

WHITE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 22, 2021

6:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the White Township Board of Education was held on the above date via Google Meet, due to the inclement weather, with the following members in attendance at roll call: Ms. Nusser-Meany, Ms. Howell, Mrs. Sroka, Mr. Murray, Mrs. Lensi, Mr. Havlusch, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Williams and Mr. Panetta. William Thompson, CSA and Dawn Huff, Business Administrator/Board Secretary were also in attendance as well as three members of the public.

Mr. Panetta opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and stated that in accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided and that copies of this notice, along with a meeting agenda, have been placed in the Board Office, posted on the District website, and sent to the Township Clerk for posting on February 19, 2021, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

CSA REPORT

Mr. Thompson provided a COVID-19 update and noted he is currently working with the Reopening Committee to revisit how we might safely return to in-person instruction 5 days per week. Mr. Thompson discussed 8th grade year-end activities, a potential waiver of standardized testing requirements, continuation of Link-It testing, work on budget development, a cluster-wide feasibility study, and upcoming dates including Seuss Day celebrations.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mrs. Williams to approve the minutes as submitted from the January 25, 2021 Regular Session Meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

Mr. Panetta noted that the group discussed the pros and cons of the district participating in a cluster-wide feasibility study.

CURRICULUM

Ms. Nusser-Meany noted the Committee discussed expanding club offerings, a summer academy, the 2021-2022 school calendar, adding instructional time in math, and improvements to the implementation of the World Language program.

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Motion – Curriculum

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mrs. Williams to approve the following agenda item #1. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

1. Approve an Additional 8th grade Fundraiser

To approve a Flower Sale Fundraiser as an additional 8th grade fundraiser for the 2020-2021 school year.

OPERATIONS

Mrs. Sroka noted the Committee met and discussed the Belvidere High School tuition rate for the 2021-2022 school year, as well as a favorable reconciliation coming back to the district from the 2019-2020 year. Mrs. Sroka further noted the group discussed a first draft of the budget which includes continuation and expansion of our current program offerings with no proposed cuts. Mrs. Huff noted that this draft of the budget proposes a 3.5% tax increase, using about half of our available banked cap monies. The big unknown at this point is our state aid allocation where we anticipate losing around \$300,000. We should know this number by week's end and will adjust the budget accordingly. The Committee will continue work on development of a budget to present to the full Board at our March meeting. Mrs. Sroka further noted that the Committee discussed the pros and cons of participating in a feasibility study and agrees that the District should move forward with the study.

Block Motion – Operations

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mrs. Williams to approve the following agenda items #1 through #5. Motion carried as follows: Ms. Nusser-Meany – yes, Ms. Howell – yes, Mrs. Sroka – yes, Mr. Murray – yes, Mrs. Lensi – yes, Mr. Havlusch – yes, Mrs. Smith, yes #2-#5, abstain #1, Mrs. Williams – yes, and Mr. Panetta – yes.

1. Approve January 2021 Board Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report

To approve, on the recommendation of the CSA, the acceptance of the monthly financial reports of the Board Secretary for the month of January 2021 and further that, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16-10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of January 31, 2021, after review of the secretary's monthly financial report and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16-10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. As required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16-10(c) 3, I, Dawn Huff, Board Secretary, hereby certify that no line account has been over expended as of January 31, 2021.

2. Approve February 2021 Bill List

To approve the payment of the February 2021 bills in the total amount of \$864,535.85 for all funds.

3. Approve Resolution for Waiver of Requirements in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI)

WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3, provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2021-2022 school year, and

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Block Motion – Operations - continued

WHEREAS, the White Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the White Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Business Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Warren an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2021-2022 school year.

4. Approve Resolution for Participation in Coordinated Transportation with Warren County Special Services School District for 2021-2022

WHEREAS, the White Township School District Board of Education desires to transport students for the purpose of special education, non-public school education, or their own public school students to specific destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Special Services School District, hereinafter referred to as WCSSSD, offers coordinated transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the WCSSSD will organize and schedule routes to achieve the maximum cost effectiveness;

NOW THEREFORE, it is agreed that, in consideration of pro-rated contract costs plus a 4% administration fee as presented to the White Township School District Board of Education as calculated by the billing formula adopted by the WCSSSD's Board of Education, does approve its participation in said coordinated transportation for 2021-2022 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract as offered by WCSSSD for 2021-2022.

5. Approve Staff Travel

To approve the following staff travel:

- Justine Mahon to attain her CPR Provider Renewal on March 4, 2021 at Hackettstown Medical Center, Hackettstown, NJ. The cost of the renewal is \$80.

GOVERNANCE

Mr. Murray noted the Committee discussed a traffic study done for the Jaindl Project, development of a Parent University in line with one of the Strategic Plan initiatives, and Policy Alert #222, which will be on next month's agenda.

BHS BOARD MEMBER

Mrs. Williams noted Belvidere spent much of their meeting discussing the use of Strauss Esmay versus NJSBA for their policy development. Mrs. Williams further noted that Belvidere has had additional cases of COVID-19 but want to have students back in the classroom in March. Mrs. Williams also noted that Belvidere's Board of Education has formed an Ad Hoc Committee with the Town of Belvidere.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Panetta noted the cluster districts met to discuss the possibility of participation in a cluster-wide feasibility study. Mr. Panetta facilitated a discussion of the pros and cons of participation with the group. The Board agreed that the district could likely gain information which could determine our best options for providing our students with a highly effective education. The Board also agreed to request that the data collection be inclusive of several potential consolidation design concepts.

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APPROVE PARTICIPATION IN A CLUSTER-WIDE FEASIBILITY STUDY

A motion was made by Mrs. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Sroka to approve participation in a cluster-wide feasibility study, including Harmony Township School District, Hope Township School District and Belvidere School District, to determine the viability of potential partnership concepts, provided grant funding is secured to pay the cost of the study. The data collection should assist in determining the feasibility of potential consolidation design concepts including, but not limited to, the following:

- A cluster-wide PK-12 consolidated school district.
- A cluster-wide grade 7-12 regional school district, current PK-6 programs remain intact.
- Cluster PK-8 districts remain intact and high school age students are sent to another Warren County High School such as Warren Hills, Phillipsburg, North Warren or Hackettstown.
- A cluster-wide PK-8 program design with high school age students sent to another Warren County High School such as Warren Hills, Phillipsburg, North Warren, or Hackettstown.
- Hope Township continues a PK-6 program and sends their grade 7 & 8 students to White Township in a send-receive relationship.

Motion carried as follows: Ms. Nusser-Meany – yes, Ms. Howell – yes, Mrs. Sroka – yes, Mr. Murray – yes, Mrs. Lensi – yes, Mr. Havlusch – yes, Mrs. Smith – yes, Mrs. Williams – yes, and Mr. Panetta – yes.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

A motion was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mrs. Lensi to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations deemed HIB incidents since last meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mr. Murray to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Huff
Business Administrator
Board Secretary