

WHITE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 22, 2021

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. The meeting was a hybrid meeting which allowed members of the public to participate in person or virtually. The following members of the Board were in attendance at roll call: Mr. Havlusch, Ms. Howell, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Sroka, and Mr. Panetta. Mr. Thompson, CSA and Mrs. Huff, Business Administrator were also in attendance as well as 12 members of the public. Mrs. Lensi, Mr. Murray and Ms. Nusser-Meany were unable to attend.

Mr. Panetta opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and stated that in accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided and that copies of this notice, along with a meeting agenda, have been placed in the Board Office, posted on the District website, and sent to the Township Clerk, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

AUDIT PRESENTATION

Anthony Ardito, the Board's Auditor, presented an overview of the 2020-2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Mr. Ardito reviewed expenditures and revenues as well as the status of the district reserve accounts and surplus. Mr. Ardito noted that the audit went very well and thanked Mrs. Huff for having everything in good order. Mr. Ardito noted there were no audit recommendations.

CSA REPORT

Mr. Thompson recognized our November "Student of the Month" and presented her with a certificate. Mr. Thompson noted that we're in a good place, and he doesn't anticipate many changes, or that we'll have to go virtual, due to COVID-19 concerns. Mr. Thompson discussed formation of a National Junior Honor Society, the upcoming announcement of our Teacher of the Year, and future Parent University meetings. Mr. Thompson discussed upcoming dates including Parent/Teacher conferences, early dismissal, Battle of the Minds, and report cards.

Mrs. Sroka left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Williams and seconded by Ms. Howell to approve the minutes as submitted from the October 25, 2021 Regular Session Meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huff noted that we received verification from the Warren County Department of Education that we have the appropriate representation on the Belvidere Board of Education based on our audited number of students attending there from White Township.

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CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS - continued

Mrs. Huff announced that unofficially Robyn Gardella, Michelle Nusser-Meany and Natalie Pinkerton have been elected to three-year terms on the Board of Education. Mrs. Huff noted that we anticipate that these results will be officially certified by the end of the week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

Mr. Panetta noted the Committee met and discussed the action items on the agenda this evening, as well as National Junior Honor Society, and the possibility the State may offer 3-year QSAC waivers to high performing districts.

Block Motion – Personnel

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Havlusch to approve the following agenda items #1 through #4. Motion carried as follows: Mr. Havlusch – yes, Ms. Howell – yes, Mr. Panetta -yes, Mrs. Williams – yes, and Mrs. Smith – yes.

1. Accept a Resignation

To accept the resignation of Pam Maertens for the purpose of retirement effective January 1, 2022.

2. Approve a Request for an Unpaid Leave of Absence

To approve a request from Stew Quinn for an unpaid leave of absence in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act beginning March 14, 2022 and ending approximately June 10, 2022.

3. Approve Extra-Curricular Activity Positions

To accept the recommendation of the CSA and approve staff for the following Extra-Curricular Activity:

Amy Stumpe	Drama Club - Assistant	Year 4	\$2,415
Katie Williams	Drama Club - Assistant	Year 4	\$2,415

4. Approve a National Junior Honor Society Advisor

To approve Allyson Evans as a National Junior Honor Society Advisor at the stipend amount of \$1,200 for the 2021-2022 school year.

CURRICULUM

Mr. Thompson noted the Committee met and discussed a Media Center redesign with grant money, field trips, National Junior Honor Society, and work to develop Parent University activities.

Block Motion – Curriculum

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Havlusch to approve the following agenda items #1 through #2. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

1. Approve a Field Trip for Grade 6

To approve a field trip for approximately 30 grade 6 students to Mount Tammany @ the Delaware Water Gap on April 22, 2022. There is no student cost and the cost of the bus transportation is \$325.

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Block Motion – Curriculum - continued

2. Approve a Field Trip for Grade 6

To approve a field trip for approximately 30 grade 6 students to Medieval Times, Lyndhurst, NJ on June 2, 2022. The cost per student is \$39 and the cost of the bus transportation is \$380.

OPERATIONS

Mr. Havlusch noted the Committee met and discussed use of ARP-ESSER III grant funds for a redesign of the Media Center, use of the facility by Recreation, the potential for a waiver of QSAC, and the location for future Board meetings.

Block Motion – Operations

A motion was made by Mrs. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the following agenda items #1 through #4. Motion carried as follows: Mr. Havlusch – yes, Ms. Howell – yes, Mr. Panetta – yes, Mrs. Williams – yes, and Mrs. Smith – yes.

1. Approve October 2021 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 October 2021 and further that, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16-10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of October 2021, 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 October 31, 2021.

2. Approve November 2021 Bill List

To approve the payment of the November 2021 bills in the total amount of \$791,429.71 for all funds.

3. Approve Budget Transfers

To approve budget transfers for October 2021 in the amount of \$5,341.01.

4. Approve a Use of Facility Request

To approve a request from White Township PTO for use of the stage for a Holiday Shop December 15, 2021.

GOVERNANCE

Ms. Howell noted the Committee met and discussed policy alert #225, the potential for a waiver of QSAC, the location for Board meetings, and a Parent University.

Block Motion – Governance

A motion was made by Mr. Havlusch and seconded by Mrs. Williams to approve the following agenda items #1 through #4. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

1. Approve a First Reading of Policy #1648.13 – School Employee Vaccination Requirements

To approve a first reading of policy #1648.13 – School Employee Vaccination Requirements

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Block Motion – Governance - continued

2. Approve a First Reading of Policy #1648.14 – Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19

To approve a first reading of policy #1648.14 – Safety Plan for Healthcare Settings in School Buildings – COVID-19

3. Approve a First Reading of Policy #2425 – Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program

To approve a first reading of policy #2425 – Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program

4. Approve a First Reading of Policy & Regulation #5751 – Sexual Harassment of Students

To approve a first reading of policy & regulation #5751 – Sexual Harassment of Students

BHS BOARD MEMBER

Mrs. Williams noted that Belvidere is working with Strauss Esmay to rewrite some of their Board policies, and working to refine and prioritize their long-range facility project listing. Mrs. Williams further noted that Belvidere has concerns about whether funding will come through from the State for the regionalization studies. Mrs. Williams stated that some students at Belvidere seem to be having a difficult time acclimating back to in-person instruction both academically and emotionally. Mrs. Williams applauded the Administration for their hard work to keep things running smoothly and kids interacting positively.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

A motion was made by Mr. Havlusch and seconded by Mrs. Smith to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations deemed HIB incidents since last meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Nikolopoulos asked about the regionalization studies and what that would mean for current students attending Belvidere High School. The Board reassured Mrs. Nikolopoulos that current discussions are about funding for regionalization studies only, and that no decisions have been made about where students could be sent.

Mr. Nikolopoulos asked if the Board feels funding is a big reason why Belvidere is losing students. Mrs. Williams noted she doesn't believe that's the reason and further noted that many times funds are restricted to particular uses which at times makes things difficult. The Board reiterated that the purpose of the regionalization studies is to gather data, and review recommendations derived from that data, and this would all take time.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Williams to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Motion carries as follows: Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Huff
Business Administrator
Board Secretary