

MEETING OF THE LAKEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON, MONDAY, JULY 20, 2009, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE PRINCETON AVENUE AUDITORIUM, 655 PRINCETON AVENUE, LAKEWOOD, NEW JERSEY 08701

Mr. Galdo, Board President, called the meeting to order at 8:38 p.m. Cynthia Romano, Administrative Assistant to the Board, read the following notice:

SUNSHINE LAW

***Sunshine
Law***

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231, of the Laws of 1976 (THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT), Mr. Finger notified the public that notice of the date, time, location and agenda of this meeting, to the extent known, was provided at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of this meeting in the following manner:

1. By posting such notice on the public announcement board of the Lakewood Board of Education Offices, and the Lakewood Township Municipal Building.
2. By mailing such notice to the offices of the Asbury Park Press and the Tri-Town News.
3. By filing such notice with the Board Secretary.
4. By mailing such notice to all individuals who requested and paid for a copy of same.

ROLL CALL:

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mr. Grunhut, Mrs. Miccio,
Mr. Neumann, Mr. Ostreicher,
Mr. Silver, Mr. Tift,
Mr. Thomas, Mr. Galdo

Board Members Absent: Mr. Gonter

Also Attending: Eugenia E. Lawson, Acting
Superintendent, William T.
Andersen, Assistant Superin-
tendent, Robert S. Finger,

***Also
Attending***

Business Administrator,
Michael I. Inzelbuch, Esq.

Mr. Inzelbuch read the Memorandum of Agreement between the Lakewood Board of Education and the Lakewood Administrators Association (attached).

Mr. Inzelbuch

“This Agreement has been signed and executed. We do need a vote of the Board. Tonight we have been told by the Association who awaits us in the Conference Room that they will have it either ratified or not ratified by Friday. Should it not be ratified by Friday, this vote of the Board will be deemed a nullity.”

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE LAA
AGREEMENT AS READ**

***Motion to Approve
LAA Agreement***

Mr. Ostreicher moved, seconded by Mr. Grunhut to approve the Agreement with the Lakewood Administrators Association.

**ROLL CALL ON THE LAA AGREEMENT
AS READ:**

Roll Call

YES: Mr. Grunhut, Mrs. Miccio,
Mr. Neumann, Mr. Ostreicher,
Mr. Silver, Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Tift, Mr. Galdo

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Inzelbuch – “I will not deposit two of the Agreements. One with the union and one with Mr. Finger. I’m going to tell the union that we voted.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Galdo – “I would just like to say that this Board, the Negotiations Committee, all of us,

Mr. Galdo

put in a lot of time on this and we think based upon what the world is all about, this Agreement is pretty fair. It does do something that is a new first for us. It creates the ability to do merit pay by virtue of what they do in their buildings and how they do it and there is a guideline for it. People have fought us in the past about it, but it does create a situation that will allow administrators to move forward and we think that is pretty good. So I would like to thank the Board. I certainly would like to thank co-chair Abe Ostreicher who spent many hours and Michael, Madam Superintendent and Lenny who was involved with it and yes things did go well. Thank you.”

07/20/09

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Public Recog.

Mr. Waters – “1275 Old County Line Rd., Lakewood, N.J. In the future I may refer to it by another name, town, because I don’t see a lot of woods in Lakewood anymore. So we probably need to call it by another name. The stimulus money that the district received. I’ve talked about this briefly before. I don’t see in any way that it is improving public school education. Maybe Washington needs to raise some questions about that. I think that we are going to pay very close attention this year to what this school board does in terms of helping the public school students. I don’t see a trend that gives me a lot of confidence that your focus is in that direction. I’ve watched this district lose continuity. I’ve watched the attitudes which is not in the best interest of the students. I don’t want the public schools to become a prison environment. Some of our trends toward security. Some of the comments I hear from police leads me to believe that the interest isn’t in helping young people.

Mr. Waters

I was there when we had that disturbance and saw police dogs. I saw police from other towns come here. When you send cops from another town and you tell them it's a riot, they come with an attitude. They don't come in treating young people like students. They come in with an attitude. I didn't have to hear about or read about it. I was there and saw the attitude and we went through a lot of hearings with kids that had nothing to do with

07/20/09

anything. We didn't get it right. I was on the committee and I respect all the people that were on that committee that I served with. I told them at the first meeting that I thought that the superintendent selection process was flawed. I'm publicly stating and I will put it in writing probably in an op ed piece sometime in the future after you guys make your determination, if that determination doesn't come out in the direction that I think is in the best interest of the public school students. We got to start showing that we care about public school kids. We've got to look at out of school suspensions where kids are not being educated. Where they are missing their learning process. The drop out rate in Lakewood and in the rest of the country is not satisfactory. We've got to do something about it. I don't hear a lot of talk what we are doing about that. I'm going to tell you that in your search there is one person that you'd better not select. And that's a guy named Stellar who lied to me right in front of the committee. I specifically asked him some pointed questions that I knew the answers to. I think when we look at having a system here that works for the students, these students can't every couple of years have a change. We are making a lot of mistakes in terms of how

***Public Recogn.
Cont.***

Mr. Waters

it impacts the students in the schools. And I think it's about time that we start focusing our attention on these young people having a future, being successful, being more successful in the classroom. Feeling better about themselves so they have an opportunity to have a future.

