

***MEETING OF THE LAKEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 14, 2011, AT 8:00 P.M., AT 1771 MADISON AVENUE, LAKEWOOD, NEW
JERSEY 08701***

Mr. Meir Grunhut, Board President, called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Robert Green, Board Secretary read the following notice:

SUNSHINE LAW

***Sunshine
Law***

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231, of the Laws of 1976

(THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT), Ms. Miller notified the public that notice of the date, time, location and agenda of this meeting, to the extent known, was provided at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of this meeting in the following manner:

1. By posting such notice on the public announcement board of the Lakewood Board of Education Offices, and the Lakewood Township Municipal Building.
2. By mailing such notice to the offices of the Asbury Park Press and the Tri-Town News.
3. By filing such notice with the Board Secretary.
4. By mailing such notice to all individuals who requested and paid for a copy of same.

ROLL CALL:

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mr. Fink, Mr. Grunhut,
Mrs. Miccio Mr. Ostreicher,
Mr. Seitler, Mr. Silver,
Mr. Zlatkin

Board Members Absent: Ms.Gonzales

Also Attending: Ms. Lydia Silva, Superintendent
Debra Mercora, Assistant Superintendent
Robert Green, Business Administrator/
Board Secretary *Also Attending*
Michael I. Inzelbuch, Esq.

PRESENTATIONS : African American History Month

Alfa Phi Dance Team Video – Rutgers University

Transportation Anaylsis – Gus Kakavas

Ms. Silva – “We have many activities in honor of African
American History . I am now going to turn it over to the
high school principal.” *Ms. Silva*

Ms. Yuli – “On Friday we had the Alpha Phi Chapter from
Rutgers , come and perform the step dance to the entire *Ms. Yuli*

school during 9th period. A discussion followed from the students, discussing their majors in college.”

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Next we have Mr. Kakavas who was asked to explore efficiencies in our Transportation Dept. He has prepared some suggestions regarding cost saving opportunities within the transportation dept.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Kakavas – “Good evening, if everyone could go to page one. The first item deals with time route restriction, which is the amount of time that the children spend on the bus either going or coming from school. The NJDOE that the local boards of education have complete control over this particular policy. In Lakewood, I don’t know how old this policy is, but there is a policy that would require a limit of 45 minutes per bus ride. According to the DOE this is rather short. Most districts have gone to one hour or one hour and 15 minutes. The 45 minutes limit the amount of stops per bus. The traffic in this town is restrictive. We have over 146 routes in the morning that have buses that are less than half full. Filling them and expanding the time allowed on the bus could potentially eliminate 70 routes. You are looking at an approximate savings of \$1.4 million. This includes

Mr. Kakavas

routes for the public and non-public schools.”

Mr. Ostreicher – “How much would you be increasing the amount of time by?

Mr. Ostreicher

Mr. Kakavas – “What I would ask the Board is to change the wording from “shall” to “should” which would leave the window open in certain cases if the route ran for 1 hour and five minutes, seven minutes and we would save a tremendous amount of money in doing that. The Board would be able to approve those routes on a case by case bases.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Seitler – “How many children are on an average bus run?”

Mr. Seitler

Mr. Kakavas – “”36.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Seitler – “If we are going to fill these buses on the average it would be 40 to 45, right?”

Mr. Seitler

Mr. Kakavas - “No, the goal is to fill to 54. This gives you the highest efficiency and the lowest cost of transportation.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Seitler – “On an average we spent \$600 to \$700 per child

Mr. Seitler

per route, at 50 kids that would be \$30,000, right?”

Mr. Kakavas – “It is not that simple. But your cost per student would go down, I don’t that you could simplify it just by doing it that way.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Seitler – “The average cost saving should be higher than 20.”

Mr. Seitler

Mr. Inzelbuch – “What Mr. Seitler is saying is that he agrees with Your analysis, not that action should be taken, that is for all BOE members to consider. He is saying, if I understand him correctly, that perhaps it could be more than a \$20,000 savings.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Kakavas – “Per route you mean?”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Yes.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Grunhut – “Are you saying it should be an hour an hour and five minutes across the board?”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Inzelbuch – “What I heard him say was it should not say “shall,” which is mandatory, but “should.” So, there might be occasions that routes should not be more than an hour and five,

Mr. Inzelbuch

or an hour and seven minutes.”

Mr. Grunhut – “This law of 45 minutes was only applied. It was only for kindergarten and first grade, I don’t think it was across the board.”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Inzelbuch – “My understanding is that it was for the primary kindergarten level, that can be looked at. Again, Mr. Kakvas is telling us that 146 of the a.m. routes are half full.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Kakavas – “The Versa Trans software will allow you see the load counts on all buses, you can plug in buses that have less than 30 and it will give you a count”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Grunhut – “Are you saying that these 146 a.m. routes that are less than half full are because of time limits or other reasons?”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Kakavas – “The main reason we can’t fill the seats is that there just isn’t enough time. You start by filling the buses but then Versa Trans tells you that the route will be 1 hour and 17 minutes , 1 hour and 12 minutes and then you have to start eliminating stops. Then end result is less full buses and more buses than necessary at the schools.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Grunhut – “So the children should start their day at 7:30 to get their at 9:00 opposed to starting at 8:00 to be there by 9:00?”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Kakavas – “Say you have three buses and each route is 45 minutes long, by making them 1 hour you can potentially eliminate one of those buses.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Tift – “Through the chair. My question is would there be an earlier pick up time for the students to make the time limit?”

Mr. Tift

Mr. Kakavas – “Yes.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Tift – “To still get to school on time.”

