

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes – November 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Approved on December 9,2019

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Bartley Howley called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

Bartley Howley read the following statement:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is either discussed or acted upon. The Board has fully complied with the notice requirements by advertising in The Express Times posting publicly and by notifying the Municipal Clerk of the date, time and place of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present

President, Bartley Howley
Vice-President, Melissa Vitalos
Lisa Eller
Kristen Dufner
Ana Del Salto
Carmin Freda
Holly Masenior

Absent

Adam Robinson

Others Present

Jacqueline Nassry, Superintendent
Tim Mantz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Sherry Koeppen, Principal
Earl Jenkins, Supervisor of Instruction
Florence Dolobach, Assistant to the Business Administrator

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Ana Del Salto, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:33 p.m.

This executive session is expected to last about 20 minutes. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is board affairs.

It is anticipated that action pursuant to this executive session will be taken.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-November 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
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WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington Borough Board of Education, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter.
2. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public upon resolution of all information discussed.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

RECONVENE

Motion by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Lisa Eller, to reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:53 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

III. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Jenkins said the fifth-grade field trip to Morris Museum was successful. Everyone enjoyed going this time of year because there was less crowds. Conferences were highly attended this year and seemed positive and successful.

Mrs. Koeppen said the Grades 1, 3 and 5 received the CAP program and that it's a well-received program for our school district. Mrs. Koeppen is looking into playground grants. We are in the second level with Kaboom where they match 15k. Mrs. Koeppen thanks Mrs. Chesniak and Mrs. Jones for painted activities onto the playground. The children are enjoying running and playing on their new painted surfaces. Mrs. Koeppen thanked everyone for being patient with the front door project.

Mrs. Nassry said she will be attending the Washington Borough council meeting this Thursday to accept the Proclamation Honoring the Designation of the Washington Borough School as a "Lighthouse District". She honored and humbled to accept this recognition by our town.

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WASHINGTON BOROUGH SCHOOLS AS A "LIGHTHOUSE DISTRICT"

WHEREAS, The Borough of Washington is pleased to honor and salute the Washington Borough School District, which has been deemed worthy of Lighthouse District designation by the New Jersey

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-November 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Approved on December 9, 2019

Department of Education; and
WHEREAS, This prestigious accolade has been bestowed upon Washington Borough School District in acknowledgement of its noteworthy improvements in scholastic performance and for demonstrating how all schools can succeed by actively encouraging students to excel in the classroom; and
WHEREAS, The Lighthouse District initiative was established by the Department of Education in 2017 to focus on growth rather than proficiency alone, and to give local educators a platform in which they can share their programs and accomplishments with fellow school leaders in other communities; and
WHEREAS, The Washington Borough School District has achieved measurable progress across diverse groups of learners by providing outstanding individualized support to students, and its leaders, faculty, and staff are greatly appreciated for their commitment to academic excellence; and
WHEREAS, The strength and success of our community depends, in great measure, upon a thorough and efficient education for our children and upon entities, exemplified by the Washington Borough School District, that use creative methods to instill a lifelong love of learning; and
WHEREAS, It is altogether proper and fitting to recognize Washington Borough School District, and to affirm its importance to the people of the Borough of Washington;
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, By the Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the Borough Council hereby commends and congratulates Washington Borough School District, pays tribute to its remarkable history of service, leadership, and commitment, and extends sincere best wishes for its continued success and vigor in the years to come; and,
BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, That this Proclamation be duly embossed, signed by the Mayor, publicly presented to the Washington Borough School District on November 12, 2019, and forever recorded in the official records of the Borough of Washington, as an everlasting tribute to the Washington Borough School District.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Kaspereen said that she attended the Teacher Convention in Atlantic City and feels that the atmosphere has changed in a positive way. There were lots of questions with many positive responses.

