

# **WHITE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **REGULAR SESSION MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**MONDAY**

**DECEMBER 14, 2015**

**6:30 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the White Township Board of Education was held on the above date in the White Township School Library, Belvidere, NJ with the following members in attendance at roll call: Mrs. Rowe, Mr. Boehm, Mrs. Martowicz, Mr. Panetta and Mrs. Sroka. Michael Slattery, Superintendent, Jeffrey Caccese, Board Attorney and Dawn Huff, Business Administrator/Board Secretary were also in attendance as well as twenty eight members of the public. Ms. Lee, Mr. Rader and Mr. Abrams joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Lensi was unable to attend.

Mrs. Rowe opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and stated that the meeting had been duly advertised and the public properly notified through notification to The Express-Times, Star Ledger and the White Township Municipal Clerk in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Panetta and seconded by Mrs. Martowicz to convene to Executive Session at 6:37 p.m. for a negotiations update and attorney client information. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

Be it resolved by the White Township Board of Education that it shall meet in closed session this evening to discuss negotiations and attorney client information.

The board will publicly disclose information pertaining to the topics discussed as soon thereafter and once the reasons for non-disclosure no longer exist.

The topics to be discussed are within the exemptions that are permitted to be discussed in private session pursuant to P.L. 1975c chapter 321.

Mr. Rader, Ms. Lee and Mr. Abrams joined the executive session at 7:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Panetta and seconded by Mrs. Sroka to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays - 0, Abstentions – 0.

#### **APPROVE MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Rader and seconded by Mrs. Sroka to approve the minutes as submitted from the November 23, 2015 Regular Session Meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 7, Nays - 0, Abstentions – 1 (Abrams).

#### **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Fraunfelter, WTEA President, noted he came this evening to ask the Board to help with a contract settlement. Mr. Fraunfelter further noted that the staff is dedicated and hard-working and that the group has been negotiating in good faith for 9 months with nothing settled.

Mrs. Baxter noted she attended this evening for two reasons, first to thank the staff at White Township School for everything they do for our students and secondly to express concern that the White Township Athletic Association basketball players will be unable to access the gym over our holiday break and expressed concern that she was unable to view certain board policies on line.

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#### **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT - continued.**

Mr. Baxter expressed frustration about the unavailability of the gym over spring break.

Mr. Sroka expressed dismay that the gym is closed for four days for concert setup and noted that other schools don't close their school gyms that long for their setup.

Mrs. Rowe noted that she wished to recognize Mr. Abrams for his 9 years of service to the Board in light of his anticipated resignation.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Huff noted one addendum this evening for a use of facility request.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **PERSONNEL**

Mr. Panetta reported that the Committee met to discuss the current substitute list and efforts made to update the list and add more substitutes.

Ms. Lee asked about the per diem rate for a long term substitute and how long until they are put on the first step of the guide. Ms. Lee expressed concern that paying a long term sub at the 1<sup>st</sup> step of the guide seems excessive. Mrs. Rowe noted that the expectation for a replacement teacher is more than a long term substitute. Mrs. Sroka asked if the Personnel Committee could review the policy.

##### **Motion – Personnel**

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

##### **1. Approve an Additional Substitute Teacher**

To approve Kayla Grater as an additional substitute teacher for the 2015-2016 school year. Ms. Grater holds a NJ Substitute Certificate.

##### **TRANSPORTATION**

No report.

##### **POLICY**

No report.

##### **FINANCE**

Mrs. Rowe noted that the Committee will be meeting prior to the January meeting. Mrs. Sroka noted that she wanted the OOD placements reviewed. Ms. Lee felt that it's not necessarily the financial aspect it's more of a curriculum and personnel issue to see if we have the programs to meet the needs of these students. Mrs. Rowe noted that Mrs. Saraiva will meet with the Finance Committee first to ascertain if we can bring any of the students back.

##### **Block Motion – Finance**

A motion was made by Mr. Rader and seconded by Mrs. Sroka to approve the following agenda items #1 through #8. Motion carried as follows: Mr. Abrams – yes, Ms. Lee – yes, Mrs. Sroka – yes, Mrs. Martowicz – yes, Mr. Panetta – yes, Mr. Boehm – yes, Mr. Rader – yes and Mrs. Rowe – yes.

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### Block Motion – Finance - continued

1. Approve November 2015 Board Secretary’s Report and Report of Cash Balances

To approve the November 2015 Board Secretary’s Report and Report of Cash Balances in agreement. After review of the School Business Administrator’s monthly financial reports and upon consultation with the Business Administrator and Superintendent, this Board of Education does hereby certify that as of November 30, 2015, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(a), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

2. Approve December 2015 Bills List

To approve the payment of the December 2015 bills in the total amount of \$666,318.00 for all funds.

3. Approve November 2015 Cafeteria Bills

To approve the payment of the November 2015 Cafeteria bills in the amount of \$4,843.11.

4. Approve Budget Transfers

To approve budget transfers for November 2015 in the amount of \$48,131.35.

5. Approve a Tuition Contract with The Children’s Institute

To approve a tuition contract with The Children’s Institute, Verona, NJ for one student (SID#9249311861) to attend January 4 – June 30, 2016 at a tuition rate of \$34,294.32. This tuition has been prorated to a start date of January 4, 2016.

6. Approve a Tuition Contract with The Greenwood School

To approve a tuition contract with The Greenwood School, Putney, VT for one student (SID# 1759739537) to attend for the 2015-2016 school year at a tuition rate of \$55,615 and related services at an hourly rate of \$95.

7. Approve a Tuition Contract with Lakeland-Andover School

To approve a tuition contract with Lakeland-Andover School, Lafayette, NJ for one student (SID#8632674341) to attend December 1 – June 30, 2016 at a tuition rate of \$34,515.

8. Approve Staff Travel

To approve the following staff travel:

- Michael Slattery to attend a workshop “STEM Practices” sponsored by NJPSA/FEA on December 17, 2015 in Monroe Township, NJ. There is no cost for this workshop and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$45.

### CURRICULUM

Ms. Lee reported on the following from the Committee’s most recent meeting: PARCC grade level scores and NJASK scores; grades 3-5 MAP assessments; My Access update; update on District/Superintendent writing portfolio goal; world language update; technology update; discussion around score differential on report card to achieve B and A.

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### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

Mr. Panetta noted that the Committee met with local officials and while they are sympathetic to the disruption the elections create to the district, they don't have another option at this point so the school will remain the polling place. The Board recommends giving final notice to the Township that the school will no longer be available as a polling place.

Mr. Panetta noted that the generator bid came in higher than we had originally budgeted. Mr. Rader wondered if we could do the project more cost effectively with a different generator. The Committee will bring more information back to the Board so they can decide whether to proceed in January.

Mr. Panetta also discussed a quote for installation of a sink in an instructional space to be used for middle school science; landscaping; reassurance that recreation was given black-out dates back in October.

Mrs. Sroka asked if moving forward we can make the gym more available for recreation.

### **Block Motion – Buildings & Grounds**

A motion was made by Mr. Rader and seconded by Mr. Abrams to approve the following agenda items #1 through #2. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

#### **1. Approve a Use of Facility Request**

To approve use of facility requests from PTO for use of the cafeteria for dances on November 20 and December 23, 2015.

#### **2. Approve a Use of Facility Request**

To approve a request from the White Township PTO for use of the front hallway from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on December 21, 2015 to distribute fundraiser orders.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

No update.

### **BHS BOARD MEMBER**

No update.

### **SHARED SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE**

No update.

### **GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

Mr. Slattery noted that he sent out updated action plans for the Board's review.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Sroka asked that the results of the PARCC testing be put on the website so the public can access that data.

### **APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A motion was made by Mr. Rader and seconded by Mr. Panetta to approve the Superintendent's Report for the period November 23 – December 11, 2015. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

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**ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS**

A motion was made by Mr. Panetta and seconded by Mr. Rader to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations deemed HIB incidents for the period November 23 – December 11, 2015. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. Marsh noted as a follow up to Ms. Lee's earlier question regarding the per diem rate for a replacement teacher that she has been with the district since 1982 and that even back then replacement teachers went on the first step of the guide.

Mrs. Baxter said the district should have their policies on-line so they can easily be accessed by parents.

Mr. Fraunfelter wished the Board a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and implored them to settle the teacher contract.

Mr. Skirbst asked who updates the policy manual and why the manuals in the library hadn't been updated. Mrs. Huff noted that policies are updated on-line and in the official policy manual located in the main office. Mr. Skirbst noted that Mr. Call spoke to the Board several months ago regarding increasing the sub rate and wondered if there have been any updates.

Mr. Skirbst asked if the problem with the sub line had been rectified.

Mrs. Anderson gave a shout out to the White Township teachers and noted she is happy to report that her son is at the high school now and he is taking two honors classes.

Mrs. Bellfy thanked Mr. Boehm for reaching out and thanking leaders for coming out to the meeting. Mrs. Bellfy noted that the district needs to stop the misuse of pulling staff for coverage when substitutes aren't available.

Mr. Rader noted that it is nice to have the Boy Scouts attending the meeting this evening.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Rader and seconded by Mr. Panetta to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Huff  
Business Administrator  
Board Secretary