

HOPE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

TUESDAY

JULY 26, 2018

6:30 PM

Mrs. Ritchie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and proper notice of postings was given. Mrs. Ritchie read the Sunshine Statement and Mr. Tighe read the Mission Statement and led the pledge of allegiance. Board members present at the roll call were Mrs. Ritchie, President, Mr. Tighe, Vice President, Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Chamberlain and Mr. Leary. Mrs. Huff, Business Administrator and Dr. McCartney, Interim Superintendent were also in attendance as well as 10 members of the public.

PRESENTATION

Ms. Bethany Summers, current President of the Warren County School Boards Association attended the meeting to discuss the current programs and services provided by the Association.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Newman officially welcomed Dr. McCartney and noted it has been wonderful collaborating with him. Mr. Newman reported on Camp Invention, summer cleaning, repairs to the lower parking lot, tree trimming, curriculum writing and the status of welcome back packets.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. McCartney extended his thanks to everyone for welcoming him to the district. Dr. McCartney discussed recent notification that we'll lose \$51,811 in state aid this year and a plan to address the reduction. Dr. McCartney noted that while the final State budget calls for additional aid for public schools, it comes with the caveat for re-distribution of those funds whereby schools like Hope that have been deemed "overfunded" will receive less funds beginning this school year. The plan calls for a combination of reduced expenditures and the addition of undesignated general fund surplus for this year. Dr. McCartney cautioned that we can expect the reductions for the next seven years and we'll need to plan for increases to the local tax levy. Dr. McCartney further reported that he'll work to educate the school community on proper HIB behavior and that of the Code of Conduct, the need for additional paraprofessional support and plans for a board retreat in August.

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Mrs. Maguire expressed her dismay that a long time Car Show fundraiser, that benefited students at the school, may be lost, due to lack of interest and misunderstanding of management of the event, and hopes that this can be cleared up.

Mrs. Costa further expressed frustration with a lack of communication regarding middle school fundraising at the school and her contention that a select few are making decisions for all.

Mrs. Ritchie asked Dr. McCartney and Mr. Newman to meet with the 8th grade advisors to get these concerns clarified.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huff noted two letters from community members expressing interest in the vacant seat on the Board of Ed, a letter of appreciation for Green Fair support from the Hope Township Environmental Commission and a letter of appreciation from Mrs. Peters noting the work of Mr. Newman, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Henry and Mrs. Encin with her daughter this past school year.

Mrs. Ritchie noted that we'll conduct the interviews of the candidates interested in the vacant seat on the Board at the end of the meeting and no action will be taken this evening.

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APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Lucas and seconded by Mr. Tighe to approve the minutes as submitted from the June 26 Regular Session Meeting and Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS / TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Tighe noted that the Committee met to discuss outstanding school security issues.

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

No updates.

CURRICULUM / INSTRUCTION / TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Chamberlain noted the Committee had a very productive meeting and discussed several items including cursive writing, a new reading series for grades K-5, modifications to the current Code of Conduct, elimination of grade point weighting, enhanced communication between Committees and the Administration, as well as quarterly homework free weekends.

FINANCE

Mr. Leary noted the Committee will meet with the district's health insurance broker to review alternative health insurance carriers which could achieve savings on premiums.

Block Motion – Finance

A motion was made by Mrs. Ritchie and seconded by Mr. Tighe to approve the following agenda items #1 through #7. Motion carried unanimously, by roll call vote, all yes.

1. Approve Final June 2018 Bills & Claims List

To approve the payment of the June 2018 Bills & Claims List in the total amount of \$250,607.81 for all funds.

2. Approve July 2018 Bills & Claims List

To approve the payment of the July 2018 Bills & Claims List in the amount of \$78,645.46 for all funds.

3. Approve Budget Transfers for June 2018

To approve budget transfers for June 2018 in the amount of \$87,356.04.

4. Approve a Memorandum of Agreement for BCBA Services

To approve a contract with Warren County Special Services for BCBA services for the 2018-2019 school year at the rate of \$97/hour for a maximum of 20 hours per month.

5. Approve a Tuition Contract with ECLC of New Jersey

To approve a tuition contract with ECLC of New Jersey for one student (ID#6353830532) to attend the program for the 2018-2019 school year and extended school year for a total tuition cost of \$58,266 and the cost of the extraordinary services of \$37,000.

