

Minutes of the Work Session
of the Tenafly Board of Education
Monday, April 17, 2023
Board of Education Hegelein Building

*Motion to go into Closed Session at 7:15 p.m.
Moved: Ms. Merchant Second: Ms. Harris
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
Danielle Diaz, Human Resources Manager
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 April 17, 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 8:10 p.m.
Moved: Ms. Meytes Second: Ms. Israeli Miller
All in Favor*

Open to the Public – 1st Session 8:10 pm

Public Session 1 -

Total Attendees Including Board Personnel –

In-Person: 72

Comments (In-Person and Virtual)

- Jocelyn Schwarz commented on protocol of public comment
- Jocelyn Schwarz indicated Bruce Watson was going to make an announcement about security recommendations. In addition, Jocelyn Schwarz provided a history of how the district got to this place starting with the security round table meetings. Jocelyn Schwarz shared the scenarios governing the recommendation by the superintendent, and more recommendations with the referendum items. In addition, the prosecutor will be reviewing the other schools besides the high school.
- Bruce Watson provided a basis for his recommendation based on his role as an interim superintendent. Policy 7440 on security was followed for his recommendation utilizing an audit on security, which he has started the implementation with the high school utilizing the Tenafly police and prosecutor in providing an assessment. The report contains recommendations the board should consider on the high school, and cannot share publicly the report. The recommendations are:
 - Timelines from the report and categories: referendum, operations, policies, personnel, capital projects.
 - Vestibules were recommended with the construction.
 - Maintenance items as well as capital projects with the budget can do.
 - Personnel recommendations include Mental Health, AED and Stop the Bleed kits. Training on Active Shooter and Stop the Bleed.
 - Full-time SRO in the High School starting next year.
 - Focus on SEL, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, LLD, threat assessment teams being established, board policies established for safety, use of technology, code of conduct, removal of students, acceptable use of computers, anti-hazing, etc.
 - Tenafly police has a memorandum of agreement to share certain information approved by commissioner of education and attorney general with the board.
 - Board to consider at each school have a door safety monitor at the front entrance of each school with a desk, cameras, software to check licenses for criminal background, escorts person to the destination. Will lock doors and monitor the activity. No other entrance will be open. Eventually, vestibules will have man traps with this to enhance safety.
- Board discussion to share publicly the recommendations.
 - Ms. Inbal Israeli Miller thanked Bruce Watson. Inquired about the SRO situation at the high school and middle school? Bruce Watson commented based on the other reports, and the recommendations being made. Further inquiry about the full-time SRO was made. Recommendations are based upon what the district can afford.
 - Mr. Igor Frid would like additional information about the door monitors, and the procedures that would need to be followed. Bruce Watson responded on the procedure. Igor Frid suggested artificial intelligence be included. Bruce Watson indicated technology department would be involved.
 - Paula Newman inquired with Chief Chamberlain share the role of the SRO, and time frames, effectiveness of the SRO at the High School. Chief Chamberlain responded. Ms. Inbal Israeli Miller inquired about discipline by SROs. Chief Chamberlain indicated SROs are not involved with discipline.
 - Ms. Michelle Harris inquired about monitoring the front door, and if changes would need to be made about entrances? Bruce Watson said open campus the middle and high school

have would need to be addressed, and changes would need to be made on policy at those two schools. Inbal Israeli Miller inquired about elementary schools.

- Board members each shared their thoughts about supporting the recommendations by Bruce Watson. Audience clapped and booed after speeches by the board.
- Ms. Inbal Israeli Miller shared that the district should take the information shared under consideration as research was done about security, and information the Chief of Police shared. Audience clapped to her comments.
- Paula Newman inquired for clarification about the one SRO the district currently has.
- Jocelyn Schwarz thanked the administration as a lot of work was put into the findings and report. Capital improvements will be put into the referendum to consider the security recommendations. The recommendations is a discussion and not a vote on the recommendations. Also, supports a full-time SRO at the high school and door monitors.
- Jocelyn Schwarz request that public comments be respectful and shared the public comment protocol again.
- Renee Sodri commented she did not feel safe going to school, and would like someone to protect from shooters.
- 4- 5th graders came up and commented on not feeling safe going to school.
- Angela Leoni speaking on behalf of PASSIT, and in favor of the added security. Want SRO instead of a Class 3 officer.
- Andrea Kline needs more time at the high school for security.
- Adi Sodri shared she was sad to hear from a board member that a police officer is dangerous to our children especially when the Chief of Police is here. A SRO being here is good. After the shooting in Texas that safety opened up to the school district. Wondering why the expert recommendations are being ignored when experts visited the district? Will not ignore her children's safety. The audience clapped.
- Ethan Abraham had questioned about door monitored. The investment is costly and wondered how often public come into the school.
- Catherine Carl thanked and congratulated E. Kim on successes achieved. Also, the loss of the supervisor. Thanked the superintendent for recommendations on security. Commented about the budget hearing and discretionary spending if the district has a budget deficit. Has questions for the police chief on how long it would take to get to Smith Elementary School if there was a security attack. Diverse students has different population in the district.
- Allan Todd commented that people have brought their own personal insights to the table tonight. Children's safety should be the concern and not personal agendas. Concern on safety is someone with a rifle, and not having a door monitor. Tax dollars are wasted with a person at the door. The need to protect the schools like bulletproof screens to protect the students from someone coming in with a gun, etc. The audience clapped.
- Melanie Lau reiterated what she heard tonight, and be budget conscious to staff when the schools are the busiest. Second recommendation was to increase the SRO at the high school. The role of the SRO by the chief was to prevent the active shooter. Does not recommend moving the SRO to five days a week. Her children at Maugham School so whatever the recommendation at the time is to have an SRO or Class 3 officer at that location, the public understands the reasons and is a huge investments.
- Dania Broukman who has children at Stillman. Has to tell her children that their safety is not as important at the students at the high school. Door monitors do not help to protect shooters. Was wondering if the board knew the difference between SROs and Class 3 officers? Shared what a Class 3 officer does and would feel safer compared to a SRO. Had a question for Chief

