CALL OF ROLL

Mrs. Phyllis Beals     Mrs. Aruna Mettler     Student Liaisons
Mrs. Jean S. Bernstein Mrs. Eva M. Nagy, President     Sharlene Laud
Mr. David Burns     Mrs. Shirley Y. Pietrucha     Georgia Kinsley
Mr. Andrew Holzheimer, Vice President-absent Mr. Eugene Unger
Mrs. Nancy LaCorte

Mr. Edward Q. Seto, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. John Calavano, Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary

The following administrators were also in attendance:
  Mrs. Charlette Weisner, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
  Mr. Gary Hall, Director of Personnel Services
  Mr. Henry Sherren, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
  Mrs. Jane Taglietta, Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools
  Mr. Orvyl Wilson, Director of School Management and Student Advocacy
  Mrs. Merrill Altberg, Director, Special Projects and Communication

Nine (9) Members of the Public

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mrs. Nagy led the Board in the pledge.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

Mr. Calavano read the following statement:

In accordance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” P.L. 1975, c. 231 (Sunshine Law), the schedule and notification of this meeting have been provided for on April 24, 2008. Copies of this notice were faxed to the Courier News, the Home News Tribune, The Star-Ledger, The Spectator, The Trenton Times, Franklin Township Clerk/Manager, WCTC Radio, District Schools, Offices and Associations, PTO Presidents, and posted on the Central Administration Building notice board.

Mrs. LaCorte read the following statement:

### MISSION STATEMENT OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
The Mission of the Franklin Township Public Schools is to provide excellent educational opportunities for every student; maintain an environment that engenders an appreciation of the value of every student; develop every student to his/her highest potential; and instill the attitudes, skills, and knowledge necessary to become independent, contributing members of a democratic, multi-cultural society.

### DISTRICT GOALS
2008-2009

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** Design, implement and assess high quality learning activities and opportunities that improve teaching and the academic achievement of all students, as measured by district and state assessments.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Design, implement and assess strategies that strengthen community relations and instill confidence in the school district through increased accountability, transparency and awareness of district activities.
**SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Design, implement and assess programs and system improvements that promote safety and security in all district facilities, functions and wherever district students are the responsibility of the Board of Education.

**FACILITIES:** Design and implement strategies that provide efficient, effective maintenance and management of all current and future facilities to create environments that promote student learning and minimize energy consumption.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**Student Representatives to the Board**
I would like to introduce two Franklin High School students Sharlene Laud and Georgia Kinsley, our student representatives to the Board of Education.

Sharlene and Georgia have a lot in common. They are both seniors and participate in Student Government Council, Youth Council, Literary Journal and Model UN. They are both interested in majoring in International Relations and Government in college.

Georgia’s hobbies include sewing, fashion and tennis and she is on the Franklin High School tennis team.

Sharlene’s hobbies are reading, fashion and she plays oboe in the Franklin High School Band.

By participating on the Board of Education, Georgia and Sharlene hope to create a better bond between students and administration.

**2008 Benchmarks**
Franklin Township is proud to report that the following schools showed significant gains in student achievement by meeting the current 2008 benchmarks for their total populations and all of their subgroups in both Language Arts Literacy and Math: Conerly Road Elementary School, Hillcrest Elementary School, MacAfee Road Elementary School and Franklin High School.

For the 2008-2009 school year, all schools in the State of New Jersey are in a transitional year for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The United States Department of Education approved the New Jersey Department of Education’s request to reset Adequate Yearly Progress starting points and Annual Measurable Objective to accommodate the new state assessment administered last spring in grades 5-8. This federal approval allows for a transition period for the state to calculate the AYP status for schools with students in the elementary grades (3-5) and middle (6-8) grade spans.

Due to this transition, in 2008 the AYP status will be on hold. Therefore, schools will maintain the status that they had in 2007. Therefore, we can predict that the following schools will make AYP: Conerly Road, Elizabeth Avenue, Hillcrest, MacAfee Road, and Pine Grove Manor.

