

Ronn H Johnson Ed D
Superintendent
856 546 4850
FAX 856 310 0901

Karen Willis
Business Administrator Brd Sec
856 547 2585
FAX 856 547 3865

Lawnside Board of Education Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2024
CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Lawnside Board of Education was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in-person by the Board President, Ms. Forrest. After repeating the Pledge of Allegiance and after observing a moment of silence, the following members answered present to the roll call

Forrest -Y	Hayes - Y	Arterbridge Y	Catlett Y
Cauthorne - Y	Harper - Y	Kittles Y	Still - Y

Present- 8
Vacant - 1

Also present was Dr. Ronn Johnson, Superintendent, Karen Willis - SBA, Mark Gordon- ABA and Darryl Rhone - Board Solicitor.

OPENING STATEMENT

Public notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act Chapter 231 PL 1975 has been given by the Board Secretary in the following manner:

- a Posting written notice on the official school bulletin board at the Lawnside Public School and District website
- b Sending notice to the Courier Post and the Retrospect newspapers
- c Position on the district website

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Regular Meeting - February 8, 2024

Motion: Ms. Still
Second: Ms. Catlett

Forrest -Y	Hayes - Abstained	Arterbridge - Y	Catlett - Y
Cauthorne - Y	Harper Abstained	Kittles Y	Still - Y

Vote - 6 Yes
2 Abstained
Motion Carried

LAWNSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
426 CHARLESTON AVENUE
LAWNSIDE, NEW JERSEY 08045

“Looking Forward To Success”

To: Lawnside Board of Education

From: Dr. Ronn H. Johnson, Superintendent

Re: Superintendent’s Report (Recommendations)

Date: March 14, 2024

Informational Items:

Office of Comprehensive Supports (End of Cycle 2) Meeting Notes Violence and Vandalism Report Period 1

District Goals:

The District Goals were established in collaboration with the Lawnside Board of Education members at the Board retreat on Thursday, June 29, 2023.

In June, 70% of students will meet their ELA & Math annual growth targets as measured by the iReady diagnostic assessment.

Decrease chronic absenteeism by 10%

Effectively communicate with parents and community district information, specifically the New Attendance Policy.

Student Enrollment - 349

ADA- 311

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying: 0

Suspensions for December~ 9

The Superintendent is not in receipt of any parental request for a Board Hearing at this time.

School Safety Drills:

Fire Drill- 2/23/24 @ 2:00 pm

Safety Drill- 2/28/24 @ 2:32 pm (Shelter in Place w/ Instruction)

PERSONNEL - It is recommended by the Superintendent items 1-5 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended that Mr. Freddie Alexander’s Letter of Resignation as a Special

Education Teacher be approved effective February 27, 2024.

2. It is recommended that Ms. Rebecca Welde's (Speech Therapist) request for an extension of Maternity Leave be approved for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
3. It is recommended that the following Long-term Building-Based Substitute Teachers' per diem rate be adjusted from \$125 per diem to \$150 per diem:

Tracy Pollard Joseph Antico Donica Venable

4. It is recommended that Portia Harris approved as a full-time School Psychologist (*10 month*) during the 2023-2024 school year at a salary of \$64,010. (MA- Step 5)
5. It is recommended that Portia Harris (School Psychologist) be approved to work 20 days during the Summer at contractual hourly rate of \$44.82.

MANAGEMENT- It is recommended by the Superintendent items 1- 11 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended that the position of Special Education Teacher be approved for posting for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. It is recommended that the Lawnside School District 2024-2025 Preschool. Expansion Aid Budget be approved for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education.
3. It is recommended that the Camden County Educational Services Commission be approved to provide Preschool services during the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$43,206. (*Cost covered by the Preschool Expansion Aid grant*)
4. It is recommended that Ivy League Tutoring LLC be approved to provide Home and Reading Instruction at a rate of \$75 per hour March 11th to June 14th. Not to exceed 15 hours per week.
5. It is recommended SID #4756796814 be removed from the rolls of Haddon Heights school effective March 15, 2024 per a completed residency investigation.
6. It is recommended that Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Lawnside Board of Education and Law Enforcement Agent ties be approved for submission to the NJ Department of Education and Camden County Prosecutor's Office.
7. It is recommended that the amended QSAC District Improvement Plan be approved for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education.
8. It is recommended that the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report for February 14, 2024 be approved. (Part of QSAC requirement)

3

- 9. It is recommended that Kathleen Dariano, a Behavior Analyst student at St. Joseph's University was approved to complete her field experience at Lawnside School District.
- 10. It is recommended that Innovative Designs for Educational Achievement, LLC be approved to provide Speech Therapy service for the 2023-2024 school year at the rate of \$90 per hour.
- 11. It is recommended that the following Professional Development be approved for the 2023-2024 school year.

