

BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Blairstown, New Jersey 07825

www.blairstownelem.net

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 22, 2020 Special Meeting

7:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

B. FLAG SALUTE

C. ROLL CALL by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Present: Mr. Cook, Mrs. McElroy, Mrs. Gerhardt, Mrs. Inscho, Ms. Klein, Mrs. Rolph, Mrs. Shaffer and Mrs. Sikkes

Absent: None

D. NOTICE OF MEETING

This is a special Meeting of the Blairstown Township Board of Education. Notice of the time and place of this meeting was provided and copies of that resolution were forwarded to the official newspapers as designated by the Board of Education and to the Township Clerk, and a copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Board of Education offices as well as on the front door of the Blairstown Elementary School in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

E. READING OF MISSION STATEMENT

In partnership with home and community, Blairstown Elementary School is dedicated to the mission of providing an engaging, comprehensive education.

A passion for learning is ignited through an enriched learning environment. While celebrating individuality, our students develop confidence, competence and character.

All students have the opportunity to achieve their highest potential on a quest of lifelong learning to succeed in a global, 21st century.

F. EXECUTIVE ORDER 103

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Blairstown Township Board of Education hereby approves the suspension of its normal meeting procedures pursuant to By-Law 131, and authorized this meeting to be conducted as a virtual meeting, as described in the Statement of Public Notice, due to the public health emergency declared in Executive Order 103.

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. Rolph, second by Mrs. McElroy

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The Blairstown Township Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest. As a virtual meeting, the public will be able to observe and participate in the meeting by attending virtually online.

None.

P. PERSONNEL

R21-78 Approve Superintendent Contract

WHEREAS, the Blairstown Township Board of Education (“Board”), with the assistance of the New Jersey School Boards Association, conducted a search to fill its Board Superintendent position, reviewed interested applicants, conducted interviews, and otherwise took appropriate action to consider applicants for the position; and

WHEREAS, following this process, the Board desires to offer the Superintendent position to Dr. Patrick Ketch, consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in an agreement negotiated between the parties; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7-8(j) and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-3.1(a), the Board forwarded the proposed agreement to the Warren County Executive County Superintendent for approval,

and has received written approval from the Warren County Executive County Superintendent for the proposed agreement.

IT IS HERBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves and adopts the Contract of Employment for Dr. Patrick Ketch as Superintendent, from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 at the initial annual salary of \$127,000 (pro-rated for 2020-21), consistent with the terms and conditions set forth therein. (Employment contingent upon satisfying necessary components of employment history as per P.L. 2018, c.5)

R21-74 Approve Principal Waiver Form

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education upon recommendation by the Superintendent approve the principal waiver form to be submitted to the County for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Motion by Mrs. Gerhardt, second by Ms. Klein

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Mr. Saalfield noted the special has been updated by Mrs. Welsh. He also noted to the board that the strategic plan expires this June.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act authorizes Boards of Education to meet in executive session under certain circumstances

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Blairstown Township Board of Education, that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

Conducting Board Member Candidate Interviews to fill Vacancy

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The Minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. Sikkes, second by Mrs. Inscho to go into executive session at 7:10 pm.

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

J. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. Gerkhardt, second by Mrs. McElroy to leave executive session at 8:28 pm.

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

K. BOARD CANDIDATE NOMINATIONS AND VOTE

Nominations: Sotie Hambos

Motion by Mrs. Gerkhardt, second by Mr. Cook

Roll Call: by Matthew P. Herzer, Business Administrator

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Sikkes (Connection Lost)

L. PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Mrs. Hambos thanked the board for the appointment.

Mrs. Messina asked when the book “Wishtree” could be approved.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Voice Vote:

Motion by Mrs. Gerhardt, second by Ms. Klein to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Against: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mrs. Sikkes (Connection

Lost)

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew P. Herzer

School Business Administrator