

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - January 9, 2023
Approved 2/13/23

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER:

Board Secretary, Tim Mantz, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting 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 meeting.

II. ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION RESULTS – NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Mr. Mantz announced the results of the annual school election.

The following individuals were elected to serve terms as follows:

Angela Bridygham – 3 Year Term

Lisa Eller – 3 Year Term

Dawn Higgins – 1 Year Unexpired Term

Holly Masenior – 3 Year Term

III. OATH OF OFFICE

Newly elected board members take the oath of office, administered by Mr. Mantz, Board Secretary.

Mr. Mantz then reviewed N.J.A.C. 6A:30, the School Ethics Act with the full board.

IV. ROLL CALL

Present

Angela Bridygham

Lisa Eller

Carmine Freda

Dawn Higgins

Bartley Howley

Joseph Kresefsky

Ya’el Kresefsky

Holly Masenior

Melissa Vitalos

V. NOMINATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Mr. Mantz invited nominations from the floor for the office of School Board President.

Melissa Vitalos nominated Bartley Howley, seconded by Joseph Kresefsky.

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Hearing only one nomination, a motion was made by Dawn Higgins, seconded by Lisa Eller, to close nominations for School Board President and elect Bartley Howley as School Board President.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VI. NOMINATIONS FOR SCHOOL BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Mantz invited nominations from the floor for the office of School Board Vice President.

Joseph Kresefsky nominated Dawn Higgins, seconded by Ya'el Kresefsky

Lisa Eller nominated Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Holly Masenior.

Mr. Mantz requested by a show of hands majority of those in favor for Dawn Higgins or Melissa Vitalos for the Vice President seat, the record reflects as follows: Mr. Kresefsky, Mrs. Kresefsky and Mrs. Higgins in favor of Dawn Higgins and Mrs. Bridygham, Mrs. Eller, Mr. Freda, Mr. Howley, Mrs. Masenior and Mrs. Vitalos in favor of Melissa Vitalos.

Motion was made by Lisa Eller, seconded by Holly Masenior, to close nominations for School Board Vice President and elect Melissa Vitalos as School Board Vice President.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VII. REORGANIZATION MOTIONS

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Lisa Eller, to adopt reorganization motions number 1 through 2 as a slate.

Mrs. Higgins expressed concerns on item #2 and requested clarification as to the effect of the current board ratifying a prior Board's actions. Mr. Mantz clarified that the adoption is for current policies and contracts in place for the fiscal year. Mrs. Higgins then requested if the motion could be amended to reflect such language.

Motion to amend made by Dawn Higgins, seconded by Joseph Kresefsky

Motion carried by affirmative roll call vote.

1. To establish the 2023 annual meeting calendar as presented.
2. To adopt and ratify as our own, the actions for policies and fiscal year contracts taken by the outgoing Board of Education on this date of December 31, 2022.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD - None

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Jenkins: Supervisor of Instruction

- Provided updates on the monthly requirements to conduct security drills, a Lock Down drill will be conducted in January. State requirements specify that at the conclusion of the drill, an announcement to student body and staff alerting that it was only a drill. In addition, notification to parents is sent out that a drill was conducted.

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- The district accepted the donation of 2 Halligan tools for emergency use, one for each building.
- Start Strong updates, the results of the fall assessment were received by districts. This information is proven to be extremely useful to districts in guiding where students are in need of improvement, which then drives changes in curriculum, developing after school programs and accelerated learning opportunities. The state's commitment to distributing the results as early as they have this year, provides an opportunity for early conversations on developing the programs.
- Grand Falloons Assembly Water Preservation and Recycling took place recently for Grades 2-6. Mr. Jenkins conveyed that the presenters appreciated on how well behaved and the enthusiasm received from students. Mr. Jenkins expressed that the character of our students was to be commended.

Mrs. Koeppen: Principal/CST

- Provided updates on district staffing, the district anticipates securing a School Psychologist on a daily basis. This is instrumental in meeting students' IEP needs and ensuring the Child Study Team is fully staffed.
- The district will be participating in student research opportunities through NEARS in conjunction with Grow NJ. Rutgers garners parent participation through financial incentives in the form of nominal gift card amounts.
- Memorial Staff met on a school wide basis to discuss inclusion opportunities for Special Education student population. As a result of staff suggestions, some classroom changes were made.

