

Lawnside Board of Education Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Lawnside Board of Education was called to order at 7:08 pm in person at 427 Charleston Avenue Lawnside NJ After repeating the Pledge of Allegiance and after observing a moment of silence the following members answered present to the roll call

Sabrina Forrest
Maresharee Wright

Mark Bass
Alexis Wilson

Dajshia Gibson
Mawusimensah Mears

Absent Phoenix Moore, Nana Cauthorne, Ferrin Catlett and Dr. Ronn Johnson.
Also present was Karen Willis Business Administrator and Darryl Rhone Board Solicitor

2. OPENING STATEMENT

Public notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings act has been given by the Board Secretary in the following manner:

- A. Posting written notice on the official school bulletin board at the Woodland and Avon Schools
- B. Sending notice to the Courier Post and the Retrospect newspapers
- C. Posting on the district website

Approval of the Regular Meeting - October 21, 2021 Minutes

Motioned A. Wilson

Seconded by D. Gibson

Vote Yes 5

Sabrina Forrest Y

Mark Bass Y

Marsharee Wright- Y

Motion Carried.

Dajshia Gibson Y

Mawusimensah Mears -Abstained

Alexis Wilson -Y

“The Comeback: Roaring Back To Success”

To: Lawnside Board of Education

From: Dr. Ronn H. Johnson, Superintendent

Re: Superintendent's Report (Recommendations)

Date: November 11, 2021

Discussion Items:

**Bus Evacuation- 8th Grade visited the Technical School
Mr. Rhone conducted HIB training with the staff on 10/28/21
Lawnside School District has been selected to participate in the Spring Field Test**

District Goals

The District Goals were established in collaboration with the Lawnside Board of Education members at the Board retreat on Thursday, June 24, 2021.

Goal #1: Improve ELA and Math scores to a total of 3% growth over the previous year..

Goal #2: Support student achievement in the social and emotional learning needs of students returning to school full time.

Goal #3: Continue to work to engage our parents in positive ways

Student Enrollment- 318

ADA- 283

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying: 1 (Founded -Warning/Detention)

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- 10/28/21 @ 2:30 pm Security Drill- 10/29/21 @ 10:00 (Medical)

PERSONNEL - There are no Personnel items to be recommended by the Superintendent.

MANAGEMENT- It is recommended by the Superintendent items 1-4 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended that the documentation of the Bus Evacuation Drill conducted on October 25, 2021 for then 8th Grade be approved for the 2021-2022 school year.

2. It is recommended that the following vendors be approved to conduct independent evaluations for Student ID #6209248485 during the 2021-2022 school year:

- Christen Russell (Functional Behavior Assessment) at a rate of \$175 per hour

- *Christen Russell (Functional Behavior Assessment) at a rate of \$175 per hour*
- *Mary Pipan M.D. (Developmental Pediatric Assessment)*
- *Gerri Marini (Occupational Assessment) at a rate of \$100 per hour*
- *Rizza Miro Lemonakis (Speech Language Assessment) at a rate of \$85 per hour - Children's*

Hospital of Pennsylvania (Physical Therapy Assessment)

3. It is recommended that the School Safety and Security Plan Statement of Assurance for 2021-2022 be approved for submission to the New Jersey department of Education.

4. It is recommended that the following Professional Development opportunities be approved for the 2021-2022 school year.

<i>Staff</i>	<i>Training /Workshop</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Cost</i>
<i>Adam Carpenter</i>	<i>Innovative NewActivities for Strengthening Your PE Program</i>	<i>Mt. Laurel</i>	<i>12/16/21</i>	<i>\$279.00</i>
<i>Gina Lewis</i>	<i>NJ School Psychologist Conference</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>12/10/21</i>	<i>\$195.00</i>
<i>Niphon Kirk</i>	<i>NJPS/FEA Conference</i>	<i>Monroe Twp</i>	<i>3/24-25</i>	<i>\$320.00</i>
<i>Niphon Kirk</i>	<i>Intervention & Referral Services: The Next Generation</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>11/17/21</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>
<i>Niphon Kirk</i>	<i>Work Life Balance & Stress As an Educational Leader</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>12/14/21</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>

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

3. Approval of the Superintendent Report- Management - Items #1-4 (No Personnel Items):

Motioned A. Wilson

Seconded by D. Gibson

Vote Yes 5 - No - 1

Sabrina Forrest Y

Dajshia Gibson Y

Mark Bass Y

Mawusimensah Mears Y

Marsharee Wright- N

Alexis Wilson -Y

Motion Carried.

4. Public Comments - None.

5. Correspondents - None.

6. Old Business - None.

7. Committee Reports

Haddon Heights Representative : Ms. Forrest indicated that the search for the new Superintendent is completed and the announcement will be made at the next scheduled board meeting in hopes that the individual can start in February 2022.

CCESC Representative - Last scheduled meeting was canceled.

8. New Business

Authorization to approve the following Resolutions for November 2021.

Resolution # 13-2021-22 Line Item Transfer for \$84.90

Resolution # 14 2021-22 Line Item Transfer for \$339.60

Resolution #15 2021-22 Line Item Transfer for 254,653.00

Resolution # 16 - IDEA Carry Over Funds for \$6453.00

Resolution #17 - Facility Usage - Love Lunch - December 17th and 18th, 2021

Approval of Resolutions #13- 17 as stated above:

Motioned by - D. Gibson

Seconded by - A. Wilson

Vote Yes 6

Sabrina Forrest Y
Mark Bass Y
Marsharee Wright- Y
Motion Carried.

Dajshia Gibson Y
Mawusimensah Mears Y
Alexis Wilson -Y

Approval Resolution No 18 - Withdrawal of Maintenance Reserves for Required Maintenance Appropriations

Motioned by - D. Gibson
Seconded by - A. Wilson
Vote Yes 6

Sabrina Forrest Y
Mark Bass Y
Marsharee Wright- Y
Motion Carried.

Dajshia Gibson Y
Mawusimensah Mears Y
Alexis Wilson -Y

9. Public Comments - Mr. Ervin Mears - 411 E. Charleston Avenue, Lawnside NJ

Mr. Mears stated that the \$13,000.00 generated from the lawsuit due to lack of response from a previous OPRA Request is not coming to him, but are his lawyer fees. Mr. Mears wanted to clarify from the last board meeting that he personally wasn't suing the district for his gain but the dollar amount that was mentioned at the previous board meeting and statement was incorrect.

- a. Mr. Mears also explained how an OPRA Request is supposed to be addressed within a seven (7) days ppf receiving the OPRA Request and that he has the right to sue in order to obtain the information requested.

Mr. Mears also expressed that he was informed by his attorney that the School District's attorney and the Board President indicated that she wasn't paying me (Mears) a dime.

Board President Response - Explained that all matters are brought to the Board's attention, that decisions that are made are not solely rest upon her.

Personally she believes that Mr. Mears should be ashamed of himself for taking any funds away from the school district.

She understands the process of an OPRA Request, however the information that you requested was during the pandemic and the Governor passed an Executive Order to address OPRA Request during this time period.

b. Ms. Michelle Carter - 15 Hemingway Drive , Lawnside New Jersey

Ms. Carter is concerned about the lack of transportation for the High School students to and from and the extracurricular activities. One (1) bus is simply not enough, due to overcrowdedness. She wanted to know if the school district could partner up with a community organization or a church to provide the transportation needed for the students?

Board President Response: Thanked Ms. Carter for her concerns and advised her that the District is currently working on addressing this issue with the submission of the application to the County Superintendent requesting a waiver for the parents to drive their children to school.

c. Ms. Wanda Warlow-Hurley - 4 Martin Luther Drive, Lawnside, personally wanted to thank Dr. Johnson for supporting the robol calls and the Trunk Treat

10. Approval to go in Close Session

Executive Session In @ 7:35 PM - Regarding Current litigation

**Motioned A. Wilson
Seconded by M. Mears
Vote Yes 6**

Sabrina Forrest Y
Mark Bass Y
Marsharee Wright- Y
Motion Carried.