Mr. Tift

Mr. Kakavas – “It means some children, not all would have to be picked up earlier and some children, specifically those at the end of the route would be getting home later.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Inzelbuch – “You were in charge of busing in Toms River, is this anything different from what you did their?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Kakvas – “No.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Ostreicher – “You have kids being picked up from opposite ends of the town, our town is quite large, of course you will have a lot of excess time for the bus to get from one place to another. You may not be able to cut back.”

Mr. Ostreicher

Mr. Kakavas – “By adding the amount of time we have to, it allows us the opportunity to fill the empty seats. All I am asking is to move the time and make it a little less restrictive by using the word “should instead of “shall.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Silver – “Is this only restriction you have to remove in order to accomplish what you want?”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Kakavas – “I am going to talk about a couple of other things in combination. If we were able to do this, fill these seats we would save 1.4 million. I would like to institute multi-destination stops. Lakewood is unique in that you can have 3 schools within a block,

Mr. Kakavas

with three different buses that are more than half empty going to each school. If the schools are right next to each other we could have one central drop off and pick up or we could essentially stop at each individual school. Savings of two buses, you would now only be using one bus. This is a common practice in most districts.

Mr. Waters – “You didn’t deal with gender issues in Toms River, did you?”

Mr. Waters

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Mr. Waters, please.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Waters – “I want that dealt with.”

Mr. Waters

Mr. Inzelbuch – “We dealt with it in a case called Osborne vs. Lakewood, which we won five times.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Ms. Silva – “What would be the savings?”

Ms. Silva

Mr. Kakavas – “I have identified seven groups of schools that are within close proximity and there are either two or three schools at those locations. If we were able to concentrate on those groups we would

Mr. Kakavas

be able to fill dozens of empty seats, and be able to eliminate buses. Approximately 31 bus routes can be eliminated with a savings of approximately \$620,000.”

Mr. Grunhut – “Is that a.m. and p.m.?”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Kakavas – “Yes, were are talking about the entire route.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Grunhut – “A lot of the schools start at the same time, but finish different.”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Kakavas – “Yes, and in that case the cost would be half.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Ostreicher – “I would like to ask the Superintendent if we are currently busing the high and middle schools together and if so do we find that there is a problem with the different ages? From an educational standpoint would it make sense to bus high school and elementary children together?”

Mr. Ostreicher

Mr. Inzelbuch – “No one is suggesting that.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Kakavas – “We have kept the same restrictions that we are currently under. I am asking to combine schools together that are close together to save money by filling buses. In Toms River we did not have our middle and high school students together and our biggest student management issue was with middle school buses. Middle school students riding with high school students are generally better behaved because the high school kids don’t put up with nonsense.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Next page.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Kakavas – “The next one is the bread and butter of what you need to look at as far as efficiency. You have a heavy run at 9:00, 281 buses delivering at various points. The next is the balance of the tiers, they have between 57 and 96 buses on them. If you can reduce the total number of buses per tier you reduce the amount of drivers and buses that would be needed. It is simply more efficient. You spread it

Mr. Kakavas

out so you are providing the same level of service that you are providing now. I have a caveat though with one thing. The vendors that are currently providing this district with those 9:00 buses have matched up with an early 7:00, 7:15 out of town. That situation does two things with an incentive to give you a bit lower cost, because the profit margin goes up because he's utilizing the bus twice instead of once. The bad part for Lakewood, and something that I think has become a thorn in your side over the past few snow storms that we have had, is that we tend not to be our own master of our schedule, because these buses are coming out of other districts in the early morning that they service. If Freehold, Howell or other districts that they service have a short day, you have seen pressure to match that shortened day schedule. This is very frustrating for all, when we have to delay with no signs of ice or snow, but based on the fact of bus availability. This is exactly what happened last year. If we don't do this, we will be subservient to the schedules of other districts. If you want to stay with a lopsided tier schedule the vendors are going to have to provide bus routes to us that are tiered in with bus

Mr. Kakavas

routes in other towns so that they can maximize the efficiency of their fleets, generate a profit and make it cost effective for them to come into Lakewood.”

Mr. Tift – “I have one more question. If we tell the bus companies that they have to be exclusive to Lakewood, wouldn’t that drive up their price?”

Mr. Tift

Mr. Kakavas – “Absolutely, unless you balance your tiers. Which means when you go out to bid you would be bidding a tier, not an individual route. The cost would stand on its own, but they would be bidding on four pieces of work. This would give him tremendous amount of efficiency.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Silver – “We already have numerous 7:00 runs in Lakewood, which a lot of companies are taking advantage of in order to stagger their routes. Did you take that into account in your situation?”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Kakavas – “Yes, I did. Having 281 buses on that 9:00 tier is an overage of about 144 buses. If you remember the consultant did come up with a

Mr. Kakavas

four tier schedule which looked pretty good to me.

He made combinations of some of the middle and high schools, both non-public and public and was able to achieve the efficiencies of having an extra-tiered schedule.”

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Through the chair. Would it not be true though, because some members of this Board and of the public who sat on the transportation committee about two or three years ago, we cannot dictate what time the schools start in the non-public community?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Kakavas – “Yes, that is correct. We have the ability to sit and discuss the impact and the need for greater efficiency and to save money. Let’s move on to hazardous routes. There are currently 28 streets in town that are designated hazardous, which simply means that because of traffic, lack of sidewalks, and a variety of issues the police department has deemed them hazardous which means they are too dangerous for children to cross and this is consistent with your hazardous policy. In Toms River we went on a long term mission to try and correct some of our streets

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Kakavas

deemed hazardous and through continuous bonding
fro sidewalks, we were able to from 500 walkers to
6000 walkers, that was a tremendous savings and
that is a savings you see year after year. This was
done through consultation with all of the community.
I think we could introduce some of that here in
Lakewood by working with law enforcement, the
parents and the entire community to try and come
up with a long range plan. We are looking at two
sections that would allow us to eliminate 14 routes.
I must say that we do not have the police depart-
ments blessing on this. They would have to supply
a traffic study.”

