

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes –February 8, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.
Approved on March 8, 2021

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 ensure 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
Carmine Freda
Holly Masenior
Chris Bauknight

Absent

Ana Del Salto

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. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD-None

III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Jenkins

- Updated the board on this month's safety drill.
- Reported that as of right now there will be no NJSLA. County Superintendents have emailed the Governor regarding waivers from federal government for the standardized testing.

Mrs. Koeppen

- Spoke about the SEMI motion on the agenda.

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- Hiring a Part Time School Psychologist will help us meet IEP requirements. They will meet for evaluation and sit in on parent meetings.
- Updated the board on the Preschool Creative Curriculum Training Opportunities.
- Tomorrow will be our 100 days of school but due to the weather it will be a virtual event.

Mrs. Nassry

- Reported that our virtual clubs have begun with the Title IV funding: starting with Math Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters.
- The DPW was a huge help with last week's big storm and it was a true team effort. We are looking at several storms coming our way making it with more likely that we will have several virtual days.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. 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 Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Lisa Eller, to approve the following board affairs agenda items **1.1 through 1:2**:

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1.1 To approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021 regular meeting

1.2 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR MURPHY TO INCLUDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL IN THE OFFICIAL EXPERT VACCINE ALLOTMENT PANEL'S DEFINITION OF FRONTLINE WORKERS

WHEREAS, the Washington Borough **Board of Education** recognizes that the United States, the State of New Jersey and local health authorities, as well as the World Health Organization, have declared a public health emergency regarding the Coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the federal and state authorities have put in place guidance detailing the precautionary measures schools must implement to stop its spread of this disease; and **WHEREAS**, public schools have a profound impact on millions of students, families and staff and are charged with the care, education, nourishment of their students and are an integral part of the health and safety of our communities; and

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WHEREAS, our district has responded to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, providing students and staff members with the technology and resources necessary to ensure the efficient delivery of instruction, virtually and in-person; and

WHEREAS, the board has a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and ensuring that the district can provide staff and students with a safe and effective educational environment that supports student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the board recognizes that this health emergency made it necessary to close schools and reinvent the educational programs in a virtual setting and that this may have an adverse impact on student achievement and the emotional and social wellbeing of students; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan published by the State of New Jersey Department of Health (December 15, 2020, pgs. 36-37) prioritizes the availability of vaccines to “essential workers” in Phase 1B of the vaccine protocol; and

WHEREAS, school district staff at all levels are essential to the day-to-day operations of this district, responsible for the thorough and efficient education of all students and their social and emotional wellbeing, are critical for virtual and in-class instruction and are “essential workers;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Washington Borough Board of Education finds a substantial public purpose exists to request that Governor Murphy give appropriate priority in the statewide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to all public school district personnel.

COVID-19 Vaccination Plan published by the State of New Jersey Department of Health, see: <https://nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/NJ%20Interim%20COVID-19%20Vaccination%20Plan%20-%20Revised%2012-15-20.pdf>

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the member of the insert legislative district number legislative district delegation, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Governor Phil Murphy, and to the New Jersey School Boards Association

B. Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Carmine Freda, seconded by Lisa Eller, to approve the following business affairs agenda items **2.1** through **2.6**;

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 January 2021 and further that, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16,10(c)f, The Board of

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Education certifies that as of January 31, 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 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 2/08/21 current expense food service and regular account bill list.
- 2.3 To approve the budget transfers as presented.
- 2.4 To approve the FY22 SEMI Federal Medicaid Reimbursement Revenue Projection
- 2.5 To approve the following resolution appoint Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer bond council:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR CERTAIN LEGAL (BOND COUNSEL) SERVICES

WHEREAS, there exists a need for specialized legal services in connection with the capital program and the authorization and issuance of obligations of The Board of Education of the Borough of Washington in the County of Warren (the "Board"), a body corporate of the State of New Jersey, including the preparation and review of procedures in connection with such obligations and the rendering of approving legal opinions acceptable to the financial community in connection therewith; and

WHEREAS, such special legal services can be provided only by a recognized law firm, and the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Woodbridge, New Jersey is so recognized by the financial community; and

WHEREAS, funds are or will be available for this purpose.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. The law firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Woodbridge, New Jersey is hereby retained to provide specialized bond counsel legal services necessary in connection with the capital program and the authorization and the issuance of obligations by the Board.
- 2. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute a Bond Services Contract (the "Contract").
- 3. The Contract is awarded without competitive bidding and as a "Professional Service" in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(1), because it is for services performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession.
- 4. A copy of this resolution as well as the Contract shall be placed on file with the Secretary of the Board. The publication required pursuant to Section 5(a)(1) of the School Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:-1 et seq. is hereby authorized.

