

Chesterfield Township Board of Education
Work Session 7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 11, 2019
MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Chesterfield Township Board of Education was opened at 7:03 p.m., by President Christina Hoggan, with a flag salute and moment of silence.

Welcome to this meeting of the Chesterfield Township Board of Education. If there is any agenda item, which you would like to discuss with the Board, please do so during that portion of the agenda entitled, "Public Comments-Agenda Items Only".

Should you have any other comments and/or questions once we have passed the "Public Comments-Agenda Items Only" portion in the agenda, please reserve those comments for "Other Public Comments" at the end of the meeting.

When you do address the Board, please state your name and address and limit your comments to three minutes. The total length of time for public comment is unrestricted unless a time limit is imposed by the Board President. Please refrain from comments that are likely to invade an individual's privacy rights or are not related to matters before the Board. They will not be permitted.

Roll Call

Board Members present:

Ms. Christina Hoggan, President
Mrs. Amy Jablonski, Vice President
Dr. Terran Brown
Mrs. Jaclyn Halaw
Mr. Matthew Litt

Other administration present:

Mr. Scott Heino, Superintendent
Mr. Patrick Pisano, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mr. Anthony Calandrillo, Director of Special Services

Open Public Meetings Act Notice

The Chesterfield Township Board of Education has given public notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, in the following manner February 27, 2019:

- Posting written notice on the official bulletin board at the Chesterfield Township School.
- Mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times and Trenton Times newspapers.
- Filing written notice with the Clerk of Chesterfield Township.
- Filing written notice with the Secretary of this body.
- Mailing written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule and who has prepaid any charge fixed for such service.

Meeting Information/Important Dates

Board of Education Important Dates:

March 18, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting

School District Important Dates

March 15, 2019 Early Dismissal – Parent Teacher Conferences

Public Comment – Agenda Items Only

When you address the Board, please approach the podium, state your name and address and limit your comments to three minutes. Please refrain from comments that are likely to invade an individual's privacy rights or are not related to matters before the Board. They will not be permitted.

Jignesh Shah stated, the public deserves a tax break. The Board did not give a tax break last year and other towns did. I demand a tax break be given. I have permission to speak on behalf of the Probasco family; they believe you should give the tax payer's a break too. Refer to the email.

Aparna Shah asked for her fair share; give the township residents a tax break, I believe that many residents deserve a tax break and it is your responsibly to give it to them. Look at the email.

Dawn Sheridan stated, that the only way her grandmother can afford to stay in Chesterfield is to freeze her taxes. Something needs to give; you need to remember the older people who live in Chesterfield. We cannot afford the high taxes; the school needs to correct that. Our neighbors had to walk away from their house because they couldn't afford to live here any longer; there will end up being a lot of abandon houses in Chesterfield.

Kelley Johnson stated, as I have stated before I want the money to stay in the school. We all fought for the money for our children. I feel for the people being affected by the taxes but our school needs the money. As Mr. Heino said at the last meeting we are still in a rebuilding period in this school. We have so many things to catch up on. I am concerned about the fight the over funded school districts are fighting; we could end up getting less money if you give it back in tax relief.

Jeff Burns stated, that Sweeney said whenever the state saves money it finds a quick way to spend it. The money the school gets should be held until the school says what they need and what is fair. The money should be given back as a tax break once the Board puts a budget together. This should be an ongoing conversation.

Recognition of Students for Outstanding Acts of Kindness

Mr. Calandrillo recognized two 6th grade students for their outstanding acts of kindness.

Board Goals – Reviewed Action Plans; Board will vote on the goals at the next board meeting.

School Security – Discussed Video Camera Proposals; Board decided to move forward with paying for the security cameras in the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 budgets. Board will vote at next board meeting.

Attorney RFP – Reviewed Proposals; Board to interview all 6 firms on March 25, 2019.

Budget – Mr. Heino and Mr. Pisano presented the 2019-2020 Highlights and Major Initiatives.

Vault – Mr. Pisano explained the results of the Geothermal Vault Bid opening. He asked the Board to reject the bids at the next board meeting and explained that the next step will be to negotiate the price.

Front Entrance Sidewalks – Mr. Pisano discussed proposals from contractors who provided quotes on replacing the red bricks.

Other Business – Mrs. Halaw stated that Mrs. Jablonski received the NJSBA New Board Member Certification Award.

Other Public Comments

Scott Richter stated he is impressed with the Board and what is going on here. He has lived here for 20 years, he asked the Board to be sensitive to the tax payers and older people who live in Chesterfield. You can make cuts in the budget. All the positions you are creating are recurring expenses. Why do you need another administrator?

Peggy Hallion stated, 5 years ago we started the underfunding fight. We finally got results. We got the money. \$112 is not a lot of money off as a tax break but it would be nice for some of us. I do income taxes and people are hurting, property tax deduction is limited to \$10k per year now. If there is any time to give back to the tax payers now is the time. I worked with this budget for 3 years. This Board slapped every tax payer across the face last year when they didn't give a tax break.

Kelley Johnson stated, that she would look for contractors from out of state for the Geothermal Vault and don't use the contractor that put it in again. Red bricks - we have many residents who do pavers, we need to get a professionals opinion on that. Who do you use to review the construction contracts that are currently done for the BOE? As an attorney I wouldn't trust myself. Attorneys specialize in different areas. Questions to ask at the attorney interviews should be related to what is the current situation here in Chesterfield. Also I really think the money should stay in the school.

Shamita Kumar stated, I appreciate the transparency and dialogue with the Board. Try to standardize your questions with the attorney interviews. Can we jointly help the teachers boost their moral? The PTA is willing to help with anything. Raise the budget 2%, these kids need the funds. I am sorry Mrs. Hallion but I didn't feel slapped in the face last year. I was happy my kids were going to get a chance. Don't throw money at problems. Use the money wisely. Do we recognize all of the positive things that are currently at this school? The discipline needs to be addressed; it's out of control this year.

Scott Hurley stated, I am a landscaper and I am offering my services for free for the brick pavers. I don't need you to save my taxes I ask that you don't waste my money. My wife and I feel this school is failing our daughter and we are looking at private schools.

Jignesh Shah stated, I was on the finance committee for 3 years and I think this is ridiculous, I don't think this school needs another administrator or a coach. Spending money does not solve education. Buying a new vehicle is crazy. The firehouse needs to be sold as soon as the Board gets possession of it. As a board member I did it with 9% funding. You sat in the public and complained about an \$8k raise for the Superintendent. You need to lower the taxes. What if the state does not continue to increase the funding? Many people in this town live on a fixed budget.

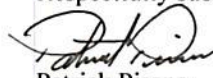
Stacey Lindes stated, I thank the Board for getting this budget in a good place. The \$116 going back to the tax payers is not fair when the teachers' contract is still not settled. I work in a great school district, West Windsor, the taxes are \$24k and the homes are selling quickly because it is a great school district, our taxes are not that high here in Chesterfield. \$46 is not a going to hurt anyone in this town. I thank the current Board for the work you are doing but the value in our kids' education is more important.

Dawn Sheridan stated, you need to think about the elderly and single people in this community. I live with my grandmother so she doesn't have to leave. I know it's only \$46 but it means something to the elderly. \$112 or \$46 is groceries for the month for an elderly person. I see more and more people in this town leaving. You have to think about the tax payers.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Jablonski and seconded by Mrs. Halaw at 10:11 p.m. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Pisano
Business Administrator/Board Secretary