I see a trend in this country. I see it in Lakewood. Kids that don't do well in school, tend to wind up in the criminal justice system. And I hope that's not by design. I may not be able to correct what's happening in America, but I hope that's not by design in this town."

07/20/09

***Public Recog.
Cont.***

Mr. Anthony

Mr. Anthony – "My name is Charles Anthony 1406 Tower Street and I would like to follow up on some of the things that Mr. Waters just said. Living here in Lakewood has been a true experience after moving here from South Carolina. Meeting the great diversity here has taught me a lot of things is that a lot of things don't change and in saying that is public school and poverty. They go together hand in hand. The kids that don't learn are the kids that are not in school, are the kids that feel dislocated, deprived. That's the ones that we look at and finding that they are not educated well. And if you are not educated, you can't pull yourself up from where you are to another plateau. And pulling yourself up to another plateau means that you have a better education. You could do a better job. You have a better job. You have other resources to be able to provide not only for you, but for your family. And as Mr. Waters just said he was at that period in time. Well I was at a period in time when I was in Alabama in 1977 and in Dulton, Alabama I was on a military base where the Ku Klux Klan was allowed to come on the base to recruit. My sister and I were two of the first kids to integrate a school in Greenville, South Carolina. So I know the changes and I know from here to there. Now

in speaking about Lakewood. I just finished off a grant for an organization here in Lakewood and the poverty rate in Lakewood is astronomical. The drop out rate in Lakewood is astronomical. Those two things go hand in hand and if there is some way we can keep our kids in school to give them that education. We spoke about something data driven. If there's some way that we as parents, grown ups, individuals can reach out to the kids that are out here in Lakewood and hold their hand for five minutes extra and give them the opportunity to be able to pull themselves up from where they are to the next plateau, I will challenge the Board to do that. Thank you."

07/20/09

***Public Recog.
Cont.***

Mr. Rush

Mr. Fred Rush – "Good evening, 2023 Madison Avenue. I was sitting here and decided not to speak at all, but then I had to get up. But it's going to be the same old song for the last four meetings that I've been at where I come in for the current superintendent. Hopefully at this point in time, the Board is closer to the selection process. I think we have another meeting on Wednesday. So between tonight and Wednesday we should know something pretty much. So once again, if I had a vote and I think I do have vote by virtue of voting for some of you that are on that Board and doing it consistently over the last thirty years. I think my voice kind of means something. And you know what I mean when it comes to you Michael. I can't vote for you, but we've talked about it. But anyway, Chet I think I might have voted for you a time or two. So it's time for you to repay the favor, okay. And those other people that will see fit to vote for the person that I want to see, Mrs. Lawson.

Like I told you guys before. It's not against any one else, Mr. Andersen or anyone else in the race. But if I had a vote, my vote would be for her."

Reverend Wilson – "138 Colonial Drive, Lakewood. If the Board has the best interests of our kids and I am product of the Lakewood School system. And all of my kids are products of the Lakewood School system. If the Board has the true interests of our children, then we believe that the current Superintendent given the job that she has done in the short period of time that she's been there, should keep her job. The clergy has spoken, our community leaders have spoken, the parents have actually spoken and if every one of you who sits on those seats up there have the interests of my kids and the kids of this town that go to the public schools and I have been very vocal in past meetings that I totally disagree with members of the Board that your kids don't go to our schools, but

Rev. Wilson

07/20/09

that's okay. You are on that Board and I hope that my kids can rest assured that this Board is looking out for their interests. If that decision should go in another direction, we would have to then assume that there's another agenda that doesn't involve our children. Thank you very much."

***Public Recog.
Cont.***

Michael Rush – "1502 Malibu Drive. There's been a lot of talk and rumors about your selection process. All selections are flawed so yours should not be any different. That's not why I'm here. I'm here because I've spent forty years in education, as a teacher, principal, superintendent, Assistant Commissioner of the State Department of Education, Deputy Superintendent and I recently retired. I'm saying to you that you have a person already in your presence who is deserving of the job. Not because she's Latino and Black or Cuban.

Dr. Rush

Not because she grew up in Lakewood and went through Lakewood schools. But I've had an opportunity to look at your last four candidates. Your last four candidates and I researched every one of them and I know three of them of my forty years. And if you have done your homework, somebody did not check out references as they should have. Because when I hear things that this person came from a place and they changed things. They can do things in Lakewood. You can't change anything without community support. Without the parents support. When I hear things like this person came from this district, they can do this and do the same thing, no you have to know the community. You have to know where you're going. And I'm saying to you my forty years in education and living in Lakewood for thirty of those forty years, being involved in the community and the Board of Education and sitting where you're sitting now as a Board member having to make some of the tough decisions, having to make decisions as Assistant Commissioner for the entire State, having to make decisions as a Superintendent. So I

know what the job entails, and the fact that I have researched and I can tell each of you about your candidates including Mrs. Lawson. I know as much about those candidates as you, but I think I know more than you because being an educator, I knew what to look for. And be careful about who you bring into Lakewood. I'm not going to do like Mr. Waters and tell you who not to hire. I can't do that. Or this person better not come in here. But if you look at what you've done, what has happened to Lakewood over the last year, increase in test scores, a transition program that hasn't happened in Lakewood from the Middle School to the High School. Omega 13 in your schools day in and day out. That's a community. That