**Changes in 2008 Assessment Program for Grades 5-8**
This past May, the NJ ASK was administered over a three to four day period to all students in grades 5-8. The 2008 administration of the NJ ASK came with many significant changes.

First, the NJ ASK tests were redesigned to produce better information about student mastery of the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. This information will help improve student learning and classroom instruction.

Second, the expectations for determining if a student is “proficient” in each subject area, was increased. In previous years, a student had to earn between 33 – 46 percent of the possible test points in each cluster area in order to be deemed proficient. Beginning with the May 2008 test administration, the bar has been raised to require that students earn at least 50 percent of the possible test points in order to be deemed proficient.
Lastly, in previous years the NJ ASK was administered in March of each year. Individual Student Reports were available to districts and sent home to parents over the summer. With the State’s decision to move testing into the month of May, the release of Individual Student Reports to district’s and parents was delayed until September – they are being mailed out to parents and guardians this week.

This report is available only to parents, guardians, and authorized school officials. Any parents or guardians that have questions about the report are encouraged to contact the child’s teacher or principal. They can help you interpret the information on the score report, can explain what the instructional staff is doing, and what parents or guardians can do to help your child master the skills measured on the test.

We expect more information about AYP status for grades 5-8 in early November. All test results will be presented at the November 13th Board meeting.

School District Performance Appraisal
MGT of America, Inc. reported that approximately 75 people attended the District Performance Appraisal Open House. Anyone who was not able to attend may submit their comments on-line. Community members who do not speak English are also welcome to submit their suggestions. Please see the District Website for more information.

The purpose of the Open House was to identify exemplary district programs and practices and ways the district can save funds, and increase efficiency to ensure a quality education for all Franklin Township Public School students.

MGT is continuing their comprehensive review of our District. We will have a final report in December.

Web Site
The District’s new Web site is now posted, although many updates and points of information are still being added. Anyone who has any suggestions or questions is encouraged to email the Webmaster.

Personnel Report
Mr. Hall reported on the following:

Teacher Vacancies: The district’s administrative staff continues to actively recruit and interview teachers and specialists to fill new positions and vacancies from resignations and retirements. Including the professional staff recommendations the Superintendent is making to the Board tonight, the Board has hired 52 new elementary teachers and specialists, 24 new middle school teachers and 18 new high school teachers and specialists. Right now we have a total of 7 teacher and specialist vacancies. Three (3) are in the area of Special Education...a traditionally difficult certification area to find quality, certified, N.C.L.B. highly qualified teachers. The other vacancies are in the areas of: ESL/Bilingual Education, high school Science, and Academic Support. For those remaining vacancies, administrators are implementing coverage plans to make sure that every child receives the instruction plan developed for him or her from the first day of school. We will, of course, continue recruiting efforts until all of our vacancies are filled.

Director of Personnel Services Position: We posted and advertised this position, and we received a total of 35 resumes in response. Mr. Seto and I together screened the 35 resumes received in response to our posting and advertisement for this position. We have identified a number of viable candidates, and we will be setting up 1st-round committee interviews for the week after next. Tonight the Board will be voting to appoint Brian Bonanno, the current Assistant to the Director of Personnel Services, to be the Interim Director effective on October 20th to cover the time period between my departure from the District and the arrival of the next permanent Director. Mr. Seto will continue to update the Board on the progress of the recruitment process, as he is able to do so.

Suspended Employee: Last Thursday the Board accepted the resignation of the middle school teacher it had filed tenure charges against in August 2007, pursuant to the terms of a Separation Agreement that the Board also approved that night. The teacher’s resignation was effective immediately.
COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The meeting was opened for public comments at 7:50 PM on a motion from Mr. Unger, seconded by Mrs. LaCorte. Public comments were heard by the Board of Education. The following is a brief synopsis of comments made by members of the public.

Ms. Teletha Brown thanked Conerly Road School for offering the positive behavior program.

Mr. Eddie Webb acknowledged Mr. Hall’s resignation. He requested the Board to look at all kids in Franklin Township.

