

Minutes of the Work Session
of the Tenafly Board of Education
Monday, March 13, 2023
Board of Education Hegelein Building

*Motion to go into Closed Session at 7:18 p.m.
Moved: Ms. Harris Second: Mr. Frid
All in Favor*

Call to Order/Adequate Notice Statement/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Board President Jocelyn Schwarz read the following statement:

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq., adequate notification of this meeting has been provided by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Board of Education Hegelein Building, the Borough office, Tenafly Public Library, the local press and on the district's web site.

The following Board members were present:

<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Igor Frid	X	
Michelle Harris	X	
Inbal Israeli Miller	X	
Michelle Merchant	X	
Yelena Meytes	X	
Edward J. Salaski	X	
Michael Wilderman	X	
Paula Newman, Vice President	X	
Jocelyn Schwarz, President	X	

Also present:

Bruce Watson, Interim Superintendent
Jeff Gorman, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction (Absent)
Danielle Diaz, Human Resources Manager (Absent)
Victor J. Anaya, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Closed Session

Be it Resolved, that the Tenafly Board of Education determines it is necessary to meet in Closed Session on March 13, 2023 to discuss Legal, Personnel and Student matters; and
Be it Further Resolved, that these matters will be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

*Motion to end Closed Session and enter Open Session at 8:08 p.m.
Moved: Dr. Wilderman Second: Ms. Merchant
All in Favor*

Open to the Public – 1st Session 8:08 pm

Comments (In-Person and Virtual)

- Bruce Watson commented March is Woman's History Month and wanted to recognize the ladies on the board who volunteer are all recognized for their efforts. Congratulated each and to say "thank you."
- Jocelyn Schwarz commented on protocol of public comment
- Jocelyn Schwarz shared the board hired a superintendent, P9 resolution, Mr. Michael Ben-David of West Essex Morris Regional High School. He starts July 1, 2023.
- Adi Sodri shared she was discussing school security for a few months. She has been told her comments has made people aware that schools are less safe, and wanted to thank people for feeling that way. Also, inquiring on assessment of the prosecutor's report. Since finances are tight how going to implement security measures.
- Elyssa Odd quoting Jim Morrison's comments on school safety since he is the safety officer. Feels class 3 officers should be in every building. Why isn't the school listening to the safety experts and implementing anything? How going to address concerns of the high school principal?
- Somi Lee concerned parent at Mackay Elementary School regarding the number of classes next year in 3rd and 4th grade. A letter was signed by 60 parents with a response by Bruce Watson that the 4th grade classes will be the same, but was concerned about fairness in conjunction with the other elementary schools classes. Feels own kids in a very large class, and everyone is entitled to a good education. Wants reconsideration to the request.
- Ella Barthow address safety in the schools. A law in 2016 and again put into law in 2021 regarding safety and security measures in place. Shattered glass film and doors on first floor should be in place by law, and the reason the schools are not in compliance with the law with this budget?
- Amy Marciano is a parent for a 3rd grade class at Mackay, and would like the class to be added due to the emotional needs of the children there. Size of the class and the students in the class require extra attention.
- Nada Suna is also a 3rd grade parent requesting an additional 4th grade next year as daughter needs extra help. Disappointing that the district isn't considering an extra class at this stage of the school year as her daughter has progressed a lot. There is a need for an extra 4th grade class.
- Jason Hart has children at Maugham School. An American flag was flying, but there was not a New Jersey flag flying as well, and would suggest the New Jersey flag would be significant about many things. Would like the board to consider the request.
- Bruce Watson commented about the report from the prosecutor where the report is not shareable to the public.
- Bruce Watson spoke about the 3rd grade situation. Board policies govern situations within the district especially in enrollment and class size.
- Jocelyn Schwarz commented about sections in each elementary school may be different. Policy governs the class size and numbers. The enrollment numbers indicate only 2 sections should remain.
- Jocelyn Schwarz spoke about the security report. Any recommendations related to facilities will be considered in the referendum.
- Jocelyn Schwarz commented about the New Jersey flag maybe a discussion at the communication committee meeting.