Dajshia Gibson Y
Mawusimensah Mears Y
Alexis Wilson -Y

Executive Session Out 8:00 PM

**Motioned A. Wilson
Seconded by M. Mears
Vote Yes 6**

Sabrina Forrest Y
Mark Bass Y
Marsharee Wright- Y
Motion Carried.

Dajshia Gibson Y
Mawusimensah Mears Y
Alexis Wilson -Y

11. Board Comments:

Mr. Bass - Exhausted with the discussion regarding the lawsuit, which has nothing to do with our children and education.

Ms. Wilson - Congratulations to everyone who won the election and especially to Ms. Forrest. She also expressed that she believes that the new members are the right team for the school district.

Ms. Wright - Wanted to comment on the concern that Ms. Whitley had from the previous board meeting. Station Place Apartment is a one to two bedroom apartment and there are a total of 144 apartments in total. Given these facts, there is no way 200-300 children will be attending our school. Ms. Wright also wanted to speak to Mr. Mears regarding the lawsuit and the current process regarding an OPRA Request.

Mr. Rhone (Board Solitaire) - recommended that Board members shouldn't speak to any matter concerning the current lawsuit.

Ms. Warlow-Hurley - wanted to know if she had put an OPRA Request to find out the final cost of the lawsuit?

Mr. Rhone - Informed Ms. Warlow-Hurley she can go to the county court to get a copy of the record.

Ms. Wright - wanted to know how to proceed to address a board member that has been missing meetings.

Mr. Rhone - Informed the Board Members that they can proceed with a resolution and vote on having the individual to be removed from the Board.

Ms. Wright motioned to have Mr. Phoenix Moore removed from the Lawnside School District Board who has missed over 5 meetings

CESSATION OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP - PHOENIX MOORE

WHEREAS, Phoenix Moore is a school official, as defined in the School Ethics Act, serving as a Board member of the Lawnside School District's Board of Education, located in Camden County; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey law, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-3 provides that a member of a board of education, via a board's action of removal, may cease to be a member of such board upon said member's failure to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the board without good cause; and

WHEREAS, Phoenix Moore, having missed five (5) consecutive Board of Education meetings – without providing good cause, stated excuse, notification, legal or technical reasons, or any other

response to continued verbal, written, and electronic outreach and correspondence regarding his status, attendance and availability; and

WHEREAS, the above, taken in further context with a record of chronic absenteeism from the Board, and a factual inability of the Board to obtain quorum for scheduled meetings – a reasonable examination of such actions and lack of response from Phoenix Moore to any and all good faith Board notices regarding continued absences would find such consistent with an act of abandonment, with no necessary consideration to underlying purpose or intent in the absence of good cause and lack of responsive; and

WHEREAS, the Board, having given due consideration to all provided evidence – inclusive of approved Board minutes, records of attendance; and Board correspondence; so

MAY THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the herein Resolution REMOVING Phoenix Moore, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18:A-12-3, as so is consistent with the facts and legislative intent of the statute.

Approval to have Mr. Phoenix Moore removed from Lawnside Board of Education due to lack of attendance:

Motion by M. Wright

Second: A. Wilson.

Vote:

5 - Yes

1 - No

Sabrina Forrest Y

Dajshia Gibson Y

Mark Bass Y

Mawusimensah Mears N

Marsharee Wright- Y

Alexis Wilson -Y

Motion Carried.

Motion to Adjournment - 8:06 PM

Motion: D. Gibson

Secon: A. Wilson

Vote: Yes-6

Sabrina Forrest Y

Dajshia Gibson Y

Mark Bass Y

Mawusimensah Mears Y

Marsharee Wright- Y

Alexis Wilson -Y

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 November 11, 2021 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