

Lawnside Board of Education Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Lawnside Board of Education was called to order at 7:06 p.m. in Board Conference Room of the Lawnside Public School, 426 Charleston Avenue. Board President Sabrina Forrest presided. After repeating the Pledge of Allegiance after observing a moment of silence, the following members answered present to the roll call:

Mark Bryant	Amy Pierce
Ronald DeAbreu	Donica Venable
Sabrina Forrest	Dalaine Wilson
Canute Gardiner	Dawn Wright-McLeod
Amy Kearney	

9 present, 0 absent

Also present were Dr. Ronn Johnson, Superintendent, and Theresa Tutt, Board Secretary.

Ms. Forrest announced that notice of the meeting was sent to the Courier Post, Record Breeze, Philadelphia Inquirer and the Lawnside Borough Clerk as required by statute.

There were no Public Comments.

Minutes - Motion by Dawn Wright-McLeod, seconded by Amy Pierce,
2/20/2014 that the minutes of February 20, 2014 be approved. Motion
carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

There was no Solicitor's Report.

Superintendent's Report

Discussion

➤ School Performance Report

Overview: This school's academic performance **significantly lags in comparison** to schools across the state. Additionally, its academic performance **lags in comparison** to its peers. This school's college and career readiness **significantly lags in comparison** to schools across the state. Additionally, its college and careers readiness **significantly lags in comparison** to its peers. This school's student growth performance **is about average when compared** to schools across the state. Additionally, its student growth performance **is high when compared** to its peers.

Very High Performance – equal to or above the 80th percentile

High Performance – between the 60th and 79.9th percentiles

Average Performance – between the 40th and 59.9th percentiles

Lagging Performance – between the 20th and 39.9th percentiles

Significantly Lagging Performance – equal to or below the 19.9th percentile

Peer Schools are schools that have similar grade levels and students with similar demographic characteristics, such as the percentage of student qualifying for Free/Reduced Lunch, Limited English Proficiency programs or Special Education programs.

Academic Achievement measures the content knowledge students have in language arts and math. For elementary and middle schools, this includes measures of the school's proficiency rate on both the Language Arts Literacy and Math sections of the NJ ASK. A proficiency rate is calculated by summing the count of students who scored either proficient or advanced proficient on the assessment and dividing by the count to valid test scores.

College and Career Readiness measures the degree to which students are demonstrating behaviors that are indicative of future attendance and/or success in college and careers. For all elementary and middle schools, this includes a measurement of how many students are chronically absent. For schools with middle school grades, it also includes a measurement of how many students take Algebra I in eighth grade.

Student Growth measures the performance of students from one year to the next year on the NJ ASK in Language Arts Literacy and Math when compared to students with a similar history of performance on NJ ASK.

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- Walter Gaines Basketball Tournament (Friday, March 21 & Saturday, March 22)
- Lawnside Scholarship Club's Black History Program (Saturday, March 22 @ 1:00 pm)
- PARCC Parent Night (Tuesday, March 25 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm)
- Abilities Awareness Week (March 24 – 28)

District Goals

- **Goal #1 – Continue to focus on enhancing curriculum and instruction in English/Language Arts and Mathematics to improve student achievement**
- **Goal #2 – Continue to positively impact school culture by initiating student-centered programs.**
- **Goal #3 – Communicate the district's culture, strengths and successes to all stakeholders of the district.**

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

There were 2 incidents of documented Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying resulting in

Warnings 2 Detentions 0 Suspensions 0

Fire and Security Drills	
Fire Drill	Friday, February 28, 2014 @ 12:00 noon
School Lockdown w/ Instruction	Tuesday, February 18, 2014 @ 11:33 a.m.

Class Enrollment

Grade	Number of Students	Grade	Number of Students
PreK	22	4 TH	31
Kindergarten	30	5 TH	24
1 ST	40	6 TH	31
2 ND	38	7 TH	25
3 RD	25	8 TH	25
		Total	291

Presentation – Technology Infrastructure

Mr. Mark Gordon, Technology Coordinator, reported on the PARCC assessment and the district's readiness to meet the technology requirements of this online initiative via a PowerPoint presentation.

PARCC – The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers.

- PARCC is made up of a consortium of 17 states plus the District of Columbia and the US Virgin Islands
- The entities worked together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments
- PARCC seeks to provide teachers with information to inform instruction and provide student support
- The assessments will cover English language arts/literacy and math for grades 3-11
- In ELA/Literacy, students will analyze literature and have a narrative writing task
- In Math, students will be asked to solve problems involving the key knowledge and skills for their grade level
- Additional information and sample test questions can be found at www.parcconline.org

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Recommendations

PERSONNEL

1. It is recommended Ms. Danielle Strand be approved to serve as an Elementary School Teacher at a salary of \$52,152 (Step 1 BA-Pro-rated) effective March 24, 2014. (*Maternity Leave*)
2. It is recommended Ms. Tisho Davis be approved as a Homebound Instructor at a rate of \$35 per hour for the 2013-2014 school year.
3. It is recommended that Ms. Kelly Blacker be approved as a Substitute Teacher for the Shining Stars afterschool program for the 2013-2014 school year at a rate of \$35 per hour.
4. It is recommended that Ms. Kelly Blocker be approved as a Substitute Instructional Aide for the Shining Stars afterschool program for the 2013-2014 school year at a rate of \$16 per hour.

