

**WEYMOUTH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

ATTACHMENT #1

1202 Eleventh Avenue
Dorothy, New Jersey

Date: September 15, 2022
Time: 6:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER – Board President – 6:33pm

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Daniel Ardito	Arrived at 6:34	Paula Lechner	Present
Patricia Doerr	Present	Constance Anne Reymann	Present
Christopher Egbert	Present	John Specht	Present
Gregory Freelon	Arrived at 7:19	Edward Zebedies	Absent
Henry Goldsmith	Present		

Al Lewis, Superintendent/Principal	Present
Judson Moore, SBA/Board Secretary	Absent
William Cappuccio, Esq., Board Solicitor	Present

C. SUNSHINE NOTICE

Welcome to the regular meeting of the Weymouth Township Board of Education. This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act by having the time, date, and place thereof posted in the Board of Education office, sent to the Clerk of Weymouth Township and advertised in the official newspapers.

D. PRESENTATIONS - None at this time- Mr. Lewis mentioned the up and coming Student and staff of the month award that will be discussed further later.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT – Limited to agenda items only – Ms. Reymann commented on the appearance of the website and the diligence of the staff who maintain it. There were no comments from the public.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the August 18, 2022 regular Board meeting **(Attachment #1)**

Ms. Reymann made a motion, seconded by Mr. Egbert. Ms. Doerr voted in the affirmative pending changes in verbiage that corrected Ms. Doerr making a motion and Mr. Zebedies seconding. A voice vote was taken with all members voting in favor of the motion.

G. CORRESPONDENCE - None at this time

H. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Goldsmith encouraged board members to attend the County Executive Board of Education dinner at Greate Bay Country Club, a move from Atlantic City Country Club, on Tuesday, October 13th. This is yet another in the series of hybrid meetings.

Mr. Goldsmith announced that Weymouth Township School will be hosting the County Executive Board of Education meeting on December 8th.

Mr. Goldsmith asks that any board member looking to attend the School Boards' workshop in Atlantic City being held October 24th through 26th please reach out to Mr. Lewis or the Business Office in order to get registered. This an easy and effective way for members to get their required continuing education hours. Ms. Reymann commented that there is a flat rate if a minimum of four members attend.

MR. Goldsmith shared that Senator Michael L. Testa Jr. will be visiting Weymouth School next Thursday, September 22nd. Mr. Goldsmith expressed that the Senator's visit will stress the importance of continued state funding.

Mr. Goldsmith announced to the board and public that Weymouth would be expecting to receive \$764,154 in state aid to refund what was lost in aid cuts that were found to be in violation of COVID assistance going back three years to 2019. The violation was the state cutting aid higher than the previous year's cuts while the federal government has COVID restrictions on aid cuts in place.

Mr. Goldsmith stress that the money is not currently guaranteed, other districts have received the same information as Weymouth on the subject, and that this is a one-time payment.

The three primary areas funding in which would be used includes:

- Security and capital improvements. This includes a security vestibule at the front entrance as well as replacement of the HVAC units in the art and tech rooms
- Multiyear licensing for curriculum. This would lock the district in at a more affordable rate and provide stability to students and staff.
- Library and technology updates.

I. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Buena Board of Education – Mr. Ardito was unable to attend Buena's board meeting.
2. Weymouth Township – Municipal – Mr Goldsmith said the township continues to persevere although funding is lacking.
3. Mayor's Moment –

Mayor Ken Haeser reported that it was decided that in place of the annual township wienie roast, the Township will host a trick-or-treat like in years past. This will be taking place October 25th, from 5 to 6:30pm. This will be set up by the Dorothy Fire Company.

