

Lawnside Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Lawnside Board of Education was called to order at 6:40 p.m. in the Board Conference Room of the Lawnside Public School, 426 Charleston Avenue. After repeating the Pledge of Allegiance after observing a moment of silence, the following members answered present to the roll call:

Sabrina Forrest  
Mawusimensah Mears

Marsharee Wright  
Dajshia Gibson

Deborah DeAbreu

Absent: Yareem Ali, 3 Vacancies

Also present was Ronn Johnson, Superintendent, Dawn Leary, Business Administrator and Darryl Rhone, Board Solicitor.

Executive Session was held at 6:47 p.m.

**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.

Motion by Deborah DeAbreu seconded by Dajshia Gibson to enter into Executive Session.

All in favor: Aye

Student Matter was discussed.

Return to Public Session at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Marsharee Wright seconded by Deborah DeAbreu to return to Public Session at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes

Motion by Deborah DeAbreu, seconded by Mawusimensah Mears, that the minutes of January 23, 2020 be approved. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 5 yes

Mrs. Forrest - yes  
Mr. Mears - yes

Ms. Wright - yes  
Mr. Ali - absent

Mrs. DeAbreu - yes  
Ms. Gibson - yes

**Presentation: Violence and Vandalism Report/ HIB Reports (Ms. Kirk)**

**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.*

**Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying: 1**

**Unfounded ~ 1**  
**Warnings ~ 0**  
**Suspensions ~ 0**  
**Investigating Incident ~ 5**

**Suspensions for January ~ 13**

**Fire and Security drills:**  
**Fire Drill 1/15 @ 2:00p**  
**Lockdown (SIP W/D) 1/23 @ 2:00p**

**Enrollment and ADA as of January 2020**

**Enrollment - 307**  
**ADA - 274**

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

**Board Recommendations:**

**PERSONNEL-** It is recommended items 1- 3 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended Ms. Gina Williams be approved to provide supplemental reading instruction for students #4817548511 & #8659885926 during the 2019-2020 school year at an hourly rate of \$38.59.
2. It is recommended Mr. Brandon Bather be approved as a Substitute Teacher at a per diem rate of \$90 for the 2019-2020 school year. (*pending renewal of his substitute certificate.*)
3. It is recommended Ms. Jessyca Harper be approved for Maternity Leave (social worker) from March 9, 2020 – May 8, 2020.

Personnel Items

Motion by Deborah DeAbreu

#1-3

seconded by Marsharee Wright to approve personnel items #1- 3. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 5 – yes.

Mrs. Forrest - yes  
Mr. Mears - yes

Ms. Wright - yes  
Mr. Ali - absent

Mrs. DeAbreu - yes  
Ms. Gibson - yes

**MANAGEMENT-** It is recommended items 1-10 be approved as written.

1. It is recommended that the Standing Orders developed by the school doctor for the 2019-2020 school year be approved as written.
2. It is recommended that the Educational Services Commission be approved to provide Social Work services at a cost of \$14,280 from March 10, 2020 – May 7, 2020.
3. It is recommended that the 2020-2021 School Calendar be approved for submission to the county office.
4. It is recommended student ID # 5437962241 will receive 1-1 behavioral trained paraprofessional from New Behaviors Network at a rate of \$35 per hour for the 2019-2020 school year.
5. It is recommended student #5291935617 be approved to receive educational instruction services at Penn Medicine Princeton House for two hours per day at an hourly rate of \$38.59 per hour.
6. It is recommended that the following Out-Of-District (OOD) Placement be approved for the 2019-2020 school year:

Student ID	Placement	Tuition	Related Services
4986873647	Brookfield Academy	\$350 Prepay	

7. It is recommended student #4817548511 be placed on Homebound Instruction pending placement in an appropriate Out-of-District setting.
8. It is recommended student #8659885926 be placed on Homebound Instruction pending placement in an appropriate Out-of-District setting.
9. It is recommended that First Children's Services to provide homebound instruction for student #4817548511 and student #8659885926 at a rate of \$65 per hour two hours per day 5 days a week and \$10 travel fee.
10. It is recommended the following field trips be approved for the 2019-2020 school year.

