

Minutes of the Public Board of Education meeting held on May 9, 2012 at the Monroe Township High School.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Kathy Kolupanowich at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich, Board President
Ms. Amy Antelis
Mr. Ken Chiarella, Vice President
Mr. Lew Kaufman
Mr. Mark Klein
Mr. John Leary
Mr. Lou Masters
Mr. Ira Tessler

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Marvin Braverman

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Ms. Patrice Faraone

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Jonathan Kim
Ms. Eneri S. Patel

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael C. Gorski, CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Dr. Jeff Gorman, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – 55

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Monroe Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted May 4, 2012:

1. At all Schools,
2. Home News Tribune,
3. Cranbury Press, and
4. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

TEACHER RECOGNITION AWARDS

Dr. Hamilton and Ms. Kolupanowich acknowledged the following “Teachers of the Year”/“Educators of the Year” and presented each teacher with a plaque:

Monroe Township Middle School – Michelle Murphy,
Oak Tree Elementary School – Marie E. McNutt,
Mill Lake Elementary School – Brooke E. Kreiger,
Woodland Elementary School – Margaret A. Eckstein,
Barclay Brook Elementary School – Olga M. DiGrazia,
Monroe Township High School – Matthew DeFilippis, and
Brookside Elementary School – Bhu Calapatti.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Student Board Members Jonathan Kim and Eneri S. Patel spoke about the following events at the High School: Drug Assembly, Mid-term exams, Junior Prom, AP testing in Biology, various senior activities including the Senior Prom and Project Graduation.

PUBLIC FORUM

Robert Roche, 18 Yorkfield Blvd – Asked about the availability to view the staff professional development list referenced in the Superintendent’s Report, the content of the sidebar agreement referenced in the Superintendent’s Report and whether the child care center will be a free benefit for employees. Dr. Hamilton replied that the staff professional development list it is available to be OPRA’d, the Sidebar Agreement is related to instructional support of Administrators for EE4NJ and that employees will be paying for the child care center.

Anthony Prezioso – 8 Equestrian Way – asked if anything has been done as far as obtaining I-pads for the Resource Room in the Middle School. Marietta Ruela, Director of Pupil Personnel Services responded that there are now I-pads in self-contained classrooms only on which the teachers, paraprofessionals and parents if interested have been trained. All other students and training will take place when students enter the high school.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONSENROLLMENTHOME INSTRUCTIONFIRE/LOCKDOWN DRILLSPERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Chiarella and seconded by Ms. Antelis that Personnel Items (A - Y) be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call – 9 – 0. Motion Carried with Ms. Antelis recusing on Item S and Mr. Kaufman recusing on Item Q. The vote included the Jamesburg Board Member Representative where appropriate. A copy of the Personnel Section of the Superintendent's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Antelis and seconded by Mr. Chiarella that Personnel Item (Z) be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call – 9 – 0. Motion Carried. The vote included the Jamesburg Board Member Representative where appropriate. A copy of the Personnel Section of the Superintendent's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

BOARD ACTION

A motion was made by Mr. Chiarella and seconded by Ms. Antelis that Board Action items (A – O) be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call – 9 – 0. Motion Carried with Mr. Klein voting no on Items D and J and Mr. Leary voting no on Item J. Mr. Klein stated he felt that there is still a major problem in the high school as related to suspensions. Mr. Klein also asked related to Item J, why the District is bringing in an outside vendor to run workshops for bullying and harassment since we have an Administrative Assistant who is supposed to be doing this training within the District. Dr. Hamilton asked Mr. Goodall, high school principal to clarify the benefit to the District of the outside program. The vote included the Jamesburg Board Member Representative where appropriate. A copy of the Board Action Section of the Superintendent's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

A motion was made by Mr. Chiarella and seconded by Ms. Antelis that Board Action Items (A – H) be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call – 9 – 0. Motion Carried. The vote included the Jamesburg Board Member Representative where appropriate. A copy of the Board Action section of the Business Administrator's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Kolupanowich stated that the Monroe Township Middle School has received a commendation as they were the number 6 school in the entire county for the amount of food collected in a recent Food Drive.

COMMITTEE REPORTSFINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Leary, Chairperson of the Finance Committee stated that the Finance Committee met on Monday, May 7th and various items were discussed for which motions would be made this evening.