- 2.6 To approve the first reading of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY APPROVING, ON FIRST READING, A REFUNDING SCHOOL BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REFUNDING OF ALL OR A PORTION OF ITS OUTSTANDING REFUNDING SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2011, DATED DECEMBER 28, 2011

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY as follows:

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Section 1. The Refunding Bond Ordinance attached hereto as Exhibit A is hereby approved. Bond Counsel is hereby authorized and directed to publish the required notice of public hearing for the Refunding Bond Ordinance in the form and at the time required by N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61.4.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

EXHIBIT A

REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY PROVIDING FOR THE REFUNDING OF ALL OR A PORTION OF ITS OUTSTANDING REFUNDING SCHOOL BONDS, SERIES 2011, DATED DECEMBER 28, 2011, ISSUED IN THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$2,885,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,950,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF REFUNDING SCHOOL BONDS OF THE BOARD TO EFFECT SUCH REFUNDING

WHEREAS, on December 28, 2011, The Board of Education of the Borough of Washington in the County of Warren, New Jersey (the “Board” when referring to the governing body and the “School District” when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board) issued \$2,885,000 aggregate principal amount of tax-exempt Refunding School Bonds, Series 2011, dated December 28, 2011 (the “2011 Refunding School Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the current interest rate environment may enable it to realize going-forward debt service savings for property taxpayers residing in the School District through the issuance by the Board of Refunding School Bonds (the “Refunding School Bonds”) to refund all or a portion of the \$1,825,000 aggregate principal amount of the outstanding 2011 Refunding School Bonds maturing on July 15 in the years 2022 through 2033, inclusive (the “Refunded Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, in efforts to realize such taxpayer savings, the Board now desires to adopt and enact a refunding school bond ordinance (the “Refunding Bond Ordinance”) authorizing the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,950,000, the net proceeds of which shall be used to refund all or a portion of the Refunded Bonds in accordance with their terms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board is hereby authorized to refund all or a portion of the \$1,825,000 aggregate principal amount of outstanding 2011 Refunding School Bonds maturing on July 15 in the years 2022 through 2033, inclusive. The Refunded Bonds may be paid/redeemed on and after July 15, 2021, at a redemption price equal to par, plus accrued interest to the date of redemption.

Section 2. In order to finance the cost of the purpose set forth in Section 1 hereof, the Board is hereby authorized to issue not to exceed \$1,950,000 aggregate principal amount of Refunding School Bonds, all in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61 through 62.

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Section 3. An aggregate amount not exceeding \$100,000 may be allocated from the aggregate principal amount of the Refunding School Bonds to pay for the aggregate costs of issuance thereof, including, but not limited to, bond insurance premiums, financial advisory fees, underwriting fees, official statement printing fees, public advertisement expenses, refunding verification agent fees, refunding escrow agent fees, bond counsel fees and other expenses in connection therewith.

Section 4. The purpose of the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds is to realize net present value interest cost savings for property taxpayers residing in the School District (“net” meaning savings after payment of all costs of issuance of the Refunding School Bonds). Applicable State requirements mandate that such net present value interest cost savings equal at least 3% of the principal amount of the Refunded Bonds. In addition, the issuance of the Refunding Bonds shall comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 5:30-2.5, including that within 10 days of the date of the closing on the Refunding Bonds, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall file a report with the Local Finance Board within the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs setting forth: (a) a comparison of the Refunding School Bonds’ debt service and the Refunded Bonds’ debt service which comparison shall set forth the present value savings achieved by the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds; (b) a summary of the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds; (c) an itemized accounting of all costs of issuance in connection with the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds; and (d) a certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary that (i) all of the conditions of section (b) of N.J.A.C. 5:30-2.5 have been met, and (ii) a resolution authorizing the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds, adopted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61.5(b), was approved by a two-thirds vote of the full membership of the Board.

Section 5. The supplemental debt statement required by N.J.S.A. 18A:24-16 and N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61.4 has been duly prepared by the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Washington and has been filed in the Office of the Clerk of the municipality and in the Office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of the Board as of the date of approval of this Refunding Bond Ordinance and a complete executed duplicate has been filed in the Office of the Director and such statement shows that the gross debt of the Borough of Washington is increased by \$125,000 as a result of the authorization of the Refunding School Bonds.

Section 6. If the Refunding School Bonds are issued as tax exempt, the Board covenants to maintain the exclusion from gross income under Section 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, of the interest on all Refunding School Bonds issued under this Refunding Bond Ordinance.

Section 7. This Refunding Bond Ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption hereof.

C. Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Lisa Eller, to approve the following personnel affairs agenda items **3.1** through **3.6**.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 3.1 To approve the comprehensive student and staff attendance data (*with all fire drill reports, if applicable*) for the Month of January 2021.
- 3.2 To retroactively approve Lisa LaCaruba’s medical leave from January 31, 2021 to February 28, 2021.

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- 3.3 To retroactively approve Catherine Dell Elba to continue to provide medical leave replacement classroom coverage from January 4, 2021 to February 28, 2021 at a prorated salary of \$52,045 (Step 0 BA) on the W.E.A. salary guide with single benefits.
- 3.4 To retroactively approve a maternity leave extension request for Mrs. Rachel Coates from February 8, 2021 to March 19, 2021 utilizing 29 sick days and an additional month of unpaid leave returning April 20, 2021.
- 3.5 To retroactively approve Christina Henderson as long-term substitute maternity leave replacement from February 8, 2021 through April 20, 2021 at a prorated salary of \$52,045 (Step 0 BA) on the W.E.A. salary guide with single benefits.
- 3.6 To approve Laura Newman to provide a school psychologist one day per week, at the cost of \$400 per day, not to exceed \$9,000. Beginning February 9, 2021 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

D. Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

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

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1 To affirm the administrative decision to revise the 2020-2021 school calendar.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm on a motion by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Lisa Eller.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Mantz
Board Secretary/B.A.