Grade	Location	Date	Cost
8th	Camden County College	3/19/20	Free
6th-8th	Well Fargo Center Philadelphia Flyers Game	3/5/20	Free (PBSIS/Flyers Grant)

8th (Class Semi-Formal)	Spirit of Philadelphia	5/20/20	\$150
8th (Class Trip)	Woodlock Family Resort Hawley, PA	6/2/20-6/3/20	\$275

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Student Discipline Hearings were conducted for recommendations #6 & #7 under Management.

#### Management Items

#1-10

Motion by Deborah DeAbreu seconded by Marsharee Wright to approve Management Items #1-10. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 5 – yes. Mr. Mears abstained on Item #7 and #8.

Mrs. Forrest - yes  
Mr. Mears - yes  
(exception #7 & #8)

Ms. Wright - yes  
Mr. Ali - absent

Mrs. DeAbreu - yes  
Ms. Gibson - yes

**Correspondence** – Mrs. Forrest read a “thank you” card from Youth Pathway Counseling Services for use of the facilities.

#### New Business

Swearing In of New Board Members:

Administration of the Oath of Office by Ms. Dawn Leary

William Jordan & Alexis Wilson

I, State Your Name, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and this State, under the authority of the people. So help me God.

I, State Your Name, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I possess the qualifications prescribed by law for the office of member of a board of education, am not disqualified as a voter pursuant to RS 19:4-1, am not disqualified due to conviction of a crime or offense listed in N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1, and that I will faithfully, impartially, and justly perform all the duties of that office according to the best of my ability. So help me God.

I, State Your Name, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will undergo a criminal history background Investigation for the purpose of ensuring that I am not disqualified from membership due to conviction of a crime or offense listed in N.J.S.A. 18A: 12-1, and the results are/will be pending.

#### Review of Budget Calendar

**2020-2021 BUDGET PREPARATION CALENDAR**

- November 2019      Answer questions regarding budget preparation at the school level. Review requests made by administrators. Discuss at Administrators Executive Meeting
- December 2019      Discussions continue at Executive Meetings with Administrators
- January 2020        CAFR (Comprehensive Audit Financial Review) presented by Bowman & Bowman. Review of District’s Financial Status
- February 2020      Meet with administration to discuss program and staffing needs for 2020-2021 school year
- February 2020      Superintendent and Business Administrator will meet to review budget requests and prepare draft appropriations budget. Draft appropriations budget will be reviewed with Board Finance Committee
- March 2020         Board of Education approval (special meeting may be required) of submission of tentative budget to county office. Budget is due March Friday, March 20, 2020
- May 2020            Public Hearing required by statute (special meeting may be required)

Note:  
Dates may change due to budget calendar prepared by the State Department of Education.

The Lawnside Board of Education approved the following motion on February 13, 2020:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Borough of Lawnside, at its February 13, 2020 meeting, approve and accept the budget calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion moved by: Deborah DeAbreu

Seconded by: Dajshia Gibson

Motion carried: 5 – yes

- |                    |                  |                    |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. Forrest - yes | Ms. Wright - yes | Mrs. DeAbreu - yes |
| Mr. Mears - yes    | Mr. Ali - absent | Ms. Gibson – yes   |

## RESOLUTION #19A (2019-20)

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education permits transfers among the budgetary line item accounts;

AND WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board of Education of the Borough of Lawnside to make such transfers;

AND WHEREAS, the need exists to adjust line item accounts to meet obligations encumbered and anticipated,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Borough of Lawnside that the Secretary is hereby authorized to make the following line item transfers:

## GENERAL FUND:

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
11-000-213-100-00-00 Nurse's Salary	20,000.00	
11-000-213-100-00-00 Nurse's Salary	2,000.00	
11-000-100-566-00-00 Tuition to Pvt School	3,000.00	
11-000-100-566-00-00 Tuition to Pvt School	5,000.00	
11-000-100-566-00-00 Tuition to Pvt School	2,000.00	
11-000-270-505-00-00 Contract Serv Aid in Lieu	3,000.00	
11-000-100-566-00-00 Tuition to Pvt School	5,000.00	
11-000-100-566-00-00 Tuition to Pvt School	3,000.00	
11-000-213-300-00-00 Pur. Prof./ Tech Serv		20,000.00
11-000-213-600-00-00 Supplies & Materials		2,000.00
11-000-230-331-00-00 Legal Services		3,000.00
11-000-230-530-00-00 Communication/Telephone		5,000.00
11-000-251-330-00-00 Purchased Prof Svc.		2,000.00