07/20/09
Public Recog.
Cont.

is not just one person and what Mrs. Lawson has done, she has rallied around and gotten people like myself. People in the community to be involved and say we've got to care about what's happening in Lakewood. So I ask you as you deliberate, if you haven't already, think about who you need to run the Lakewood schools for the next three to five years. Whatever the contract calls for. But think about where we are, where we need to go and the support that person will have to get there. Think hard and strong about Mrs. Lawson being your next Superintendent. Thank you."

Lydia Valencia – "82 Seminole Drive. I guess I'm here to reiterate what has been said before and what has been said in previous Board meetings. I had ceased to come to the Board meetings some time ago because they were a little too aggressive and confrontational and I've seen a change in the last meetings that I've attended. And I think that it speaks to the candidate that you have before you as applying for the Superintendent's job. When Board and administration work together, the work gets done and confrontation is limited. We don't need to fix what's not broken. Eugenia has the qualifications, the support of the community and to even consider bringing someone

Ms. Valencia

else in when the job is being done in such an excellent way is beyond me. I think she has taken care of all the children of the Lakewood school district, public and private schools students as well. Our children are our future. We need to look out after them and I trust that you will do the fair and just thing. Thank you."

07/20/09
Public Recog.
Cont.

Tova Richt Feifer – " I speak before you as a teacher in Clarke School and someone who lives at 436 Ocean Avenue. I'm just coming before you to let you know that

Ms. Feifer

every time we make a change in Lakewood, it really effects the teachers and the kids because we just had a new superintendent who started one year ago, and we have programs that we implement in classrooms and we get trained on certain approaches and certain philosophies and there's a lot of things that get started and the teachers get into it and we start the kids off with it and then everytime we have somebody on the top that changes, it filters down to the principals and the teachers and the kids and it causes a lot of confusion and we don't have any continuity with the kids to bring them through from kindergarten to sixth grade to really help them when they are disjointed and they start with one thing and then they're taken and doing something else and then it's a third thing and it is writing workshop and reading workshop and it's hard core and it's not hard core and it's this math program and it's not that math program. Everytime the teachers have to learn something new, it takes us time to learn it and then the kids don't get it right and it really impacts them. I mean obviously I'm not involved in politics and I don't know everything that goes on behind the scenes and all your consideration, but from our perspective, everything that's been going on has really been effective with the new superintendent and I have

07/20/09

sat here listening and I sort of agree that we don't need a change from our perspective. Thank you for listening."

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

***Motion To
Approve Agenda***

Mr. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Ostreicher to approve the agenda.

ROLL CALL:

Roll Call

YES: Mr. Grunhut, Mrs. Miccio,
Mr. Neumann, Mr. Ostreicher,
Mr. Silver, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Tift,
Mr. Galdo

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Inzelbuch – “I will need a resolution by
tomorrow regarding item #1.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

**REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Supt. Items

A. SUPERINTENDENT’S ITEMS

1. Approval of a Settlement Agreement
with Employee #4592 regarding OAL
Docket No. EDUTH 00736-2009S.

***Settlement
Employee 4592***

2. Approve second reading of Policy
4151.2 (Family Leave and Medical
Leave).

***Second Reading
#4151.2***

**NOTE: ALL CONTRACTS ARE SUBJECT
TO ATTORNEY REVIEW BOTH AS
TO PROCEDURE AND SUBSTANCE**

MOTION TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ex. Session

Mr. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Neumann to go
into executive session to discuss personnel.

07/20/09

ROLL CALL:

Roll Call

YES: Mr. Grunhut, Mrs. Miccio, Mr. Neumann,
Mr. Ostreicher, Mr. Silver, Mr. Thomas,
Mr. Tift, Mr. Galdo

NO: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Inzelbuch – “For the benefit of the public, we will be out by 9:35 p.m. If not we will let you know.”

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, known as the Open Public Meetings Act, provides that a public body may not exclude the public from any meeting to discuss any matter described therein until the public body has first adopted a Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, of the Township of Lakewood has determined that the following items must be discussed in closed session and that the public must be excluded from said deliberations;
and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, of the Township of Lakewood has determined that the subject matter of the closed discussion falls within those matters described in subsection 7b of the Open Public Meetings Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAKEWOOD, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that

1. The Board of Education go into closed session to discuss the following subject matters:

Personnel

which subject matters constitute a subject matter described in sub-section 7b of the Open Public Meetings Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAKEWOOD will disclose to the public the subject matter of

07/20/09

said closed discussions, as soon as the matters have been resolved, and the determination can be disclosed to the

public.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Adj.

Due to a lack of quorum, the Board could not reconvene and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**ROBERT S. FINGER
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/
BOARD SECRETARY**

07/20/09

