

WHITE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY

APRIL 29, 2019

6:30 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: Mr. Panetta, Ms. Nusser-Meany, Ms. Howell, Mrs. Sroka, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Nikolopoulos. William Thompson, CSA and Dawn Huff, Business Administrator/Board Secretary were also in attendance as well as 13 members of the public. Ms. Lee was unable to attend.

Mr. Panetta opened the meeting at 6:30 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.

CSA REPORT

Mr. Thompson reported on the Greenhouse dedication, and applauded the work of Vasilios Nikolopoulos on completing the project. Mr. Thompson updated the group on the recent NJQSAC visit, upcoming NJSLA testing, 8th grade activities, and upcoming events including Teacher Appreciation Week, Project Positivity, a PTO flower sale, various field trips, and the Concert/Art Show. Mr. Thompson introduced and welcomed advisors and members of the Drama Club, and club members provided a teaser of the upcoming show.

Mrs. Lensi arrived at 6:35 p.m.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Huff provided an overview of the 2019-2020 school budget. Mr. Thompson reviewed anticipated enrollments for next school year and Mrs. Huff detailed revenue sources and needed expenditures. Mrs. Huff noted that the Board worked hard to present a responsible budget with a proposed operating budget increasing .3%; however, due in large part to the loss of state aid revenue, the tax levy will increase 3.5%. The district will exceed the 2% tax levy with the use of banked cap. Mrs. Huff noted that banked cap is an allowable exception to the 2% cap for districts that haven't increased taxes in previous years. Since White hasn't increased school taxes for the past 2 years we have unused spending authority and will use 1.5% of that banked cap to exceed the 2% tax levy cap for the 2019-2020 budget. Mrs. Huff noted that a 3.5% increase equates to a 4.5 cent increase, per \$100 of assessed valuation, for a homeowner in the Township. For a homeowner with a home assessed at \$259,471, the average assessed value in the Township, this would mean a tax increase of \$117 per year. The Board thanked Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Huff for their work to put together and present this budget.

APPROVE THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mrs. Nikolopoulos to approve the budget for the 2019-2020 school year. This budget includes sufficient funds to provide curriculum and instruction which will enable all students to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and is in compliance with N.J.S.A. 18A and N.J.A.C. Title 6 and 6A. This budget proposes the use of \$111,395 of banked cap to support the 2019-2020 general fund budget due to the loss of \$139,150 in state aid funding for the 2019-2020 school year.

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2019-2020 Budget motion - continued

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

Expenditures

General Current Expense	\$ 9,251,216
Capital Outlay	\$ 135,105
Charter School	\$ 123,266
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 100,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 9,609,587

Revenue

General Fund	
Budgeted Fund Balance	\$ 368,461
Withdrawal from Tuition Res	\$ 150,000
Withdrawal from Capital Res	\$ 125,000
Withdrawal from Maint. Res	\$ 50,000
Local Tax Levy	\$ 7,265,322
Misc. Revenue	\$ 35,000
State Aid	\$ 1,515,804
Special Revenue Fund	
State Aid	\$ 0
Federal Aid	\$ 100,000

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 9,609,587

As per N.J.A.C. 6A:23 A-7.3(a), the proposed budget provides for a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for travel and expense reimbursement. The 2019-2020 tentative budget includes a maximum travel appropriation of \$4,000. The School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany to approve the minutes as submitted from the March 18, 2019 Regular Session Meeting and Executive Session. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

Block Motion – Personnel

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Mrs. Williams to approve the following agenda items #1 through #3. Motion carried as follows: Ms. Nusser-Meany – yes, Ms. Howell – yes, Mrs. Sroka – yes, Mrs. Lensi – yes, Mrs. Williams – yes, Mrs. Smith – yes, Mrs. Nikolopoulos – yes, and Mr. Panetta – yes.

1. Renewal of Tenured Staff

To approve letters of intent to hire the following Instructional Tenured Staff Members for the 2019-2020 School Year as recommended by the CSA:

Staff Member	Degree	Step **	FTE	Salary **
Baker, Cassandra	BA+15	6	1.00	\$55,985
Barofski, Melissa	MA	32	1.00	\$85,800
Bellfy, Sherry	BA+15	21	1.00	\$71,585

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Block Motion – Personnel - continued

