

WASHINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING - September 11, 2023
Approved 10/9/23

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

President, Bartley Howley, called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 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 meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Present

Angela Bridygham
Lisa Eller
Carmine Freda
Dawn Higgins
Bartley Howley
Holly Masenior
Melissa Vitalos

Not Present

Joseph Kresefsky
Ya'el Kresefsky

II. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD – None

III. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Jenkins: Supervisor of Instruction

- Reported on Grade 2 Open House and Memorial Back to School Night events.
- HIB Self Assessment and measures that the district uses to support including SEL Harmony program for students and staff training through Safe Schools.
- Provided safety updates; Lockdown drill for September
- New classroom furniture in Gr 5/6

Mrs. Koeppen: Principal/CST

- Reported on the Open House and Taylor Back to School night events
- Thanked the school secretaries for their efforts in coordinating with staff, students and parents for a successful school opening this year.
- Reported that we are fully staffed for the start of this school year.

Mr. Esposito: Superintendent

- Provided an overview on the District Improvement Plan as required under QSAC monitoring. With the goal of raising test scores, framework utilizing the NJ Tiered System Support model will be implemented.

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- Taylor St. School air quality results indicated elevated levels in the lower level, excluding the gym area, reviewed steps for remediation
- Ice Cream Social event was rescheduled due to weather.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT session opened at 7:23 pm

- Karen Castanhas, Washington Boro Parent, spoke about the difficulty navigating the district website disseminating information and limitations of the current Before/After Care Hours for working parents.

Public Comment session closed at 7:28 p.m.

V. 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: SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Motion made by Lisa Eller, seconded by Dawn Higgins to approve the following board affairs agenda item **1.1. through 1.2.**

Motion carried by roll call vote.

- 1.1 To approve the minutes of the August 21, 2023 regular meeting.
- 1.2 To approve the Memorial School and Taylor Street School 2022-2023 School Level Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

B. Consent Agenda Motion: BUSINESS AFFAIRS: SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Motion made by Carmine Freda, seconded by Lisa Eller to approve the following business affairs agenda item **2.1 through 2.5.**

Motion carried by roll call vote.

- 2.1 To approve 9/11/23 current expense regular account bill list.
- 2.2 To approve an agreement with the O.T. Inc., to provide related services commencing September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2025 at a rate of \$82. per hour.
- 2.3 To approve the tuition contract for the identified student with Northern Hills Academy for the 2023-2024 school year at an annual tuition rate of \$62,785 and extraordinary services in the amount of \$31,032.

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- 2.4 To approve contract with Mountain Lakes Board of Education for Itinerant Services for the 2023-24 school year for the identified student with total amount of \$13,680.
- 2.5 To approve contract with Mountain Lakes Board of Education for Itinerant Services for the 2023-24 school year for the identified student with total amount of \$6,840.

C. Consent Agenda Motion: PERSONNEL AFFAIRS: SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Lisa Eller to approve the following personnel affairs agenda item **3.1 through 3.2.**

Motion carried by roll call vote.

- 3.1 To approve Mr. Lowell Perkins (Step 1B) as a part-time paraprofessional for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$23.27 per hour not to exceed 29 hours per week.
- 3.2 To approve the hiring of Ms. Vicki Stamets as a leave replacement teacher from on or about September 11, 2023 to April 12, 2024 at a prorated salary of \$56,335 (Step 1 MA) on the 2021-2024 W.E.A. salary guide with single benefits pending receipt of credentials.

D. Consent Agenda Motion: SCHOOL AFFAIRS: SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION

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

Motion carried by roll call vote.

- 4.1 To approve the 2023-2024 District Improvement Plan.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Melissa Vitalos, seconded by Angela Bridygham, to adopt the following resolution to enter into executive session at 7:30 p.m.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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.

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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 Carmine Freda to exit executive session at 7:55 p.m.
Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Dawn Higgins, seconded by Carmine Freda, to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.
Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectively submitted,

Tim Mantz
Board Secretary