Mr. Inzelbuch – “In Toms River who paid for the
sidewalks the township of the board?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Kakavas – “The town, through a \$75,000 each
year. They also paid for the crosswalks and crossing
guards. The responsibility of safe access to a school
ultimately falls on the municipality, not the board.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Ostreicher – “What kind of lobbying would

Mr. Ostreicher

have to be done? What did you do in Toms River to make it happen?”

Mr. Kakavas – “I would first like to meet with Frank Worth, who I understand does a great job here with traffic safety. I would like to conclude with the final page which is our savings. Going from 45 minutes to one hour without a restrictive hour that would save 1.4 million. Multiple schools per route would save 620 thousand. Balanced tiering, if we are able to do that would be 2.4 million. And if we are able to take sections of two streets deemed hazardous could save us 328 thousand. I have to caveat this by saying the police department has not given their blessing.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Seidler – “You said the balanced tiering savings would be offset by other ideas. Let’s say we take that idea out , and just the multiple schools per route and the time route is 146 on one and 31 on the other. Are those separate routes, or are some of those 31 part of the 146?”

Mr. Seidler

Mr. Kakavas – “I don’t understand your question.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Seidler – “Of those 31 part of the 146 coming in half full?”

Mr. Seidler

Mr. Kakavas – “Yes, some of them would be, so some of the efficiencies are over lapping. “

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Zlatkin – “Through the chair. I would like to point out that balance tiering was something that was done two years ago. I believe my last conversation with Bill Coyle it was about \$3.5 million in savings, so the total is probably around 6 million, and these numbers are conservative.”

Mr. Zlatkin

Mr. Kakavas – “Yes, I did take a very conservative approach. Because if you do implement these, I did not want someone saying that I promised \$3.5 million and you only got \$3.1.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Someone will say that anyway.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Fink – “Through the chair. I just want to

Mr. Fink

acknowledge an excellent report by Gus.”

Mr. Kakavas – “Thank you.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Inzelbuch – “So, we have this report, what are we doing with it?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Grunhut – “We are going to review it.”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Okay,”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Seitler – “What would you suggest?”

Mr. Seitler

Mr. Silver – “I say we should have the first reading on doing at least the first thing of changing it to “shall not exceed 45 minutes,” to “should not exceed one hour.” We could have the first reading on that this evening.”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Kakavas – “That would be a huge help, I would appreciate that.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Seitler – “I will make the motion.”

Mr. Seitler

Mr. Fink – “I second.”

Mr. Fink

Mr. Silver – “Mr. Inzelbuch will word it.”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Inzelbuch – “You recommendation Gus, is
should not exceed an hour?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Kakavas – “You have a K-12 district and one
hour for a kindergartener is long enough, so I would
like to stay with the hour. Would we have more
opportunity to save money with one hour and fifteen?
Yes, but I think the word “reasonable” has to enter the
discussion.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Routes should not exceed one hour,
and that gives you some flexibility.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Kakavas – “Yes.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Mr. Seitler, is that your motion?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Seitler – “Yes.”

Mr. Seitler

Mr. Inzelbuch – “To amend any and all current policies and practices, routes should not exceed one hour, but they could go up to approximately one hour.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Kakavas – “I would like the ability for routes to exceed that one hour through special permission of the board if permitted.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Inzelbuch – “And routes that exceed one hour will be presented to the Board to be considered under special circumstances. Now that we have a first and second as board parliamentarian, it is an appropriate time for discussion.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Ostreicher – “Through the chair. Gus you are telling us that one hour is reasonable, what is the state average?”

Mr. Ostreicher

Mr. Kakavas – “I don’t know if the state has an average time. The state did tell me that the typical limit in most districts and some don’t even have limits, but the typical is one hour.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Ostreicher – “Is it possible to break it down to the point where we have for the younger classes, the kindergarten, first and second grades, 45 minutes and the older kids have the hour, it would be hard for the little ones to sit for one continuous hour.?”

Mr. Ostreicher

Mr. Kakavas – “Yes, that is an issue. In Toms River for the younger grades we had them have a little potty break right before dismissal, and that seemed to solve the problem.”

Mr. Kakavas

Mr. Ostreicher – “That did not answer my question, can we have the routes for 45 minutes for the younger students?”

Mr. Ostreicher

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Through the chair. May I suggest this would be the first reading, at the next meeting which is the 24th, we could have the second reading. To allow for maximum public participation we could post it on our website tomorrow and have our bus department send it out to all of our public and non public schools to allow them to know the policy

Mr. Inzelbuch

and we could have a collaborative approach and
discuss this for a second reading on the 24th”

Mr. Grunhut – “Roll call please.”

Mr. Grunhut

MOTION TO CHANGE POLICY TO READ
SHOULD NOT EXCEED ONE HOUR AND
ROUTES THAT EXCEED ONE HOUR WILL
BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD FOR
APPROVAL

***Motion to change
Policy to read should
not to exceed one hour***

ROLL CALL:

YES: Mr. Fink, Ms. Miccio,
 Mr. Seitler, Mr. Silver,
 Mr. Grunhut, Mr. Tift
 Mr. Osteicher, Mr. Zlatkin

MOTION PASSES

Motion Passes

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Through the Board Secretary this
needs to be distributed to our public and non-public
schools inviting comment at our next meeting.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Silver – “Through the chair. I would like to make a motion.”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Grunhut – “Go ahead.”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Silver – “I would like to make a motion to allow four Board members, as early as this week to meet with Mr. Work, along with Gus and Chief Lawson, to try and implement this traffic study as soon as possible, and the attorney.”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Well, Mr. Work, a fellow graduate of the Lakewood High School is back from Florida. We would have to see his schedule.