Personnel
Item #1 – 4

Motion by Donica Venable, seconded by Dalaine Wilson, that Personnel Recommendations #1 – 4 be approved. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

MANAGEMENT

1. It is recommended the revised 2013-2014 School Calendar and the 2014-2015 School Calendar be approved for submission to the County Office.
2. It is recommended Dr. Ronn Johnson be approved to attend the NJ Association of School Administrator's Conference in Atlantic City from May 21 – 23, 2014.
3. It is recommended the following workshops for the 2013-2014 school year be approved.

Staff Member	Date	Description	Cost
Kathryn Dobias	3/7/2014	32 Fantastic Reading and Math Centers to Support the CCSS	\$189
Alexis Backus	3/26/2014	Achieve Greater Success with Your Difficult to Reach Students	\$229
Kathryn Dobias	3/28/2014	Meet the Rigorous Common Core State Standards for Writing in Grades K-2	\$229

4. It is recommended an Out-Of-District placement for Student #21040 be approved for the 2013-2014 school year. The placement location will be the Bankbridge Elementary School, Sewell, NJ. The yearly cost is \$32,940; it will be pro-rated for the balance of the 2013-2014 school year. An additional cost of \$3,840 will be paid for the student's participation in the Extended School Year Special Ed Program.
5. It is recommended that homebound instruction for Student #21040 be approved. The instructor will be Ms. Nancy Debreceni, for 10 hours per week at the rate of \$35 per hour effective March 12, 2014.
6. It is recommended Keenan Jones (Ursinus College) be approved to conduct 10 hours of Field Experience during the 2013-2014 school year.

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7. It is recommended that Lawnside 21st CCLC Afterschool Program Project Director Ms. Marilyn Jamal be permitted to attend the following conference. All costs will be covered by the 21st CCLC grant funds for the 2013-2014 program year.

Best-Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Conference
Palm Springs, California
April 29 – May 2, 2014
Registration cost - \$445

8. It is recommended that the following workshops for the 2013-2014 school year be approved.

Staff Member	Date	Description	Cost
Gina Williams	4/9/2014	Best Strategies for Challenging Gifted Students	\$229
Greg Gaither	5/16/2014	Motivate Your Unmotivated Learners	\$229

Management - Motion by Dawn Wright-McLeod, seconded by Donica Venable, that Management Recommendations #1 – 8 be approved.
Items #1 – 8 Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. It is recommended the following field trips be approved for the 2013-2014 school year.

Grade	Destination	Date	Transportation	Cost
PreK	Philadelphia Zoo	April, 2014	Bus	Bus Cost
6 th – 8 th Grades	Wetlands/Wildwood Crest/ Cape May	6/6/2014	Bus	None

Student Activities - Motion by Ronald DeAbreu, seconded by Dalaine Wilson, that Student Activities Recommendation #1 be approved.
Item #1 Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

There was no Correspondence.

There was no Old Business.

Committee Reports

Policy – Donica Venable

Updates are needed to the policy manual. Ms. Venable reminded the membership to use their Lawnside email address for all school business.

Haddon Heights – Donica Venable

Haddon Heights is not yet ready for the PARCC assessment; due to less available surplus and reduced tuition revenue they are facing a budget deficit. Significant budget cuts have been made and a second question will be on the ballot.

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New Business

R E S O L U T I O N #37-2014

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Borough of Lawnside approves a preliminary school district budget for the 2014-15 School Year for submission to the Executive County Superintendent for review as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>
Total Operating Budget	\$8,270,589	\$4,063,082
Total Grant & Entitlements	605,097	
Total Debt Service	<u>218,782</u>	<u>215,005</u>
	\$9,094,468	\$4,278,087

Resolution #37-2014
2014-2015 Preliminary Budget

Motion by Dawn Wright-McLeod, seconded by Ronald DeAbreu, that Resolution #37-2014 be approved. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

Public Hearing Date

Motion by Donica Venable, seconded by Dalaine Wilson, that the Public Hearing on the 2014-2015 budget be held on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

R E S O L U T I O N #38-2014

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Borough of Lawnside, at its March 13, 2014 meeting authorizes submission and approval of the Early Childhood Education One-Year Preschool Program Plan Update for the 2014-2015 school year.