6. Approve a Plan to Address the State Aid Reduction

To approve a plan to address the state aid reduction of \$51,811 as follows:

- Reduce Expenditure Line 11-230-100-101 Basic Skills Salary \$10,000
- Reduce Expenditure Line 11-000-291-270 Health Benefits \$10,000

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Block Motion – Finance

- Withdrawal from current Emergency Reserve Fund \$15,000
- Use of Unassigned General Fund Surplus \$16,811
- \$51,811

7. Approve Staff Travel

To approve staff travel:

- Dawn Huff to attend Northern Regional Facilities Training on August 14, 2018 in Rockaway, NJ. There is no cost for this training and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$30.
- Mary Henry to attend quarterly Sussex/Warren County Association of School Psychologists in Sparta, NJ. The yearly membership fee is \$20 and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$60.
- Mary Henry to attend quarterly Traumatic Loss Coalition meetings in Washington, NJ on dates to be determined. There is no cost for the meetings and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$75.
- Mary Henry to attend monthly Sussex/Warren County Director/Coordinator meetings on dates to be determined. The membership fee is not to exceed \$150. There is no cost for the meetings and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$150.

PERSONNEL

Motion – Personnel

A motion was made by Mrs. Beatty and seconded by Mrs. Ritchie to approve the following agenda item #1. Motion carried unanimously, by roll call vote, all yes.

1. Approve Paraprofessionals

To accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire the following Paraprofessionals for the 2018-19 school year at the salary rates below:

Shelly Woodward	5 days/week	not to exceed 7.5 hours/day	\$13.52/hour
Carol Napurano	3 days/week	not to exceed 7.5 hours/day	\$14.64/hour
Jacqueline Chaplin	2 days/week	not to exceed 7.5 hours/day	\$13.52/hour

POLICY

Block Motion – Policy

A motion was made by Mr. Tighe and seconded by Mrs. Ritchie to approve the following agenda items #1 through #5. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

1. Approve a First Reading of Policy & Regulation #1550 – Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices

To approve a first reading of policy & regulation #1550 – Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices

2. Approve a First Reading of Policy & Regulation #5350 – Student Suicide Prevention

To approve a first reading of policy & regulation #5350 – Student Suicide Prevention

3. Approve a First Reading of Policy #5533 – Student Smoking

To approve a first reading of policy #5533 – Student Smoking

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Block Motion – Policy - continued

4. Approve a First Reading of Policy & Regulation #5561 – Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities

To approve a first reading of policy & regulation #5561 – Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities

5. Approve a First Reading of Policy #8462 – Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children

To approve a first reading of policy #8462 – Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children

SPECIAL EDUCATION AD-HOC COMMITTEE

No updates.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

No updates.

BELVIDERE UPDATE

Mr. Lucas noted Belvidere is readying for the new school year.

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Lucas and seconded by Mr. Tighe to approve the Superintendent’s Report for June 2018. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

A motion was made by Mr. Lucas and seconded by Mr. Tighe to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations deemed HIB incidents, since last meeting. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

APPROVE SUBMISSION OF THE BI-ANNUAL REPORT ON VIOLENCE, VANDALISM AND HIB

A motion was made by Mr. Tighe and seconded by Mrs. Beatty to approve submission of the Bi-annual Report on Violence, Vandalism and HIB for the reporting period January 1 – June 30, 2018. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Huff noted that nominating petitions for those interested in running for a seat on the Board in the November election are due to the County Clerk’s Office by July 30th.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Mr. Costa asked about public access to Board policies and noted it would be nice if the public had the ability to review Board policies. Mr. Costa noted it would be nice if the Board recorded their meetings and had the ability to stream them on the school’s website.

Mrs. Maza noted it’s great to welcome a new Administrator who’s well-spoken, a great communicator and will be a wonderful mentor for Mr. Newman. Mrs. Maza encouraged current Board members to re-run in the upcoming election.

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BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Mrs. Ritchie noted the Board would now convene to Executive Session to interview candidates to fill the vacant seat on the Board. No action will be taken this evening.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Tighe and seconded by Mrs. Ritchie to convene to Executive Session at 7:39 p.m. to interview and deliberate on candidates for the vacant Board of Education seat. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

Be it resolved by the Hope Township Board of Education that it shall meet in closed session this evening to interview and deliberate on candidates for the vacant Board of Education seat.

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

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 Mr. Lucas and seconded by Mrs. Beatty to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Lucas and seconded by Mrs. Ritchie to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, all yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Huff
Business Administrator
Board Secretary