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Lawnside Board of Education Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Lawnside Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m. remotely through "Zoom". After repeating the Pledge of Allegiance and after observing a moment of silence, the following members answered present to the roll call:

Sabrina Forrest
Nana Cauthorne

Marsharee Wright
Dajshia Gibson

Mawusimensah Mears left meeting early 7:07

Absent: Deborah DeAbreu and Alexis Wilson

Also present was Ronn Johnson, Superintendent, Dawn Leary, Business Administrator.

Open Public Meeting Act

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meeting Act authorizes Board of Education to meet in Executive session under certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meeting Act requires the Board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Lawnside Board of Education, that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

1. Personnel and/or Student Matter

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exist; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education will return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive session.

November 5, 2020
Minutes

Motion by Marsharee Wright seconded by Dajshia Gibson, that the minutes of November 5, 2020 be approved. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 4 - yes and 3 - absent.

Mrs. Forrest - yes
Mr. Mears - absent
Ms. Wilson - absent

Ms. Wright - yes
Ms. Gibson - yes
Ms. Cauthorne - yes

Mrs. DeAbreu - absent

Minutes - December 15, 2020 – no vote

Minutes – January 7, 2021

Motion by Marsharee Wright seconded by Nana Cauthorne, that the minutes of January 7, 2021 be approved. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 4 - yes and 3 – absent.

Mrs. Forrest – yes
Mr. Mears - absent
Ms. Wilson – absent

Ms. Wright - yes
Ms. Gibson - yes
Ms. Cauthorne – yes

Mrs. DeAbreu - absent

Superintendent’s Report

Discussion Items:

Camden County’s Covid Status – The County is still in Orange (Level-3 High) as of 1/7/21

District Goals

The District Goals were established in collaboration with the Lawnside Board of Education members at the Board retreat on Thursday, August 1, 2019.

Goal #1: Continue to engage with our community.

Goal #2: Development and implement programs that increase academic achievement and social emotional learning.

Goal #3: Increase ELA and Math scores by 5% on the NJSLA tests.

Enrollment-312

ADA -285

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying: 0

Suspension for December – 0

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

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

1. It is recommended Mr. Leonard Lewis be approved to be transitioned temporarily from a Paraprofessional to Long-Term Substitute Teacher (Vacant Position) from January 4, 2021 until the position can be filled at a salary of \$56,032 (Step-1 BA).
2. It is recommended the following Part-time staff members’ salaries be adjusted to reflect the annual increase in the minimum wage for 2021:

ShaNell Wilson - \$13.00 per hour

Damier Morris-Daniels - \$12.00 per hour

3. It is recommended that Ms. Brittney Coleman’s FMLA request for leave (personal) be approved effective January 4, 2021 through January 29, 2021.
4. It is recommended that the following staff members be approved as 8th grade advisors for the remainder of the 2021 school year at a pro-rated stipend of \$949:

Norman Alston

Ayree Stevenson

5. It is recommended Mr. Sebert McKenzie’s Letter of Resignation as a Paraprofessional be approved effective January 5, 2021.

Personnel Items
1-5

Motion by Marsharee Wright
seconded by Dajshia Gibson
to approve personnel items 1-5.
Motion Carried; Roll Call Vote:
4 – yes, 3 – absent.

Mrs. Forrest – yes
Mr. Mears - absent
Ms. Wilson – absent

Ms. Wright - yes
Ms. Gibson - yes
Ms. Cauthorne – yes

Mrs. DeAbreu - absent

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

1. It is recommended the position of Paraprofessional for the 2021 school year be approved for posting.
2. It is recommended that the Health & Physical Education Curriculum be approved effective December 11, 2020. (See Attached)
3. It is recommended that the “Can You Imagine Me” program sponsored by the SJ Links be approved for the 2021 school year. *(Program will tentatively be conducted remotely)*
4. It is recommended the following Professional Development opportunities be approved for the 2020-2021 school year: *All professional development will be funded through Title II*

Name	Workshop	Location	Date	Cost
Gina Lewis	NJPSA Conference	Online	3/19/21	\$100

Management Item
1-4

Motion by Marsharee Wright
seconded by Dajshia Gibson
to approve management items 1-4.
Motion Carried; Roll Call Vote:
4 – yes, 3 – absent.

