

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 26, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Eastampton Township Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 pm by Susan Taylor, President

FLAG SALUTE

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT: In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, adequate public notice of this meeting has been given by the Business Administrator in the following manner:

- A. Posted written notice on the official bulletin board at the Eastampton Community School on January 11, 2021
- B. Mailed written notice to the *Burlington County Times* on January 8, 2021 and the *Courier Post* on January 13, 2021
- C. Filed written notice with the Clerk of Eastampton Township on January 8, 2021
- D. Posted official notice on the district's website.
- E. Mailed written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule and who has prepaid any charges fixed for such service.

The Board of Education shall conduct its meeting scheduled for January 26, 2021 in person as well as via Google Meet. Members of the public desiring to participate in the Board of Education meeting remotely will be able to access the meeting by following the directions below:

DIRECTIONS:

Meeting ID – meet.google.com/fyt-wstm-qod

Or by telephone – 1 515-518-4494 PIN: 736 558 545#

ROLL CALL:

Susan Taylor, President - present
Glenn Forney, Vice President - present
Kyle Aaronson - present
Brian Curtis - absent
Len DiGiacomo - present
Kerry Douglas - present
Deanna McGinnis - present

Ambrose F. Duckett, III, Superintendent of Schools
Pat Austin, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

FIRE EXITS

New Business

Mr. Duckett spoke to the Board of the January 21, 2021 resignation of Ms. Brianna Rucci, Supervisor of Curriculum. On a motion by Sue Taylor and seconded by Deanna McGinnis, the acceptance by the

Susan Taylor, yes
Glenn Forney, yes
Kyle Aaronson - yes
Brian Curtis - absent
Len DiGiacomo - yes
Kerry Douglas - yes
Deanna McGinnis -yes

On a motion by Sue Taylor, and seconded by Len DiGiacomo, the Board entered executive session at 6:35 pm. All in favor.

 x Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual

employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting (subject to the balancing of the public's interest and the employee's privacy rights under *South Jersey Publishing*, 124 N.J. 478, the employee(s) and nature of discussion is 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 staff;

_____Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Board Secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

The return to Public session was at 7 pm

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

All meetings must be open to the public at all times except for those meetings at which certain excepted matters are discussed. However, the right of the public to be present at the meeting should not be confused with public participation. The public body retains the right to permit, regulate or prohibit active participation of the public at any meeting. (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (a)).

This meeting will now be open to the public; however, if your questions or comments pertain to litigation, students, personnel or negotiations, we ask that you see the Superintendent after the meeting since we do not discuss these items in public.

- There were approximately 30 people in the audience and at least 100 participants on line. The next 2 hours had many residents, employees, parents and students speak of the good Ms. Ragone has done for the students, staff and parents in the district.
- Ms. Taylor, Mr. Duckett and Mr. Forney spoke of their position on the elimination of the guidance position. Specific to that were the reductions to State Aid, enrollment drops and addressing the needs of the students
- Ms. Ragone spoke of her accomplishments in the district and reasons why the services of the her guidance position is greatly needed especially in the current state of the pandemic.
- Numerous employees, parents, staff and students spoke highly of Ms. Ragones' accomplishments and what she has done for them and the district.

At 9 pm, Sue Taylor called for a 10 minute recess

Upon return at approximately 9:15 pm, Additional members of the public spoke. Sue Taylor closed the Public Participation closed at 9:30 pm

Upon a motion by Sue Taylor, seconded by Len DiGiacomo, the motion is to table item (3) under **Personnel** which was 'to abolish one staff position effective as of June 30, 2021.' The motion to table was approved. Roll call vote. Motion carried

Susan Taylor, yes

Glenn Forney, yes
Kyle Aaronson - yes
Brian Curtis - absent
Len DiGiacomo - yes
Kerry Douglas - yes
Deanna McGinnis -yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (20-21-38)

On the motion by Sue Taylor and seconded by Kerry Douglas, the following minutes were approved.
Roll call vote. Motion carried

Susan Taylor, yes
Glenn Forney, yes
Kyle Aaronson – abstain 12/15/20 yes to 1/5/21
Brian Curtis - absent
Len DiGiacomo - yes
Kerry Douglas - yes
Deanna McGinnis - abstain 12/15/20 yes to 1/5/21

December 15, 2020 (Regular Session)
January 5, 2021 (Regular Session)

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: (Ambrose F. Duckett, III, Superintendent/Principal)

A. Information Item(s):

- 1) 2021-2022 School Calendar (20-21-39)
- 2) Mid Year Budget Review – January 26, 2021

B. Action Item(s):

On the motion by Sue Taylor, seconded by Deanna McGinnis, the following action item was approved. Roll call vote. Unanimous. Motion carried

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the 2021-2022 school calendar as presented.

