

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION
OF THE TENAFLY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 6, 2021
TENAFLY BOARD OF EDUCATION HEGELEIN BUILDING

*Motion to go into Closed Session at 7:15 p.m.
Moved: Mr. Frid Second: Dr. Wilderman
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>
Inbal Israeli Miller	X	
Michelle Merchant	X	
Yelena Meytes	X	
Paula Newman	X	
Edward J. Salaski	X	
Michael Wilderman	X	
Jane Juhng, Vice President	X	
Jocelyn Schwarz, President	X	

Also present:

Ms. Shauna C. DeMarco, Superintendent
Dr. Evelyn Mamman, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Danielle Diaz, Human Resources Manager
Dr. Victor J. Anaya, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Administer Oath to New Board Member

Dr. Anaya read the required Oath to Mr. Igor Frid, the newly elected Board Member.

Closed Session

Be it Resolved, that the Tenafly Board of Education determines it is necessary to meet in Closed Session on December 6, 2021 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 go into Open Session at 8:00 p.m.

*Moved: Ms. Merchant Second: Ms. Juhng
All in Favor*

Open Session

The public meeting was called to order at 8:00p.m. by Board President Jocelyn Schwarz

Public Comment

- Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz welcomed Mr. Igor Frid as the new board member and shared the roll call was done already.
- Also, welcomed Bonnie Cushing and Edie Grauer in sharing their anti-racism presentation.
- Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz commented on sharing facility committee report and about an update on Smith School
- LL inquired about the two presenters and them being controversial. Are there deliverables and measurements on their presentation? Are the sessions going to be measured given the costs involved?
- Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz commented about the listening sessions, and comments will be next week at the regular meeting.
- MA commented/inquired about Ms. Yelena Meytes' August 2021 comments regarding the anti-racism regarding his son. Ms. Yelena Meytes commented none.
- MA inquired with Ms. Inbal Israeli Miller about micro-aggressions. The board members replied next week that comments would come. MA commented about Bonnie Cushing's training.
- MA directed an inquiry to Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz about critical race theory. Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz indicated the questions will be next week, and indicated no to his question.
- GS commented about the anti-racism contract hired, but shared his concern last meeting if the community will have access and be privy to the information shared about anti-racism. Also, he shared his opinion on what the board should consider. Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz shared the comments will be shared next meeting. GS expressed his frustration as a taxpayer about the information not being shared with the community.
- CH thanked the board and administration on efforts with the anti-racism training. What is the board/administration hiding about sharing the information to the community to minimize anything?
- LL asked if there were any deliverables assigned in the contract with Bonnie Cushing?
- NO inquired about the naysayers, and parents are not involved in social study meetings and educational pieces of the work that is being performed, and believes the community should be involved, and honor the presentation at hand about the anti-racism.

Presentation on Anti-Racism by Ms. Bonnie Cushing and Edie Grauer

- Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz shared how the contract evolved so everyone present understood and was aware of the need. Also, shared the training schedule in creating safe spaces for students, staff and administrators.
- Ms. Bonnie Cushing introduced the anti-racism training, listening sessions and workshops.

- Ms. Edie Grauer introduced herself and discussed the anti-racism training, listening sessions and workshops.
- Board members had questions about the program.

Committee Reports – no updates other than Facilities

- Finance/Alternative Revenue-Mr. Ed Salaski
- Communication/Policies-Ms. Paula Newman
- Facilities/Athletics/Co-Curricular-Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz gave an update related to the Smith Elementary School playground and the two resolutions being voted on tonight.
- Curriculum/Technology-Ms. Jane Juhng
- Joint Use-Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz
- Sustainability-TBA
- Negotiations-Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz
- TBOE Listening Sessions Project-Ms. Yelena Meytes

Student Representatives – Ms. Jessica Lee and Ms. Alexandria Yang provided updates on.

- Ms. Alexandria Yang had nothing to report.
- Ms. Jessica Lee shared talent show information and included Cresskill since the flood effected Cresskill. Grand prize was \$ 250. Excited about the show and prize.

Liaison Report – no report

New Business – None

Administration

- SD presented the board and administration resolutions.

Curriculum

- EM presented the curriculum resolutions.

Finance

- VA presented all the resolutions within Finance, and shared a discussion on the F-1 & 2 resolutions related to emergent repairs and flood that needed to be voted on.

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following resolutions for approval at the BOE Regular Session Meeting scheduled for December 13, 2021:

BOARD

RESOLUTION B-1	ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS FROM JANUARY 5, 2022 TO THE NEXT REORGANIZATION MEETING
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PERSONNEL

RESOLUTION P-1	APPROVAL OF RESIGNATIONS
RESOLUTION P-2	APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTES
RESOLUTION P-3	APPROVAL OF HIRES
RESOLUTION P-4	APPROVAL OF STAFF/POSITION RECLASSIFICATIONS
RESOLUTION P-5	APPROVAL OF EXTRA COMPENSATION APPOINTMENTS
RESOLUTION P-6	APPROVAL OF AMENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EMPLOYEE #1585
RESOLUTION P-7	APPROVAL OF AMENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EMPLOYEE #3236
RESOLUTION P-8	APPROVAL OF AMENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EMPLOYEE #3117
RESOLUTION P-9	APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EMPLOYEE #3330
RESOLUTION P-10	APPROVAL OF SIXTH PERIOD ASSIGNMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