Chamberlain about sleeping at night having an SRO vs. a Class 3 officer? Also, an active shooter turns on the fire alarm at a school. The audience clapped.

- Shauna Castlery from Stillman. Sad about the information heard tonight. Feels the culture in Tenafly has nothing to do with. Expert guidelines should be implemented. Was wondering why the confidential report is being kept confidential. High taxes are being paid for safety and do not have the budget to implement safety concerns. Frightened when drop off her kids at school as feels unsafe. Wondered why talking about high school and not the elementary schools. How long will it take to implement decisions? No place for politics. The audience clapped.
- M Kass came with open mind and a lot of emotions. Feels am a logical person in Tenafly. Googled about Class 3 officers, but all the other towns have Class 3 officers in each school. Wonders if a shooter would determine which town is safe or not from googling on safety. What is the logic and why so different? The audience clapped.
- Brian Rudolph shared his background to the public. Shared in the past ways to prevent school shootings. Felt no data on school shootings. Shared circumstances and statistics how armed officers do not stop shooters. Feel board members placate to those who want to hear the majority of the ones. The audience clapped.
- Warren Knowles just started hearing about the school safety concerns in Tenafly. Was wondering what the board is trying to address here as active shooters being delayed getting into the school with an armed officer, Class 3 officers. The audience clapped. Having a film on the glass would help prevent glass from shattering should be considered.
- Temte shared his background. Active shooter is second concern. Data tells us school shootings with armed guards present. Active Shooters prepared more so when there are armed guards present. No guarantee if armed guards are present will prevent active shooters. Feels SROs will not prevent mass shootings. The audience clapped.
- Jason Hart lobbied against armed guards in the schools back in 2018. History of gun fighting in past four years where in New Jersey was only two, which involved an SRO making a mistake on gun violence. Voices are constantly trying to get their way of personal agendas. Gun culture in America is overwhelming.
- Alona Wartofsky commented supporting Brian Rudolph and Jason Hart said. Small group do not support armed guards.
- Oded Berson says knowledge shared from other parents not good. Since 2015, the recommendations from the state the community had a lot of discussions, and the recommendations from the professionals were shared. During the roundtable discussions, Class 3 officers were suggested. In addition, professionals now provided recommendations, but not sharing the recommendations of having Class 3 officers. Should be implemented across the board. Thanked the chief of police for his team around the kids.
- Brian K shared armed guards are the best way to go for implementing security in the district. Had 3 questions for Chief Chamberlain. Class three officers vs. SRO; personal recommendation to best protect the children; how many weapons do Tenafly residents own?
- Alexandra Diman should be taking measures that work and not to personal measures. Believe a welcoming environment should be created at the school level. Class 3 officers' reports to the Bergen County Sheriff will not prevent shootings. Studies on school shooting shows the presence of armed officers doesn't prevent shootings. Wants armed guards out of the schools. The audience clapped.
- Christina Hart says a lot of discussion on active shooters, but doesn't hear about educating students about safety. Wondering where the education is for the dangers of guns. DARE in her day. Feels important to have the instruction of guns and aware of what goes on in the classrooms.

Wants the board to keep in their power of democracy and feels community and board needs to listen and talk to one another and work together. Wants board to take control of the space.