Mayor Haeser took the opportunity to announce the Township's new green energy proposal. The Township was approached by CS Energy to install a solar generation field on the site of the Township's now shuttered dumpsite. The field is located on the other side of the street from the Oaks of Weymouth. Mayor Haeser and Ron Carol walked the location and noted how the earth seemed to be taking the land back over and that in addition to the solar panels; they'd like to explore turning the area into a public space. In regards to the solar project, CS Energy would do all the engineering and site work, as well as capping the old dump, which has

been closed since the 1980's. Since the Department of Environment Protection required monitor wells be installed once the dump site was covered. The wells are monitored on the prescribed annual test schedule and have always come back clean, meaning there should be no issues getting DEP approval. CS Energy says the site could generate anywhere from zero to \$300,000 in annual production. This would also give the Township a reduced power rate. CS is expected to return a proposal towards the end of November.

There is a September MUA meeting with Hamilton Township to discuss renewal of the MUA before the current agreement runs out in March of 2023.

It was mentioned that the Township's master plan cost \$6,000 to write last time. The State has offered to write it for free. When questioned about the quality of a free master plan, Mayor Haeser said that the Township has evaluated other State written master plans and they are just as good as the ones people have spent ample funding on. The Mayor said he and Township members had toured parts of the Township and worked with the State on ways to generate revenue from some of the Township's abandoned properties.

The Township has been in discussions with Lieutenant Manzo of the New Jersey State Police about using the Dorothy Firehouse as a NJSP substation. Troopers would have 24/7 access to the firehouse and its facilities. The Township requested that a "NJSP Substation" sign be installed out front of the firehouse. They also asked that troopers remain present during school hours to assist if either Weymouth or Estell Manor schools request it since the substation would be an approximate halfway point between both schools. Mayor Haeser noted that this would be at no cost to the Township or either district.

J. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

1. Finance, Facilities and Security Committee Report

2. Informational Items

ASC/BSC Financial Report - None at this time

3) Recommendations

a. Board Secretary's Certification

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, I, Judson Moore, Board Secretary, certify as of June 30, 2022 that no budgetary line item has obligations and payments which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and 8.2 and that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.12 (a) 1.

b. Board's Certification

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12 9 (c) 4, the Board certifies that, as of June 30, 2022 after review of the monthly Board Secretary's Report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of the Board's knowledge, no major account or fund had been

over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.12 (a) 1 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the school year and that there were no changes in anticipated revenue amounts and sources for the month of May 2022.

- c. To Approve Expenditures:
To approve September 2022 expenditures as listed in the amount of \$108,093.30. **(Attachment #2)**
- d. To approve the following Financial Reports:
Treasurer's Report – none at this time
Board Secretary's Report – August **(Attachment #3)**
Nutri-Serve Financials – August - none
- e. To approve tuition contract with Atlantic County Special Services School District for the 2022-2023 school year for the following: Preschool Disabled \$39,240 @ 3= \$117,720, Multiple Disabilities \$41,580 @ 1=\$41,580 for a total not to exceed \$159,300.
- f. To approve tuition contract with Atlantic County Institute of Technology for the 2022-2023 school year for the following: Students \$4,575 @ 26=\$118,950, \$6,375 @ 0 not to exceed \$118,950.

Motion/Roll Call (items a-f)

Items A and B were tabled until the next board meeting due to incorrect month being used on the agenda. Ms. Doerr raised questions about the bills list; in particular, why Mr. Lopez was receiving funds for "bike storage". It was explained that it was a reimbursement for purchasing a storage shed to house the Pre-K's tricycles. Ms. Doerr's second concern was with the additional billing from the school's solicitor, Mr. William Cappuccio. After determining the charges were usual and necessary, Ms. Doerr voted in the affirmative.