Ms. Thompson was very pleased with the initiatives for the new school year.

MOTION

Moved: Mrs. LaCorte  Seconded: Mrs. Pietrucha

Motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting at 8:05 PM.

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M-1 MINUTES OF BOARD MEETINGS

A-1 Travel & Related Expense Reimbursement

Moved: Mrs. Beals  Seconded: Mrs. Pietrucha

M-1 MINUTES OF BOARD MEETINGS

Approve the minutes of the following meetings of the Franklin Township Board of Education:

a. July 7, 2008  Special  Exhibit M-1.a
b. July 7, 2008  Confidential  PULLED
c. August 21, 2008  Conference  Exhibit M-1.c
d. August 21, 2008  Confidential  Exhibit M-1.d

ADMINISTRATION

A-1 Travel & Related Expense Reimbursement

Adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Franklin Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12 requires Board members to receive prior approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, A Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only as described in NJOMB Circular Letter 06-02, including amendments or revisions thereto, a threshold amount below which Board approval is not required; and
WHEREAS, The Board of Education establishes, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of $1,500 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby approves the attendance of the listed school board members and district employees at the attached training, seminars, conferences and conventions, and the costs of attendance including all registration fees, and statutorily authorized travel expenditures, provided that such expenditures are within the annual maximum travel expenditure amount; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Franklin Township Board of Education authorizes in advance, as required by statute, attendance at the attached training, seminars, conferences and conventions.

(Exhibit A-1 attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.)

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Mr. Burns abstained on resolution M-1 Minutes of Board Meetings items c and d.
Mrs. LaCorte abstained on resolution M-1 Minutes of Board Meetings.
Mr. Unger abstained on resolution M-1 Minutes of Board Meetings items c and d.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

B-1 Warrants & Payrolls
B-2 Transfer Of Funds
B-3 Financial Reports
B-4 Board of Education Monthly Certification
B-5 Contract Approval

Moved: Mrs. Pietrucha                  Seconded: Mrs. LaCorte

B-1 Warrants & Payrolls

Approve the following on the certification of the Board Secretary that sufficient funds are available to meet these claims (attached hereto and made a part of the minutes):

General warrants and payrolls in the amount of $10,862,601.31 identified in the bills list. (Exhibit B-1)

B-2 Transfer Of Funds

Approve Account Transfers No. 2 for the 2008-2009 school year, “per pupil” and “other than per pupil,” as identified in Exhibit B-2, attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

B-3 Financial Reports

Accept financial reports attached hereto and made a part of the minutes as follows:

a. Report of the Board Secretary (A-148) (Exhibit B-3.a) (August)
b. Report of the Treasurer A-149 (Exhibit B-3.b) (July)
c. Cash Reconciliation of A-148 & A-149 (Exhibit B-3.c) (July)
d. Certification of Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary (Exhibit B-3.d) (August)
B-4  Board of Education Monthly Certification

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2-11(c)4 we certify that as of August 31, 2008 after review of 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:23-2.11(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the fiscal year.

B-5  Contract Approval

Approve the following:

a. A joint transportation contract receivable with the Hillsborough Board of Education for the 2008-2009 school year for two students attending Timothy Christian School, Piscataway, New Jersey identified as Contract No. HB01-09P as detailed in Exhibit B-5.a attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

b. A joint transportation contract receivable with the Hillsborough Board of Education for the 2008-2009 school year for a student attending St. Joseph High School, Metuchen, New Jersey identified as Contract No. HB02-09P as detailed in Exhibit B-5.b attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

c. A joint transportation contract receivable with the Hillsborough Board of Education for the 2008-2009 school year for a student attending Bishop George Ahr High School, Piscataway, New Jersey identified as Contract No. HB03-09P as detailed in Exhibit B-5.c attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

d. An agreement with Somerset Handicapped Children’s Treatment Center to provide physical and occupational therapy services from June 30, 2008 to August 30, 2008 as detailed in Exhibit B-5.d attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. LEA and IDEA funded.