RESOLUTION A-1	APPROVAL TO AFFIRM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DECISION IN HIB INVESTIGATIONS
RESOLUTION A-2	SECOND READING OF POLICY 2422, POLICY 2467, POLICY 5116, POLICY 5751, REGULATION 5751, POLICY 6115.01, POLICY 6115.02, POLICY 6115.03, POLICY 6311, POLICY 7432, REGULATION 7432, POLICY 8420, REGULATION 8420.1, POLICY 8550, POLICY 8600
RESOLUTION A-3	APPROVAL OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR
RESOLUTION A-4	SCHOOL PRELIMINARY SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR DETERMINING GRADES UNDER THE ANTI-BULLYING BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

CURRICULUM

RESOLUTION C-1	APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUESTS
RESOLUTION C-2	APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIPS

FINANCE

RESOLUTION F-1 ¹	APPROVAL FOR EMERGENCY FLOOD DAMAGE SHORT TERM SITE IMPROVEMENTS DUE TO WATER DAMAGE AT THE SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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RESOLUTION F-2¹	APPROVAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF YARDS OF MULCH FOR THE PLAYGROUNDS AT EACH OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS DUE TO THE FLOOD DAMAGE
RESOLUTION F-1	BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2021
RESOLUTION F-2	TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2021
RESOLUTION F-3	TRANSFERS FOR NOVEMBER 2021
RESOLUTION F-4	APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 9, 2021
RESOLUTION F-5	PAYROLL FOR NOVEMBER 2021
RESOLUTION F-6	APPROVAL OF JOINT PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH BERGEN COUNTY REGION V COUNCIL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR
RESOLUTION F-7	APPROVAL OF HEALTH AND SAFETY EVALUATION STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE
RESOLUTION F-8	APPROVAL OF NJSDA AND NJDOE EMERGENT AND CAPITAL MAINTENANCE NEEDS GRANT APPLICATION

¹Resolutions may be voted upon at the December 6, 2021 Work Session

FINANCE for approval at the December 6, 2021 BOE Work Session

RESOLUTION F-1¹ APPROVAL FOR EMERGENCY FLOOD DAMAGE SHORT TERM SITE IMPROVEMENTS DUE TO WATER DAMAGE AT THE SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tenafly Board of Education approve site improvements involving Storm/Catch Basin repairs due to Water Damage in the amount not to exceed \$ 71,000. The district will file an insurance claim for this damage for which it is anticipated that the majority of these costs will be covered.

RESOLUTION F-2¹ APPROVAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF YARDS OF MULCH FOR THE PLAYGROUNDS AT EACH OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS DUE TO THE FLOOD DAMAGE FROM IDA AND REINFORCEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tenafly Board of Education approve the proposal from Downes Forest Products for yards of mulch playground reinforcement at each of the elementary schools totaling \$ 33,037.50. Smith Elementary and Mackay Elementary Schools' playgrounds need the additional mulch due to the storm damage while Stillman and Maugham Elementary Schools' playground need reinforcement. Downes Forest Products is part of the consortium, ESCNJ 20/21-02, for which the district is a member. The district will not be able to file an insurance claim for the damage caused by the flood, as mulch is not covered under the district's insurance policy. The damage caused by the flood will be included with the future FEMA application once all unpaid items are identified from the insurance reimbursement requests.

<i>Resolutions – F-1¹ and F-2¹</i>				
<i>Moved: Ms. Newman</i>		<i>Second: Ms. Israeli Miller</i>		
<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Ayes</i>	<i>Nays</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Igor Frid	X			

Inbal Israeli Miller	X			
Michelle Merchant	X			
Yelena Meytes	X			
Paula Newman	X			
Edward J. Salaski	X			
Michael Wilderman	X			
Jane Juhng, Vice President	X			
Jocelyn Schwarz, President	X			

Public Comment

- AM commented about presentation on anti-racism as embarrassing and unprofessional, and asked if the two consultants were going to be paid. Also, commented on critical race theory effect on students and diversity. Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz commented to AM that the board would get back to him next week.
- Also, AM questioned the reason the website had information on anti-racism, and questioned SD for the reasons. SD commented about the website to AM which AM felt it was racist material on the website. SD requested specific information to look at related to AM’s assertions.
- AM also asked if the 30 administrators would be voluntary or mandatory training.
- SC thanked the board of moving forward to race and diversity training despite the community objection to Tenafly’s standards.
- SC inquired when the board would move forward LGBTQ mandate by the state. EM commented about the district has met the mandate in 2020.
- LL commented about having contingency plans for playgrounds in the future, and was happy about the Smith School playground. Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz replied it was part of the plan.
- SM believe parents fight bigotry, and do want the contract with Bonnie Cushing cancelled. Also, asked about the racism theories. Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz replied next week would comment.
- AZ inquired about the social justice webpage for mistakes where language was written wrong. Ms. Jocelyn Schwarz commented the administration will look into the content of the page.

*Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:16 p.m. and enter 2nd closed session
Moved: Mr. Salaski Second: Ms. Meytes
All in Favor*

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Anaya

Victor J. Anaya
Business Administrator/Board Secretary