Biggs, Debbie	MA+30	25	1.00	\$84,895
Bolen, Stephanie	MA	10	1.00	\$65,115
DeCesare, Anthony	BA+15	18	1.00	\$68,070
Dionne, Rebecca	MA	6	1.00	\$59,985
Evans, Allyson	MA	14	1.00	\$68,575
Fischl, Richard	MA+30	22	1.00	\$79,585
Fraunfelder, Eric	MA+30	24	1.00	\$83,120
Garvey, Crystal	MA	15	1.00	\$68,575
Gerkhardt, Cathleen	BA	10	1.00	\$59,115
Grater, Kelly	MA+30	29	1.00	\$88,460
Hawk, Erik	MA+30	18	1.00	\$76,070
Hutchison, Gary	MA+30	23	1.00	\$81,350
Kline, Melinda	MA	5	.40	\$23,994
LaBar, Tadgh	MA+15	17	1.00	\$72,320
Laubach, Michele	BA	17	1.00	\$64,320
Marsh, Susan	MA+30	36	1.00	\$89,800
Mulligan, Deirdre	MA+15	17	1.00	\$72,320
Pearson, Kenna	BA	14	1.00	\$62,575
Puskas, Erika	MA+30	9	1.00	\$67,400
Quinn, Stephanie	MA+30	25	1.00	\$84,895
Rosano, Lisa	MA	13	1.00	\$66,840
Schaarschmidt, Krista	BA	10	1.00	\$59,115
Sheneman, Margaret	BA+30	11	1.00	\$63,115
Sissick, Bernadette	BA+15	7	1.00	\$57,690
Skirbst, Henry	MA+15	25	1.00	\$82,895
Stumpe, Amy	MA+15	11	1.00	\$67,115
Walsh, Alison	MA	32	1.00	\$85,800
Werkheiser, Dawn	MA+30	23	1.00	\$81,350
Wheatley, Nancy	MA+30	14	1.00	\$72,575
Williams, Katherine	BA	10	1.00	\$59,115

**** Step and Salary remain at the 2018-2019 rate until settlement of the WTEA contract agreement.**

2. Renewal of Non-Tenured Teaching Staff for the 2019-2020 school year

To renew the following non-tenured teaching staff for the 2019-2020 school year, as recommended by the CSA:

Staff Member	Degree	Step **	FTE	Salary **
Mahon, Justine	BA+30	2	1.00	\$55,790
Marinelli, Anthony	BA+15	5	1.00	\$55,985
Quinn, Stewart	BA	2	1.00	\$51,790

**** Step and Salary remain at the 2018-2019 rate until settlement of the WTEA contract agreement.**

3. Approve a Reduction in Force

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:28-9 provides that a board of education may “reduce the number of teaching staff members employed in the district whenever, in the judgment of the board, it is advisable to abolish any such positions for reasons of economy or because of reduction in the number of pupils or of change in the administrative or supervisory organization of the district or for other good cause;”

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Block Motion – Personnel - continued

WHEREAS, for reasons of economy and as a result of District restructuring, the Board finds it advisable to eliminate a Social Worker position, a Speech Teacher position, a LDTC position and a CST Supervisor/Psychologist position for the 2019-2020 school year through a reduction in force;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the White Township Board of Education as follows:

1. The following positions will be eliminated effective July 1, 2019 as a result of a reduction in force: 1 Social Worker, 1 Speech Teacher, 1 LDTC and 1 CST Supervisor/Psychologist
2. That the affected employees will promptly receive appropriate notification of their employment status; and
3. That the CSA is authorized to provide the necessary notification to the affected employees.

TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Howell reported on the need to re-route a bus route temporarily due to a bridge closure in the Township.

POLICY

No report.

FINANCE

Block Motion – Finance

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Ms. Howell to approve the following agenda items #1 through #8. Motion carried as follows: Ms. Nusser-Meany – yes, abstain from #8-bullet 1, Ms. Howell – yes, Mrs. Sroka – yes, Mrs. Lensi – yes, Mrs. Williams – yes, Mrs. Smith – yes, Mrs. Nikolopoulos – yes, and Mr. Panetta – yes.

1. Approve March 2019 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 March 2019 and further that, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16-10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of March 2019, 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 March 31, 2019.

2. Approve April 2019 Bill List

To approve the payment of the April 2019 bills in the total amount of \$988,488.32 for all funds.

3. Approve March 2019 Cafeteria Bills

To approve the payment of the March 2019 Cafeteria bills in the amount of \$5,404.81.

4. Approve Budget Transfers

To approve budget transfers for March 2019 in the amount of \$39,764.55.

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Block Motion – Finance - continued

5. Approve a Tuition Contract Agreement

To approve a tuition contract agreement with Great Meadows Regional Board of Education for the 2018-2019 school year for one student (SID#4552810184) to attend at a yearly cost of tuition, \$16,375, and the cost of the personal aide and extraordinary fees, all prorated to a start date of January 22, 2019.

6. Approve a Tuition Contract with Limitless

To approve a tuition contract with Limitless for one student (ID#8737801050) for ESY 2019 program, for a tuition cost of \$5,535 and the cost of the personal aide \$2,295, for a total program cost of \$7,830.

