TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
Committee of the Whole Meeting
March 9, 2017

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Tewksbury Township Board of Education was called to order by Joanne Black, Business Administrator at 7:05 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 (arrived 7:16 pm), Mr. Thorp, Mrs. Larsen (arrived 8:37 pm)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Rowland-Superintendent, Mrs. Black-Business Administrator

PRESENTATION:
Mr. Mark Biedron - President, NJ State Board of Education spoke to the Board and public in attendance about the ESSA(Every Student Succeeds Act) review. A strategic plan is being formulated for the State of New Jersey; a new mission/vision will incorporate the following goals:

- Academic success
- 21st century skills - soft skills, problem solving and communication skills
- Culture and climate based on models of community
- Flexibility - allow flexibility in the school day so that schools can implement programs specific to the District
- Recognize teachers, educators and staff

Mr. Biedron stated that he does not believe a voucher system will be implemented. New ideas are being formulated and local control is being returned to Jersey City, Newark and Paterson. The Board requested, and Mr. Biedron agreed to forward the State of New Jersey Strategic Plan once it is developed and finalized.

CORRESPONDENCE:
Mrs. Marin Resnick notified the Board via email on February 24, 2017 that she was resigning her position effective as of that date. Mrs. Bartels noted that a parent sent correspondence requesting the Transportation Agreement for the Califon choice students being transported to the Tewksbury School. The Board will advertise the vacancy requesting letters of interest by April 7, 2017 and interviews will be conducted at the April 12, 2017 BOE meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CURRICULUM
Mr. Scott Yerger, OTS Principal presented an update on the Homework Committee results and revisions to the homework policy.

Mrs. Bartels asked if anyone in the audience had any comments on items on the agenda. Mr. Patykula stated that it was not on this agenda but asked for an update on the use of facilities policy. Mrs. Bartels stated that it can be addressed later under new business in the meeting. Mrs. Black stated she does not have the policy to share out yet.

Mrs. Larsen arrived at 8:37 p.m.

Ms. Lisa Schneider(Curriculum Supervisor) presented an update on curriculum and PARCC testing.

POLICY

Mr. Mulroony stated that the member of the public, Mr. Andrew Patykula, who had been present earlier at the meeting had asked him during the week if the Boys Scouts would be affected by the facilities use policy changes. Mrs. Black stated that the policy is still being revised but does not anticipate that the approved policy will affect the Boy Scouts unless the facility is used at a time where custodial fees will be incurred. Mr. Mulroony will follow up with Mr. Patykula. Mr. Mulroony (Facility Chair) stated that he has met with the TAA and the TAA has agreed to reimburse the District for the Saturday custodial costs incurred for the 2016-2017 school year. Custodial costs for non-school days will be charged to the user of the facility.

The Board has been asked to revisit the policy on athletic participation for students attending schools outside of the Tewksbury School District. The Board has requested that Ms. Rowland and Mrs. Black seek legal and insurance counsel on the subject.
Mrs. Jenkins addressed the Board attendance policy and recommended that all Board Members should communicate if they have a schedule conflict and are unable to attend a meeting. Mrs. Jenkins would also like to see public participation at the beginning of the meeting.

FINANCE
It was noted that a Special Budget Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15th at 7:00 p.m. (snow date Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.)

Ms. Rowland presented the Preliminary 2017-2018 Budget . Revenues consist of : flat state aid, increase in school choice of $38,685, $527,234 revenues from prior year surplus, increase in tax levy of 2% would be approximately $237, 400. The health benefit renewal number presented by Horizon reflects a composite increase of over 13% however, it is uncertain at this point the breakdown between the increase in the medical vs. the prescription plan. There will be a 0% increase in dental benefits. A contribution to the Unemployment Trust Fund in the amount of $30,000 has been budgeted, and an increase in out of district tuition and transportation in the amount of $120,000 has also been budgeted. A reduction in force of three full time equivalents has been budgeted for the 17-18 school year. The budget continues to support all programs and initiatives. A new bus has been budgeted for $125,000(capital outlay) and roof repairs and new HVAC units have been budgeted with capital reserve. A Special Budget Meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2017(snow date Thursday, March 16, 2017)will be held to further discuss the budget.

The discussion of the BOE meeting schedule for summer and the second half of the year will be tabled until the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
Motion was made by Mrs. Larsen and seconded by Mrs. Geoffrion to approve the following:

Resolved, the Board of Education approve the submission of the attached Department of Education's QSAC Equivalency Application for the Tewksbury School District to the County Office of Education. Districts that receive a score of 80% or greater in all five QSAC areas are designated High Performing and are eligible to apply for an equivalency waiver and have their State Board certificate extended for an additional three years without undergoing any QSAC monitoring, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Motion carried on a roll call vote.

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

Motion to accept the quote from Ronald Busacco, President-Water Management Services, Inc., to conduct the New Jersey state-mandated water sampling at a cost of $30/sample.

Motion carried on a roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

Motion was made by Mrs. Larsen and seconded by Mrs. Bartels to adjourn the meeting. The time was 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Black
Board Secretary