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Silver – “In order to implement any of our hazardous route reduction issues, we need the cooperation of the police department, and the best way to do that is to start communication with them as soon as possible.

Mr. Silver

Mr. Inzelbuch – “The chief is very busy and may not be available.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Inzelbuch – “So, the motion is to meet with Sergeant Work and whom ever he deems appropriate from the police department.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Ostreicher – “I would like to add to that motion to include the Township Committee.”

Mr. Ostreicher

Mr. Silver – “Add it to the motion.”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Fink – “Through the chair. The planning board has over the past two years, insisted that all new buildings include sidewalks. The planning board has gone to Ocean County and a lot of the county roads will be having construction done over the next two years, they do not want to put sidewalks in currently because the roads are going to be fixed. I think we need to pick and choose the roads we want.”

Mr. Fink

Mr. Inzelbuch – “We can’t pick them, that is why the police department has to be involved. So the motion is for four members, which can be decided

Mr. Inzelbuch

later to meet with the police department and their representative with myself and Gus to discuss hazardous routes and as a first step to look at these two streets.”

Mr. Fink – “Second.”

Mr. Fink

Mr. Grunhut – “Why don’t you just ask Sgt. Work to first look at the two streets?”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Absolutely, by tonight he will know. Any more discussion?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Seidler – “Yes, in January, I believe there was a police officer present and I believe Chief Lawson already said those two routes are okay. I believe all we have to do is have him write a memo.”

Mr. Seidler

Mr. Inzelbuch – “I thought the same. However, Gus showed me an email where that officer did not have the authority to do that.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

MOTION TO HAVE FOUR BOARD

Motion to have

MEMBERS, MR. INZELBUCH AND
GUS TO MEET WITH SGT. WORK
TO DISCUSS HAZARDOUS ROUTES

***4 BOE members, Gus,
Mr. Inzelbuch & Sgt.
Work***

ROLL CALL:

YES: Mr. Fink, Ms. Miccio,

 Mr. Seitler, Mr. Silver,

 Mr. Grunhut, Mr. Tift

 Mr. Osteicher, Mr. Zlatkin

MOTION PASSES

Motion Passes

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Public Recog.

Ms. Mercer – “The rumor out there is there will

Ms. Mercer

Public Recog.

be cuts, budget cuts by at least ten percent or
more, and that would include staff cuts. You
and I know this will effect the public schools. I
can speak for my school, Clarke, there is not one
empty classroom. Our third grades have 27 to 28
students, fourth grade, 26, sixth grade averages
22. Our kinders have been between 25 and 28.

Ms. Mercer

Our districts buildings are in despair. Are LEA just received pictures of mold and falling ceiling tiles. Teachers are buying their own supplies, as usual, ink and classroom supplies. Our internet breaks down frequently, and our technology does not match those districts around us. We have already cut at least 200 teachers and paras since 2007. Not one teacher wants to see their students fail. How do you expect this district to compete with districts who have stability in their staff and their curriculum? Everyone knows, or they should, if you have smaller classes you can give more individualized attention. The question now is, do you have plans to cut staff this year for next year?"

Mr. Inzelbuch – "Through the chair. It is interesting. Can I have those numbers you just read, from Clarke?"

Mr. Inzelbuch

Ms, Mercer – "27 to 28 in third grade, 26 in fourth grade and sixth grade averages 22 and kinder averages 28 and 26 is second."

Ms. Mercer

Mr. Inzelbuch – "We pay administrators to analyze

Mr. Inzelbuch

numbers. I am looking a chart which was prepared by the administration. I am not faulting them, I am just trying, the chart says averages 25 and your are saying 25, 28.”

Ms. Mercer – “I know we have one kinder with 30.

Ms. Mercer

Mr. Inzlebuch – “We were told 24, you are saying 27. For fourth grade you are saying 26, we are told 24 and for sixth grade we are told 20 and you are saying 22. What I would ask the Board if Ms. Mercer can meet with Dr. Mercora tomorrow?

Dr. Mercora – “Yes.”

Dr. Mercora

Public Recog.

Mr. Inzelbuch – “I am trying to have the Board informed.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Ms. Mercer – “Well, with averages you can make things sound wonderful.”

Ms. Mercer

Mr. Inzelbuch – “So, you will meet with Dr.

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mercora tomorrow or the next day.”

Ms. Mercer – “Yes. My question was not

Ms. Mercer

answered will there be cuts?”

Ms. Silva – “I am committed to not having staff

Ms. Silva

layoffs. So we are going to work very diligently,

because we are a DINI, which is a “District in

Need of Improvement”. I am very committed,

and we as a Board and Superintendent have not

had an opportunity to discuss some of the ideas.

As you heard, we are looking at other areas, such

as transportation that would not impact the class-

room. We can’t afford to raise these numbers

anymore, so that is my recommendation to the

Board.”

Mr. Ostreicher – “Through the chair. You

Mr. Ostreicher

mentioned that the internet is down quite frequently,

how frequently?”

Ms. Mercer – “Mine was down last Friday.”

Ms. Mercer

Mr. Ostreicher – “Because supposedly we have a new IT person who cam on board this year.”

Mr. Inzelbuch – “We can not discuss employees.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Ms. Silva – “I just want to say that he inherited a system that has not been maintained for many, many years. I am not making excuses.”

Mr. Ostreicher – “It sounds like one.”

