Minutes April 14, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting

TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Committee of the Whole Meeting
April 14, 2021

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Tewksbury Township Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Deo at 7:01 p.m. at Old Turnpike School.

PRESENT: Ms. Carrino, Mr. Davidson, Dr. Deeney, Ms. Jardinella, Ms. Larsen, Ms. Munoz, Dr. Simon, Ms. Stein, Mr. Deo

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jennifer Shouffler - Superintendent, Lori Tirone - Business Administrator

Mrs. Tirone read the Sunshine Law:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Tewksbury Township Board of Education has caused notice of the time and place of this meeting to be published in the Courier News, the Hunterdon Democrat, the Hunterdon Review and notice of the meeting has been posted in the Township Municipal Building, both school buildings and the Tewksbury Township Public Library.

The Board pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: The following staff and members of the public commented:

- Becky Palmer, teacher - the TEA would like to keep school day as is for the next 45 days of school. They are not in favor of switching to full day in person. The day is balanced and successful as is.
- Diane Chase, Lebanon - students are not doing well. Would like to return to full days.
- Allison Altieri, Lebanon - should return to full day.
- Liz Gentile, teacher - still in the midst of COVID, extending the in-person day is counter productive.
- Karen Lapointe, Lebanon, NJ - students should return to school full time
- Becky Chapman, TEA President, teacher - worried about contact tracing, quarantining the entire class, would like the school year to finish as is.
- Trish Mahoney, Lebanon, NJ - would like a better understanding of continuing with a half day. Kids are already playing together after school.
- Allison Christian, Lebanon, NJ - school is taking precautions to keep children safe. Music and aspire are floundering, an increase to full day would be a significant amount of time.
- Melissa Pavezzi - Full time working parent. Would like a full day of school. Children are anxious.
- Tara Bohm, Lebanon, NJ - Would like a full day. If Chatham can do it, why not Tewksbury.
- Jen Flood, Calfon, NJ - Upset that teachers and parents are at odds on decision. Teachers deserve respect.
- Amanda Nafey, Califon, NJ - Read letter. It is hard on both sides. Children are suffering. Would like full day.

PRESENTATION: Dr. Michael Mitchell, Old Turnpike School Principal, presented a Powerpoint presentation on the OTS advisory program from 7:35 p.m. - 7:50 p.m..

CORRESPONDENCE: Dr. Shouffler received several letters and emails from parents in support of returning and not returning to a full day of school.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Shouffler updated the board on the regional and school health data. The number of positive cases in Hunterdon County is increasing. The challenges and possibilities of returning to a full day of school have been discussed amongst the board. The plans for eating lunch meet the current health department guidelines. Administrators are prepared to make a change if the decision is made to move to a full day of in-person instruction. If the decision is made for a full day in school, the decision must also be made on having one day as an early dismissal day. A vote will be taken at the end of tonight's meeting. There is one HIB case to report this month.

CURRICULUM: The U.S. Department of Education rejected the New Jersey Department of Education's request for a testing waiver this spring, however, they approved a much shorter Start Strong test, which consists of 45 to 60 minutes each of ELA and Math in place of the multi-day NJSLA test that was used prior to the pandemic. Start Strong will be administered in the fall of 2021 instead of this spring. The district will still administer NWEA/MAP tests to grade 2-8 students in May. The NJDOE has shared the school performance reports for 2019-20. These reports normally show data relating to school testing, however, since the NJSLA test was not given last school year, the data is not included. The number of students classified as special education will decrease slightly next year. A virtual workshop will be held on April 22nd for parents of grade K-5 students to learn more about the English Language Arts Program. Ms. Bristow and Ms. Amato will be sharing their expertise.

POLICY: None.

FINANCE: Ms. Tirone discussed the possibility of participating in the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) through the NJ School Boards Association. Also discussed was the Child Study Team Shared Services Agreement with Califon and the Technology Shared Services Agreement with Readington.

Motion was made by Mr. Deo and seconded by Ms. Larsen to approve the following:

Approve the following workshop/travel requests for the 2020-2021 school year.

> **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator make the findings and approve attendance and travel for the following workshops/meetings:
>
> - that travel is directly related to and within the scope of the employee or Board member's duties or responsibilities; and for employees, the school district's professional development plan;
> - that travel is critical to the instructional needs of the district or furthers the efficient operation of the district;
> - that the travel is in compliance with state and federal travel payment guidelines; and
> - that the travel is in compliance with the District policy on travel.

Staff Member	Date	Registration	Other Expenses	Event/Destination
Bethany Zgorzynski	Upon Purchase	$499.00	-0-	Introduction to Prompt Technique Online Modules - 10 Units - Prompt Institute
Darcy Harp	3/24/21	$60.00	-0-	CPR Training provided by Hunterdon Healthcare
Ben Karmondi	3/24/21	$60.00	-0-	CPR Training provided by Hunterdon Healthcare
Kathryn Lemerick	3/24/21	$60.00	-0-	CPR Training provided by Hunterdon Healthcare

Cathy Pepe	3/24/21	$60.00	-0-	CPR Training provided by Hunterdon Healthcare
Jeanette Pill	3/24/21	$60.00	-0-	CPR Training provided by Hunterdon Healthcare
Mike Wooby	3/24/21	$60.00	-0-	CPR Training provided by Hunterdon Healthcare

Mileage will be reimbursed according to board policy.

Approve the Child Study Team Shared Services Agreement between Tewksbury Township School District Board of Education and the Califon School District Board of Education for the 2021-2022 school year.

Approve the Technology Support Shared Services Agreement between Tewksbury Township School District Board of Education and the Readington Township School District Board of Education for the 2021-2022 school year.

Approve the Tewksbury Elementary School donations from the TEA/NJEA grant received by Karen Morrow. The items donated are giant outdoor chalkboard flowers (2 sets), approximate value $300 and a garden bench, approximate value $500.

Final Resolution: Motion carried on a roll call vote.
Yes: Jillian Carrino, Greg Davidson, Angela Deeney, Susanne Jardinella, Lori Larsen,Suleyka Munoz, William Simon, Andrea Stein, Michael Deo

TECHNOLOGY: None.

FACILITIES: The Lockdown Emergency Notification System (LENS) at TES has been completed. Ms. Tirone would like to institute the same at OTS. This is to comply with Alyssa's Law. The water reports for OTS have been received. The PFOA was in range and the PFOS was higher than the limit. Ms. Tirone is trying to get quotes to remediate. Monthly outdoor tent rentals are being priced. Asbestos was found while sampling the OTS girls locker room around the molding. The lowest quote to remediate was $26,500 from Lilich and $7,825 for AHERA to oversee the projects.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

OTHER: Dr. Deeney thanked Dr. Mitchell for the advisory program and thanked the community for their participation on the decision to move forward with in person learning. The board discussed changing the school schedule to in person days beginning April 26, 2021. Also discussed was having an early dismissal on Wednesdays.

Motion was made by Mr. Deo and seconded by Dr. Deeney to approve the following:

Approve the revised Tewksbury School District Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools. Approve the schedule change date of April 26th.

Final Resolution: Motion carried on a roll call vote.
Yes: Jillian Carrino, Greg Davidson, Angela Deeney, Susanne Jardinella, Lori Larsen,Suleyka Munoz, William Simon, Andrea Stein, Michael Deo

Approve Wednesday as an early dismissal day.

Final Resolution: Motion carried on a roll call vote.
Yes: Jillian Carrino, Greg Davidson, Angela Deeney, Susanne Jardinella, Lori Larsen,Suleyka Munoz, William Simon, Andrea Stein, Michael Deo

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: The following members of the public spoke:

- Trish Mahoney, Lebanon, NJ - asked for clarification on early dismissal on Wednesday. Inquired about how many students were in special classes.
- Lisa Fritz - leave it at that.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion was made by Mr. Deo and seconded by Dr. Simon to enter Executive Session. The time was 8:44 p.m.

WHEREAS, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, also known as the Sunshine Law, authorizes a public body to meet in executive or private session under certain limited circumstances, and:
WHEREAS, said law required the Board of Education to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such an executive or private session;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Township of Tewksbury that it does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in executive session at this time to discuss personnel and legal matters for approximately thirty minutes. The matters discussed will be made public if and when confidentiality is no longer required and action pursuant to said discussion shall take place only at a public meeting. Action may be taken.

Open session resumed at 9:04 p.m.

PERSONNEL: Dr. Shouffler introduced Ms. Heather Goguen as the incoming Business Administrator following the departure of Ms. Lori Tirone. Ms. Carolyn Scheper will be retiring this year as a pre-school instructional aide.

Motion was made by Mr. Deo and seconded by Mr.s Larsen to approve the following:

At the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Heather Goguen as School Business Administrator/Board Secretary effective June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at the annual salary of $118,000. (DIST-SBA-BOE-01).

Accept, with regret, the letter of retirement from Carolyn Scheper, Preschool Instructional Aide, effective July 1, 2021. (OTS-AID-PRE-01)

Approve Donna Lance as a Home Instruction Teacher beginning April 15, 2021 through June 30, 2021 on an as needed basis at Step 15 MA at $62.79 per hour plus mileage.

Approve the following TES after school club advisor. Compensation will be $40/hour, 2 hours per session (includes prep). Anticipated club dates are April 12th through June 4th.

Advisor	Club
Kristy Schaub	City Games in the Country (K-5)

Final Resolution: Motion carried on a roll call vote.
Yes: Jillian Carrino, Greg Davidson, Angela Deeney, Susanne Jardinella, Lori Larsen,Suleyka Munoz, William Simon, Andrea Stein, Michael Deo

OLD BUSINESS: Eighth grade graduation and celebration ideas are being considered.

NEW BUSINESS: Information provided by Dr. Simon will be discussed on April 28th.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Mr. Deo and seconded by Ms. Larsen to adjourn the meeting. The time was 9:13 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Tirone
Board Secretary