TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Committee of the Whole Meeting
April 8, 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. This was a Virtual Board Meeting.

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the next scheduled meeting of the Tewksbury Board of Education will not be physically open to the public. This is to ensure we follow best practices for social distancing. The April 8th Board of Education meeting will be live streamed to the public via Zoom. The link to the meeting is https://servicenow.zoom.us/j/171929926. Any member of the public who wishes to participate may do so during the meeting via the chat option on the Zoom link. All participants must provide their name and address, and your comment and/or question will be included in the Board's public record of the meeting, just as it would for a standard Board meeting.

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, Mrs. Stein, Mrs. Pettegrove

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jennifer Shouffler - Superintendent, members of the public

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: Mrs. Becky Palmer, President of the Tewksbury Education Association thanked the board for their support and proceeded to read a statement from the TEA confirming their desire to have the school district closed for spring break as planned.

PRESENTATION: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Shouffler stated that the district is nearing the end of the fourth week of virtual home instruction during this school closure for the pandemic. She is supporting and urging more creative and flexible ways of teaching our students. The district is implementing more synchronistic learning on the computer. Administration is working on plans to replace canceled events and programs. One example is a recently shared video to parents on the topic of supporting children's resilience in the time of Covid. This video was in place of a PTA presentation that was unfortunately canceled. Last week, Dr. Shouffler**,** along with many Hunterdon County schools made the decision to continue plans for Spring Break starting Friday, April 10th.

Recently some parents have called to ask about our Spring Break plans. Dr. Shouffler stated that she has listened closely to parents and teachers who shared an opinion on whether or not to have Spring Break as scheduled. Some parents wanted to continue virtual school learning and others wanted a break for themselves and their children. Some parents wanted to end the school year a week early and others did not. Dr. Shouffler spoke to the teachers and their association on their needs. After weighing the many conflicting factors, the most balanced decision was to go forward with Spring Break as scheduled. This will allow students, families, and teachers the time to recharge. Families will be offered a list of enrichment activities and links if they are looking for some engaging learning ideas for their children.

CURRICULUM: Dr. Shouffler shared the results of a family survey on home instruction via a Powerpoint presentation. A survey was to our families on March 27th to gain feedback on our remote home instruction during this school closure. Parents were asked how home instruction was going so far, their child's schoolwork load, and comments about the virtual school work. The results of the survey were shared with the teachers at yesterday's faculty meeting. This information will be used to refine their instructional plans as they begin to plan for future weeks of home instruction. We are suggesting ways for teachers to increase more synchronized learning, through Monday Meetings, mini lessons, and small group instruction.

The Tewksbury Education Foundation would like to give students a questionnaire to apply for their $2500 scholarship. OTS would like to share this survey with grade 8 students. It is the same survey they did last year but now completed virtually, rather than on paper. The survey asks questions about community service and volunteer work.

Dr. Shouffler gave an update on school report cards. The third marking period ended at OTS on March 27th. Middle School teachers entered report card grades and report cards were open to students and families via Realtime on April 4th. Dr. Mitchell has reminded the teachers to consider the fact that virtual home instruction is new to everyone. With that in mind, middle school Marking period 3 grades were based on much of the work students completed before school closed on March 13th. Hunterdon County superintendents and middle school principals are in conversations now about how to best assess and grade students as we enter virtual learning in marking period 4. Students are still being graded using assessment tools and offering feedback on student work and writing. The district is considering pass/fail grades for MP4 for all classes in the middle school and grade 5 at TES. The goal will be to support any student who is in the failing range by reaching out to them and their parents to see what they need to move into the passing range by the end of the marking period. At TES K-4 grade, thoughts are to use the narrative comments from the teachers, with my more elaboration. Changing the use of 4-level rating scale on the report card is also under consideration. Engagement will be looked at as the main criterion. Mrs. Stein asked about 8th grade assessments for students going to high school. Dr. Shouffler stated that some assessments took place earlier in the school year, but she would see if she could find out more information at the next Superintendent's meeting.

POLICY: None.

FINANCE: None.

TECHNOLOGY: Some parents posed questions regarding the security of using Zoom for virtual instruction. Dr. Shouffler stated that Zoom has added more security features such as a waiting room. There have not been any issues in the district.

FACILITIES: Brian Jesby, our Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds, and the custodians have been checking on the buildings. The boilers have been put on standby. The rooms have been cleaned and the schools remain empty. Plans are being made for outside groundskeeping while keeping with social distancing guidelines.

Transportation Coordinator, Bob Hoffman, is continuing to get the meals delivered to the designated students. Dr. Shouffler will check into the new flooring which was supposed to be installed during spring break.

COMMUNICATIONS: Dr. Shouffler will continue to send weekly update letters. As more information is learned about teacher evaluations it will be shared.

OTHER: A discussion took place regarding moving the May 6th Budget Board meeting due to a scheduling conflict. It was decided to move the meeting to May 7th.

Motion was made by Mrs. Ackerman and seconded by Mr. Deo to move the May 6th Budget Board Meeting to May 7th.

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.

LEGISLATION: None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Hope Kaufmann spoke about continuing with home learning, and having a shortened Spring Break. Ms. Kaufmann felt that for continuity for the students, it would be better to continue with home instruction and would like to continue the discussion. Mrs. Ackerman and Dr. Shouffler stated that it had been carefully discussed and keeping with the planned Spring Break would be best.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

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

Approve hiring LeighAnn Kimmick as a payroll consultant for the 2019-2020 school year, beginning approximately March 17, 2020 through June 30, 2020 at the rate of $75/hour, not to exceed 10 hours per week.

Approve hiring Karin Laraway as an Acting Business Administrator for the 2019-2020 school year, beginning March 30, 2020 (approved by the Hunterdon County Superintendent 4/2/2020) through June 30, 2020 at the rate of $550/day for a maximum of three days per week.

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 7:31 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Pettegrove
Board President