

WHITE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 24, 2020

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: Ms. Nusser-Meany, Ms. Howell, Mr. Murray, Mrs. Lensi, Mr. Havlusch, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Williams and Mr. Panetta. William Thompson, CSA and Dawn Huff, Business Administrator/Board Secretary were also in attendance as well as 17 members of the public. Mrs. Sroka was unable to attend.

Mr. Panetta opened the meeting at 6:31 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 recognized our February “Student of the Month” and presented her with a certificate. Mr. Thompson welcomed members of the Chess Club and their Advisor, Mr. Skirbst, to the meeting to discuss club activities. Mr. Thompson reported on strategic planning, budget development and upcoming activities including Dr. Seuss Week and Project Positivity. Mr. Thompson did note there would be a tax increase on the local tax levy to help offset the anticipated reduction in state aid.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Ms. Howell to approve the minutes as submitted from the January 27, 2020 Regular Session Meeting and Executive Session, and the January 30, 2020 Strategic Planning Meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Huff noted an addendum this evening for additional personnel, curriculum and operations motions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

Mr. Panetta noted the Committee discussed the 2020-2021 budget, World Language, and the BA contract.

Block Motion – Personnel

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: Ms. Nusser-Meany – yes, Ms. Howell – yes, Mr. Murray – yes, Mrs. Lensi – yes, Mr. Havlusch – yes, Mrs. Smith – yes, Mrs. Williams – yes and Mr. Panetta – yes.

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Block Motion – Personnel - continued

1. Approve a Paraprofessional

To accept the recommendation of the CSA to approve Kaitlyn Smith as a paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, Step 1D, \$14.26/hour, not to exceed 5.75 hours/day, pending a criminal history review.

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

To approve a request from Amy Stumpe for a maternity/disability leave of absence to commence on or about May 11, 2020 followed by an unpaid leave of absence in accordance with the New Jersey Family Leave Act, with an anticipated return to work date of November 2, 2020.

3. Approve a Transfer on the Salary Guide

To approve a request from Margaret Sheneman to transfer on the salary guide from Step 12, BA+30 to Step 12, MA+15 at the new salary rate of \$69,355.

CURRICULUM

Ms. Nusser-Meany noted that the Committee met and discussed development of a school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year, expansion of our Preschool program, additional club initiatives, and the master schedule for next school year.

Block Motion – Curriculum

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the following agenda items #1 through #4. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

1. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a request for approximately 33 grade 7 students to State Theatre of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ on April 3, 2020. The cost per student for the trip is \$30 and the cost of the bus transportation is \$360.

2. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a request for approximately 20 Stem Club students to Great Meadows Middle School for a Junior Solar Sprint Competition on May 11, 2020. There is no cost per student for the trip and the cost of the bus transportation is \$247.50.

3. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a request for approximately 10 Stem Club students to Unity Charter School, Morristown, NJ for the Inter-County Final Solar Sprint Race on May 18, 2020, if the team qualifies. There is no cost per student for the trip and the cost of the bus transportation is \$360.

4. Approve a Video Production Club

To approve funds, not to exceed \$600, for a Video Production Club for grades 5-8.

OPERATIONS

Mr. Havlusch noted that the Committee discussed budget development for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Panetta further reported that the group reviewed facility use requests and received an update on a community playground concept.

Block Motion – Operations

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mr. Murray to approve the following agenda items #1 through #6. Motion carried as follows: Ms. Nusser-Meany – yes, Ms. Howell – yes, Mr. Murray – yes, Mrs. Lensi – yes, Mr. Havlusch – yes, Mrs. Smith – yes, Mrs. Williams – yes and Mr. Panetta – yes.

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Block Motion – Operations - continued

1. Approve January 2020 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 January 2020 and further that, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16-10(c)4, the Board of Education certifies that as of January 31, 2020, 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 January 31, 2020.

2. Approve February 2020 Bill List

To approve the payment of the February 2020 bills in the total amount of \$727,130.34 for all funds.

3. Approve Budget Transfers

To approve budget transfers for January 2020 in the amount of \$2,623.28.

4. Approve Staff Travel

To approve the following staff travel:

- Stephanie Quinn to attend a workshop "The Role of the School Climate Team" on April 1, 2020 in New Brunswick, NJ. There is no cost for the workshop and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$40.
- Anthony Marinelli to attend a workshop "Infusing STEAM Concepts into Curriculum" on February 26, 2020 in Phillipsburg, NJ. There is no cost for the workshop.
- Erika Puskas and Nancy Wheatley to attend a workshop "Trauma Informed Compassionate Classrooms" on March 18, 2020 in Parsippany, NJ. The cost for the workshop per attendee is \$219.99 and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$50.
- Katherine Williams and Amy Stumpe to attend a workshop "What's New in Children's Literature" on March 25, 2020 in Allentown, PA. The cost for the workshop per attendee is \$279 and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$45.
- Lisa Rosano to a workshop "Play & Language: The Roots of Literacy" in Belvidere, NJ on February 28, 2020. There is no fee for this workshop.
- Alison Walsh, Katherine Williams and Alexis Smith to a Literacy Conference in Hackettstown, NJ on March 18, 2020. The cost of the conference is \$45 per attendee and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$30.

5. Approve a Use of Facility Request

To approve a request from the White Township PTO for use of the gymnasium on April 28, May 13-15, 2020 for the Variety Show.

6. Approve a Use of Facility Request

To approve a request from the White Township PTO for use of the stage April 6-10, 2020 for the Bookfair.

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GOVERNANCE

Mrs. Lensi noted the Committee discussed adding a club page to the website, review of policies for extra curriculars and preschool admission, and ideas for student presentations at Board meetings.

Motion – Governance

A motion was made by Ms. Nusser-Meany and seconded by Ms. Howell to approve the following agenda item #1. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

1. Approve a Second Reading of Policy #0155 – Board Committees

To approve a second reading of policy #0155 – Board Committees

BHS BOARD MEMBER

Mrs. Williams noted that Belvidere settled some on-going litigation with two teachers who are now back in the classroom. Mrs. Williams felt approval of the settlement would allow the district to move on, and ease the financial and emotional strain the issue has caused. Mrs. Williams further reported that Belvidere will need to make substantial cuts to their 2020-2021 school budget. The Board expressed concern that these cuts could affect current staff and program offerings at the high school level and make Belvidere a less attractive option for our families. The Board discussed the effect declining enrollment has on increases in the per pupil tuition rate.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Panetta noted he would like to bring the Negotiations Committee together to discuss language for the sick day bank. Mr. Panetta indicated he would like to get a date set for a meeting of the Shared Service Committee.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mr. Murray to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations deemed HIB incidents since last meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mr. Murray to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Huff
Business Administrator
Board Secretary