Name	Training	Date	Cost
Dr. Ronn Johnson	NJASA Spring Leadership Conference	5/15/24 - 5/19/24	Conference is free Lodging Reimbursement
Karen Willis & Mr. Gordon	NJSBA Annual Conference	6/5/24 - 6/7/24	\$500

Field Trip

- 1. It is recommended that the following field trips be approved for the 2023-2024 school year:

Grade	Location	Date	Cost
8th Grade	Haddon Heights Shadow Day	May 7, 2024	Free
8th Grade	Spirit of Philadelphia	May 23, 2024	\$120 per student
8th Grade	Six Flags Great Adventure	May 24, 2024	\$50 per student
1st & 2nd Grade	Cape May Zoo	May-TBD	TBD

Please contact Dr. Johnson at 856-546-4850 ext. 2200 or ronjohnson@lawnside.k12.nj.us if you have any questions prior to the board meeting on Thursday.

APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Regular Meeting - March 14, 2024

Motion: Ms. Kittles with the Board recommendation to amend item #7 to include that Board Members be added to numbers: 8,12 & 14 under Governance for the QSAC District Improvement Plan be approved for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Second: Ms. Hayes

Forrest -Y	Hayes - Y	Arterbridge - Y	Catlett - Y
Cauthorne - Y	Harper - Y	Kittles Y	Still - Y

Vote: Yes-8
 Motion: Carried

CORRESPONDENCE - SBA informed Board Members were provided with an email to complete their School Ethics form. A copy was provided to each member that has not completed the form to date.

OLD BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Ms. Higgs- 131 Lapiere Ave., Lawnside NJ 08045
 District Improvement Plan - How do you determine if the plan is working? Has a new plan been developed?
 Dr. Johnson : Asked if Ms. Higgs is actually speaking about the Annual School Plan? If so, yes, the District has monthly meetings with the NJ State Rep and review data and make the necessary adjustments . The goal is to meet 75% by the end of June.
 Ms. Miller advised that the last meeting was held in March and currently the students are at 70% of student growth as such: 60% representing ELA and 51% representing Math.
 Ms. Higgs research has led to 0% in ELA as of 2023 for Lawnside SD, and wanted to know if reading and math be addressed to the school’s improvement plan?
- Captain Plenty - from Lawnside Police Department - introduced to the audience a new platform that is available to all residences : My Lawnside. The Lawnside Police Department was given grant funding to provide different services to our youth within the community for help with emotional and physical maturity issues.
- LaVina Taylor - 22 East Emlen Avenue, Lawnside, NJ - PTA President. Advised residents that the Bookfair will begin next week and hours of operations will vary from day to day, but encouraged all parents to come out to purchase books for their children to help build library’s at home.

4. Ms. Whitney - 415 Sadler Avenue - has concerns regarding the AP African American History class that is currently being offered over at Haddon Heights HS. Does the Lawnside School District have a representative in the say so as to who will be hired for this position? Ms. Hayes, who is the current Board Representative at HH, informed that she wasn't at the last meeting, but has been informed of the process with the hiring practice for the position. Ms. Whitney indicated that if the class is going to be taught, she would prefer that the class be taught by an African American teacher.
5. Ms. Katherine Avant - 317 Charleston Avenue, Lawnside NJ - informed that she did attend the last meeting over at Haddon Heights, and advised that HH is currently searching for someone, we as a community need to attend the meetings to show our participation for the concerns of this position.
6. Mr. Ervin Mears - 411 Charleston Avenue, Lawnside, NJ - informed that there was no one from The Lawnside School District at the HH meeting for the past two(2) months. Ms. Hayes advised that she wasn't able to attend the meeting but is aware of the hiring practice.
7. Sherie Parsi -131 Watkins Avenue, Lawnside, NJ -she has concerns and would like to speak to the Board President regarding the recent altercation regarding her daughter. Ms. Parsi would like to know when was the last time the School's Bullying policy has been updated and what is the process and when will it happen? Ms. Parsi provided her phone number to the Board President to reach out to discuss.
8. Councilwoman Warlow- Hurley : Please note of the following Community Events for the upcoming month:
 - a. Hop Into Spring - March 23m 2024 @ 1:00 pm
 - b. Women's 'History Month - please submit names to be nominated from Lawnside NJ
 - c. Congratulations to Snow Hill AAU Basketball Team for winning the Camden County Basketball League
 - d. Sneaker Ball was a success for the students and parents who attended.
 - e. Popcorn Fundraiser - Spirit Night at the school.
 - f.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation - 2023 SY Audit by Bowman & Company - finds as per the attached report filed by the District on the State's website.