Mrs. Nassry: Superintendent

- Mid-year is nearing, there are a number of events that will be taking place going into the second half of the school year, many of them for our 6th graders. Transition meetings with Warren Hills. Fine Arts Showcase, approx 40 of our 6th grade students will be attending.
- Club Activities currently taking place are: Knitting Club, Choir, Chess Club, Battle of the Books, and Lego Club at Taylor.
- Provided updates to the Board on Summer Programs, Extended School Year (ESY) and Accelerated Learning programs.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – Opened at 7:30 pm

- *Don Ippolito, Warren County Resident, inquired on the Professional Services Contract for Architect Services, and whether the firm was the Architect of Record for the district.*
- *Patty Corvell inquired on Start Strong and how the results drive curriculum and where would she find the district's curriculum.*

Upon no further comments from the public, Mr. Howley closed open public comment at 7:34 p.m.

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XI. ACTION ITEMS: Superintendent's Recommendations

CONSENT AGENDA: Matters listed within the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Board of Education 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 Carmen Freda to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1**.

Motion carried by roll call vote with abstention by Mrs. Bridygham.

1.1 To approve the minutes of the December 12, 2022 regular meeting.

B. Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Joseph Kresefsky to approve the following business affairs agenda item **2.1** through **2.5**.

Mrs. Higgins expressed concerns regarding the language in item 2.1 "to the best of our knowledge". She stated that she has full confidence in the reports presented by the Business Administrator and Treasurer. Mr. Mantz stated that monthly reports are included in the agenda packet for review and that it is a statutory requirement to certify the reports. Before initiating any changes to language, Mr. Mantz would reach out to the Executive County Business Official for guidance.

Motion carried by roll call vote, with abstention from Mrs. Bridygham and dissention on item 2.1 from Mrs. Higgins.

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 December 2022 and further that, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)f, The Board of Education certifies that as of December 31, 2022, 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.

2.2 To approve 1/9/23 current expense food service and regular account bill list.

2.3 To approve the budget transfer as presented.

2.4 To approve a professional services contract with Parette Somjen Architects for the alternate "Electrical Upgrades at Memorial School" project at a flat fee of \$46,000.

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- 2.5 To approve the Interlocal Service Agreement with Washington Township Police Department for School Resource Officer services for 2023 – 2028.

C. Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Lisa Eller, seconded by Joseph Kresefsky to approve the following personnel affairs agenda item **3.1 through 3.4**.

Motion carried by 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 December, 2022.
- 3.2 To retroactively approve Mr. Brian McLaughlin as a long-term substitute Kindergarten classroom teacher beginning January 1, 2023 through or about April 24, 2023, at a prorated salary of \$53,006. (Step 1, BA) on the 2021-2024 W.E.A. salary guide with single benefits.
- 3.3 To approve Ms. Amanda Knight-Kerns effective January 9, 2023 for ICR vacancy replacement teacher, Grade 5 through June 2023.
- 3.4 To approve a FMLA maternity leave of absence request for Ms. Jordan Cohen, from April 24, 2023 through June 2023, then NJFLA for 12 weeks from September 1, 2023 and returning to work on or around November 20, 2023.

D. Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS

Motion made by Lisa Eller, seconded by Melissa Vitalos to approve the following school affairs agenda item **4.1 through 4.2**.

Mr. Kresefsky requested clarification on the ESY acronym. Mrs. Nassry responded that it stands for Extended School Year.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

- 4.1 To approve the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report.
- 4.2 To approve ESY dates beginning June 19, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Lisa Eller, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:38 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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This executive session is expected to last about 20 minutes. The general nature of the subject areas to be discussed are: Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Ruling, and Personnel Matters.

It is anticipated that action pursuant to this executive session will not be taken.

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

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.

Motion made by Lisa Eller, seconded by Carmen Freda, to exit executive session and reconvene the meeting to public session at 7:43 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Higgins inquired about the possibility of adding a second SRO and exploring grant opportunities to do so.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos seconded by Joseph Kresefsky, to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectively submitted,

Tim Mantz
Board Secretary