Mr. Ostreicher

Ms. Silva – “It takes time to pull up a system that

Ms. Silva

Public Recog.

has been in disrepair. We have a meeting this Thursday in order to get movement going so we have greater connectivity.”

Ms. Silva

Mr. Ostreicher – “I will ask the question a little differently. Do you find it a little more down these

Mr. Ostreicher

days than it was, perhaps?”

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Ms. Mercer, please do not engage in speculation.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Ms. Mercer – “I will not. But I will make one statement that we do agree that the fact that the infrastructure needs to be updated, upgraded, and therefore, when we here comments let’s cut the budget by ten percent, you can’t cut the budget and expect the buildings to fix themselves, and the internet to work and you can’t have a few people working in IT where other districts have probably 7 or 8 to our 1 or 2.”

Ms. Mercer

Mr. Ostreicher – “So, you are saying that they are understaffed as well?”

Mr. Ostreicher

Ms. Mercer – “Yes.”

Ms. Mercer

Mr. Grunhut – “If I can , I just had a request to allow two children to speak so that they could go home?”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Are they on the list?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Waters – “Yes.”

Mr. Waters

Awilda Rosato – “101 Michelle Way. I am a senior at Lakewood High School and I just want to say how I love my school and the interaction I have with my teachers and how I can speak to my principal about anything. I feel bad because every time something bad happens in Lakewood in general, it is always based on Lakewood High School. Why do we have such bad publicity, when we do so many good things? I will be attending Georgian Court University next year and will be studying criminal justice, I worked my butt off to get where I want to be, and nobody can see that. I don’t think Ms. Yuli would

Awilda Rosato

Public Recog.

have a problem if we invited all of you to come sit in our classrooms and actually interact with us. We invite you, because you are going to base us on rumors when you are not even there. The last time I saw someone from the Board was when something bad happened to a cop. I would like to see everyone of you guys faces at my school.”

Awilda Rosato

Mr. Fink – “I was there last Friday.”

Mr. Fink

Awilda Rosato – “I would like to have a conversation with everyone of you guys. You are going to just sit in a room and discuss issues about the schools instead of actually coming to the students that go to the school everyday. I personally love it. I’ve been there for four years. This is my last year and, yeah, I’m going to miss Lakewood High School and all of the memories I had.

Awilda Rosato

Mr. Fink – “Thank you.”

Mr. Fink

Ashley Alicia – “I just wanted to bring up there’s been rumors saying that they’re getting rid of our administrator’s to replace them. I’m also a senior at Lakewood High School for four years, and we have been through four principals so far. I feel like in the past there was not such a good system as we have now. I feel like why do you want to replace our administrators when they are helping our school, there is no comfort for the students. They’ve been cutting programs and as you have seen the step presentation, we don’t have anything like that.

Ashley Alicia

We have nothing that involves us and our community.

Why is there an issue with afterschool programs?

Mr. Inzelbuch – “What did you use to have?”

Ashley Alicia – “We had Latin dance, and a whole bunch of programs, now all we have is sports.”

Ashley Alicia

Mr. Inzelbuch – “There seems to be some rumors. Is there something the Board needs to know? Are we getting rid of all administration?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Waters – “You guys started the rumors.”

Mr. Waters

Public Recog.

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Because Mr. Fink called me this week and said, “Michael, do you know about this?” And I said, “Well, I don’t know. I have heard rumors too.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Waters – “You all start them.”

Mr. Waters

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Please. Administration, could you address this? Because it seems like, you know. something is going on.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Grunhut – “Are you asking a question or is that rhetorical?”

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Well, is there some rumor to the administration of the high school, something?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Grunhut – “We haven’t even discussed...”

Mr. Grunhut

Ms. Silva – “We do not entertain rumors.”

Ms. Silva

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Oh, okay.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Ms. Silva – “And we don’t discuss personnel, so I will refrain from discussing any of this. I do appreciate what the two students have brought up. And we will be looking at those issues. We’ll definitely be looking at whether or not there has been a definitive reduction in the kinds of clubs

Ms. Silva

that you use to have, and I will be in contact with your principal.”

Awilda Rosato – “I would love to see you at our school tomorrow.”

Awilda Rosato

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Well, there seems to be a mad rush to the high school tomorrow. We do have a visitor policy in the district. There are forms to be completed. You must sign in at the front desk, because then the next thing we’ll have everyone coming there and we’ll have organized chaos, and the guess who will be blamed.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Public Recog.

Mr. Rush – “Let me defer and let somebody else go and I will come back.”

Mr. Rush

Mr. Inzelbuch – “We don’t do that here.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Rush – “You can do anything you want.”

Mr. Rush

Mr. Inzelbuch – “That is not Board policy.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Rush – “2021 Madison Avenue. You know, I sat here through that whole process about the busing. Come on, you guys make it seem like...you know every year we go through this. Obviously we need to save some money. But we don't agree when kids have to walk in hazardous areas. I got a simple solution, but because of the religious practices that the Orthodox have, I'll let that alone, you know, boys and girls can stay apart. But there's other things like the gentlemen talked about. When you have buses, two and three are going to the same location, so hopefully we will do some of those things. But I see a bigger issue here, and there looks like there are a lot of teachers here. My god that means a lot of ladies are not out on Valentine's tonight, so this is important to them. So, when we hear about rumors and I heard it, Mr. Tift you recall, it was a month ago that we sat right here and we saw this ten percent reduction paper. It is not foreign to you Michael. Don't look that way.”

Mr. Rush

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Tracey, you saw a paper, a ten percent reduction paper?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Tift – “It was the 30 motions that they had introduced to the Board.”

