

MISSION STATEMENT

We are committed to achieving the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels and providing a safe and supportive environment where educators inspire, empower, and encourage students to excel.

VISION STATEMENT

Students will become life-long learners, critical thinkers, and creative problem solvers who achieve success as honorable members of society.

SPECIAL MEETING on May 3, 2010, High School, 450 Atlantic Avenue, Aberdeen, New Jersey.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Mr. Kenny called the Special Meeting to order at **8:02 PM**.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

III. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Mr. Kenny read the following Statement:

“The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or agreed upon. In accordance with the provision of this act, the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education at its annual Organization Meeting adopted a schedule of the year’s regular meetings and said schedule was posted publicly, sent to our official newspaper, the Municipal Clerks of the Borough of Matawan and the Township of Aberdeen, and the Aberdeen-Matawan Joint Free Public Library, within seven days following the Organization Meeting.”

IV. ROLL CALL

Present: **Mr. Kenny, Ms. Hayward, Dr. Delaney, Mr. Warren, Mr. Ruprecht, Ms. Rubino, Mr. Donaghue, Ms. Esposito, Ms. Demarest**

Absent:

Also Present: **Dr. O’Malley, Ms. Irons, Mr. Rubin**

**V. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC
RELATING TO BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Kosmyna, Old Bridge

- Asked several questions regarding the custodians not being on the April 26, 2010 agenda, cost of the unemployment insurance of the custodians being fired, payout of vacation time and the union is still waiting to receive the scattergrams the union requested. Mr. Kenny stated he will not answer all of Mr. Kosmyna's questions and the Board will vote on the Finance agenda tonight.
- Stated the custodians are gone and believes the Board doesn't give a damn about them since it does not want to continue negotiations. Mr. Kenny answered that the Board has delayed this vote and feels the time has come.
- Asked if the Board has complete knowledge of the unemployment insurance cost with this matter. Mr. Kenny stated Board members can ask questions at the time of the vote.
- Believes Mr. Kenny going to answer everything with "no comment."

Mr. Friedman, Aberdeen,

- The teacher in the classroom is the most important person in the education process.
- Believes the board has lost a sense of community and is creating an adversarial relationship.
- The upside of privatization is that the District will save money however, the downside is that it destroys morale.
- Superintendents in other districts have refused to take a pay raise.

Mr. Atkins, Brick,

- Has been a custodian with the District for 20 years and is speaking for all the custodians in the District. Understands that the Board must investigate all of its options but believes the custodians have done a great job.

Ms. Huhn, Parlin,

- Has been a custodian for 17 ½ years. Stated that the custodians just don't clean, sweep and vacuum. They clean sinks, spot mop classrooms and come in for alarm calls. Mentioned every job the custodians do for the District

Mr. Gorman, Freehold, NJ

- Questioned the savings the District will have by privatizing. The Board can't answer what the unemployment and the vacation payout costs will be.
- Has issues with the Pritchard contract. The contractor does not need to fill an empty position until the 10th day. There will be supplemental billings for providing coverage during non-District events which occur often.
- The District is turning over a great deal of responsibility to the contractor including the OSHA and the blood born pathogens.

Ms. Kruzik, Cliffwood Beach,

- Concerned with section two of the IFP regarding the evaluation of the custodians in each building. Does not want the District to be stuck with dead weight. Mr. Kenny stated the Administration at each building will be responsible. Mr. Kenny stated the Board has taken everything into account. The budget failed and services are in extreme peril. The Board is not pleased at all to be in this position.
- Would like the Board to continue negotiating with the union.

Mr. Mills, Keansburg,

- There is less accountability to the citizens when private companies take over. School employees perform tasks which are not included in their job description and give a great deal to the education of students.

Mr. Stevens,

- For profit companies offer custodial services for lower costs. However, studies and research tell a different story.
- Urges the Board to reconsider until there is time to negotiate.

Mr. Barilka, Howell,

- Told a story about a problem at MLK High School in Manhattan where a privatized employee stole a lap top.
- Urges the Board to wait until more negotiations take place.