PERSONNEL: (Susan Taylor, Chairperson)

A. Action Items:

On the motion by Sue Taylor, seconded by Len DiGiacomo, the following action items were approved with the exception of Item 3) which was tabled Roll call vote. Unanimous. Motion carried

- 1) Recommend the Board approve the employment of the following individual as district substitute nurse effective January 27, 2021, pending completion of paperwork:

Lilybell Manzo, RN

- 2) Recommend the Board approve the following hourly rate for:

Myra Phillips – \$15 per hour

Tabled

3) Recommend the Board approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EASTAMPTON
EASTAMPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ABOLISHING CERTAIN POSITIONS FOR
ECONOMIC AND BUDGETARY REASONS AND TERMINATING THE EMPLOYMENT
OF THE INDIVIDUALS CURRENTLY HOLDING SAID POSITIONS

WHEREAS, for the 2021-2022 school year the Eastampton Township School District shall experience adverse economic and budgetary problems; and

WHEREAS, the Eastampton Township District Board of Education ("Board of Education"), as a result of said adverse budgetary constraints and for reasons of economy finds it necessary to abolish certain positions, and is legally permitted to do so in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A 18A:28-9 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education finds it necessary, because of said budget problems and as a result of the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools to abolish one position; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of the elimination of this position, the Board of Education is required to terminate the employment of this individual.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Eastampton Township School District as follows:

1. One staff position (guidance counselor) in the School District is hereby abolished.
2. The abolishment of this position shall be effective as of June 30, 2021.
3. The Superintendent is authorized and directed to take appropriate action with respect to the elimination of the position and to notify the employee of the termination of employment in said position.

1. **FINANCE:** (Kerry Douglas, Chairperson)

A. Information Items:

- a) 2021 Disclosure Forms
- b) JIF Awards
- c) CAFR – year ending June 30, 2020. The Summary of Audit report provided for public review. There were no recommendations

B. Action Items:

On the motion by Glenn Forney, seconded by Sue Taylor, the following action items were approved.
Roll call vote. Unanimous. Motion carried

1) Recommend the Board approve the following payrolls:

- a. January 15, 2021 - \$ 250,858.69

2) Recommend the Board approve the following invoices for payment: (19-20-40)

Regular Bills: \$ 313,791.35

3) Recommend the Board approve Line Item Transfers dated December 31, 2020. (19-20-41)

4) Recommend the Board approve the Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2020. (19-20-42)

5) Recommend the Board approve the Board Secretary's Report dated December 31, 2020. (19-20-43)

- 6) Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)4*, we certify that as of December 31, 2020 after review of the Secretary's monthly financial reports (appropriations section) and upon consultation with appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)3* and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. It is also certified that the Board Secretary's report matches the Treasurer's Report. *Citations are subject to change due to periodic amendments, new rules, repeals. Figures subject to final audit.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)8*, I certify that as of December 31, 2020 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the District Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8-1. *Citations are subject to change due to periodic amendments, new rules, and repeals. Figures subject to final audit.

- 7) Recommend the Board approve the following out of district tuition contracts and aides:

OP – Westampton BOE- \$10,500 (pro-rated from November 9, 2020)

JW – Burlington County Special Services – one to one aide (\$200 per day per coverage for 20-21 school year)

- 8) Recommend the Board approve and accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ending June 20, 2020. There were no recommendations. (sent via email)

2. POLICY: (Len DiGiacomo, Chairperson)

A. Action Items:

On the motion by Len DiGiacomo, seconded by Kerry Douglas, the following action items were approved. Roll call vote. Unanimous. Motion carried

- 1) Move the Board of Education suspend Bylaw 0131 that requires two readings to adopt a Bylaw of Policy and adopt Bylaw 0164.6 with one reading to be in compliance with the new emergency regulations regarding remote meetings held during a Governor-declared emergency, N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 through 1.7, promulgated by Department of Community Affairs.
- 2) Recommend the Board approve the first reading and adoption of the following bylaw from Alert 222 (sent via email):

Bylaw 0164.6

Remote Public Board Meeting During A Declared Emergency (M) (New)

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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- Ms. Chapman and Ms. Goodman spoke about their feelings and their positions.
- Ms. D'Addona spoke about her teaching the students about respect and that we need to model that behavior. She has been a counselor for 14 years and we need to work together

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, the Board meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm on the motion by Sue Taylor, seconded by Len DiGiacomo. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Austin
Interim Business Administrator