Mr. Tift

Mr. Rush – “That would have equated to ten percent. So I guess what I am saying is you can’t just make blanket cuts, because you guys are ‘messing with our lives. And the people that you see back here, you know. Hey let’s get behind them, let’s give them a contract. Let’s do what we need to do for them so that they can do what

Mr. Rush

Public Recog.

they need to do for our children. I am going to end it at that. You guys are elected, you know what you should be doing. The administrators run the programs and you guys set policy. Also, let the administrators do their jobs, set policy and leave the rest alone.”

Mr. Rush

Mr. Waters – “I don’t think you want to hear from me tonight.”

Mr. Waters

Mr. Hobday – “Is this going to be good or bad?”

Mr. Hobday

Mr. Waters – “No, I am not very happy tonight. First, Mike, you pissed me off with a reference to Mr. Osborne. Mr. Osborne probably lost his life caring about kids in Lakewood, and I would like him to have some respect. We lost Mr. Osborne, someone that cared about the kids in the public schools. The biggest mistake that Lenny made was allowing you to stay on as Attorney. I didn’t think I would say that, but I don’t care how mad you get at me about this. I feel very strongly about an approach that needs to be taken at school board meetings, and people outside of Lakewood from D.C. to Trenton, to the FBI, to the Dept. of Justice, need to know what is going on in this school district. With a district that has a large number of minorities, Tracey I am glad to see some color on the Board. We talk about Black History month, which is very sacred to me and I am not criticizing Ms. Yuli for

Mr. Waters

her presentation. Our kids don't need to see dancers, they need to see people that come in and teach them something about African American history. When I look at the Michigan Law School Affirmative Action argument, the argument was against kids going to law school. There is no problem when you have an over balance on a football team, or a basketball squad in college. There is a problem when someone wants to get educated. That has to be changed. If anyone wanted to view a dismantling of a school district, they need to come and look what is happening in Lakewood. Let's talk about the way it really is. I live in town, I drive these streets and you have

Public Recog.

to be very careful that you don't hit someone.

So when we talk about hazardous routes get off the streets and walk the sidewalks. We have to stop talking about our young people failing. We don't have student's failing, the failing starts right here in this town."

Mr. Waters

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Four minutes.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Waters – “You want to know why students are failing? I want you all to go home and look in the mirror, and those who my comments don’t apply, don’t take it personally.

Mr. Waters

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Thank you.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Reverend Wilson – “138 Colonial Drive. Michael, why did you call this meeting on Valentine’s Day?”

Mr. Inzelbuch – “No, no, no, not Michael. Michael’s wife is waiting for him too.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Reverend Wilson – “The last couple of weeks I have had the privilege to interact with students and listen to what they are saying. Student’s will hopefully be at every meeting to talk to you and hopefully you will listen. And if they do come if you will allow them to go first so that they can go home. I hope you guys will take them seriously. Afterschool programs are next to zero. I don’t want to be repetitive, school buildings falling apart, teachers buying their own

Reverend Wilson

supplies. You need to get a message to the Lakewood Scoop, where are they tonight when we have students talking positive about things happening in the school. They should print that tomorrow.”

Mr. Inzelbuch – “They won’t.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Reverend Wilson – “They only print negative things.”

Reverend Wilson

Mr. Grunhut – “That is true.”

Mr. Grunhut

Reverend Wilson – “So New Jersey has this concept about Lakewood schools, well let’s talk about the

Reverend Wilson

Public Recog.

positives that are happening. I also commend Lydia and Dr. Deb on the 6th Grade Academy, I mean these are things being done to build our school system.”

Reverend Wilson

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Reverend before you step down. Just for the benefit of the Board, I understand that you were actually at the high school, but they may

Mr. Inzelbuch

not know what you are speaking about, but you and a bunch of other men of faith were there, can you explain that to the Board?”

Reverend Wilson – “Yes. A few days ago we were invited by the principal, and she allowed us to speak, she actually left the room so the children could speak openly and freely and they did. One of the things that they said to us is “we are proud of our school system, but you know here are some issues that we need to solve.” They are asking “where is our money?” Why is it that we have no afterschool programs? Our buildings are falling apart. So, it would be nice if the Board came to the schools, let them tell you how they feel. It is very hard for you to make decisions, not really knowing what the children are going through. So, I suggest we start listening. I thank all of the teachers who are here tonight. This room should be packed every meeting.

Reverend Wilson

Dr. Mercora – “I want to say, that we do have the Sixth Grade Scholar Academy and without some of our wonderful teachers who are giving their Saturdays

Dr. Mercora

this program would not work. They are dedicated, and the kids are enthusiastic. Mr. Fink came and he experienced it. I want to thank all of the teachers that are here.”

Mr. Silver – “Through the chair. I have a question for the Superintendent and the Assistant was the progress of the Academy posted on the website?”

Mr. Silver

Dr. Mercora – “I need sign-offs from the parents in order to post pictures on the web.”

Dr. Mercora

Mr. Silver – “But was the whole program posted on

Mr. Silver

Public Recog.

the website?”

Dr. Mercora – “Yes.”

Dr. Mercora

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Through the chair. Perhaps at our next meeting we can have a presentation on the Sixth

Mr. Inzelbuch

Grade Scholar Academy.”

Mr. Seidler – “I think that there is another presentation coming at the next meeting also.”

Mr. Seidler

Mr. Silver – “Through the chair. The last time I looked

Mr. Silver

at our website there were many positive things that are taking place at many of our schools. We are spreading positive things, we can speak for the Lakewood Scoop.

Mr. Fink have you noticed a lot of positive things on our website?”