Mrs. Forrest – yes
Mr. Mears - absent
Ms. Wilson – absent

Ms. Wright - yes
Ms. Gibson - yes
Ms. Cauthorne – yes

Mrs. DeAbreu - absent

It is recommended that the Lawside Public School continue the current Hybrid Model to be extended until April 16, 2021.

Motion by Ms. Cauthorne seconded by Dajshia Gibson to approve the extension of the Hybrid Model

Mrs. Forrest – yes
Mr. Mears - absent
Ms. Wilson – absent

Ms. Wright - no
Ms. Gibson - yes
Ms. Cauthorne – yes

Mrs. DeAbreu - absent

Motion Carried; Roll Call Vote: 3 – yes, 1- no and 3 – absent.

Correspondence – Audit Letter
Letter of Resignation – Debbie DeAbreu

Discussion Item – Budget Calendar
Ms. Leary reviewed the budget process with board members

Committee Reports – None (Assignments will be made by the board president)

"Due to lack of a quorum, the following were presented and unable to be addressed:"

New Business

1. Resolution #16 (2020-21) Line Item Transfer
2. Resolution #17 (2020-21) Line Item Transfer
3. Resolution #18/18A (2020-21) Line Item Transfer
4. Resolution #21 (2020-21) Line Item Transfer
5. Resolution #22 (2020-21) Line Item Transfer
6. Resolution #23 (2020-21) Line Item Transfer
7. Resolution #24 (2020-21) Line Item Transfer

Secretary Report/Treasurer Report
Resolution # 20 October & #25 November (2020-2021)

Payment of Bills (December & January)

Public Comments at 7:14 p.m. regarding school re-opening

Gina Bernard of 211 Warwick Road, in Lawnside stated her daughters are on the honor roll, learning remotely and doing well. She also stated she believes learning should stay remote until everyone receives the vaccine. Due to the holidays, the spread has increased. Her 73 year old mother lives with her and has congestive heart failure and will be at risk if school opens. It's important to stay remote to protect others.

Doris Trolio of 517A Sadler Terrace, Evesham Court in Lawnside stated she has a special needs child and that it is impossible to learn Math among other things. She said remote learning is not helping her child.

Phoenix Moore, newly elected board member asked if students could have split schedules. Some students would attend school in the morning and others in the afternoon.

Dr. Johnson, School Superintendent, stated some districts have an A/B schedule. Most are high schools with 800 or more students. A survey was conducted for the Lawnside parents and 72 stated their child would return if school were to open, and 50 prefer to continue remote instruction. He stated some students would attend on Monday & Wednesday and other Tuesday and Thursday with Friday being remote for everyone. Currently the school has enough space to social distance given the amount of students who would return. All rooms have been updated and the goal is to make sure students are relatively safe.

Mr. Moore asked if face mask are required for returning students.

Dr. Johnson stated "yes", all students and staff must wear a mask.

Mrs. Forrest, Board President, asked Dr. Johnson to explain the process for when students do return.

Dr. Johnson explained temperature checks would be conducted at the main entrance as well as the board office entrance. The re-opening plan is posted on the district website. If you're sick, stay home.

Lavinia Taylor of Lawnside stated she is in full agreement with students staying remote. She also said her children will remain remote the rest of the school year and that she has underlying conditions.

Chanelle Outterbridge of 246 S. Charleston Ave in Lawnside asked if someone is infected, will the entire school shutdown or will it be one classroom.

Dr. Johnson stated the Department of Health would provide guidance for people to self-quarantine It depends on the situation. If there are more than two cases in the school and the family is not related, school may have to close.

Alicia Thomas of 25 W. Charleston Ave in Lawnside asked if teachers would be required to get the COVID 19 test.

Dr. Johnson stated, no one is required. There is a tier system. Tier 1A is for first respondents and Tier 1B involves educators.

Ms. Ramon typed a message in the "chat" box. She asked if there was someone supervising making sure the students are wearing mask at all times respecting social distancing.

Dr. Johnson stated "yes" the mask will be monitoring.

Janice Patrick of 354 Quaker Road in Lawnside stated she was leaning toward virtual learning.

Dr. Johnson stated the schedule will change for in-person instruction. Remote learning will continue as usual and the only difference will be the periods changes from eight to six.

