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Lawnside Board of Education Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2023  
**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Lawnside Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m. in-person. 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 - A	Arterbridge Y	Catlett Y
Cauthorne - A	Gibson - A	Kittles Y	Still - Y

5 Present  
 3 Absent  
 1 Vacant

Also present was Dr. Ronn Johnson, Superintendent, 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 - November 06, 2023 Regular Meeting:

Motion: Ms. Arterbridg  
 Second: Ms. Kittles

Forrest -Y	Hayes - A	Arterbridge - Y	Catlett - Y
Cauthorne - A	Gibson -A	Kittles Y	Still - Y

Motion: Ms. Arterbridg / Second: Ms. Kittles  
 Vote - Yes - 5  
 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: December 14, 2023

***Informational Items:***

PTA Sponsored a Book Fair during the first week of December.  
Several organization are providing supports for our students and families.  
December Newsletter was sent out electronically on December 1st.

***Presentation:***

Special Services Department Presentation- Dr. Carmen Henderson ***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 mea sured 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- 303**

**Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying: 0**

**Suspensions for October~ 5**

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

**School Security Drills:**

**Fire Drill- 11/30/23 @ 2:40 pm**

**Security Drill- 11/28/23 @ 2:35 pm**

**PERSONNEL** - It is recommended by the Superintendent items 1-6 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended that Karen Carter be approved for Curriculum Writing Lead at a stipend of \$965 for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. It is recommended that Freddie Alexander provide 10 hours of weekly home instruction at Lawnside School at the LEA contractual rate to Student #8506354138; not to exceed 60 days as per NJAC Section 6A:14-4.8
3. It is recommended that the following names be approved as Building-Based Substitutes at a per diem rate of \$125 for the 2023-2024 school year:

John Henderson

Morgan Bull

*Pending Criminal History Review and receipt of Substitute Certificate*

4. It is recommended that Nicole Shealey be approved as a Cafeteria/Lunch Aide for the 2023-2024 school year at an hourly rate of \$15.
5. It is recommended that Donica Venable be approved as the Interim Boys Basketball Coach during the 2023-2024 school year at the pro-rated stipend of \$965.
6. It is recommended that Tyrone Pitts be approved as a volunteer Assistant Boys Basketball Coach during the 2023-2024 school year. (*Pending Criminal History Review*)

**MANAGEMENT-** It is recommended by the Superintendent items 1-8 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended that the School Safety and Security Plan Annual Review Statement of Assurance be approved for submission to the NJDOE County Office of Education
2. It is recommended that the School Bus Evacuation Form for November 29, 2023 be approved as documentation of QSAC requirements.
3. It is recommended that the MOU between the Lawnside School District and Center for Family Services be approved for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. It is recommended that the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Corrective Action Plan for 2023-2024 be approved for submission to the auditor.
5. It is recommended that Empower AAC be approved to provide Augmentative Alternative Communication Services for the Department of Special Services for the 2023-2024 school year.
6. It is recommended that the Lawnside School District grant approval of a snack donation from Ms. Candy Young of Emmanuel Church.

7. It is recommended that the Lawnside School District grant approval of a toy donation from the Morgan State South Jersey Alumni Chapter.
8. It is recommended that Innovative Designs for Educational Achievement's (Barbara McCooley) contract as a Speech Therapist be extended past December 22, 2023, to attend meetings and prepare Individualized Education Plans as needed.

**Field Trip**

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

Grade	Location	Date	Cost
5th Grade	Franklin Institute	2/14/24	TBD
5th Grade	Constitution Center	TBD	TBD

*Dates and cost To Be Determined (TBD) based on the availability of transportation*

**Executive Session- N/A**

*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.*

Dr. Henderson gave a presentation discussing changes in the Special Services Department to enhance student achievement. This included stakeholder feedback and goals to improve student achievement. Dr. Henderson informed the board that the district is below the state average in the number of special education students district-wide. All evaluations were completed on time and in compliance with state goals.

The district created several inclusion, pull-out, and MD classrooms. All students are included in general education. A new social-emotional learning system will be implemented on January 1st, 2024. The district has hired a BCBA to ensure support in the classroom and to conduct all behavioral assessments. These assessments will no longer need to be completed by outside agencies.