Mr. Fink – “There could be more. I have been talking with administration to have someone on a weekly basis printing in the APP, positive notes. We should be pushing the Sixth Grade Academy for all to see. It is a positive and wonderful program.”

Mr. Fink

Ms. Miccio – “I agree with the young lady earlier. I picked up the paper the other day and all it says is “Lakewood fails SAT” nothing else anywhere. We are failing in publicity. Someone needs to send

Ms. Miccio

some decent publicity to the papers, to Channel 12, they want to hear from us. About going into the schools, I have limited my activities, I don't get really get around, but I am familiar with the schools. Taxes, that is the problem, some Board members all they want to see is ten percent cut, and they don't want to know anything else, that is sad, very sad."

Mr. Inzelbuch – "Credit to the Superintendent, Ms. Silva has told the principals that she wants them to put out newsletters. The first one will be out in March."

Mr. Inzelbuch

Ms. Silva – "Yes."

Ms. Silva

Public Recog

Mr. Silver – "We have asked the administration on many occasions at Board meetings who is in charge of posting all of the good news that we discuss on the website? Isn't that correct?"

Mr. Inzelbuch – "Correct. March the newsletters will go out. Ms. Silva, I did see a communiqué

Mr. Inzelbuch

with the principals.”

Mr. Ostreicher – “Through the chair. Bad news sells newspapers. So the only way we could get it is through these newsletters and talking to our own families and our own children.”

Mr. Ostreicher

Mr. Robinson – “Arlington Avenue. I have the privilege to be an intern for a doctoral program at Lakewood High School, and I have spoken to a lot of seniors at the school. Their concern is and I believe the number is 220 seniors and many of them want to go to college, and who need to see a counselor, and it is not that they are unable to do their job, but when you have one counselor to serve all seniors, it is impossible. This means not enough time to spend with them, to guide them, help them. Unless the student has a parent behind them pushing them it is nearly impossible. Talking about success, success is just not graduating from high school, success is higher education. I can say this three months down the road and I will come back and I will probably say the same thing and it will

Mr. Robinson

be the same old stuff and the students still will not having their needs met by this district.”

Mr. Tift – “Ms. Silva where are we at with hiring a Director of Guidance? Are we still in the process?”

Mr. Tift

Ms. Silva – “We have narrowed it down to two candidates. We do have six guidance counselors at the high school. We need more, but they are doing their job to provide guidance to the children. But I will take into consideration what you have indicated.”

Ms. Silva

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Actually to the credit of the team

Mr. Inzelbuch

Public Recog.

we have more students taking the SAT then ever before. So, there is increase in the amount of kids taking the SATs not necessarily the scores.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Hobday – “30 Schoolhouse Lane. I am very impressed with the presentation regarding the

Mr. Hobday

analysis of the busing system. It is the first time that I have been truly encouraged that we are looking at the issues, coming up with comprehensive analysis of how we can fix them or tune them to get things under control. Is the presentation you passed out the Board available to the public?"

Mr. Inzelbuch – "What it is is a presentation requested by the Superintendent and the Board is going to discuss it a littler further and then it will be available to the public."

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Hobday – "Okay. This is the time we have to pull together and different events compel us to do that, and this is one, the economy. As the economy continues to retreat, we have to squeeze the dollar. It has been too long that we have had a failing district, we are robbing these children of their education that they so rightly deserve. What Gus did with the bus situation is what we have to do with the educational system, find out what is broke and fix it. Start out with the small issues and keep

Mr. Hobday

hammering until you fix the big ones and soon we will have a school district that everyone can be proud of. We should have press releases monthly outlining our progress with quantifiable figures to show what we have done.”

Public Recog, Closed

Mr. Ostreicher – “Through the chair. I would like to take it one step farther. Years ago when I was on the Board we would have presentations at every meeting. But more so we used to recognize the kids who made the honor roll, kids who accomplished different scholastic achievements. Why don’t we do that anymore?”

Mr. Ostreicher

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Mr. President you agenda continues.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Grunhut – “Any correspondence? *Mr. Grunhut* Communication?”

Mr. Inzelbuch – “No.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Grunhut – “Reports and recommendations?”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Inzelbuch – “I would just announce that regarding negotiations with the LEA, the State Mediator did meet with the two sides today and a future date will be set. And Mr. Green does have one addendum.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Green – “The addendum reads, under Physicians/Consultants effective the 2010-2011 school year to hire or to contract with Mrs. Susan M. Ferraro, orientation and mobility specialist for \$150 per hour a correction from the February 10, 2011 agenda it was listed as \$150 per evaluation.”

Mr. Green

***Addendum to hire
Susan Ferraro as a
Consultant***

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Is there a motion to approve the agenda as amended?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Ostreicher – “Don’t you have to put the date of the next meeting on the Agenda?”

Mr. Ostreicher

Mr. Inzelbuch – “There will be a hearing this coming Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m. regarding

Mr. Inzelbuch

Negba Bus Company. It will be advertised and put on our website. It is to discuss ongoing situations and contract compliance. It will be in this room and that will be the only issue discussed at that meeting. Is there a motion to move on the agenda as amended?"

Mr. Tift – "Motion to move on the agenda."

Mr. Tift

Mr. Zlatkin – "Second."

Mr. Zlatkin

Mr. Inzelbuch – "Any discussion."

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Seitler – "How many hours does it take to do an evaluation?"

Mr. Seitler

Mr. Inzelbuch – "This is a special education area. It depends on the age of the child, it depends on the amount of records, the location of the child. It could take three hours, four hours or maybe less."

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Seitler – "So you are saying it definitely

Mr. Seitler

does not take less than an hour?”

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Well, if you want to do a

Mr. Inzelbuch

terrible job you can do it in two minutes.