Ms. Vergaretti, Matawan,

- Has been a resident for 26 years. Concerned with accountability problems. When services are contracted out problems can not be as easily addressed and parents can no longer relay their concerns directly to the people responsible.
- Urges the Board to hold off until after negotiations.

Ms. Dubrosky, Freehold,

- Organizations become vulnerable when they lose the capacity to perform the functions themselves. Some contractors low ball their original offer and then raise prices later.

Ms. DeVito, Colts Neck,

- Concerned about the hidden costs that are not being examined such as the extra work with the public facilities and the administrative costs. The economic analysis is often wrong.

Ms. Apella, Matawan,

- Her three children go to school within the District. It's not just the economic impact that has to be taken into account but also the security concerns.

Ms. Okuric, Aberdeen,

- The cost savings from privatization can not be seen and may actually increase costs and lower the quality of services.
- Urges the Board to negotiate.

Mr. Kosmyna, Old Bridge,

- Did not agree with Mr. Kenny's statement regarding negotiations and would like the Board to postpone the vote until after further negotiations take place with more concession from the union.
- Questioned the bid specs submitted by Pritchard. Some of the information they submitted about their other educational institutions is incorrect. Those included are Plumstead, Deal and Marlboro. There were problems with either the number of schools or the number of students. If they make mistakes like this there may be other mistakes in the bid spec.

Ms. Martinez, Aberdeen,

- The Board came to the meeting with predispositions. There's so much tension between the community and the Board. People are fighting for their lives and jobs.
- Loves the custodians at Cliffwood and believes the MRTA would do anything to save the custodial jobs.

Ms. Breslin, Jackson,

- Part of the MRTA negotiating committee that has been looking at ways to save jobs and continue the negotiation process. Stated that it's not the MRTA that is not willing to save jobs, it's the Board.

Ms. Zwirko, Aberdeen,

- Asked all the custodians in the room to stand up. Believes the Board has not regard for the custodians or their families and are not negotiating. There are many people in this room willing to give concessions to save jobs.

Mr. Carroll, Matawan,

- Been with the District for 35 years. He has gone up on the roof to get balls and , climbed into dumpsters to search through garbage bags. A private company won't do that. The custodians are also in charge when there are fire drills and evacuation drills. The Board should answer the questions that everyone has.

Mr. Barilka, Howell,

- Read a posting from Mr. Warren's blog regarding the teachers.

Ms. Mattern, Matawan,

- Reiterated the questions that have not been answered by the Board about the costs of privatization including unemployment insurance and the vacation pay out. If the Board can't answer the questions how can there be a vote.

Ms. Langer, Holmdel,

- She is a nurse at Strathmore School. The Board should be showing the teachers and nurses more respect.

Mr. Carroll, Matawan,

- Received his lay off letter the day of the Board meeting.
- Wants the Board to negotiate in good faith and believes the Board has nothing to lose by not voting tonight.
- Thanked everyone at the meeting for their support of the custodians.

Ms. Noble, Cliffwood Beach,

- If the custodians are outsourced, who will ensure the quality control and put procedures in place to check the quality of work.

- The custodians often turn on the coffee for the staff and lay out the table floor plans for the teachers. A private firm won't do that.
- Thanked the custodians for their work.

Mr. Marsh, Aberdeen,

- As a tax payer, what is gained by voting tonight. Mr. Kenny stated the vote will be going forward tonight.

Ms. Kruzik, Cliffwood Beach,

- How much money is the Board saving by voting tonight? Mr. Kenny answered that it's a broad question.
- Requested that Mr. Kenny admit that questions are not being answered. The Board should hold formal negotiations with the MRTA because these men and women deserve it.

Mr. Monroe, Freehold,

- Asked if the bids can be viewed by the public. Mr. Kenny deferred to Mr. Rubin to answer. Mr. Rubin stated it's a public bidding process and would be available through an OPRA request.
- Inquired if the custodians that are being fired can form a corporation and put a bid in. Mr. Kenny stated the bid is complete and on the agenda.
- Who is liable if anything happens. Mr. Kenny asked Mr. Rubin to answer. Mr. Rubin stated there are provisions that the District is not held liable.