Monica Riggo of 363 I Rutledge/Bryant Way in Lawnside stated if the school district remains remote, will someone review the Curriculum, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm is a lot for smaller students.

Dr. Johnson stated "yes" and "no". Students need ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies. The district is required to provide four hours of each of these. He also said parents can have a conversation with the teacher regarding the time. For example, instead of instruction being 60 minutes, it could be 45 minutes depending on the teacher's instruction. The district is flexible but need four hours of instruction due to the State mandates. He also stated there is no handbook on how to operate a school district during pandemic.

Esa Jones of 123 Ashland Ave in Lawnside stated she is proud of her children. She also said she appreciates the school but is leaning towards in-class instruction. Her job is asking for employees to return full-time. If school opens she will have to pay someone to watch her children. Daytime schooling can be expensive.

Dr. Johnson stated per the district policy, students must wear uniforms. The plan is not to create a hardship for anyone. Many have lost jobs. If the board decides to re-open school, student have to return. In addition, depending on the number, the school may be able to offer lunch in the cafeteria. If not, lunch will be served in the classrooms. Lunch will be offered on Wednesdays and will provide breakfast and lunch for seven days.

Dr. Johnson made a motion to re-open school. Mrs. Forrest added, parents still have the option to remain remote.

Ms. Wright, Board Vice-President asked if there are 20 students at home receiving remote instruction and some students in the classroom, will the students still receive the same instruction.

Dr. Johnson replied, "yes".

Dr. Johnson asked board members for a date regarding the re-opening of school. He added, Trenton school district has the longest time thus far for remote learning through May 3, 2020. For Lawnside, April 19 is when the next marking period starts.

Ms. Wright stated she is not in favor of remote learning and has some concerns.

Mrs. Forrest asked the board members for a date for students to return to in class instruction.

Ms. Cauthorne , Board Member and Ms. Gibson, Board Member both agreed, to remain remote until April 19, 2020 at which time, the board will revisit the issue.

Ms. Wright asked for more interaction with students and teachers. She added, cameras should be turned on for at least five minutes. When students attend class with their cameras off, you can't see what is going on. If the student is attending class for 45 minutes, they should have their cameras on for 45 minutes. If remote continues, what opportunity does the board have to re-visit the calendar for half days. The adopted plan doesn't give the board the chance to incorporate more interaction especially with the middle school.

Mrs. Forrest stated, instruction is day to day. The board does not teach or handle the curriculum. She instructed Ms. Wright to contact Dr. Johnson to have a conversation.

Ms. Wright stated, everyone needs to know what is going on regarding remote learning.

Dr. Johnson stated there is no wrong or right with education. Cameras on or off is a choice. There are numerous reasons why the camera could be turned off. In the lower grades, cameras may be on and for middle school, they may be off. Being able to see the teacher is a choice. The discussion of cameras being on can be discussed with the next conversation regarding re-opening of school. Spirit week would be a great opportunity.

Mr. Mears of 411 Charleston Ave in Lawnside stated he has two issues. The first issues, he asked what has the board done to recoup the \$17,000 due from the teachers for health benefits. He also requested for someone to look into the current board members residency status. He said some board members may not be living in Lawnside.

Mrs. Forrest replied, "thank you". The board will get back to him.

Ms. Chantel Washington, a current teacher at Lawnside, thanked the board for giving her the opportunity to celebrate student of the month. She added, she will continue to do what she can for the students.

Councilwoman Rhonda Wardlow-Hurley of 4 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd in Lawnside, commended the school board members for standing up for what's right. She thanked Dr. Johnson and the staff for continuing with activities. She also added, a memorial service for Carlton Perry will be held on Saturday in the Park. Lastly, she asked about an email sent to Mrs. Forrest and some board members.

Mrs. Forrest stated, a response will be coming soon.

Board Member Comments @ 8:17 p.m.

Ms. Wright stated there will be a virtual MLK Day for the middle school. She told everyone to stay safe, sanitize and keep their mask on.

Mrs. Forrest thanked everyone for attending and participating, teachers as well as the residents of Lawnside. Continue to wear mask and sanitize.

Motion by Marsharee Wright seconded by Dajshia Gibson to adjourn the board meeting.

All in favor: 4 – Ayes. Motion carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Adjournment – 8:18 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I, Dawn Leary, 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 *January 14, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Leary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dawn Leary
Business Administrator/Board Secretary