Can we move on the agenda? Roll call

please.”

MOTION TO MOVE AGENDA AS

Motion to move

AMENED

Agenda as amended

ROLL CALL:

YES:

Mr. Fink, Ms. Miccio,

Mr. Silver, Mr. Seitler, (except for addendum)

Mr. Grunhut, Mr. Tift

Mr. Osteicher, Mr. Zlatkin

MOTION PASSES

Motion Passes

AGENDA

FEBRUARY14, 2011

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – PRESIDENT, LAKEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

II. ROLL CALL

III. PRESENTATIONS - NONE AT THIS MEETING

IV. MINUTES - NONE AT THIS MEETING

V. RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

VIII. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION

IX. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS

A. SUPERINTENDENT ITEMS

1. Approve David Greenberg, Barbara D'Ippolito, Kristen Murphy and Edmond Murphy to attend the New Jersey Music Educators Conference in East Brunswick, NJ on February 24 and 25, 2011. Cost: \$180.00 per person to be paid through general funds.

B. PERSONNEL

1. CERTIFICATED

- a. Resignations - N/A at this meeting
- b. Retirements – N/A at this meeting
- c. Terminations - N/A at this meeting
- d. Leaves of Absence - N/A at this meeting
- e. Transfers

(1) STEINBERG, Toba

From: Pre-School Teacher – OSS
To: Pre-School Teacher – LECC
Effective: February 15, 2011

(2) WEISSMAN, Chana

From: Pre-School Teacher – LECC
To: Pre-School Teacher – OSS
Effective: February 15, 2011

- f. Appointments – N/A at this meeting
- g. Reappointments – N/A at this meeting
- h. Salary Adjustments – N/A at this meeting
- i. Stipends - N/A at this meeting
- j. Tuition Reimbursement – N/A at this meeting
- k. Miscellaneous – N/A at this meeting

2. NON-CERTIFICATED

- a. Resignations - N/A at this meeting
- b. Retirements - N/A at this meeting

- c. Terminations – N/A at this meeting
- d. Leaves of Absence - N/A at this meeting
- e. Transfers – N/A at this meeting
- f. Appointments – N/A at this meeting
- g. Reappointments - N/A at this meeting
- h. Salary Adjustments - N/A at this meeting
- i. Stipends - N/A at this meeting
- j. Tuition Reimbursements - N/A at this meeting
- k. Miscellaneous - N/A at this meeting

* Appointment subject to approval of Criminal History background check by State Department of Education, as per NJSA 18A:6-7-1, et. seq., NJSA 18A:39-17 et. seq., or NJSA 18A:6-4.13 et seq., as applicable.

** As required by law and code, this Emergent Employee Resolution, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that this person be employed by the Board of Education of the Lakewood Public School District in the County of Ocean on an emergent basis.

*** This position does not include the following:

Medical Coverage	Personal Days
Dental Coverage	Professional Days
Prescriptions	Vacation Days
Optical Coverage	Sick Days
Reimbursement for Credits	

NOTE: ALL CONTRACTS ARE SUBJECT TO ATTORNEY REVIEW BOTH AS TO PROCEDURE AND SUBSTANCE

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Is there a motion to adjourn.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Grunhut – “No, I think we need to go into private session.”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Inzelbuch – “No, you need to do a motion to adjourn, and that is what you would do first.?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Seidler – “One second. We are not having a public budget hearing?”

Mr. Seidler

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Oh, we are having a public budget hearing?”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Seidler – “I asked if you are not? I did not say we are, I asked.”

Mr. Seidler

Mr. Inzelbuch – “I thought the idea of the Board was, since my legal opinion is that budget discussions must be held in public, I thought I was instructed that there

Mr. Inzelbuch

would be an adjournment and then groups of less than five members would meet with administration to hear their input so a collaborative effort could be arrived at for the interest of the children.”

Mr. Silver – “This was discussed last week in private session. Mr. Seitler was not here then.”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Inzelbuch – “I thought what I was told is that there would be an adjournment and groups of less than five BOE members would meet with administration in different intervals to hear the input so a collaborative effort could be arrived at for the best interest of all of the children of Lakewood.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Fink – “Correct.”

Mr. Fink

Mr. Silver – “What is the alternative, to discuss it out hear?”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Inzelbuch – “You could discuss budget, if you have five members.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

Mr. Silver – “There are two options. Either we discuss it under the Sunshine Law four members together in closed session, taking turns, or we could discuss it all out in public.”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Grunhut – “Last week the Board decided to discuss in groups of four in private.”

Mr. Grunhut

Mr. Fink – We don’t have the numbers, I don’t understand how we can have a meeting without the numbers.”

Mr. Fink

Mr. Silver – “Mr. Fink, the numbers were requested.”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Fink – “But they are not here.”

Mr. Fink

Mr. Silver – “Well, maybe we should find out why not.”

Mr. Silver

Mr. Tift – “Who is in charge of the numbers?”

Mr. Tift

Mr. Zlatkin – “Can I make a motion to adjourn?”

Mr. Zlatkin

Mr. Fink – “Second.”

Mr. Fink

Mr. Inzelbuch – “Roll call. We will not be going into closed session, there will be no further action. The meeting is over, we do not want to violate the Sunshine Law.”

Mr. Inzelbuch

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion to Adjourn

ROLL CALL

YES:

Mr. Fink, Ms. Miccio,

Mr. Silver, Mr. Seitler, (except for addendum)

Mr. Grunhut, Mr. Tift

Mr. Osteicher, Mr. Zlatkin

MOTION PASSES

Motion Passes

MEETING ADJOUNED AT: 10:05 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

ARLENE BIESIADA

INTERIM BOARD SECRETARY

