Minutes October 15, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting

TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Committee of the Whole Meeting
October 15, 2020

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Tewksbury Township Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Pettegrove at 7:01 p.m. in the all purpose room at Old Turnpike School.

Mrs. Ackerman 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.

PRESENT: Mrs. Ackerman, Dr. Deeney, Mrs. Jardinella, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Larsen (arrived 7:16), Mrs. Stein, Mrs. Pettegrove

ABSENT: Mrs. Carrino, Mr. Deo

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PRESENTATION: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: A parent requested information about attending school in person for five days and not having Wednesdays as remote only days. Dr. Shouffler called the parent and explained the use for Wednesdays as a deep cleaning day to decrease the viral load between cohorts and that moving to more in-person learning will be considered in the future.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: School has now been in session for more than one month during the pandemic. The administrative team has found solutions to many obstacles, but still face challenges such as substitute shortages. Dr. Shouffler explained that she reviews the COVID Hunterdon County health data weekly through the department of health website created just for schools. The COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) uses a matrix of 3 criteria to determine the risk level for schools: COVID case rate, COVID-like illness rate at local hospitals and percent positive rate on COVID tests. At present, Hunterdon County is seeing an increase in cases. Tewksbury School District had one confirmed case of COVID among the staff. Due to health and safety protocols there were limited contacts and only a small population of the school needed to quarantine. With the low risk rating over the last 4 weeks, the second grade hybrid students were safely able to move into school four days per week, as planned for in the original Return to School Plan. Grades 3 and 4 are being considered in the next phase. Some students may need to change classes for this to happen. Busing remains an issue since adding more grades will add more students to the buses. There will be a re-registration in January for the spring semesters.

CURRICULUM: There will be no halloween parades this year, but students will be welcomed to dress up and celebrate in their classrooms. The Aspire program will begin in marking period 2. Gifted and talented criteria has been adapted for this unique year. At Old Turnpike School, not only identified students, but also other interested students will be allowed to join Aspire. The ASAP support program for ELA and Math has been implemented at OTS. Dr. Shouffler would like to hire two part-time teachers at TES to implement the same. Sport clinics started this week. The Athletic Director will speak to other local directors regarding basketball since the governor recently announced that it could be held. As of now, snow days will have to be used due to inclement weather rather than remote learning days as per NJ code. However, the NJDOE is still discussing this topic and more may be learned in the future.

POLICY: Policy 6171.2 Gifted and Talented will be reviewed.

FINANCE: Motion was made by Mrs. Pettegrove and seconded by Mrs. Ackerman 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
Kathleen Wright	12/3/20	$49.00	-0-	17th Annual Suicide Prevention Conference Reaching for Hope - Via Webex

Approve entering into a contract with Louis A. Daly to provide Restraint Training: Strategies for Crisis Intervention and Prevention (SCIP) to staff for two (2) three (3) hour sessions at a cost of $1075.00.

Approve the 2020-2021 Joint Transportation Agreement between Lebanon Township School District and Tewksbury Township School District for transporting three resident school choice students attending Lebanon Township School District for a total cost of $2,595.00.

Approve the following PTA fundraising events:

Name of Fundraiser	Description	Date	Grades Participating
Spiritwear	Tewksbury school logo spirit wear clothing sale	10/12/20 - 10/25/20	All
Boon Supply Catalog	Mixed bag of goods catalog (wrapping paper, bags, utensils)	10/14/20 - 11/16/20	All

Oldwick Market	10% of any food purchased for dine in or dine out will be donated to the PTA	10/28/20	All, and will also be open to the community

Approve the following Tewksbury Elementary School Fundraiser:

Name of Fundraiser	Description	Date	Grades Participating	Advisor
Mane Stream	Shoes for Shoes collection to keep shoes out of landfills, provide affordable shoes to people in developing nations and raise funds to support Mane Stream's farmer costs for the Mane Stream herd.	11/2/20 - 11/30/20	K-5	Guidance Counselor- Sheila Donovan

Final Resolution: Motion carried on a roll call vote.
Yes: Leslie Ackerman, Angela Deeney, Susanne Jardinella, Erica Johnson, Lori Larsen, Andrea Stein, Cynthia Pettegrove
Absent: Jillian Carrino, Michael Deo

TECHNOLOGY: The bandwidth upgrade was completed on September 29th. The staff and students now have a faster and more reliable internet connectivity in the district.

FACILITIES: The district would like to congratulate John Plummer on a job well done. John donated 16 picnic tables to the district for his Eagle Scout Project. He raised the money, purchased supplies, built the tables and delivered them. 11 tables were placed at TES and 5 tables at OTS. The district is still in need of a custodian. The position has been advertised but offers have not been accepted for various reasons such as salary, hours or inability to meet the criteria.

Motion was made by Mrs. Pettegrove and seconded by Mrs. Ackerman to approve the following:

Approve the school bus routes for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Final Resolution: Motion carried on a roll call vote.
Yes: Leslie Ackerman, Angela Deeney, Susanne Jardinella, Erica Johnson, Lori Larsen, Andrea Stein, Cynthia Pettegrove
Absent: Jillian Carrino, Michael Deo

COMMUNICATIONS: The board would like to send out another climate survey to the district.

OTHER: None.

LEGISLATION: None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

During this portion of the meeting, the public is invited to address the Board with questions or comments on agenda items and if time permitting, other items.

The public is requested to sign the register provided for this purpose and to state their name, address, and direct their comments to the Board President. While all comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate, the Board will not respond to the speakers at the time of their appearance.

The public comment period will be a maximum of thirty minutes in length unless there are unusual circumstances. Those appearing will be allocated three minutes to speak and no one will be permitted to speak twice until all those wishing to speak have had a turn.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: **Motion was made by Mrs. Pettegrove and seconded by Mrs. Larsen to enter Executive Session. The time was 8:55 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 matters for approximately 30 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 9:17 p.m.

PERSONNEL: The district is still experiencing a shortage of substitute teachers. Dr. Shouffler would like to hire a permanent substitute at TES. An email has been sent out to the school community to try to attract more substitute teachers.

Motion was made by Mrs. Pettegrove and seconded by Mrs. Ackerman to approve the following:

Approve the revised job description for 10-Month Office Secretary.

At the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Ryan Dec as a part time IT support technician at the rate of $15/hour on an as needed basis for the 2020-2021 school year.

Approve the following after school sports club facilitators for the 2020-21 school year beginning October 12, 2020 through November 19, 2020 at the rate of $40 per hour for up to 20 hours per facilitator.

CLUB	FACILITATOR
Running	Cathy Zisk Joseph Labosky (Volunteer - sub/student teacher)
Yoga	Joelle Capece
Baseball	Tom Lobb
Soccer	Pete Berg Rick deJaager

Field Hockey	Tara Morash (sub/student teacher)

At the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Amanda Kouzis as a full time middle school language arts teacher beginning October 16, 2020 through June 30, 2021, at Step 6, MA+15, $64,557.00 (prorated).

At the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Shane Thomas as a full time middle school social studies teacher beginning October 19, 2020 through June 30, 2021, at Step 1, MA, $59,193.00 (prorated).

At the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Fay Perticari as an elementary school leave replacement teacher beginning December 1, 2020 or before, through approximately May 6, 2021, at Step 1, MA $59,163.00 (prorated).

At the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Barbara Simcox as a substitute teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Mrs. Pettegrove and seconded by Mrs. Ackerman to adjourn the meeting. The time was 9:27 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Tirone
Board Secretary