Presentation/Reports- None

Communications and Policy – Ms. Yelena Meytes (no update).

Curriculum and Technology – Ms. Paula Newman (no update).

Facility – Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz provided an update.

Finance – Mr. Edward Salaski provided an update.

Joint Use – Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz (no update).

Diversity - Ms. Inbal Israeli Miller & Mr. Edward Salaski (no update).

Security Roundtable – Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz (no update).

Liaison Reports – Ms. Inbal Israeli Miller (no update).

- HSA by Ms. Yelena Meytes (no update).
- CAP by Ms. Michelle Merchant (no update).
- TEF by Mr. Igor Frid (no update).
- Legislative by Mr. Ed Salaski (no update).
- SEPAC by Ms. Inbal Israeli Miller provided a comment.

New Business –

- None

Student Representatives – Ms. Ayla Uram and Ms. Alexandria Yang provided updates on.

- Ms. Alexandria Yang shared spring sports registration last week. Having sports in person is exciting.
- Ms. Ayla Uram shared Olympics held on March 3rd. All had a good time and positive feedback. Juniors won for first time in long time.
 - State testing being held where juniors must pass by state requirements.

Administration

- None

Proposed Resolutions

- Personnel – closed session by Bruce Watson
- Administration – Bruce Watson presented the administration resolutions in closed session.
- Curriculum – Bruce Watson presented the curriculum resolutions
- Special Services
- Finance – Victor Anaya presented the Finance resolutions
 - Action items – Finance F-1 through F-5 and Personnel resolution P-9

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following resolutions for approval at the BOE Regular Session Meeting scheduled for March 20, 2023:

Personnel

	<u>Personnel Resolutions</u>
Resolution P-1	Approval of Retirement and Resignation
Resolution P-2	Approval of Substitutes
Resolution P-3	Approval of Hires
Resolution P-4	Approval of Extra-Compensation Positions
Resolution P-5	Approval of Staff/Position Reclassifications
Resolution P-6	Approval of Faculty Salary Reclassification for Spring 2023
Resolution P-7	Approval of Leave of Absence for Employee #2292
Resolution P-8	Approval of Leave of Absence for Employee #2651
Resolution P-9*	Approval of Superintendent of Schools (Chief School Administrator)

*Will be voted on March 13, 2023 meeting

*Motion to approve Resolution P-9
Moved: Ms. Newman Second: Mr. Salaski
All in Favor*

Administration

	<u>Administration Resolutions</u>
Resolution A-1	Approval to Affirm the Superintendent's Decision in HIB Investigations
Resolution A-2	Approval to Revise 2023-24 District School Calendar
Resolution A-3	Appointment of District School Safety Specialist
Resolution A-4	Second Reading of Policy 5111 (revised)
Resolution A-5	Approval of Five Year Contract with Alpine Board of Education Beginning July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028 (upon approval from Atty)
Resolution A-6	Approval to file School Bus Safety drills in accordance with QSAC Guidelines

Curriculum

	<u>Curriculum Resolutions</u>
Resolution C-1	Approval of District Curricula in Mathematics, English, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, World Languages, Comprehensive Health and Physical Education, Visual and Performing Arts, Music, Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills Aligned To The New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS)
Resolution C-2	Approval of Professional Development Requests
Resolution C-3	Approval for THS students to attend The National History Bee Competition in Arlington, VA.

