TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Committee of the Whole Meeting
September 8, 2020

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Tewksbury Township Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Pettegrove at 7:04 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, Mrs. Carrino, Dr. Deeney, Mr. Deo, Mrs. Jardinella, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Larsen (arrived 7:07), Mrs. Stein, Mrs. Pettegrove

ABSENT: None.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PRESENTATION: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Today, September 8th, was the first day of school. Dr. Shouffler thanked the administrators, teachers and staff for making this happen. Administration is willing to listen to parents' concerns and make necessary adjustments. Students seemed excited to be back in school. Health screeners are to be filled out by staff and students each day before coming to school. Substitute teachers and bus aides are still needed for the school year. The school plan will be reassessed in two weeks with the hopes of returning to a full day of school.

CURRICULUM: Revisions to the school calendar were discussed.

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

Approve the revisions to the 2020-2021 school calendar to reflect the virtual back to school nights, moving the virtual K-5 back to school night to September 17, 2020 and have November 3, 2020 be a remote only teaching day due to Election Day.

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

Absent: None.

POLICY: Motion was made by Mrs. Pettegrove and seconded by Mrs. Ackerman to approve the following policies on second reading:

- 5141.3 Health Examinations & Immunizations
- 6173.1 Remote Learning

Final Resolution: Motion carried on a roll call vote.
Yes: Leslie Ackerman, Jillian Carrino, Angela Deeney, Michael Deo, Susanne Jardinella, Erica Johnson, Lori Larsen, Andrea Stein, Cynthia Pettegrove
Absent: None.

FINANCE: Ms. Tirone discussed the state aid loss. At the last meeting, the Board approved requesting the Interim Commissioner's approval to withdraw from the Emergency Reserve. At the recommendation of County Business Administrator Lisa DeLong, $35,023.00 should be withdrawn from the maintenance reserve. Ms. Tirone stated that should Bill S2507 pass, it will include emergency reserve withdrawals for COVID that would greatly streamline the district's ability to withdraw without formal Commissioner approval. Most districts are using funds from their maintenance reserve. Ms. Tirone applied for the Alyssa's law grant. The district is eligible for $28,557.00. Alyssa's law is critical legislation addressing the issue of law enforcement response time when a life-threatening emergency occurs. Members of the school safety team met with Eastern Data Comm. to review their lockdown and emergency notification system. The balance of the notification system after the grant can be paid from Fund 12 due to the savings on the toilet rooms and fire alarm.

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

Approve reduction in maintenance reserve to increase general fund to address the state aid reduction of $35,032.00.

Acceptance of application of Alyssa's Law Grant in the amount of $28,557.00.

Approval of Eastern Data Communications project LENS in the amount of $51,450.55 to make TES compliant for Alyssa's Law.

Final Resolution: Motion carried on a roll call vote.
Yes: Leslie Ackerman, Jillian Carrino, Angela Deeney, Michael Deo, Susanne Jardinella, Erica Johnson, Lori Larsen, Andrea Stein, Cynthia Pettegrove
Absent: None.

TECHNOLOGY: The distinct is currently in the process of getting quotes for outdoor access points at both schools. At the recommendation of Mr. Jim Belske, IT Director, Mrs. Tirone would like to upgrade the Ethernet Dedicated Internet and the Ethernet Private Line in order to sustain all of the Zoom meetings taking place from the school locations. The monthly increase would be $1,260.39/month for a total of $2,215.77/month.

FACILITIES: The OTS toilet rooms are 98% complete. The handicapped toilets did not pass inspection because they are too high. Our architect is working out a resolution with the plumbing inspector. Facilities are still able to be used. All pre wiring for the fire alarms is completed. 95% of initiation devices are in and functioning, 90% of A/V devices are in and functioning. The dual speaker strobe back boxes are on backorder. The OTS roof and the atrium cabinets and sinks are complete.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

OTHER: Changes in the dates of the board meetings was discussed.

LEGISLATION: None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

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.

Ms. Patty Greeby, Pen Argyl, PA - OTS Office Secretary, voiced a complaint regarding her accommodation request to work remotely. Ms. Greeby was unhappy with the accommodations offered and handed in her resignation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: **Motion was made by Mrs. Pettegrove and seconded by Mrs. Larsen to enter Executive Session. The time was 7:46 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 8:22 p.m.

PERSONNEL: Fall honoraria positions were discussed.

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

Approve Steve Douglas as a part-time Grounds/Maintenance Worker for the 2020-2021 school year on an as needed basis at a salary of $18.60 per hour. Hours not to exceed 25 hours per week.

Accept with regret, the letter of resignation from John Preston, 7th grade social studies teacher.

At the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Amanda Kouzis as an 8th grade language arts leave replacement teacher beginning August 31, 2020 through approximately January 1, 2021, at Step 6, MA+15, $64,557.00 (prorated).

Approve Tom Lobb as Old Turnpike School School Safety Coordinator for the 2020-2021 school year at a salary of $11.65 per on-site day.

Approve the maternity leave request for Yahna Fiscarelli effective approximately November 25, 2020 through approximately May 6, 2021. Ms. Fiscarelli will use accrued sick and personal days followed by FMLA and NJFLA.

Approve the 12-week Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) leave for Emily Searle, OTS library/ media specialist effective August 31, 2020 through date TBD.

Accept, with regret, the resignation of Coreen Decker, 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher, effective September 8, 2020. (OTS-TCH-LA-01)

Approve Courtney Shideler as an Elementary School Bus Aide for the 2020-2021 school year effective September 8, 2020 through TBD at a salary of $15/hour.

Rescind the following motion from the August 19, 2020 Board Meeting:

At the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Nancy Barnes as a full time Special Education Instructional Aide for the school year 2020-2021 beginning August 31, 2020 through June 30, 2021, at Step 1, $15.95 per hour. (TES-AID-INST-04)

Approve the following:

At the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Tracy Barnes as a full time Special Education Instructional Aide for the school year 2020-2021 beginning August 31, 2020 through June 30, 2021, at Step 2, $16.31 per hour. (TES-AID-INST-04)

Accept, with regret, the resignation of Patricia Greeby, Old Turnpike School Secretary, effective immediately. (DIS-SEC-CUR-01)

Final Resolution: Motion carried on a roll call vote.
Yes: Leslie Ackerman, Jillian Carrino, Angela Deeney, Michael Deo, Susanne Jardinella, Erica Johnson, Lori Larsen, Andrea Stein, Cynthia Pettegrove
Absent: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Mrs. Pettegrove and seconded by Mrs. Larsen to adjourn the meeting. The time was 8:30 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Tirone
Board Secretary