Approval of Minutes			
Motion	Ms. Reymann	Second	Mr. Specht
Daniel Ardito	Yes	Paula Lechner	Yes
Patricia Doerr	Yes	Constance Anne Reymann	Yes
Christopher Egbert	Yes	John Specht	Yes
Gregory Freelon	Abstain	Edward Zebedies	Absent
Henry Goldsmith	Yes		

K. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – AI Lewis

1. Informational Items:

a. Student Matters Committee Report

b. Enrollment as of **08/31/2022**

Grade	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Current Enrollment 2022	25*	10	14	10	15	19	15	15	24	11	158
Enrollment 2021	17	12	11	13	20	13	14	25	12	21	158

*Includes 5 Estell Manor Tuition Students

c. Student Suspensions as of **08/31/2022**

Number of Suspensions	Number of Days
N/A	N/A

d. 1) Safety Drills as of **08/31/2022**

Type of Drill	Fire	Other
Date	N/A	N/A
Time		
Duration		

2) August Security Specialist Report - none

e. HIB Report as of **08/31/2022**

Grade	HIB Yes/No	Disposition
None	N/A	N/A

f. Superintendent Presentation/Recognition – Mr. Lewis announced that there would be a new recognition initiative where staff will nominate fellow staff and students each month for positive acts each month. Each month’s winner will be recognized at that month’s board meeting.

g. August/September 2022 Activities Highlighted

- 1) August 29 - Superintendent/Principal Meet & Greet – The CSA meet and greet went well. The community loved Mr. Softee. About 35 members of the staff and community were in attendance.
- 2) September 1 - Teacher In-Service
- 3) September 1 - Pre-K Classroom Visit & Bus Ride @ 1:30 p.m. (parents and students)
- 4) September 1 - Pre-K & K Welcome to School Night @ 5:00 p.m. (for parents only)
- 5) September 2 - NO SCHOOL
- 6) September 5 - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
- 7) September 6 - School opens - First day for students
- 8) September 13 - Back to School Night 6:30-8:00 p.m. – Mr. Lewis said that the evening was a success and made mention of how his NJASA mentor remarked at the condition of the school and the quality of Weymouth’s maintenance staff.

h. September/October Scheduled Dates/Events

- 1) September 22 - Senator Testa visits – Senator Testa will be reading “I Pledge Allegiance” to a selected class. Mr. Lewis remarked at how the Senator is very supportive of Weymouth and other small districts and is sympathetic to our financial struggles. A letter will be going home to families to encourage students to wear red, white, and blue for the Senator’s visit. The school will be made ready for pictures. Board members asked if the media should be made aware of the visit for further coverage. Mr. Lewis thanked the BOE for their support and the schools facilities’ staff for the upkeep on the school.
- 2) September 26 - Student Pictures
- 3) October 7 - Teacher In-Service - NO SCHOOL
- 4) October 10 - Columbus Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
- 5) October 20 - BOE Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 6) October 31 - Halloween

2. Recommendations:

a. Personnel and Negotiations Committee Report

b. Personnel:

- 1) Approve the creation of the position of Science Coordinator for the current school year.
 - Mr. Lewis called to light the District’s testing scores and the benefit of having a science coordinator. This would be for this year only.

K.2-b Recommendations

- 2) To approve Jillian Seelman as part-time office assistant pending receipt of all required paperwork.
- 3) To approve Jennifer Torres for co-coordinator for Student Council. She will split the \$900 stipend with Karen Merusi (already approved).

-The addendum items were approved by a motion made by Ms. Doerr and being seconded by Ms. Reymann. All members were in agreement with the exception of Mr. Freelon, who abstained.

Approval of Items 1 and 2			
Motion	Ms. Doerr	Second	Ms. Reymann
Daniel Ardito	Yes	Paula Lechner	Yes
Patricia Doerr	Yes	Constance Anne Reymann	Yes
Christopher Egbert	Yes	John Specht	Yes
Gregory Freelon	Yes	Edward Zebedies	Absent
Henry Goldsmith	Yes		

c. Policy

1) Policy Committee Report

- 2) To approve the **second** reading of the following policies:

Policy/Reg. Number	Description	NEW Adopt	Revised	Notes
P 1511	Board of Education Website Accessibility (M)		X	School district websites must comply with technical functionality and accessibility for people with disabilities as outlined by the Office of Civil Rights. Mandated.
P 2415	Every Student Succeeds Act (M)		X	Updated to reflect terminology found in Title 1 policy guides concerning Parent and Family Engagement. “Parental involvement” was changed to “Parent and Family Engagement.” Mandated.
P & R 2432	School Sponsored Publications			Abolished and moved to P 5722 as described below.
P & R 5513	Care of School Property (M)		X	Revised to update legal citation and minor language revisions. Outlines process for assessing and collecting textbook fines. Mandated.