1. Resolution #114- Audit Corrective Action Plan
2. Resolution #115- I,D,E,A. Amendment
3. Resolution #116 - E,S,E,A Amendment
3. Resolution # 117 - PreSchool Budget for 24-25 SY
4. Resolution #118 - Amend Contract with Pritchard Industries
5. Resolution #119 - Line Item Transfer - \$5000.00
6. Resolution # 120- Line Item Transfer - 600.00
7. Resolution # 121- Line Item Transfer - \$40,000.00
8. Resolution # 122 - Line Item Transfer - \$50,000.00
9. Resolution - # 123 - Line Item Transfer - \$9,110.00
10. Resolution - # 124 - Line Item Transfer - \$1000.00
11. Resolution - #125 - Line Item Transfer - \$3156.00
12. Resolution - #126 - Line Item Transfer - \$2000.00
15. Resolution - #127- Line Item Transfer - \$2,000.00
16. Resolution - #128 -Line Item Transfer - \$73,126.75
17. Resolution -# 129 Tentative Budget for 24-25 SY

Approval of Resolutions 114-129

Motion: Harper

Second: Catlett

Vote - Yes- 8 with the exception noted below

Motion Carried

Forrest -Y	Hayes - Y	Arterbridge -Y	Catlett - Y
Cauthorne -Y	Harper - Y with the exception #129	Kittles Y	Still - Y

APPROVAL OF THE BOARD SECRETARY REPORT/ TREASURER’S REPORT -FEBRUARY 2024 - TABLED

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF THE BILLIS

Motion: Ms. Catlett

Second: Ms. Kittles

Vote - Yes- 8

Motion Carried

Forrest -Y	Hayes - Y	Arterbridge - Y	Catlett - Y
Cauthorne - Y	Harper - Y	Kittles Y	Still - Y

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Personnel & Legal matters: Time in: 8:27 pm

Motion: Ms. Still

Second: Ms. Catlett

Vote - Yes- 8

Motion Carried

Forrest -Y	Hayes - Y	Arterbridge - Y	Catlett - Y
Cauthorne - Y	Harper - Y	Kittles Y	Still - Y

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Time out: 9:28 pm

Motion: Mr. Harper
Second: Ms. Arterbridge
Vote - Yes- 8
Motion Carried

Forrest -Y	Hayes - Y	Arterbridge - Y	Catlett - Y
Cauthorne - Y	Harper - Y	Kittles Y	Still - Y

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

It is recommended that the contract for Karen Willis be renewed at a 3% increase for the 24-25 SY , \$118, 015.34

Motion: Ms. Arterbridge
Second: Mr. Harper
Vote - Yes- 8
Motion Carried

Forrest -Y	Hayes - Y	Arterbridge - Y	Catlett - Y
Cauthorne - Y	Harper - Y	Kittles Y	Still - Y

BOARD COMMENTS: - None

Motion for adjournment: 9:47 pm

Motion - Ms. Catlett

Second by Ms. Arterbridge

Vote - Yes- 8
Motion Carried

Forrest -Y	Hayes - Y	Arterbridge - Y	Catlett - Y
Cauthorne - Y	Harper - Y	Kittles Y	Still - Y

I, Karen Willis, Business Administrator/Board Secretary of the Board of Education of the Borough of Lawnside in the County of Camden, New Jersey Hereby Certify that the foregoing extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Education duly called and held on March 14, 2024 has been compared by me with the original minutes as officially recorded in the Minute Book of the Board of Education and is true complete and correct copy thereof and of the whole of the original minutes so far as they relate to the subject matters referred to in the extract

Respectfully submitted


Karen Willis

Business Administration/ Board Secretary