Minutes September 24, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Board Meeting
September 24, 2020

The Regular Board Meeting of the Tewksbury Township Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Pettegrove at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was held in the cafeteria of 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT: Mrs. Ackerman, Mrs. Carrino, Dr. Deeney, Mr. Deo, Mrs. Jardinella, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs.Stein, Mrs. Pettegrove

ABSENT: Mrs. Larsen

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jennifer Shouffler - Superintendent, Mrs.Tirone - Business Administrator, members of the public.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PRESENTATION: Dr. Michael Mitchell informed the Board that Old Turnpike School had earned National Blue Ribbon Status for 2020. Dr. Mitchell also spoke about the third week of school and the schedule improvements that were made.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Shouffler, along with other Hunterdon County superintendents, is briefed weekly by the Department of Health (DOH) on current health data. The DOH has not recommended any increases to in-person learning at this time. Social distancing is being reinforced. Dr. Shouffler will readdress returning to a full day school at the next board meeting. Dr. Shouffler is committed to getting the youngest students back to full days as soon as possible. Kindergarten and first grade students are attending four days, and the hope is to have second grade also attend four days. A letter was sent to all second grade parents, and given the feedback, Dr. Shouffler would like the Board's support to explore the options for bringing back the second grade for four days. Special programs for students receiving services, music and enrichment are being worked on and some have already been implemented in the schools. Dr. Shouffler is exploring different options for additional remedial support. New procedures for emergency/fire drills were discussed with the faculty. This week and next week both a walk through fire drill and an alarm fire drill will be run on both A and B days. There were no HIB incidents for the month of September, 2020. The emergency/fire drill report was reviewed.

	Tewksbury Elementary School	Old Turnpike School
Date/Time	9/18/20	9/18/20
Type of Drill	Communication Security Drill	Communication Security Drill
Duration of Drill	2 minutes	2 minutes
Weather Conditions	good	good
Conductor of Drill	Megan Verderamo	Michael Mitchell
Notification Method	PA System and radios	PA System and radios

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

Approve the revised board meeting calendar for the remainder of 2020. The dates have been changed due to the Wednesday school closings for deep cleaning.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Mrs. Pettegrove and seconded by Mrs. Ackerman to approve the following minutes:

- August 5, 2020 Special Board Meeting (Virtual)
- August 14, 2020 Special Board Meeting (Virtual)

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

- August 19, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- August 19, 2020 Executive Session

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

CURRICULUM: Dr. Shouffler is committed to offering a diagnostic assessment tool to evaluate where students are in terms of their learning. The NJDOE will be offering a new assessment named the Start Strong assessment which is reported to the state but not published. Another option is to continue to participate in the MP/NWEA testing. Both tests may be taken remotely. Dr. Shouffler is recommending the Stay Strong test since it supports

the NJSLA testing that may return this year or next for the students. There has been no news from the local conference schools on competitive sports. However, athletic director Patty Jennings would like to propose five after school sports clubs: yoga, running, baseball, soccer and field hockey. Sign ups and advertisements for the clubs will be sent out next week. The PTA would like to continue with their tradition of hosting a Trunk or Treat event for halloween and is looking for recommendations as to how this can be done while still keeping social distancing.

POLICY: None.

FINANCE: Mrs. Lori Tirone announced that the audit concluded today. Findings will be discussed at the COW.

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

Motion to approve the following:

1. Approval of Bills

   BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached list of district bills for payment as presented by the School Business Administrator for the period August 20, 2020 through September 24, 2020, for a total amount of $1,220,065.16.

2. 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
Meghan Erb	11/2/20	$289.00		Fundations Level 2 Virtual Launch Workshop

Mileage will be reimbursed in accordance with school policy.

3. *Rescind Finance motion #7 from May 27, 2020 BOE meeting to approve entering into contract with JAS Educational Consulting, LLC for Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant Services for Educational Evaluations for 2020-2021 School Year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a rate of $410.00 per evaluation.*

4. *Rescind Finance motion #8 from May 27, 2020 BOE meeting to approve entering into contract with JAS Educational Consulting, LLC for Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant Services for Child Study Team Meetings (Planning, Eligibility, IEP, Reevaluation, etc.) for 2020-2021 School Year beginning July 1,*

2020 through June 30, 2021. At a rate of $75.00 per hour, one hour minimum.