A motion was made by Mr. Leary and seconded by Ms. Antelis to recommend that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer P.A. ("Firm") as General Counsel and approve the Agreement for Professional Legal Services between the Board and the Firm for the period from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. The Board will pay the Firm an annual retainer of \$54,000 for up to thirty (30) hours of professional legal services each month. The Board will pay the Firm an hourly rate of \$175 for shareholders, \$165 for associates and counsel and \$95 for paralegals, for matters not covered by the retainer. The Board will also reimburse the Firm for costs such as computer research, UPS Overnight, messenger, long distance telephone calls, facsimile, photocopy, and the like.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of the award of the above described contract for legal services shall be provided as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5a(1).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and the Agreement shall be maintained on file and available for public inspection in the Board's office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, as the attesting witness, are hereby authorized to sign the Agreement. A copy of the agreement is attached to the official set of minutes.

Roll Call. 9 - 0 Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Klein and seconded by Mr. Leary to recommend that the following resolution be approved:

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT,
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND THE FINANCING THEREOF**

Adopted May 9, 2012

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42 authorizes the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe (the "Board") to enter into a contract exceeding the fiscal year for the leasing of equipment of every nature and kind; and

WHEREAS, the Board has a need to acquire the instructional technology equipment, the playground equipment and the office equipment as described in Schedule A attached hereto (collectively, the "Equipment") for school purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to acquire the Equipment through State Contract; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to obtain financing for the acquisition of the Equipment through competitive bidding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent, the Board Secretary and the Board's Bond Counsel to proceed to draft documents and conduct such other activities as are necessary to accomplish (a) the acquisition of the Equipment through State Contract and (b) the receipt of bids for financing the acquisition of the Equipment.

Section 2. The Board hereby directs the Board Secretary to process the necessary purchase orders to acquire the Equipment in advance of the receipt of bids for financing the acquisition of the Equipment. Such purchase orders shall be expressly subject to the condition that the Board receives and accepts one or more bids for the financing of such Equipment. The award for the financing of the Equipment shall be an encumbrance against the 2012-2013 budget.

Section 3. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to determine all matters in connection with the acquisition and financing of the Equipment not determined by this or subsequent resolution of the Board, as permitted by law.

Section 4. A copy of this resolution shall be placed on file with the Secretary of the Board.

Section 5. The making of and submission to the County Superintendent of the application as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:26-10.1(d) is hereby authorized and approved, and the Board's Bond Counsel, along with other representatives of the Board, are hereby authorized and approved to prepare and submit such application and to represent the Board in matters pertaining thereto.

Section 6. The Board hereby appoints the law firm of McCarter & English, LLP to provide the specialized legal services necessary in connection with the financing of the Equipment.

The Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized to cause to be printed any notice required by N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(1) in connection with such appointment.

Section 7. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Roll Call. 9 - 0 Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Chiarella and seconded by John Leary to recommend that members of the Monroe Township Board of Education authorize and approve a withdrawal from the "Capital Reserve Account" in the amount of \$135,000.00 to "Fund 12 Construction Services", account #12-000-400-450, for capital projects throughout the District. Projects to be considered are: Roofing at Monroe Township Middle School, HVAC at Applegarth School and Brookside, Asphalt at Barclay Brook, Monroe Township Middle School, and Applegarth School along with engineering fees.

Roll Call. 9 – 0 Motion Carried.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Mr. Kaufman stated that on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 the Curriculum Committee met and were given a detailed two-hour update on the I-pad initiative by Dr. Gorman. Mr. Kaufman then invited Dr. Gorman to give an abbreviated version of the earlier presentation and stated that the full presentation will be posted on the District website after the meeting. A copy of the full PowerPoint presentation is attached to the official set of minutes.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Tessler, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee stated that the Personnel Committee met on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 and that the following items were discussed: a review of the Assistant Superintendent's contract with a cost analysis done in which a 2 percent increase is to be recommended to the County along with the contract for approval, interviews were held for the Director of the early child care center, side-bar agreement between the Monroe Township Board of Education and the Monroe Township Education Association, a request by Building Services for a part-time custodian for the Mill Lake Annex, a proposal for Central Office Support Staff and a request to change the title and responsibilities of the current Secretary of Technology.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Ken Chiarella, Chairperson of the Buildings and Grounds Transportation Committee stated that the Buildings and Grounds Transportation Committee met on Monday, May 7th and that the following items were discussed: an update related to Applegarth School including reading a letter from Dr. Lynch related to lead testing, logos for gymnasiums so there is uniformity throughout the district and the preparation of paperwork necessary in the event of a need to move a trailer from Applegarth School to Oak Tree School if needed.

A motion was made by Ken Chiarella and seconded by Mr. Masters to recommend that members of the Board of Education approve the submission of the relocation of a (8) eight classroom 9,075 square foot trailer (SP#3290-060-12-1200) from Applegarth School to OakTree Elementary School as TEMPORARY SPACE to the state of New Jersey, Department of Education, Office of School Facilities for review as an OTHER CAPITAL project in which the BOE is not seeking state funding. Furthermore, the Board of Education authorizes the amendment of the District's Long Range Facilities Plan.

