

WHITE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY

JANUARY 27, 2020

6:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the White Township Board of Education was held on the above date in the White Township School Library, Belvidere, NJ with the following members in attendance at roll call: Ms. Nusser-Meany, Ms. Howell, Mrs. Sroka, 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 8 members of the public.

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 recognized the December and January “Students of the Month” and presented them with certificates. Mr. Thompson provided an update on the strategic planning process, budget development for the 2020-2021 school year, and reviewed upcoming dates including jersey day, a PTO planetarium assembly, the 100th day of school, and a PTO “Someone Special Dance”. Mr. Thompson announced that the “White Spotlight” for February is Mr. Marinelli.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mrs. Williams to approve submission of the Bi-Annual Report on Violence, Vandalism and HIB for the reporting period July 1 – December 31, 2019. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany to approve the minutes as submitted from the December 16, 2019 Regular Session Meeting and January 6, 2020 Reorganization Meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL

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, Mrs. Sroka – 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 an Additional Substitute Teacher

To approve Jessica Catania as an additional substitute teacher for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

2. Approve a Wood Shop Club Advisor - Revised

To approve Henry Skirbst as Advisor of the Wood Shop Club, for students grade 6-8, at a stipend amount not to exceed \$900.

3. Approve a Map Making Club Advisor

To approve Cathleen Gerhardt as Advisor of the Map Making Club, for grades 1-3, at a stipend amount not to exceed \$450.

CURRICULUM

Ms. Nusser-Meany noted the Committee discussed support for expansion of the Preschool to two sessions for the 2020-2021 school year and continuation of club initiatives with review of policy governing them.

Block Motion – Curriculum

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

1. Approve an Additional 8th grade Fundraiser

To approve a Boon Supply Fundraiser as an additional 8th grade fundraiser for the 2019-2020 school year.

2. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 24 Kindergarten students to Von Thun Farms, Washington, NJ on May 22, 2020. The cost of the trip per student is \$14 and the cost of the bus transportation is \$220.

3. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 25 grade 2 students to Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm, Stroudsburg, PA on April 22, 2020. The cost of the trip per student is \$6 and the cost of the bus transportation is \$300.

4. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 28 grade 3 students to Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, NJ on April 7, 2020. The cost of the trip per student is \$19 and the cost of the bus transportation is \$420.

5. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 29 grade 4 students to Crystal Cave, Kutztown, PA on June 1, 2020. The cost of the trip per student is \$14 and the cost of the bus transportation is \$360.

6. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 32 grade 5 students to Hopatcong State Park, Landing, NJ on May 26, 2020. The cost of the trip per student is \$18 and the cost of the bus transportation is \$275.

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Block Motion – Curriculum - continued

7. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a field trip for one student to North Warren High School, Blairstown, NJ to participate in the 6th Grade All-Star Band on February 26, 2020. There is no cost for this field trip and parents will transport.

8. Approve a Field Trip

To approve a field trip for approximately 10 grade 7&8 GEM students to a Battle of the Books event at North Warren High School, Blairstown, NJ on March 11, 2020. There is no cost for this field trip and parents will transport.

OPERATIONS

Mr. Panetta noted the Committee discussed upcoming building use requests, partnering with the PTO for new playground equipment, the need for a substitute custodian, and budget development for the 2020-2021 school year.

Block Motion – Operations

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

1. Approve December 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 December 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 December 31, 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 December 31, 2019.

2. Approve January 2020 Bill List

To approve the payment of the January 2020 bills in the total amount of \$1,081,896.24 for all funds.

3. Approve Budget Transfers

To approve budget transfers for December 2019 in the amount of \$48,898.

4. Approve Resolution for Waiver of Requirements in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI)

WHEREAS, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3, provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district’s participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2020-2021 school year, and

WHEREAS, the White Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the White Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Business Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent

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Block Motion – Operations - continued

of Schools in the County of Warren an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2020-2021 school year.

5. Approve Resolution for Participation in Coordinated Transportation with Warren County Special Services School District for 2020-2021

WHEREAS, the White Township School District Board of Education desires to transport students for the purpose of special education, non-public school education, or their own public school students to specific destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Special Services School District, hereinafter referred to as WCSSSD, offers coordinated transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the WCSSSD will organize and schedule routes to achieve the maximum cost effectiveness;

NOW THEREFORE, it is agreed that, in consideration of pro-rated contract costs plus a 4% administration fee as presented to the White Township School District Board of Education as calculated by the billing formula adopted by the WCSSSD's Board of Education, does approve its participation in said coordinated transportation for 2020-2021 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract as offered by WCSSSD for 2020-2021.

6. Approve Staff Travel

To approve the following staff travel:

- Dawn Werkheiser and Alison Walsh to attend NJSLA training in Whippany, NJ on February 27, 2020. There is no cost for the training and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$60.
- Margaret Sheneman to attend American Young Voices workshop in Philadelphia, PA on March 18, 2020. There is no cost for the workshop and mileage reimbursement not to exceed \$55.

7. Approve a Use of Facility Request

To approve a request from White Township PTO Project Positivity to continue work in the facility on February 19, March 12, April 20 and May 4, 2020.

8. Approve a Use of Facility Request

To approve a request from White Township PTO for use of the cafeteria for a "Someone Special Dance" on February 21, 2020.

GOVERNANCE

Mrs. Lensi noted that upgrades to the school website are almost complete and that the Committee is discussing ideas for student presentations at future Board meetings.

Motion – Governance

A motion was made by Mrs. Sroka and seconded by Mrs. Lenis to approve the following agenda item #1. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

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

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

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BHS BOARD MEMBER

Mrs. Williams reported on a very informative goal setting presentation at a recent Belvidere board meeting, plans for an Archery Club, beginning phases of budget development, and a vacancy on Belvidere's Board.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Panetta encouraged everyone to attend the Strategic Planning meeting on Thursday evening.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mrs. Sroka to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations deemed HIB incidents since last meeting. Motion carried as follows: Ms. Nusser-Meany – yes, Ms. Howell – yes, Mrs. Sroka – yes, Mrs. Lensi – yes, Mr. Havlusch – yes, Mrs. Smith – yes, Mrs. Williams – yes and Mr. Panetta – yes.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

The Board interviewed a candidate, Kevin Murray, who expressed interest in the vacant seat on the Board of Education.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mrs. Sroka to convene to Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. to discuss candidates for the Board vacancy. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, 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 candidates for the Board vacancy.

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. Lensi and seconded by Mrs. Nusser-Meany to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

MOTION TO APPOINT BOARD MEMBER FOR VACANT SEAT

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Ms. Nusser-Meany to appoint Kevin Murray to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Education from January – December 2020. Motion carried as follows: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Lensi and seconded by Mr. Murray to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Motion carried as follows: Ayes -9, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 0.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Huff
Business Administrator
Board Secretary