11-000-270-503-00-00 Contract Svc Aid in Lieu-Choice		3,000.00
11-190-100-610-00-00 General Supplies		5,000.00
11-190-100-320-00-00-00 Purch Profess & Educ Svc.		3,000.00
Total	<u>\$43,000.00</u>	<u>\$43,000.00</u>

R E S O L U T I O N #21 (2019-20)

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education permits transfers among the budgetary line item accounts;

AND WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board of Education of the Borough of Lawnside to make such transfers;

AND WHEREAS, the need exists to adjust line item accounts to meet obligations encumbered and anticipated,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Borough of Lawnside that the Secretary is hereby authorized to make the following line item transfers:

GENERAL FUND:

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
11-190-100-106-00-RG Other Salaries – Aides	3,000.00	
11-000-270-504-00-00 Contract Serv - Charter	5,000.00	
11-190-100-610-00-00 General Supplies		3,000.00
11-000-270-503-00-00 Contract Serv – Aide in Lieu		5,000.00
Total	<u>\$8,000.00</u>	<u>\$8,000.00</u>

Line Item Resolution  
#19A and #21

Motion by Deborah DeAbreu  
seconded by Dajshia Gibson  
to approve line item resolution  
#19A and #21. Motion carried;  
Roll Call Vote: 5 – yes.

Mrs. Forrest - yes  
Mr. Mears - yes

Ms. Wright - yes  
Mr. Ali - absent

Mrs. DeAbreu - yes  
Ms. Gibson - yes

## TRAVEL RESOLUTION #22-2020

### REGULAR BUSINESS AND TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVAL

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Borough of Lawnside approved the Travel Resolution for the 2020-21 school year for submission to the Executive County Superintendent for review as follows:

Regular business travel, such as NJDOE meetings and association events, is authorized by the Board not to exceed \$1,500 per employee for the 2020-21 school year, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3(b). Approval by the Superintendent or designee is required, including justification for the travel. Regular business travel is authorized for regularly scheduled in-state professional development activities for which the registration fees does not exceed \$300 per employee or board member.

Motion moved by: Deborah DeAbreu

Seconded by: Dajshia Gibson

Motion carried: 5 - yes

Mrs. Forrest - yes  
Mr. Mears - yes

Ms. Wright - yes  
Mr. Ali - absent

Mrs. DeAbreu - yes  
Ms. Gibson - yes

Facility Use Application  
Delta Sigma Theta

Motion by Marsharee Wright seconded by Deborah DeAbreu to approve Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc; South Jersey Alumni; Meetings & Training; Thursday & Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>; 6:30 - 10:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 2:00-6:00 p.m.; Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 10:30 p.m. Wednesday Thursday and Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> ; 6:30-10:30 p.m. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 3 – yes, 1 – no, 3 – abstentions.

Mrs. Forrest - abstained  
Mr. Mears - no  
Mr. Jordan – abstained

Ms. Wright - yes  
Mr. Ali - absent  
Ms. Wilson - abstained

Mrs. DeAbreu - yes  
Ms. Gibson - yes

Secretary Report/Treasurer Report



RESOLUTION #23-(2019-20)

Secretary's Report – The Board Secretary certifies that no line item accounts in December 2019 have been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. **See Attachment XI.**

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's Report in accordance with 18A:17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of December 2019. The Treasurer's Report and Secretary's Report are in agreement for the month(s) of December 2019. **See Attachment XI.**

Board Secretary – Board Secretary in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (a) certifies that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts or revenue sources.