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-November 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Approved on December 9, 2019

VI. ACTION ITEMS: Chief School Administrator's Recommendations

CONSENT AGENDA: Matters listed within the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Board of Education and/or its standing committees, for reading and study, are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion.

A. Consent Agenda Motion: BOARD AFFAIRS

Motion made by Lisa Eller, seconded by Carmine Freda, to approve the following board affairs agenda items **1.1** through **1.2**;

Motion carried by roll call vote. All members voted in the affirmative with Ana Del Salto abstaining from 1.1 and 1.2.

- 1.1 To approve the minutes of October 14, 2019 regular meeting
- 1.2 To approve the minutes of October 14, 2019 executive session meeting

B. Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Lisa Eller, to approve the following business affairs agenda items **2.1** through **2.5**;

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 2.1 To approve, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the acceptance of the financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer for the month of October, 2019 and further that, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16,10(c)f, The Board of Education certifies that as of October 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 has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(a) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. (to be hand-carried)
- 2.2 To approve the 11/11/19 current expense food service and regular account bill list.
- 2.3 To approve the budget transfers as presented.
- 2.4 To approve submission of the 2020-2021 Preschool Expansion Aid Grant.
- 2.5 To approve placement of the identified student in the Stepping Stone School multiple disabilities program beginning November 13, 2019 – June 30, 2020 at a prorated cost of \$48,540.60 plus transportation.

C. Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Lisa Eller, seconded by Ana Del Salto, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.11**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-November 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Approved on December 9, 2019

- 3.1 To approve the comprehensive student and staff attendance data (*with all fire drill reports, if applicable*) for the Month of October 2019.
- 3.2 To accept the letter of resignation with regret from Ms. Jillian Adie effective October 21, 2019.
- 3.3 To approve Keelin McDonald to do special education observations for ten hours from Centenary University during the 2019-2020 academic year.
- 3.4 To approve Alfred Kopsco's medical leave from November 1, 2019 to November 18, 2019.
- 3.5 To approve Ms. Catherine Dell Elba as a part-time paraprofessional effective November 12, 2019 for the 2019-20 school year at a rate of \$20.98 per hour not to exceed 29 hours per week.
- 3.6 To approve Ms. Kari Torressen-Diaz as our new full-time Speech Teacher effective 12/1/19 or as soon thereafter at a prorated salary of \$65,330 (Step 9 MA on the 2019-2020 W.E.A. Salary Guide) plus benefits.
- 3.7 To approve Mr. Colby Deemer as our new full time Maintenance Supervisor effective 12/1/19 at a prorated salary of \$50,000 with single benefits.
- 3.8 To approve a maternity leave of absence request for Mrs. Samantha Richards from February 14 through April 17, 2020.
- 3.9 To approve the enclosed list of workshops for staff from September 4 through those listed on the attachment that includes staff member's name, said workshop name with location, date and cost of workshop and mileage as applicable.
- 3.10 To approve to advertise for a full-time custodian.
- 3.11 To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to take appropriate action to effectuate necessary emergent hires in order to address unfilled vacancies that may occur between today and the date of the next Board of Education meeting to ensure the district's schools are appropriately staffed to provide support and instruction during the 2019-2020 academic year. Any such hires are subject to ratification and approval by the Board of Education at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

D. Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos seconded by Lisa Eller, to approve the following school affairs agenda item **4.1**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1 To approve the Peer Leaders Program and the 2019-20 Peer Leaders from Warren Hills Regional High School to volunteer in our district: Jessica Howley, Kayla Ates, Julia Bertoldi, Jessica DeSanto, Michelle Escobar, Kate Fenner, Rachel Fitz, Eric Hardy, Emma Kaiven, Nicole Kilhullen, Ashleigh Knorr, Kaylor McLagen, Brooke Motzer, Kayla Norton, Nene Uwaomah, Abigail Wall.

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes-November 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Approved on December 9, 2019

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm on a motion by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Lisa Eller.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Board Secretary/B.A.