

MINUTES OF THE PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP MEETING
MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021

Pursuant to notices sent to each member of the Board of Education, the pre-meeting workshop was held on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 in person at the High School North Auditorium, 63 Tindall Road, Middletown, NJ.

1. **Call to Order by the Board President and Reading of the Sunshine Announcement at 7:00 p.m.**
"Adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending such notice to the Asbury Park Press, The Middletown Patch, and the Middletown Twp. Public Schools District Website and the posting of such notice at the August T. Miner Administrative Offices and each elementary, middle, and secondary school website in the district".
2. **Roll Call**
Present: Leonora Caminiti, Michael Donlon, Thomas Giaimo, Barry Heffernan, Jacqueline Tobacco, Deborah Wright, Frank Capone and Joan Minnuies
Absent: John Little
Also present: Mary Ellen Walker, Amy Doherty and Bruce Padula, Esq.
3. **Resolution for Executive Session at 7:01 p.m.** – Motion made by Mr. Giaimo, seconded by Mr. Capone to go into executive session for; personnel and confidential contract matters. Motion carried on a voice vote.
4. **Call to Order by the Board President and Re-Reading of Sunshine Notice at 8:05 p.m.**
5. **Roll Call**
Present: Leonora Caminiti, Michael Donlon, Thomas Giaimo, Barry Heffernan, John Little, Jacqueline Tobacco, Deborah Wright, Frank Capone and Joan Minnuies
Absent:
Also present: Mary Ellen Walker, Amy Doherty and Bruce Padula, Esq.
6. **Pledge of Allegiance**
7. **Presentation**
 - HIB Grades (Matt Kirkpatrick)
8. **President's Update**
 - Mrs. Minnuies asked for a consensus to send a letter to Governor Murphy containing a resolution that she and Mr. Capone authored. The resolution demands Executive Order 251 be rescinded thereby allowing masks to be optional in Middletown Township Schools. The Board began to discuss the proposed resolution at which time Mr. Giaimo made a motion to table the discussion, Mr. Donlon seconded the motion. The motion failed to pass on a roll call vote with only Mr. Giaimo and Mr. Donlon voting in favor. Discussion of the proposed resolution ensued. Mr. Capone made a motion to include the resolution on the voting agenda for August 24, 2021. Mrs. Minnuies seconded the motion, which passed on a roll call vote where Mr. Donlon and Mr. Giaimo voted against and Mrs. Wright Abstained.
 - Mrs. Minnuies presented a resolution to implement a policy pursuant to executive order 251, which had been formulated at the Policy Committee meeting of August 17, 2021. The Board discussed the proposed resolution which will be voted on at the August 24, 2021 BOE voting meeting.
 - Mrs. Minnuies reported on the Food Service Committee meeting held with Whitson's regarding food service for the new school year.
9. **Superintendent's Update**
10. **Committee Reports**
 - B. Legislative (Frank Capone/Mary Ellen Walker)

- Information Items
- C. Technology (Mike Donlon/Dave Siwiak)
- Information Items
 - 1) Committee Meeting is scheduled for 8/23/2021
- D. Student Services (Deborah Wright/Michele Tiedemann)
- Information Items
 - 1) Committee Meeting 8/12/2021
- E. Facilities/Finance (Frank Capone /Amy Doherty)
- Information Items
 - 1) Committee Meeting 8/17/2021
- F. Policy (Jacqueline Tobacco/Amy Doherty)
- Information Items
 - 1) Committee Meeting 8/17/2021
- G. Curriculum & Instruction (John Little /Kim Pickus)
- Information Items
 - 1) Update on Summer Programs
 - 2) Partnership with Civil Air Patrol
 - 3) CTE Programs
- H. Student Activities/Co-Curricular (Leonora Caminiti/Pat Rinella)
- Information Items
 - 1) Committee Meeting 8/17/2021
- I. Shared Services (Joan Minnuies/Amy Doherty)
- Information Items
- J. Strategic Planning (Frank Capone/Joan Minnuies)
- Information Items
- K. Personnel (Joan Minnuies/Kim Pickus)
- Information Items
 - 1) Committee Meeting 8/17/2021

11. Review Draft of Voting Meeting Agenda

12. Old Business

- Mrs. Wright stated that using Zoom for public comment allowed for increased community engagement and valuable feedback. Mrs. Wright then asked for a consensus to reinstitute Zoom for public comment at Board meetings. There was no consensus to do so.

13. New Business

- Mrs. Minnuies reported on the Board Retreat held on August 2, 2021.

14. Opportunity for Public Comment (limited to thirty minutes)

- 8th grade Bayshore student* commented on wearing a mask during school
- Melissa Bevilacqua commented on mask requirements and the proposed policy.
- Kelly Iannone commented on mask requirements.
- Michael* commented on mask requirements.
- 8th grade Bayshore students commented on wearing masks during school.

- AnnMarie Lusquinos commented on plexi-glass dividers, mask exemptions and vaccinations.
- Grace Mendez (Thorne student) commented on wearing a mask during school.
- Olivia* (Thorne student) commented on wearing a mask during school.
- Emily Bulmer (Thorne student) commented on wearing a mask during school.
- Sheridan* (student) commented on wearing a mask during school.
- Alexandra Goins (Thorne student) commented on wearing a mask during school.
- Lisa Cordova commented on mask requirements.
- Michele Vitale commented on mask requirements.

*Name not distinguishable from audio.

10. Motion to Extend Public Comment – motion made by Mrs. Minnuies, seconded by Mr. Donlon to extend public comment. Motion carried on a voice vote.

11. Opportunity for Public Comment

- Delaney Dunigan (student) commented on wearing a mask during school.
- James Dunigan commented on mask requirements.
- Chris Vitale commented on Covid-19 and mask requirements.
- Ella Hilton (Bayview student) commented on mask requirements.
- Jaime Sanacore commented on mask requirements.
- Abby* a Middletown resident commented on mask requirements.
- Gary Tulp commented on Executive Order 251 and mask requirements.
- Melissa Gissubel commented on teaching while wearing a mask.
- Gerry Scharfenberger commented on Executive Order 251 and mask requirements.
- Jeani Isaksen commented on mask requirements.
- Riley Hilton (student) commented on wearing a mask during school.
- Jen Brown commented on mask requirements.
- Kate Farley commented on mask requirements.

*Name not distinguishable from audio.

12. Motion to Adjourn meeting at 10:45 p.m. – motion made by Mrs. Caminiti, seconded by Mr. Donlon to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted



Amy P. Doherty

APD/tn
August 19, 2021