Roll Call. 8 – 0 with Ms. Faraone abstaining. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Ken Chiarella and seconded by Mr. Tessler to recommend that the Monroe Township Board of Education approve the following name for the previously approved child care center for Monroe Township School District employees which shall commence operations at Mill Lake School Annex in September 2012: Monroe Employee Child Care Academy effectively immediately and authorize the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to take all necessary and appropriate steps to implement this action of the Board of Education. Roll Call. 9 - 0 Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Ken Chiarella and seconded by Ms. Antelis to recommend that the Monroe Township Board of Education approve the following fee rate schedule for the Monroe Employee Child Care Academy which shall be effective upon the commencement of the Center's operations at Mill Lake School Annex in September 2012, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to take all necessary and appropriate steps to implement this action of the Board of Education.

Fee Rate Schedule:

Infants (6 weeks – 18 months) \$895 per month

Toddlers (18 months – 3 years old) \$820 per month

Pre-school (3 years old – 6 years old) \$745 per month

A 10% discount will be given for additional children in the family

Roll Call. 9 - 0 Motion Carried.

OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mr. Klein and seconded by Mr. Chiarella that the Monroe Township Board of Education consider the possibility of a lawsuit against the State of New Jersey and the Department of Education to obtain additional state funds for Monroe as it is stated in the law and to solicit other districts who may wish to join into the lawsuit.

A discussion ensued and Ms. Antelis asked Dr. Hamilton for a clearer definition of what was being asked for by Mr. Klein. Dr. Hamilton stated that the administrative team would solicit the advice of counsel as to possible legal fees to be incurred, a legal opinion as to the likelihood of success and to solicit other districts who might consider joining the suit and sharing the costs.

Ms. Antelis then made a motion to amend Mr. Klein's motion to include the information that Dr. Hamilton expressed and this was seconded by Mr. Chiarella. Mr. Klein then made a motion to table

his motion and Mr. Chiarella seconded this motion which carried. A roll call was then taken on Ms. Antelis' motion. 9 – 0 Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Antelis and seconded by Mr. Masters to approve the addition of a Special Public Board of Education meeting be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at 7:00pm. The purpose of the meeting is for discussion related to composing the Superintendent's written evaluation for submission to the Board President. Board action may be taken at this meeting. Roll Call. 9 - 0 Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Antelis and seconded by Mr. Tessler that members of the Monroe Township Board of Education approve moving the September 26, 2012 Public Board of Education meeting to Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. as schools will be closed due to Yom Kippur. Roll Call. 9 - 0 Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Antelis and seconded by Mr. Tessler that members of the Monroe Township Board of Education approve moving the October 24, 2012 Public Board of Education meeting to Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. as it conflicts with the dates of the NJSBA Annual Workshop. Roll Call. 9 - 0 Motion Carried.

CLOSED SESSION – RESOLUTION

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe hereby moves to go into Closed Session, in accordance with Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 through 10:4-21), to discuss the following subject(s):

Residency: student no. 85578
Employee Matter: Employee no. 000365

Student Matters: Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Incidents

121	4/23/2012	Oak Tree	86375
122	4/23/2012	Woodland	82153
123	5/3/2012	HS	85038

The discussion conducted in closed session can be disclosed to the public at such time as the matters have been resolved.

A motion was made by Mr. Chiarella and seconded by Mr. Masters that the members of the Board of Education go into closed session. Motion Carried.

Adjourned to Closed Session at 8:30 p.m.

Returned to Public Meeting at 9:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Chiarella and seconded by Ms. Antelis that recommended student No.85578 be allowed to continue to be enrolled in Monroe Township Schools through the end of the school year due to unforeseen circumstances. Roll Call. 8 – 0 with Ms. Faraone abstaining. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chrissy Skurbe, 8 Seminole Court stated that on the Superintendent's Report Dennis Ventrello is listed to be the Principal of Oak Tree and Chari Chanley listed as Principal of Applegarth and wanted to know if that was a typographical error and Dr. Hamilton responded that it was an error. Next, she asked if a bussing plan is in place yet for Oak Tree and Applegarth Schools and Mr. Gorski responded that details are still being worked on and will be made public once they are finalized. Ms. Skurbe also stated that she noticed there are no screens on the second floor windows at Applegarth which could present problems if the windows need to be kept open and Mr. Gorski stated he will check with Mr. Tague as to the status of the window screens.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Klein and seconded by Mr. Tessler that the meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried Unanimously. The public meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MICHAEL C. GORSKI, CPA
BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR