Extracurricular School Activity Aide | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| SID # | Name | Account Number | Position | Rate | From | To |
| 3248981936 | Katherine Aldabagh | 11-000-217-106-01-000-020 | Extracurricular Aide | \$16.33 per hour | 11/20/20-6/30/21 (1 hour per day, 2 days per week, not to exceed 64 hours total) | 11/13/20-6/30/21 (1 hour per day, 2 days per week, not to exceed 64 hours total) |

| K. Approval of Home Instruction | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|---|----------------|
| SID # | Name | Account Number | Hourly Rate | Dates |
| 5078384624 | Emma Ryan | 11-150-100-101-03-066-060 | \$45 per hour (not to exceed 5 hours per week for 6 weeks, 30 hours total) | 2/22/21-4/2/21 |

XII. BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. Sarles, seconded by Mr. Maider that Items XII.A. through XII.P. be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items XII.A. through XII.P. were approved by Roll Call.

Mr. Carpentier said the Business Committee met on February 16, 2021 and discussed the following:

- Building and Grounds on-going projects;
- Cove molding at Branchburg Central Middle School;
- Music room renovations at Branchburg Central Middle School is near completion;
- HVAC project at Stony Brook School;
- Window replacement project at Stony Brook School;
- LED lighting at Whiton Elementary School;
- Gym floor at Whiton Elementary School;
- Transportation parking lot project is still on hold at Old York School;
- 2021/2022 new projects;
- Transportation shared services;
- Long Range Facilities Plan;
- NJEdge Cooperative Pricing System; and
- Old York School well.

A. Bill List

It is recommended that the Board approve the List of Bills for the period January 15, 2021 through February 1, 2021, totaling \$871,918.75, and January 22, 2021 through February 18, 2021, totaling \$2,428,126.42, and ratify the Payroll for the period January 16, 2021 through January 29, 2021, totaling \$936,169.49, and February 1, 2021 through February 12, 2021, totaling \$942,401.83.

B. Secretary's Report

The Report of the Secretary for January 2021 has been submitted for Board review. As required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)(3) I, Kelly Morris, 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 January 2021 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 2020-2021 fiscal year.

C. Treasurer's Report

It is recommended that the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2021 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 January 2021.

E. Monthly Transfer Report

It is recommended that the Board approve the January 2021 Monthly Transfer Report.

F. Approval of Resolution for Participation in Coordinated Transportation

WHEREAS, the Branchburg Township Board of Education desires to transport students for the purpose of special education, nonpublic school education, or its own public school students to specific destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Special Services School District hereinafter referred to as WCSSSD offers coordinated transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the WCSSSD will organize and schedule routes to achieve the maximum cost effectiveness;

NOW THEREFORE, it is agreed that in consideration of prorated contract costs, plus a 4% administration fee as presented to the Branchburg Township Board of Education by the billing formula adopted by the WCSSSD's Board of Education.

G. Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Disposal of Equipment

It is recommended that the Board approve the following resolution authorizing the disposal of Dell Chromebooks through GovDeals.

WHEREAS, the School District is the owner of certain equipment which is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is desirous of selling said equipment in "as is" condition without express or implied warranties.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Branchburg Township in the County of Somerset, as follows:

- (1) The sale of the equipment shall be conducted through GovDeals pursuant to State Contract A-70967/T2581 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Contract. The terms and conditions of the agreement entered into with GovDeals are available online at govdeals.com and also available from the Board of Education.
- (2) The sale will be conducted online and the address of the auction site is govdeals.com.
- (3) The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-9.
- (4) The equipment to be sold is as follows:
 - 200 Dell Chromebooks
- (5) The equipment identified shall be sold in an "as-is" condition without express or implied warranties with the successful bidder required to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement concerning use of said equipment.
- (6) The School District reserves the right to accept or reject any bid submitted.

H. Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Disposal of Equipment

It is recommended that the Board approve the disposal of the following Technology Equipment at no cost.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 47 Chromebooks (Samsung and Acers) | 12 Printers | 54 Desktops |
| 2 Speakers | 29 Projectors | 16 Laptops (Lenovo and Dell) |
| 3 Doc Cameras | 2 Smart Boards | 27 Toners |
| 4 TV's | 75 LCD's | 13 DVD, VHS, CD Players |

I. Approval of Other Capital Project 2020

Be it resolved that the Branchburg Board of Education authorizes Settembrino Architects to submit capital improvement project at the following school to the State of New Jersey Department of Education for review and approval:

| School Project | NJ DOE Project Number |
|---|-----------------------|
| Window Replacement at Stony Brook Elementary School | 0510-060-20-1000 |

The project shall include the replacement of the existing windows with new windows at the school.

This project is an other capital project. The Branchburg Board of Education is not seeking any state funding for this project.

J. Approval of Other Capital Project 2020

Be it resolved that the Branchburg Board of Education authorizes Settembrino Architects to submit capital improvement project at the following school to the State of New Jersey Department of Education for review and approval:

| School Project | NJ DOE Project Number |
|--|-----------------------|
| HVAC upgrades at Stony Brook Elementary School | 0510-060-20-2000 |

The project shall include the replacement of the existing unit ventilators at the school with new HVAC units, boilers and chiller.

This project is an other capital project. The Branchburg Board of Education is not seeking any state funding for this project.

K. Approval to Enter into Agreements with the Somerset County Educational Services Commission to Administer the Nonpublic Programs

It is recommended that the Board enter into an agreement with the Somerset County Educational Services Commission to administer the following Nonpublic Programs for the 2021-2022 school year.

- Chapters 192/193 Program
- Nonpublic Technology Initiative Program
- Nonpublic Textbook Program
- Nonpublic Security Aid

L. Approval of NJEdge - EdgeMarket Cooperative Pricing System

It is recommended that the Board enter into an agreement with NJEdge.Net, Inc. for the District's participation in the EdgeMarket Cooperative Pricing System.

M. Approval of Donation from Staples, Inc.

It is recommended that the Board approve acceptance of a donation of 124 bags of school supplies for Whiton Elementary School classrooms from Staples, Inc.

N. Approval of Transportation Jointure with Bernards Township Board of Education

It is recommended the Board approve the Joint Transportation Agreement between the Branchburg Township Board of Education and the Bernards Township Board of Education for school bus and district vehicle maintenance and inspection services for the 2020-2021 school year as follows:

| Service | Cost to Bernards Township BOE |
|------------------------------------|--|
| School Vehicle Mechanical Services | \$ 75.00 per hour; 0% mark up on parts |

O. Approval of Transportation Jointure with Hillsborough Township Board of Education

It is recommended the Board approve the agreement between the Branchburg Township Board of Education and the Hillsborough Township Board of Education for school bus and district vehicle maintenance and inspection services and for student transportation services for the 2020-2021 school year as follows:

| Service | Cost to Hillsborough Township BOE |
|---|--|
| School Vehicle Mechanical Services | \$ 75.00 per hour; 0% mark up on parts |
| Athletic and Field Trips | \$ 75.00 per hour; 2 hour minimum |
| Provide Special Request Home to School Coverage | \$ 75.00 per hour; 2 hour minimum |

P. Approval of Transportation Jointure with Immaculata High School Board of Education

It is recommended the Board approve the agreement between the Branchburg Township Board of Education and the Immaculata High School Board of Education for student transportation services for the 2020-2021 school year as follows:

| Service | Cost to Immaculata HS BOE |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Athletic, Field, and Marching Band Field Trips | \$ 75.00 per hour; 2 hour minimum |

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ana Warren, 257 Miller Avenue, asked the Board, with Stony Brook School and Branchburg Central Middle School being unable to increase in-person days due to the 6' social distancing and classroom sizes, is the district exploring other options such as plexiglass dividers for student desks, and what is the plan if 6' social distancing is still a recommendation in September?

Carmine D'Urso, 5 Oak Tavern Circle, thanked the Board for doing a great job to keep the children safe and healthy. He feels at this point, the district needs to return the children at Stony Brook School to more days and more hours of in-person learning. He said the amount of learning loss that has gone on is going to take years to regain, along with the social/emotional impact this is having on the children.

Carrie Torchio, 35 Covered Bridge Rd, is requesting more in-person school days for Branchburg Central Middle School. She said her son would benefit greatly to being in school more and getting back to life not behind a screen.

Alicia Parker, 402 Covered Bridge Road, asked if there is a plan for students to go back to 5 single session days, and what the plan is going forward. She asked if there is a plan in place in the near future for all students (who want to) to go back.

Lisa Carter, 21 Edgewood Road, asked the Board to consider more in-person learning for Stony Brook School. She said the children are suffering, and she is concerned about their social and emotional wellbeing.

Niamh Donovan at 1053 Hillcrest Drive, said she has two children in the Branchburg Township School District, and would like the district to consider, at very minimum, to also get the students back to their classrooms every Wednesday so all students will have three days of in-person learning.

Staci Colis, 3 Strawberry Hill Road, asked the Board to consider increasing in-person school days for Branchburg Central Middle School and Stony Brook School in March/April. She said with increased vaccinations and the warmer weather, it should be safer to get the students back in school for 5 single session days.

XIV. BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Mrs. Fabriczi spoke about the following highlights of the Somerville Board of Education meeting held on February 9, 2021:

- The Board thanked the Buildings and Grounds Department for their hard work with snow removal;
- The Board thanked the Community for their flexibility with the changes of going back and forth between virtual and hybrid due to the recent weather conditions;
- The audit report that was done for the district;
- With all the changes, and students going remote, procedures and policies need to stay current due to cyber security;
- Ethics training;
- Somerville Middle School has been promoting Somerville High School's S.T.E.M. Academy;
- Somerville Middle School has been promoting LaRue PR Academy;
- The student Board member gave a report;
- National Honor Society had a coat drive;
- Junior applications are open now for the National Honor Society;
- Winter sports have started;
- Drama Club has started working on their production of "The Theory of Relativity" which will be virtual on March 13 and 14, 2021;
- Junior college planning night will be held soon;
- SATs has discontinued any subject testing and the essay;
- Yearbook is still accepting photos;
- Curriculum Committee previewed the updated Algebra 1, 2 and Geometry text;
- Spring sports deadline is March 20, 2021 for signing up;
- Choir is looking to have an outside concert; and
- Robotics is up and running.

Mr. Sarles said the Somerset County Educational Services Commission met on February 3, 2021 where the following was discussed:

- Teacher awards were presented;
- Budget discussions;
- Students are still in school 5 days a week; and
- Enrollment has been holding steady.

Mrs. Joyce spoke about the County meeting she and Mr. Maider attended.

Mrs. Joyce said the proposed turf field at White Oak Park was discussed at the Branchburg Township meeting.

Ms. Gensel said the Pandemic Response Team will meet next week.

XV. BOARD FORUM

Mr. Horowitz thanked all the teachers for doing their absolute best during this time.

Mrs. Purohit thanked the teachers receiving their awards this evening, and thanked all the teachers for making sure our students get educated.

Ms. Curcio congratulated the staff members and teachers on their awards.

Mr. Sarles spoke about the public comments. Also, he said he appreciates Ms. Gensel for doing a good job at keeping the teachers and students as safe as possible.

Mr. Maider said parents who have concerns have the ability to be on the Pandemic Response Team so they understand why decisions are being made.

Mrs. Fabriczi congratulated the teachers and staff on their awards.

Mr. Carpentier congratulated the teachers and award winners. He also thanked Mrs. Morris for running her first Board meeting.

Ms. Gensel said Ms. Dawn Eelman, teacher at Whiton Elementary School, and Ms. Wendy Michels, librarian at Branchburg Central Middle School arranged read aloud between the middle school students and elementary school students for Read Across America Day.

Ms. Gensel said Emily Williams, teacher at Stony Brook School and Christopher Boehm, teacher at Whiton Elementary School, were recognized as "Teachers Who Make Music".

Mrs. Morris thanked the Board, office staff, technology department and administrators for the warm welcome to the district. She also thanked Samad Mobley and his team for a great job with snow removal.

Mrs. Joyce reflected on the emails sent in from parents. She thanked the parents and the students for their support and patience, and for doing the right things to get back to school.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no second Executive Session.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Sarles, seconded by Mr. Maider, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to adjourn at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Morris
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary