

WHITE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY

DECEMBER 19, 2016

7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the White Township Board of Education was held on the above date in the White Township Municipal Building, Belvidere, NJ with the following members in attendance at roll call: Mrs. Rowe, Mr. Boehm, Mr. Rader, Mr. Panetta, Mrs. Nikolopoulos, Ms. Lee and Mrs. Sroka. Michael Slattery, Superintendent, Dawn Huff, Business Administrator/Board Secretary were also in attendance as well as three members of the public. Mrs. Lensi arrived at 8:25 and Mrs. Martowicz was unable to attend.

Mrs. Rowe opened the meeting at 7:30 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.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Panetta and seconded by Mrs. Nikolopoulos to approve the minutes as submitted from the November 28, 2016 Regular Session Meeting. Motion carried unanimously as follows: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huff noted letters from the Warren County Office of Education verifying appropriate representation on the Belvidere Board of Education and one approving Mr. Slattery's 2016-2017 merit goals, along with a correspondence to Mr. Hausamann thanking him for the generous donation of laboratory equipment and supplies for students in our science programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

Mr. Slattery noted that Mrs. Sheneman and Mrs. Kline did a wonderful job with students at the Winter Concert. Mr. Slattery reminded the group that it was just a short time ago that we introduced students to an instrumental program in the district and, evidenced by the recent concert, the program is flourishing. Mr. Slattery thanked the rest of the teaching staff for their assistance and support during the concert.

Block Motion – Personnel

A motion was made by Mrs. Sroka and seconded by Ms. Lee to approve the following agenda items #1 through #3. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

1. Approve Additional Substitute Teachers

To approve Brittany Moyle and Amanda Nechay as additional substitute teachers for the 2016-2017 school year. Ms. Moyle and Ms. Nechay hold NJ substitute certificates.

WHITE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Session Minutes

December 19, 2016

Page 2

Block Motion – Personnel - continued

2. Approve a Request for a Maternity/Disability Leave of Absence

To approve a request from Cassandra Baker for a maternity/disability leave of absence to commence on or about April 7, 2017 followed by an unpaid leave of absence in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act upon completion of her maternity/disability leave and ending approximately June 13, 2017.

3. Approve a Part-time Paraprofessional

To approve Kelli Bisch as a part-time paraprofessional January 3, 2017 – June 30, 2017, not to exceed 4 hours per day, Step 1D, \$13.41/hour.

TRANSPORTATION

No updates.

POLICY

Mr. Slattery noted there will be a policy update coming from Strauss Esmay in January.

FINANCE

Block Motion – Finance

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Mr. Panetta to approve the following agenda items #1 through #6. Motion carried as follows: Ms. Lee – yes, Mrs. Sroka – yes, Mrs. Nikolopoulos – yes, Mr. Panetta – yes, Mr. Rader – yes, Mr. Boehm – yes and Mrs. Rowe – yes.

1. Approve November 2016 Board Secretary’s Report and Treasurer’s Report

To approve the November 2016 Board Secretary’s Report and Treasurer’s Report 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, 2016, 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 2016 Bills List

To approve the payment of the December 2016 bills in the total amount of \$844,089.89 for all funds.

3. Approve November 2016 Cafeteria Bills

To approve the payment of the November 2016 Cafeteria bills in the amount of \$10,386.18.

4. Approve Budget Transfers

To approve budget transfers for November 2016 in the amount of \$93,822.

5. Approve Staff Travel

To approve the following staff travel:

- Marlene Saraiva to attend a workshop “ESY Legal Issues” in Monroe Township on January 24, 2017. The cost of the workshop is \$75 and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$45.

WHITE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Session Minutes

December 19, 2016

Page 3

Block Motion – Finance - continued

6. Accept a Donation from Merck Pharmaceutical

To accept a donation of assorted laboratory equipment and supplies from James Hausamann and the company he works for Merck Pharmaceutical.

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Sroka noted that the district's extracurricular activities are a wonderful opportunity to further energize and get students involved and would like to see the Board continue to promote these opportunities for students.

Mr. Slattery noted that the County Office will be in district tomorrow to review the District QSAC Improvement Plan.

Block Motion – Curriculum

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Ms. Lee to approve the following agenda items #1 through #2. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

1. Approve a Drama Club Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 15 Drama Club students to a play "The Lightning Thief" at Papermill Playhouse, Milburn, NJ on March 10, 2017.

2. Approve a Grade 7&8 GEM Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 8 grade 7&8 GEM students to WCSSE-Battle of the Books at Warren Hills Middle School, Washington, NJ on April 12, 2017.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Mr. Panetta reported on the following: Buddy Bench installation, school will be closed over the winter break with the exception of one day when Simplex will be in doing some upgrades to the fire system, engagement of the Architect to begin planning for some safety and security upgrades.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mr. Boehm discussed the launch of Facebook and his hopes for more active participation and posts. Mr. Boehm noted that Mrs. Sypniewski will be our January staff member in the White Spotlight.

BHS BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Rader applauded the fantastic high school student art exhibits.

SHARED SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE

Mrs. Rowe noted that the Committee met earlier in the evening with representatives from Hope Township to discuss the status of the shared administrative team. Mrs. Rowe noted that the share is going well and that the groups both agreed that it wouldn't be feasible or financially responsible to disrupt the shared agreement and revert back to a different administrative model in either district. The group discussed the possibility that Superintendent salary caps will be lifted in June and what this would mean. Mrs. Rowe noted that the proposed regulations would increase the base salary for Superintendents and provide for additional incentives but that everything is negotiable. The Boards agreed to convene their next meeting earlier if more definitive information is available in the spring.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

No updates.

WHITE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Session Minutes

December 19, 2016

Page 4

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Panetta wondered if the Farmer's Market had come through with a donation for the school as promised when they requested use of the parking lot for their events. Mr. Slattery noted that he would follow up with the PTO and get back to members.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Rowe discussed the draft 2017 meeting schedule with the group. The schedule will be approved at the reorganization meeting in January.

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Ms. Lee to approve the Superintendent's Report for the period November 28 – December 16, 2016. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 7, Nays -0, Abstentions – 0.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

A motion was made by Mr. Panetta and seconded by Mrs. Nikolopoulos to acknowledge receipt of one HIB report not deemed a HIB incident for the period November 28 – December 16, 2016. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 7, Nays -0, Abstentions – 0.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Mrs. Rowe announced to the public that the Board would be convening to executive session to discuss negotiations and that no action would be taken other than to close the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Rader and seconded by Mrs. Nikolopoulos to convene to Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. to discuss the status of negotiations. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 7, 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 the status of negotiations.

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.

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Mrs. Lensi to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:59 p.m. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mrs. Sroka to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Huff
Business Administrator
Board Secretary