Ms. Friedman, Aberdeen

- Is an administrative assistant in another District. Thinks there is no sense of loyalty towards the custodians. Children are in their care more than their own parents.
- With a bid, there is a date by which the Board has to act or it becomes null and void.

Mr. Carroll, Matawan,

- Teachers have called him and said that they are willing to make concessions. Everyone wants the custodians to stay except the Board.
- People are fighting to save their families.

VI. Finance

Motion by Mr. Warren, seconded by Dr. Delaney.

There were comments and questions from the Board:

Ms. Esposito,

- Has only been on the Board a week. This is a bad experience and is heart wrenching.
- Some teachers are being cut and they're the ones in the classroom every day. Don't assume that this isn't incredibly difficult for the Board.

Dr. Delaney,

- This issue has been in the public since January. In January the Board approached the bargaining unit and nothing happened. Does not believe the public like to see 40 teachers cut instead.

Ms. Rubino,

- Disassociated herself with the person next to her. She keeps up with Mr. Warren's blog and his views do not represent those of the Board.
- Previously voted no against privatization because of the security concerns.
- Stated some of the speakers have been disrespectful and most of the things being said are incorrect.
- The Board has to make a decision. There hasn't been a formal negotiation but the union knew what concessions it would take to keep the custodians. Mr. Kosmyna did not make all the concessions necessary.

Mr. Donaghue,

- Was scheduled to work tonight, but came to support his fellow Board members.
- Some of the things said tonight were disrespectful. Nobody wanted this to happen but there was no sense of urgency with the negotiations. The rules of past negotiations should have been thrown out.
- The Board must now make a commitment. Apologized about everything going on, but the Board members did not do anything wrong.

Ms. Demarest,

- Understands the economic climate and that education is the Board's business. It is unrealistic to believe that the custodial jobs could be saved.
- Would like to save the 3 custodians who are less than a year from retirement.

Ms. Hayward,

- Echoed the sentiments of her fellow Board members. There were many comments that she hoped the public don't really believe.
- The Board does listen and respect the public. The Board weighs their options and does not take anything lightly. Like Mr. Kosmyna and the union, the Board can't negotiate in public.

Mr. Ruprecht,

- Custodians have let him in buildings for his boy scout and cub scout meetings.
- Joined the Board to give the students a say and believes he can help them.
- The only thing he can do is spend money as responsibly as he can so that teachers can do their jobs.
- Realizes what the custodians do for the District, but can't see losing teachers instead of custodians.
- The public votes against the budget and the funding isn't there.
- The Board is voting to accept the lowest responsible bid for the outsourcing and must submit the budget to get people hired to fulfill the Board's responsibility.

Move to approve upon the recommendation of the Superintendent:

1. Award of a Management and Custodial Service Contract

WHEREAS, the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District Board of Education (the "Board") solicited bid proposals to secure a service contract for Management and Custodial Service within the District (hereinafter "the Work"); and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2010, bid proposals were received and publicly read; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Work is Pritchard Industries Inc., 147 Columbia Turnpike Florham Park, NJ 07932, for a one year award in the amount of One Million Five hundred thirty five thousand one hundred ninety six dollars and five cents (\$1,535,196.05); second year award of One Million Five hundred fifty three thousand one hundred sixty four dollars and forty

one cents (\$1,553,164.41), for a total contract of three million eighty eight thousand three hundred sixty dollars and forty six cents (\$3,088,360.46); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby awards the Contract for work in the above-referenced amounts to Pritchard Industries Inc., for a term beginning July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District professional staff take any and all action necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
	9			

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mr. Warren, seconded by Dr. Delaney.

RECOMMEND: That the meeting be adjourned. The public portion of the Special Meeting adjourned at **9:47 PM**.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
	9			

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Irons
Business Administrator/Board Secretary