- Sivan Landan to make children safe. Having budget considerations of film on glass and Class 3 officers is important since towns around Tenafly have the officers.
- Chad Coleman shared children most important. Social and emotional welfare of the children presentation was shared. Then Class 3 officers came up. Seems the topic is not being addressed. Feels the message is not being heard precisely here. The board is responsible for making decisions about safety and security. Feels safety is not being addressed.
- Mia Calone feels data does not lie. Husband sent the superintendent an email. Research on the database was not objected on school shootings. Shared the data history with the audience. Having a police officer on guard does reduce shootings. Social media about shootings is a reality. How many people in Tenafly own guns?
- Jocelyn Schwarz commented on the safety concerns mentioned, and the reasons for the recommendations. Also, what the referendum plans will address the security concerns. And the theatre being portrayed.
- Bruce Watson commented about the comments about experts on security. Board policy needs to be followed. Looking at all aspects giving to the board on safety. Shares what the district should be concerned about.
- Ms. Yelena Meytes commented about a comment made to clarify to the Chief of Police.
- Chief Chamberlain provided commentary about safety issues discussed.

Presentation/Reports-

- None

Committee Reports –

Communications and Policy – Ms. Yelena Meytes provided an update.

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

Facility – Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz (no update).

Finance – Mr. Edward Salaski (no 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 (no update)...

New Business –

- None

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

- Ms. Alexandria Yang (no update).
- Ms. Ayla Uram (no update).

Administration

- None

Proposed Resolutions

- Personnel – closed session by Danielle Diaz
- Administration – Bruce Watson presented the administration resolutions.
- Curriculum – Jeff Gorman presented the curriculum resolutions
- Special Services – closed session by Bruce Watson
- Finance – Victor Anaya presented the Finance resolutions

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following resolutions for approval at the BOE Regular Session Meeting scheduled for April 24, 2023:

Personnel

	<u>Personnel Resolutions</u>
Resolution P-1	Approval of Retirements 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 2023-2024 Contracts for Custodial/Maintenance Staff
Resolution P-7	Approval of 2023-2024 Contracts for Paraprofessional Staff
Resolution P-8	Approval of 2023-2024 Contracts for Non-Tenured Administrators
Resolution P-9	Approval of 2023-2024 Contracts for Non-Tenured Faculty
Resolution P-10	Approval of 2023-2024 Contracts for Non-Tenured Secretaries
Resolution P-11	Approval of 2023-2024 Contracts for Tenured Faculty
Resolution P-12	Recognition of the Life and Contributions of Dr. Eleni “Helen” Coyle

Administration

	<u>Administration Resolutions</u>
Resolution A-1	Approval to Affirm the Superintendent’s Decision in HIB Investigations
Resolution A-2	First Reading of Bylaw 0144, Regulation 2417, Policy 2520, Regulation 2520, Policy 3217, Policy 4217, Policy 5305, Policy 5308, Regulation

	<u>Administration Resolutions</u>
	5308, Policy 5310, Regulation 5310, Policy 6112, Regulation 6115.01, Policy 6115.04, Policy 6311, Policy 7440, Policy 9140
Resolution A-3	Approval of the revised 2022-2023 School Calendar

Curriculum

	<u>Curriculum Resolutions</u>
Resolution C-1	Approval of Review and Enrichment Summer School Program dates for 2023
Resolution C-2	Approval of Tuition Rates for Review and Enrichment Summer School Programs for 2023
Resolution C-3	Approval of Professional Development Request
Resolution C-4	Approval of Field Trips

Special Services

	<u>Special Services Resolutions</u>
Resolution S-1	Approval of Settlement Agreement and Release
Resolution S-2	Approval of Ten Month Programs 2022-2023
Resolution S-3	Rescind The Following Ten Month Placement 2022-2023
Resolution S-4	Approval of Extraordinary Services One to One Aide 10 Month Placement 2022-2023

Finance

	<u>Finance Resolutions</u>
Resolution F-1	Approval of Board Secretary's Report for March 2023
Resolution F-2	Approval of Treasurer's Report for March 2023
Resolution F-3	Approval of Transfers for March 2023
Resolution F-4	Approval of Bills for March 18, 2023 through April 20, 2023
Resolution F-5	Approval of Payroll for March 2023
Resolution F-6	Approval for Tenafly Board of Education to Contribute \$1,000 towards Project Graduation Class of 2023
Resolution F-7	Approval of Donation to the Tenafly Middle School
Resolution F-8	Approval of Shared Services Agreement between the Tenafly Board of Education and the Borough of Tenafly for School Field Use

Open to the Public – 2nd Session 10:53 pm

- Comments
- Jocelyn Schwarz share the public comment protocol
- No comments.
(In-Person and Virtual)

*Motion to enter 2nd Closed Session at 10:54 p.m.
Moved: Ms. Meytes Second: Ms. Israeli Miller
All in Favor*

*Motion to adjournment at 12:24 a.m.
Moved: Ms. Newman Second: Ms. Merchant
All in Favor*

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Anaya

Victor J. Anaya
Business Administrator/Board Secretary