Special Services

	<u>Special Services Resolutions</u>
Resolution S-1	Approval of Ten Month Programs 2022-2023

Finance

	<u>Finance Resolutions</u>
Resolution F-1*	Approval to Adopt the Preliminary Budget for the 2023-2024 School Year
Resolution F-2*	Approval of Maximum Travel Expenditures for the 2023-2024 School Year
Resolution F-3*	Approval of Use of Banked Cap
Resolution F-4*	Approval of Use of Health Benefit Adjustment
Resolution F-5*	Resolution Of The Board Of Education Of The Borough of Tenafly In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey Approving The Use Of Competitive Contracting For The Solicitation Of Proposals For A Solar Power Purchase Agreement To Be Undertaken In Connection With The School District's Proposed ESIP And Authorizing Other Matters In Connection Therewith
Resolution F-6	Approval of Board Secretary's Report for February 2023
Resolution F-7	Approval of Treasurer's Report for February 2023
Resolution F-8	Approval of Transfers for February 2023
Resolution F-9	Approval of Bills for February 24, 2023 through March 16, 2023
Resolution F-10	Approval of Payroll for February 2023
Resolution F-11	Approval of the Submission of the Drainage Proposal for consideration of Upfront Mitigation funding from FEMA for the Smith Elementary School caused by Hurricane IDA
Resolution F-12	Approval to Cancel Stale Dated Checks
Resolution F-13	Approval of the Installation/Purchase of Carpet Replacement for the High School Library
Resolution F-14	Approve the Pre-Approved ESIP Investment Grade Energy Audit Agreement
Resolution F-15	Approval of Tenafly School-Age Child Care (SACC) Summer Program for 2023
Resolution F-16	Approval of Tenafly School-Age Child Care (SACC) Tuition Fees for the 2023 Summer Program
Resolution F-17	Approval of Tenafly School-Age Child Care (SACC) Program for 2023-2024 School Year
Resolution F-18	Approval of Tenafly School-Age Child Care (SACC) Program Tuition Fees for the 2023-2024 School Year

*Will be voted on March 13, 2023 meeting

*Motion to approve Resolutions F-1 through F-5
Moved: Ms. Israeli Miller Second: Ms. Meytes
All in Favor*

Open to the Public – 2nd Session 9:08 pm

- Chloe Wen inquired on policy on sending children out of district and the number of children in class. Principals have shared when children go to the next grades indicate same number of children and classes offered. Would like to keep same number of classes.
- Adi Sodri repeated asking same as before, and why ignoring Jim Morrison's recommendation for Class 3 officers where safety of children is upmost concern. Also, wanted to repeat same as Mr. Hart recommended, and the reasons the expert recommendations are not followed where recommendations are listened to who are not experts.
- Katherine Carvit wanted to express continued lack of concern regarding the diversity committee meetings. Parents have concerns about curriculum and discipline where their opinions can be expressed. Teachers were also asking for more help for appropriate class sizes, and continue to ask teachers to work with 20 + children in a class. Need to give kids what they need, and provide the teachers.
- Amy Marciano asked if discussing with the 3rd grade teachers the need for more teachers.
- Somi Lee wanted to stress the need for 3rd grade classes at Mackay. Requesting board to address the class sizes so children are not directed to other schools due to class sizes. Requesting timely feedback to parents' requests.
- Hyejee Jou feels kids pain and want to help by supporting their children, and want to help the school. Request to reconsider the 3rd grade situation at Mackay as children are struggling.
- Jocelyn Schwarz commented about Adi's comments regarding Jim Morrison's comments and perspective. Will not comment about his comments. Bruce Watson is reviewing the safety report.
- Jocelyn Schwarz indicated Jeff Gorman will discuss the diversity committee concerns next week.
- Jocelyn Schwarz comment on policy # 2312 for enrollment. Grade 3 is 24 and Grade 4 is 25 students per policy.
- Bruce Watson commented on diversity and inclusion committee by Jeff Gorman.
- Bruce Watson also commented that no one is ignoring Jim Morrison's comments. The administration is looking at the safety concerns and risk assessment. Once good data is received, comments and recommendations will be made.

*Motion to enter 2nd Closed Session at 9:23 p.m.
Moved: Ms. Merchant Second: Mr. Frid
All in Favor*

*Motion to adjournment at 11:33 p.m.
Moved: Dr. Wilderman Second: Ms. Newman
All in Favor*

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Anaya

Victor J. Anaya
Business Administrator/Board Secretary