Board of Education Certification - Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.10 (c) the Lawnside Board of Education certifies that as of December 31, 2019 Secretary Financial Report and the December 31, 2019 Treasurer's Monthly Report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of the Board's knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16-10 (a)1 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Secretary reports as of December 31, 2019:

Fund 10 Cash in Bank	\$2,192,090.74
Fund 20 Cash in Bank	(66,932.98)
Fund 30 Cash in Bank	0
Fund 40 Cash in Bank	<u>(1.96)</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$2,125,159.72

The Treasurer's report as of December 31, 2019:

Fund 10 Cash in Bank	\$2,192,090.74
Fund 20 Cash in Bank	(66,932.98)
Fund 30 Cash in Bank	0
Fund 40 Cash in Bank	<u>(1.96)</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$2,125,159.72

Resolution #23 (2019-2020)

Motion by Mawusimensah Mears seconded by Deborah DeAbreu to approve the Secretary & Treasurer Report Resolution #23 2019-2020. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 5 – yes, 2 – abstentions, 1 - absent.

Mrs. Forrest - yes  
 Mr. Mears - yes  
 Mr. Jordan – abstained

Ms. Wright - yes  
 Mr. Ali - absent  
 Ms. Wilson – abstained

Mrs. DeAbreu - yes  
 Ms. Gibson - yes

## Payment of Bills/Receipts

Motion by Marsharee Wright seconded by Deborah DeAbreu that the bills totaling \$209,908 .81 for the General Fund for February and \$15,439.29 for Food Service be approved for payment pending availability of funds. Motion Carried; Roll Call Vote: 7 – yes, 1 - absent.

Mrs. Forrest – yes  
Mr. Mears - yes  
Mr. Jordan – yes

Ms. Wright - yes  
Mr. Ali - absent  
Ms. Wilson - yes

Mrs. DeAbreu - yes  
Ms. Gibson - yes

## Public Comments at 7:55 p.m.

Mr. Ervin Mears of 411 Charleston Ave in Lawnside asked about the audit report and how will the exact amount for health be determined. He stated the board has yet to adopt a policy and also stated the board should adopt "Roberts Rules". According to the Superintendent's report, the board will be approving six tutors at \$38.59 per hour. He asked how many students take advantage of the tutors.

Mrs. Forrest stated the policies are online. With regards to the audit, the board will get back to him. Dr. Johnson stated that the six teachers will be tutoring students in ELA and Math. Ms. Davis stated there are 5-6 students who stay for additional help and the teachers are tutoring one day a week. Dr. Johnson stated the district goal is to increase test scores.

Celeste Brown, of 79 La Pierre Ave and PTA President, thanked Dr. Johnson and Ms. Kirk for working with her and the PTA. She said seven of her children were educated in Lawnside School. Dr. Johnson goes above and beyond. Ms. Brown stated her "heart is heavy" and she would like to see more board members get involved and not just on Thursday's for board meetings.

Sharon Whitney of Charleston Ave, asked how can parents help students pass the test. You have to be proficient in Math and Reading. What strategies are being used to master the test. Mrs. Forrest stated the district has a "Math Night" event and tutoring programs are open. She stated Dr. Johnson can sign her up to help. Ms. Whitney stated, we have to get our children involved. Ms. Davis stated, "Family Academic Night" will be held on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Laptops will be setup for the Census Report. Parents can help by having children read at home. Chantele Washington, Lawnside Teacher thanked the PTA. She stated two students will be participating in the State final. Next Thursday, February 20, at 6:30 p.m. the "Black History Program" will be presented.

Colleen DiSandro, Lawnside Teacher, stated "Moby Max" is a program to help students prepare for the test. Dr. Johnson stated grades 4-8 have laptop computers and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has access to laptop that are left at the school.

A Lawnside parent of 111 Hemmings Way in Lawnside asked if the district can help parents help

their students. Dr. Johnson thanked her for asking the question and stated parents are invited to meet with teachers after school. Mrs. Forrest stated her and Ms. Davis have been discussing innovated ways to help the students. Mrs. Forrest asked Mr. Hoover to stand and stated he was a mentor at Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Councilwoman Wardlow-Hurley of 4 Martin Luther King Dr. in Lawnside thanked Dr. Johnson and the board on behalf of Mayor and Council for participating in the program on Sunday February 9, at Grace Temple Baptist Church with Senator Hernandez, Hakeem Jefferies and Congressman Norcross.

Motion by Dajshia Gibson seconded by Mawusimensah Mear to adjourn the board meeting.

All in favor: 7 – Ayes. Motion carried by Unanimous Voice Vote.

Adjournment – 8:40 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 *March 12, 2020* 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



Dawn Leary  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary