Minutes April 12, 2017

TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Committee of the Whole Meeting
April 12, 2017

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Tewksbury Township Board of Education was called to order by Joanne Black, Business Administrator at 7:04 p.m. in the Library of the Old Turnpike School.

Joanne Black 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. Bartels, Mrs. Geoffrion, Mrs. Jenkins, Mr. Mulroony, Mrs. Pettegrove, Mr. Thorp, Mrs. Larsen

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Rowland-Superintendent, Mrs. Black-Business Administrator, Mr. Zitomer-Board Attorney

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:
Ms. Diane Chase stated that she was attending the meeting in order to hear the Board's position on the matter regarding Mr. Scott Yerger, Principal at OTS. Mr. Marc Zitomer, Board Attorney, commented that the board cannot discuss personnel issues. Ms. Diane Chase voiced her concern that a similar incident in New Jersey would have resulted in a different charge. She stated that she would have a significant problem if her child attended Old Turnpike School and that it was a judgment issue. Ms. Chase asked how the school community would be notified about the outcome and Mr. Zitomer stated that the school community does not get notified regarding personnel issues. Ms. Chase voiced that she has significant judgment concerns about Mr. Yerger.

Mr. Leon Weiss stated that he felt Mr. Yerger has already received his punishment. He hopes Mr. Yerger can spend another thirty years in the district. He stated that he does not question Mr. Yerger's judgment at all and hopes that the Board listens to many other parents in the community that feel the same way.

Mr. Blake Haggerty asked if Mr. Yerger was hired with a 1-year probationary contract. Mr. Marc Zitomer stated that there is no probationary contract and that the Superintendent must decide on renewal of the contract by May 15, 2017.

Mr. Jim Miller, Principal of the Tewksbury Elementary School stated that Mr. Yerger has the ability to work with people and enforce positive changes. He said Mr. Yerger is trustworthy, ethical and has made difficult decisions when necessary. He is concerned about the momentum that Mr. Yerger has developed at Old Turnpike School and this may be difficult to get back without Mr. Yerger. He stated that kindness, forgiveness and support can make a difference and that he has the utmost respect for Mr. Yerger.

Mr. Blake Haggerty stated that he does not have that level of trust and as a parent he cannot trust Mr. Yerger's decision making.

Mr. Leon Weiss stated that he would like to contradict everything Mr. Blake Haggerty said and agreed that it was not a smart decision but that it would be insane to end someone's career because of this issue.

Ms. Carolyn Murin stated that the Board needs to seriously consider the lapse in judgment exhibited by Mr. Yerger. She is concerned with how the Board reacts moving forward. She voiced her concern for the students and how they will look at their chief disciplinarian. Ms. Murin feels the issue needs to be addressed with the students too.

Ms. Angela Deeney wished to reiterate the importance of communication. If changes are made, she would like the communication direct and in a timely manner.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board entered Executive Session. The time was 7:25 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/or legal issues and attorney client privilege 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.

The Board returned to Open Session. The time was 8:25 p.m. Mr. Zitomer left the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

BOARD ACTION:
Mrs. Larsen stated that they received a letter of interest for the Board Vacancy from Ms. Paulette Frank. Mr. Mulroony highly recommended Ms. Frank.

Motion was made by Mrs. Larsen and seconded by Mrs. Pettegrove to appoint Paulette Frank to the open seat on the Board of Education of the Tewksbury Township School District.

Motion carried on a roll call vote.

CURRICULUM:
Ms. Lisa Schneider stated that there were no major issues with PARCC and technology for the testing worked successfully. Ms. Monica Rowland stated that the district had a very good participation rate. There were two opt-outs at TES and two opt-outs at OTS.

POLICY:
Mrs. Black stated that she reviewed the policies regarding facilities and athletic participation and will share out the facilities policy prior to the next meeting.

FINANCE:
Mrs. Black stated that the $4,890,000 Refunding School Bonds, Series 2017 had a successful closing on April 6, 2017. Mrs. Black also discussed the renewal of health benefits and dental for 2017-2018. The Board was in support of renewing the health benefits with Horizon BCBS at a 9% composite rate and not going to market for the 17-18 health benefits.

A motion was made by Mrs. Larsen and seconded by Mrs. Jenkins to approve the following:

Accept the quote from Rapid Meter & Meter Service Co. Inc. in the amount of $15,890.00 for the replacement of the four media boxes in the anoxic tank.

Motion carried on a roll call vote.

TECHNOLOGY: None.

FACILITIES:
A motion was made by Mr. Mulroony and seconded by Mrs. Pettegrove to approve the following:

Accept the quote from HAKS, 485E Route 1 South, Suite 200, Iselin, NJ 08830, in accordance with the terms of the contract awarded by the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (HCESC), for professional water testing services as follows:

Tewksbury Township School District
Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission
Water Testing Services #HCESC-SER-16-02

Part A - Fee Structure for Consulting Services

Tewksbury Elementary School	$6,041
Old Turnpike School	$3,366
PART A Total	**$9,407**

Part B - Water Sampling Services

# of Samples	42
Sampling and Reporting ($30.50/sample drawn)	$1,281
Lead ($30.50/sample)	$1,281
PART B Total	**$2,562**

Motion carried on a roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS:
Mrs. Jenkins voiced concern regarding communication in the district.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
A motion was made by Mrs. Larsen and seconded by Mrs. Jenkins to approve the following:

Approve the Board Meeting Calendar for the first half of the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The Board reviewed the timeline for the Superintendent evaluation. It is due June 30, 2017.Ms. Rowland will prepare her part of the evaluation by the second week in May.

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

Motion to authorize the School Business Administrator to request proposals for Architectural Services for the Tewksbury School District for the 17-18 school year.

Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Mrs. Larsen stated that she spoke to Ms. Gwen Thornton from NJSBA about the surveys. Mrs. Jenkins stated that she will call Ms. Thornton.

Motion was made by Mrs. Larsen and seconded by Mrs. Pettegrove to adjourn the meeting. The time was 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Black
Board Secretary