

WHITE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION MEETING

MINUTES

THURSDAY

JANUARY 11, 2018

6:30 PM

The Reorganization Meeting of the White Township Board of Education was held on the above date in the White Township School Library, Belvidere, NJ. Mrs. Huff opened the meeting at 6:35 and stated that the meeting had been duly advertised and the public properly notified through notification to The Express-Times, Star Gazette and the White Township Municipal Clerk in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mrs. Huff noted that the reorganization meeting was originally scheduled for January 8th but, due to inclement weather, was rescheduled for this evening to allow for advertising and a quorum.

RESULTS OF THE ELECTION

Mrs. Huff noted that Mr. Panetta, Mrs. Lensi and Mrs. Williams were re-elected for three-year terms and Ms. Howell was newly elected for a one-year term.

Mrs. Huff swore in the new and re-elected members.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Lensi to open the nominations for President. Motion carried as follows: Ayes-9, Nays – 0, Abstentions - 0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mrs. Nikolopoulos to nominate Mark Boehm for President. Motion carried as follows: Ayes-9, Nays – 0, Abstentions.

A motion was made by Mr. Rader and seconded by Mrs. Nikolopoulos to nominate Frank Panetta for President. Motion carried as follows: Ayes-9, Nays – 0, Abstentions.

A motion was made by Mr. Rader and seconded by Ms. Lee to close the nominations for President. Motion carried as follows: Ayes-9, Nays – 0, Abstentions.

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Ms. Lee to elect Mark Boehm as the President of the White Township Board of Education. Motion carried as follows: Ms. Lee – Mr. Boehm, Ms. Howell – abstain, Mrs. Sroka – Mr. Boehm, Mrs. Lensi – Mr. Boehm, Mrs. Williams – Mr. Boehm, Mrs. Nikolopoulos – Mr. Boehm, Mr. Panetta – Mr. Panetta, Mr. Rader – Mr. Panetta and Mr. Boehm – Mr. Boehm.

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Mr. Rader to elect Mark Boehm as the President of the White Township Board of Education. Motion carried as follows: Ms. Lee – yes, Ms. Howell – abstain, Mrs. Sroka – yes, Mrs. Lensi – yes, Mrs. Williams – yes, Mrs. Nikolopoulos – yes, Mr. Panetta – yes, Mr. Rader – yes and Mr. Boehm – yes.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

A motion was made by Mr. Panetta and seconded by Mrs. Nikolopoulos to open the nominations for Vice President. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Mr. Rader to nominate Frank Panetta for Vice-President. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

A motion was made by Mr. Rader and seconded by Mrs. Nikolopoulos to close the nominations for Vice-President. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

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A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Mr. Rader to elect Frank Panetta as the Vice-President of the White Township Board of Education. Motion carried as follows: Ms. Lee – yes, Ms. Howell – abstain, Mrs. Sroka – yes, Mrs. Lensi – yes, Mrs. Williams – yes, Mrs. Nikolopoulos – yes, Mr. Panetta – yes, Mr. Rader – yes and Mr. Boehm – yes.

The following members were in attendance at roll call: Mr. Boehm, Mr. Rader, Mr. Panetta, Mrs. Nikolopoulos, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Sroka, Ms. Howell and Ms. Lee. Michael Slattery, Superintendent and Dawn Huff, Business Administrator/Board Secretary were also in attendance as well as three members of the public.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CODE OF ETHICS

The Board read the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics. Mrs. Huff asked Board members to sign the acknowledgment form indicating that they read and understand the code of ethics.

APPROVE A MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE 2018 YEAR

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Ms. Lee to approve the 2018 meeting schedule. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 9, Nays – 0, Abstentions- 0.

2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

- January 11, 2018 – Reorganization *
- January 29, 2018 *
- February 26, 2018
- March 19, 2018 *
- April 23, 2018
- May 21, 2018 – Reappointment *
- June 25, 2018
- July 23, 2018
- August 27, 2018
- September 24, 2018
- October 22, 2018
- November 26, 2018
- December 17, 2018 *
- January 7, 2019 – Reorganization *

Meetings will begin at 6:30 P.M. and are held in the White Township Municipal Building, 555 C.R. 519, Belvidere, New Jersey 07823 (*exceptions noted are held in the White Township School Library, 565 CR 519, Belvidere, New Jersey 07823). Action may be taken at all meetings.

APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BELVIDERE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Ms. Lee to appoint Dave Rader to serve on the Belvidere Board of Education as the White Township Board of Education representative for the 2018 year. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 9, Nays – 0, Abstentions- 0.

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OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Cavitch noted she would like to make herself available to the Board should they have any questions regarding her responses to an exit interview questionnaire she submitted on December 22, 2017. Ms. Lee noted that the Board would need additional time to review the correspondence. Mr. Boehm noted that the Personnel Committee will meet to review the most recent correspondence.

Mrs. Gardella asked if staff working with students have access to IEP information available to them. Mr. Slattery noted that staff can view student IEP data.

Mr. Boehm noted that communication is very important and the Personnel Committee will review Mrs. Cavitch's entire correspondence.

Mrs. Sroka thanked Mrs. Cavitch for her concern over the safety of the students and her interest in effecting positive change at our school.

FINANCE

Mr. Rader reviewed data on our current students placed out-of-district and noted that every year least restrictive environment is discussed for each student with the goal being to eventually have the students return to district. Ms. Lee noted that she would like data to see why we can't develop programs in district to serve students currently placed out-of-district. Mrs. Sroka further noted that she needs clarity on what needs can't be met in our current school setting. Mr. Rader noted that a presentation from our Supervisor of Special Services might be helpful for more insight into the difficult decisions made to best serve our special education population.

Mr. Rader noted that in a continuing effort to move to paperless board meetings, members should let Mrs. Huff know if they will no longer need a paper Board packet mailed to their home. Mr. Rader discussed E-Rate, the universal service program for schools and libraries to make telecommunications and information services more affordable for schools and libraries. Mr. Rader noted that with E-Rate's refocus to broadband services, our reimbursement opportunities are less than the vendor fees. For this reason, the recommendation is that we suspend our E-Rate application until such time as our potential for reimbursement changes.

Mr. Rader discussed the benefits garnered from a demographic study done back in 2008. Mr. Rader noted that information provided by the demographic firm was very accurate and could provide the district important evidence and data to be able to support difficult decisions moving forward.

Motion – Finance

A motion was made by Mrs. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Lensi to approve the following agenda item #1. Motion carried as follows: Ms. Lee – abstain, Ms. Howell – abstain, Mrs. Sroka – yes, Mrs. Lensi – no, Mrs. Williams – yes, Mrs. Nikolopoulos – no, Mr. Panetta – yes, Mr. Rader – yes and Mr. Boehm – yes.

1. Approve Staff Travel

To approve the following staff travel:

- Marlene Saraiva to attend a workshop “NJ Tiered System of Support (RTI)” in Monroe, NJ on January 16, February 26 and March 14, 2018. The cost of the workshop is \$298 and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$120.

Motion – Finance

A motion was made by Mrs. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Lensi to approve the following agenda item #1. Motion carried as follows: Ms. Lee – yes, Ms. Howell – abstain, Mrs. Sroka – yes, Mrs. Lensi – yes, Mrs. Williams – yes, Mrs. Nikolopoulos – yes, Mr. Panetta – yes, Mr. Rader – yes and Mr. Boehm – yes.

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Motion – Finance - continued

2. Engage a Demographer

To engage Whitehall Associates, Inc. to prepare a Demographic Study for the White Township School District at a cost of \$1,500.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Boehm asked members to reach out to him this week if they would like to serve on a particular Board committee. Mr. Boehm will finalize committee assignments next week.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mr. Panetta to acknowledge receipt of two HIB investigations not deemed HIB incidents for the period December 18, 2017 – January 5, 2018. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstain – 1 (Ms. Howell).

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Ms. Lee to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 9, Nays – 0, Abstain – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Huff
Business Administrator
Board Secretary