P 5517	School District Issued Student Identification Cards (M)		X	For districts with students in grades 7-12, the student identification card must have the New Jersey Suicide Prevention Hopeline and contact information for a crisis text line printed on the back of the ID card. Mandated.
P 5722	Student Journalism (M)	X		Replaces P & R 2432. Required policy concerning student freedom of expression codified at N.J.S.A. 18A:36-44 and N.J.S.A. 18A:36-45. Indicates that a student journalist has the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press in school-sponsored media; provides student expression that is not protected expression, and a process for school officials to follow when it is believed that student expression is not protected, as well as an appeal process. Schools continue to have the right to determine the time, place, and manner of school-sponsored media. Mandated.
P 0143.2	High School Student Representative to the Board of Education		X	For districts with grades 9-12, a minimum of one student selected by the student body will serve on the board of education as a nonvoting representative. For districts without grades 9-12, this is optional. Optional for our K-8 District
P 0163	Quorum		X	Written to provide additional guidance on when and how to invoke, announce, and use the Doctrine of Necessity on matters where too many board members have a legal conflict. Not mandated, but highly recommended.
P 3216	Dress and Grooming (Teaching Staff)		X	Revised to remove gender-specific rules for staff attire. Recommended.
P & R 3270	Professional Responsibilities & Lesson Plans and Plan Books		X	Updated to require principal or designee to review lesson plans, assign extra or alternative duties to teaching staff members, and excuse staff members from faculty meetings. Recommended.
P 4216	Dress and Grooming (Support Staff)	X		New to address attire specifically for support staff. Recommended.

Motion/Roll Call

(Attachment #4)

Approval of policy			
Motion	Mr. Egbert	Second	Mr. Specht
Daniel Ardito	Yes	Paula Lechner	Yes
Patricia Doerr	Yes	Constance Anne Reymann	Yes
Christopher Egbert	Yes	John Specht	Yes
Gregory Freelon	Yes	Edward Zebedies	Absent
Henry Goldsmith	Yes		

- d. Education/Curriculum/Professional Development
 - 1) Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report
 - 2) Approve the district's Virtual and Remote Instruction Plan for the 22-23 school year. **(Attachment #5)**
 - 3) Approve the District Professional Development Plan for 2022-2023. **(Attachment #6)**
 - 4) Approve Emergency Management Plan for 2022-2023 **(Attachment #7)**

The 2022-2023 Emergency Management plan remains largely unchanged. Ms. Doerr asked that some of the illustrations be edited for clarity.

 - 5) Approve the Mentoring Plan for 2022-2023 **(Attachment #8)**
- e. Use of Facilities - None at this time

Motion/Roll Call (items d-e)

M. PUBLIC COMMENT - Limited to agenda items and any other Board of Education business matters.

N. OLD BUSINESS

O. NEW BUSINESS

P. CLOSED SESSION - Ms. Reymann made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ardito to enter closed session at 7:34pm. All members voted in favor of the motion. A HIB was discussed, as well as Mr. Lewis's contract. Children's bathroom behavior was also discussed.

Q. OPEN SESSION - Ms. Doerr made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reymann to return to open session at 7:58pm. All members voted in favor of the motion.

R. ADJOURNMENT Ms. Reymann made a motion, seconded by Ms. Doerr to adjourn the meeting at 7:59pm. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Next Meeting:
Regular Board Meeting - Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.