Dr. Henderson states the following priorities for her department:

- Some students will use alternative assessments for state testing.
- Decrease the proficiency gap in students.
- Ensure that students are placed in the least restrictive environment.

Dr. Henderson's vision to enhance the special services department includes:

- Increasing the special education teaching staff.
- Expanding the MD classes and programming to bring out-of-district students back into the district.
- Increasing the CST staff by adding a full-time Secretary and Psychologist.

Dr. Henderson discusses the district's newly redesigned sensory room, which both students and staff can use.

At the end of her presentation, Dr. Henderson answered several questions regarding her presentation.

Dr. Ronn Johnson, Superintendent, asked that Ms. Miller's family be kept in prayer due to the passing of her mother.

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE APPROVAL OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
PERSONAL - ITEM 1-6 AND MANAGEMENT ITEM 1- 8**

Motion: Ms. Arterbridge

Second: Ms. Kittles

Forrest -Y	Hayes - A	Arterbridge- Y	Catlett - Y
Cauthorne - A	Gibson - A	Kittles Y	Still - Y

Vote - Yes - 5

Motion Carried

*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.*

**CORRESPONDENCE** -None.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** - Ms. Alterbridge handed out a revised Title One Policy to all board members.

**Haddon Heights Rep** - None

**Camden County Education Service Rep** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

New Business

1. Resolution #89- LineItem Transfers - \$3500.00
2. Resolution #90 - Line Item Transfer - \$10,000.00
3. Resolution # 91 - Line Item Transfer - \$500.00

- 4. Resolution #92 - Line Item Transfer - \$2829.86
- 5. Resolution # 93 - Line Item Transfer - \$100,000.00
- 1. Resolution #94 - Line Item Transfer - \$500.00
- 2. Resolution #95 - Line Item Transfer - \$1000.00
- 3. Resolution #96 - Line Item Transfer - \$500.00
- 4. Resolution #97 - Line Item Transfer - \$20,000.00
- 10. Resolution #98 - Line Item Transfer - \$6000.00
- 11. Resolution #99 - Line Item Transfer - \$20,000.00
- 12. Resolution - 100 - Line Item Transfer - \$353,005.42
- 13. Resolution - #101 - Line Item Transfer - \$44,128.00

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS # 78-90** Motion: Ms. Still Second: Ms. Kittles  
 Vote - Yes - 5  
 Motion Carried

Forrest -Y	Hayes - A	Arterbridge -Y	Catlett - Y
Cauthorne - A	Gibson - A	Kittles Y	Still - Y

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF THE BILLIS**

Motion: Ms. Catlett  
 Second: Ms. Still  
 Vote - Yes- 5

Forrest - Y	Hayes A	Catlett- Y	Cauthorne A
Arterbridge- Y	Kittles- Y	Gibson A	Still - Y

Vote - Yes - 5  
 Motion Carried

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Legal Matters: Time In 8:10pm**

Motion: Catlett  
 Second: Still

Forrest - Y	Hayes A	Catlett- Y	Cauthorne A
Arterbridge- Y	Kittles- Y	Gibson A	Still - Y

Vote 5 Yes  
Motion Carried

Time Out: 8:29 pm

Motion: Catlett  
Second: Still

Forrest - Y	Hayes A	Catlett- Y	Cauthorne A
Arterbridge- Y	Kittles- Y	Gibson A	Still - Y

Vote 5 Yes  
Motion Carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - Ms. M Higgs asked the board how she could get a copy of the resolutions given to the board and for an expanded agenda. Mr. Rhone, the Board solicitor, said that the board will discuss what can be done to expand the agenda per her request. He also relayed that some information cannot be posted due to confidentiality.

M Carter requested that the board of education review the type of technology used in the classroom and suggested that the board use cheaper computer models to reduce repair costs. She also suggested that the board look into using GoGuardian on their student devices to help monitor students in the classroom.

T Pitts requested to use the Lawnside multipurpose room for the SnowHill basketball team. This request was tabled

**BOARD COMMENTS:** None

Motion for adjournment: 8:43 pm

Motion - Ms. Catlett

Second by Ms. Still

Forrest - Y	Hayes A	Catlett- Y	Cauthorne A
Arterbridge- Y	Kittles- Y	Gibson A	Still - Y

Vote 7 Yes

Motion Carried

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 December 12, 2023 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