

TOWNSHIP OF PEQUANNOCK  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

**BOARD RETREAT MINUTES  
MARCH 7, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The March 7, 2023 Board Retreat of the Board of Education, Township of Pequannock, County of Morris, was called to order in the Pequannock Township High School Cafeteria, 85 Sunset Road, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444, at 6:00 pm by Brian Senyk, Board President. The following statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, notice of this meeting has been properly advertised in the Daily Record and the Suburban Trends, its agenda has been posted at the appropriate locations, and a copy has been filed with the Pequannock Township Clerk.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT:                    Mr. Joseph Blumert                    Mr. Sam Ciresi                    Ms. Megan Dempsey  
                                     Mrs. Danielle Esposito                    Mr. Timothy Gitin                    Mr. Greg MacSweeney  
                                     Mr. Vincent Pompeo                    Mr. Brian Senyk                    Mrs. Cara Shenton

ALSO PRESENT:                    Dr. Michael Portas, Superintendent  
                                     Gordon E. Gibbs, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
                                     District Administrative Team

**FLAG SALUTE**

**OPEN TO PUBLIC AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Members of the public may speak once for a maximum period of five minutes by the clock during this portion of the meeting. The public may speak on any agenda item during their five minutes. If a member of the public raises a question, all questions should be directed to the Board President. Please state your name and sign in before you begin.

None

**BOARD RETREAT DISCUSSION**

Review Ongoing Accomplishment of 2022-2023 District Goals

Goal #1: By May 30, 2023, teachers in the content areas of math, science, ELA, and social studies will apply data to identify student needs, and then modify instruction both to address priority standards and to promote measurable student achievement.

Equipped with the more accurate data we collected last year, we were able to begin SY 22/23 with better information to help us identify current levels of mastery. Our ongoing analysis has been informed by Start Strong data as well as internal measures such as benchmark assessments, iReady, and reading inventories. Teachers have been supported in incorporating those data resources into their instructional design and have been provided time to collaborate during PD days to help construct assessments & lessons.

Goal #2: By May 2023, the Pequannock Township School District will create learning reflection protocols for grades and levels that focus on targeted areas identified by state and local assessments.

This goal functions as a bridge between goals 1 and 3 and integrates our analysis of student learning outcomes with instructional design. The strongest outcome for this goal has been the generation of watch and concern lists to identify students who would benefit from specific academic interventions. These lists use timely and accurate data, are created in collaboration between the admin team and staff, and demand ongoing discussions that center on demonstrated growth and instructional design. Our focus on benchmark assessments & work towards common writing rubrics helps to ensure that our efforts are grounded in addressing current individualized learning.

Goal #3: For the 2022-2023 school year, the goal is to foster an environment in which teachers reflect upon their teaching practice and incorporate effective differentiated instructional strategies that promote student engagement/learning, and cultivate a positive classroom culture.

We maintained a focus on ensuring consistency in our PD Days, staff meetings, PLC time, data discussions, and investment in online resources to support ongoing focused emphasis on instructional practices. Outside providers such as Inspired Instruction, Teach 4 Results, and the book Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics have supported this initiative. We still need to tap into our most powerful professional capital, which is our staff, to build a repository of best practices and shared resources.

The objective with these goals is to emphasize continuous improvement for our students in an articulated and focused manner that considers the evolving needs of our district. The discussion with the administrative team included student progress, increasing special education scores, Educational Software for Guided Instruction (ESGI), LinkIt!, and Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) programs.

#### Review Previous Board of Education Goals

2022 Goal #1: The Board will continue to provide the means for multi-faceted support that promotes academic growth and addresses mental health needs in an environment that celebrates mutual respect and constructive interactions.

2022 Goal #2: The Board will work collaboratively to make substantive progress towards the achievement of board certification status through the New Jersey School Boards Association.

2022 Goal #3: The Board will support the development, completion, and approval of the 2021-2026 strategic plan.

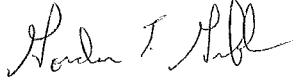
#### Develop New Board of Education Goals

New Board goals include establishing a Governance Committee, developing strategies to recruit and retain teachers, and expanding the preschool and BD programs.

**ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING**

Motion by: Gitin	Second by: Pompeo	Voice Vote: 9-0-0	Time: 8:58 pm
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Respectfully,



Gordon E. Gibbs  
Board Secretary

**FUTURE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, March 15, 2023	Regular Business/Preliminary Budget Meeting	7:00 P.M.	PTHS
Monday, April 3, 2023	Workshop Meeting	7:00 P.M.	PTHS