7. Approve a Lease Agreement with Pitney Bowes

To approve a 60 month lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for a SendPro C400 for a monthly cost of \$120.02.

8. Approve Board Member/Staff Travel

To approve the following Board Member/Staff travel:

- Michelle Nusser-Meany to attend the New Jersey School Boards 2019 workshop in Atlantic City, NJ, October 21-24, 2019. The cost for the mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$70.
- Margaret Sheneman to attend “Conversational Solfege Levels 1&2 Course” in Bellmawr, NJ, August 12-15, 2019. The cost of the course is \$300 and the mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$165.
- Courtney Pignataro to attend a workshop “Mental Health Issues in the Classroom” in Hackettstown, NJ, May 20, 2019. The cost of the workshop is \$90.

CURRICULUM

Mrs. Sroka noted that the Committee met and discussed the 2019-2020 proposed calendar and reviewed a draft schedule for next school year.

Block Motion – Curriculum

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Ms. Howell to approve the following agenda items #1 through #8. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

1. Approve Summer ESY Program

To approve the 2019 ESY program dates as follows:

July 22 – August 15, 2019 (Monday – Thursday) 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

2. Approve the 2019-2020 School Calendar

To approve the 2019-2020 school calendar.

3. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 38 grade 8 students to Oakwood Lanes, Washington, NJ on June 14, 2019. The cost per student is \$8 and the cost of the transportation is \$125.

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Block Motion – Curriculum - continued

4. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 20 STEM Club students to Unity Charter School, Morristown, NJ on May 20, 2019, if the team qualifies for the Junior Solar Sprint Finals. The cost of the bus transportation is \$330.

5. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 28 grade 7 students to the Oscar W. Unangst Memorial Fields, Belvidere, NJ on May 24, 2019. The cost of the bus transportation is \$110.

6. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 10 grade 6/7 GEM students to Evangelical Free Church, Blairstown, NJ on May 20, 2019. The cost of the bus transportation to be determined.

7. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 38 grade 8 students to Belvidere High School for a high school visitation on April 30, 2019. The cost of the bus transportation is \$50.

8. Approve a Revised 2018-2019 School Calendar

To approve revisions to the 2018-2019 school calendar as follows:

- Early dismissal for students – June 13 & 14

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Mrs. Nikolopoulos discussed Project Positivity, the Greenhouse dedication earlier this evening, capital projects, and a posting for a summer custodian.

Block Motion – Buildings & Grounds

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mrs. Williams to approve the following agenda items #1 through #3. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

1. Approve a Use of Facility Request

To approve a request from Belvidere High School Wrestling Mat Club for use of the parking lot for a car wash on June 1, 2019

2. Approve a Use of Facility Request

To approve a request from the White Township PTO for use of the cafeteria for a flower sale May 9, 2019.

3. Approve a Use of Facility Request

To approve a request from the White Township PTO for use of the parking lot for the Farmer's Market, Sundays, June 2 – September 29, 2019.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mrs. Lensi announced that Mr. Labar will be highlighted as the May "White Spotlight".

BHS BOARD MEMBER

Mrs. Williams noted that much of the discussion, at the last Belvidere Board of Education meeting, was regarding the use of additional state aid funding their district will be receiving. Mrs. Williams noted that some town officials feel the district should provide tax relief to residents while some on the Board feel the money should be spent to enhance program offerings.

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SHARED SERVICES LIAISON COMMITTEE
No update.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Smith asked the group to revisit a discussion from previous meetings about recording Board meetings. Mrs. Smith asked what was concluded from Committee level discussions on the topic. Mr. Panetta noted that the costs associated with videotaping meetings was the biggest deterrent to consideration at this time. Mrs. Sroka asked that the Board make a motion to determine Board member interest in continuing consideration of the subject at this time.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sroka and seconded by Mrs. Lensi to seek Board member interest in continuing to investigate provisions to videotape Board meetings at this time. Motion failed as follows: Ms. Nusser-Meany – no, Ms. Howell – no, Mrs. Sroka – no, Mrs. Lensi – no, Mrs. Williams – no, Mrs. Smith – yes, Mrs. Nikolopoulos – no, and Mr. Panetta – no.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Panetta asked that a letter be sent to the Drama Club letting them know how much the Board appreciated and enjoyed their performance this evening.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany to acknowledge receipt of one HIB investigation deemed a HIB incident since last meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

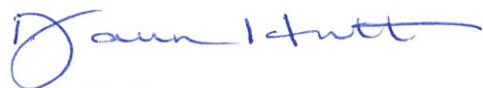
OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Fiorentino noted that she recalled discussions about videotaping Board meetings at previous meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Nikolopoulos and seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dawn Huff
Business Administrator
Board Secretary