Resolution #38-2014 –
Early Childhood Plan Update

Motion by Dawn Wright-McLeod, seconded by Amy Pierce, that Resolution #38-2014 be approved. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

R E S O L U T I O N #39-2014

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Borough of Lawnside authorizes attendance at the listed NJSBA Training for the named individual:

Name	Date(s)	Program	Cost
Sabrina Forrest	3/29/2014	Leadership Conference for Presidents and Vice Presidents Crowne Plaza Princeton Plainsboro, NJ	\$175

Resolution #39-2014 –
Workshop Attendance

Motion by Dawn Wright-McLeod, seconded by Amy Pierce, that Resolution #39-2014 be approved. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

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- Nutri-Serve Food Management Motion by Donica Venable, seconded by Amy Pierce, that Nutri-Serve Food Management, Inc. be approved to operate the district's food service program for the 2014-2015 school year with a management fee of \$12,500. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.
- Facilities Use -
Lawnside Lightning Track Motion by Donica Venable, seconded by Ronald DeAbreu, that the Lawnside Lightning Track & Field Organization be permitted to use space in the building on March 17, 2014 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm for a Parent Meeting. (March 18, 2014 is the alternate date if school is closed due to inclement weather). Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 8 yes, 1 abstention – Dawn Wright-McLeod.
- Facilities Use -
Student Government Motion by Mark Bryant, seconded by Dawn Wright-McLeod, that the Lawnside Public School Student Government be permitted to use the gym on April 26, 2014 between the hours of 9:00 am and 1:00 pm in the event of inclement weather for the NJASK Walk-A-Thon. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.
- Facilities Use -
National Karate Institute Motion by Mark Bryant, seconded by Dawn Wright-McLeod, that the National Karate Institute be permitted to use the gym on May 10, 2014 between the hours of 9:00 am and 2:00 pm for a Karate Tournament. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.
- Facilities Use -
Morgan State Alumni Motion by Dawn Wright-McLeod, seconded by Amy Pierce, that the Morgan State University Alumni Association South Jersey Chapter be permitted to use the gym on May 31, 2014 between the hours of 12:00 noon and 3:00 pm for a Line Dance Fundraiser. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

The Secretary reports as of January 31, 2014:

Fund 10 Cash in Bank	\$626,410.55
Fund 20 Cash in Bank	47,202.11
Fund 30 Cash in Bank	-40,302.84
Fund 40 Cash in Bank	<u>41,453.16</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$674,762.98

The Treasurer reports as of January 31, 2014:

Fund 10 Ending Cash Balance	\$626,410.55
Fund 20 Ending Cash Balance	47,202.11
Fund 30 Ending Cash Balance	-40,302.84
Fund 40 Ending Cash Balance	<u>41,453.16</u>
Total Ending Cash Balance	\$674,762.98

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Receipt Motion by Dalaine Wilson, seconded by Donica Venable, that the Secretary and Treasurer Reports for the period ending January 31, 2014 be received. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

R E S O L U T I O N #40-2014

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4, the Lawnside Board of Education certifies that as of January 31, 2014 and after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial Report and the Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of the Boards' 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.

Resolution #40-2014 – Board Certification Motion by Ronald DeAbreu, seconded by Donica Venable, that Resolution #40-2014 be approved. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

R E S O L U T I O N #41-2014

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3, I certify that as of January 31, 2014, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Lawnside Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8.2 and no budgetary line item account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.12 (a) 1.



Theresa Tutt, Board Secretary

Resolution #41-2014 – BA Certification Motion by Donica Venable, seconded by Dalaine Wilson, that Resolution #41-2014 be approved. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

Payment of Bills Motion by Ronald DeAbreu, seconded by Donica Venable, that the bills totaling \$397,526.41 for the General Fund and \$7,102.54 for the Food Service Fund be approved for payment pending availability of funds. Motion carried; Roll Call Vote: 9 yes.

Public Comment

Cameron Kee, 46 Center Oak Ave; 7th grade NJHS student, stated that there was a collaboration between student government and honor society students when the Walk-A-Thon was planned. New ideas were introduced and the activities will be a little different than they were last year.

Dr. Will Maddox, representing the Morgan State University Alumni Association SJ Chapter thanked the Board for approving their first fundraising activity. He provided the particulars about the event and indicated he hoped to see the Board's presence. He also stated that one of the group's projects later in the year will be donating gifts to Lawnside Public School's lower elementary grade students during the holiday season.

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Executive Session – not required.

Ms. Forrest indicated that a full-page ad has been submitted to the Lawnside Scholarship to be placed in the 2014 Black History Celebration booklet congratulating the three honorees (all are educators) for their years of dedicated service to children. She and Ms. Wright-McLeod have initially shared the cost of the ad.

Adjournment
8:35 p.m.

Motion by Dalaine Wilson, seconded by Amy Pierce,
that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried by Unanimous
Voice Vote.