5. *Rescind Finance motion #5 from December 5, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting to approve entering into contract with Advancing Opportunities for an Augmentative Communication Evaluation plus travel for student #2939084202 at a cost not to exceed $1,740.00.*

6. Approve entering into contract with Garden State AAC Specialists, LLC for an Augmentative Communication Evaluation plus travel for student #2939084202 at a cost of $150.00 per hour at a cost not to exceed $1,500.00.

7. Approve placement of student #2939084202 at The Arc of Essex County Stepping Stones School for the 2020 Extended School Year Program beginning July 1, 2020 through August 12, 2020 at a tuition cost of $16,050.00 plus transportation.

8. Approve placement of student #2939084202 at The Arc of Essex County Stepping Stones School for the 2020-2021 school year beginning September 8, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a tuition cost of $96,300.00 plus transportation.

9. Approve placement of student #4162596621 at The Craig School for the 2020-2021 school year beginning September 3, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a tuition cost of $55,380.00 plus transportation.

10. Approve placement of student #6343430400 at Somerset Hills Learning Institute for the 2020 Extended School Year Program beginning July 6, 2020 through August 16, 2020 at a tuition cost of $16,605.90 plus transportation.

11. Approve placement of student #6343430400 at Somerset Hills Learning Institute for the 2020-2021 school year beginning September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a tuition cost of $99,635.40 plus transportation.

12. Approve the Resolution for Participation in Coordinated Transportation Agreement between the Tewksbury Township Board of Education and the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (HCESC).

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

TECHNOLOGY: None.

FACILITIES: Mrs. Tirone updated the board on the HVAC systems and the MERV filters. Mrs. Tirone spoke about a letter received from Mr. Keith Gourley, Executive Director of the New Jersey School Buildings and Grounds Association. Mrs. Tirone urged the importance of understanding that while MERV 13 filters have been put in our units, it is going to cause our system to fail. A MERV rating chart was also presented to the board. Mrs. Tirone was contacted by Mr. Kevin Pratt, the Public Works Superintendent regarding the removal of some of the dead trees along the entrance to Tewksbury Elementary School. Mr. Pratt would like the board to approve paying one half of the $2,400 bill for the removal, trimming and grinding of the stumps. The board agreed to share the cost.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

OTHER: None.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW: None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:
Brandi Harkins - Thanked the TES Principal and Superintendent. Let the Board know parents would be willing to cover the lunch period at the school for us to have a full day program.
Becky Palmer - Asked the Board Secretary to share the article on the MERV filters with her.
William Simon- Asked if we had a plan to close in the event of a Covid positive person.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: **Motion was made by Mrs. Pettegrove and seconded by Mrs. Ackerman 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 forty five 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 9:36 p.m.

PERSONNEL:

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

1. Approve Nicole Amato and Nicole Fuentes as the cooperating teachers for Liza Cruz, a Centenary University Student, in order for Ms. Cruz to perform her Clinical Field Experience and Clinical Internship beginning August 31, 2020 through approximately December 11, 2020

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

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

3. Approve the following honoraria positions for the 2020-2021 school year:

Last Name	First Name	Honoraria Position	Compensation

Olla	Heather	Odyssey of the Mind Co-Advisor	$1,950.00
Lance	Donna	Odyssey of the Mind Co-Advisor	$1,950.00
Krowl	Dee	Student Council Moderator Co-Advisor	$660.00
Mendralla	Bonnie	Student Council Moderator Co-Advisor	$660.00
Palmer	Becky	Yearbook Co-Advisor	$1,500.00
Morrow	Karen	Yearbook Co-Advisor	$1,500.00

4. At the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Nicole Erhart as a 6th grade science leave replacement teacher beginning approximately November 12, 2020 or before, through approximately March 29, 2021, at Step 2, MA $59,593.00 (prorated).

6. At the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following substitute teacher for the 2020-2021 school year, pending criminal history review:

    - Lisa Van Doren

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

Mrs. Jardinella asked if students going away on vacation to a quarantined area can learn remotely for two weeks when they return? Dr. Shouffler responded that they would have to take sick days because joining a remote class would tax the system.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Mrs. Pettegrove and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to adjourn the meeting. The time was 9:39 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Tirone