e. PULLED

f. Renew an agreement with E-Rate Consulting, Inc., Fairfield, New Jersey to provide consulting services for E-Rate funding as detailed in Exhibit B-5.f attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

g. An agreement with Preferred Home Health Care and Nursing Services, Inc., Brick, New Jersey to provide nursing services during the 2008-2009 school year as detailed in Exhibit B-5.g attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. IDEA and LEA funded.

h. A contract with Mary Pomerantz Advertising, Highland Park, New Jersey to provide advertising services for the 2008-2009 school year as detailed in Exhibit B-5.h attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

i. An agreement with The Language Center, East Brunswick, New Jersey to provide interpretation services as detailed in Exhibit B-5.i attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

j. An agreement to participate as a member in the Central Jersey Program for Diverse Recruitment (“C.J.P.R.I.D.E.”) for the 2008-2009 school year as detailed in Exhibit B-5.j attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

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CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

C-1  Out of District Students, School Year 2008-2009
Approve out of district placements for students (Ref. C-1).

C-2  Programs and Services, Curriculum and Textbook Approval
Approve Programs and Services, Curriculum and Textbooks for the 2008-2009 school year as detailed in Exhibit C-2 attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

C-3  Professional Services
Approve the following professional services:
   a. Learning Plus, Lynda Fote, to provide Differentiating Instruction to grade 5-8 teachers for (8) days at $1,300 each for a total of $10,400. Funded by Title IIA.
   b. Patricia Velasco to provide literacy consulting services for K-8 classroom and ELL teachers for (4) days at $1,200 per day. Funded by LEA.
   c. Mary L. Clark to provide consulting services in the area of writing district policy for (20) days at $400 per day. Funded by LEA.
   d. Steve Lahet to provide home instruction and extended school year instruction for students during the 2008-2009 school year. Funded by LEA.

C-4  Textbook Approval
Approve the following textbooks for use to commence with the 2008-2009 School Year:

Science:
Laboratory Investigations for AP Environment Science – Grades 11-12
Publisher:  Peoples Education
Copyright: 2005

Living in the Environment, 15th Ed. – Grades 11-12
Publisher:  Thomson Learning
Copyright: 2007

Science and Ethics – Grades 11-12
Publisher:  Cambridge University Press
Copyright: 2006

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PERSONNEL

P-1  Personnel Report No. 14, dated September 18, 2008 for Professional Staff

Moved: Mr. Unger  Seconded: Mrs. LaCorte

As recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, approve resolution Nos. 1 through 8 of Personnel Report No. 14 for professional staff. (Exhibit P-1 attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.)

P-2  Personnel Report No. 14S, dated September 18, 2008 for Support Staff

Moved: Mrs. LaCorte  Seconded: Mrs. Mettler

As recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, approve resolution Nos. 1 through 5 of Personnel Report No. 14S for support staff. (Exhibit P-2 attached hereto and made a part of the minutes).

P-3  Website Curator Consultant Agreement

Moved: Mr. Burns  Seconded: Mrs. LaCorte

Approve an agreement with Howard Gaber to perform Website Curator Consultant duties as detailed in Exhibit P-3 attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

Closed Session

Moved: Mrs. LaCorte  Seconded: Mrs. Mettler

Motion to adjourn to closed session at 8:24 PM for the purpose of discussing litigation matters. Minutes of the closed session meeting will be made public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

Résumé des votes:

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Returned to open session at 9:26 PM.
Reconvening Roll Call – All Board members were present except Mr. Holzheimer.

B-6  Resolution Authorizing Settlement with M & R Mechanical, Inc. and Bonland, Inc.

Moved: Mr. Unger  Seconded: Mrs. LaCorte

WHEREAS, The Franklin Township Board of Education ("Board") entered into a written agreement with M & R Mechanical Contractors ("M & R") to serve as its prime contractor for work for the new Franklin Township High School construction project ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, M & R entered into a written agreement with Bonland ("Bonland") to serve as its subcontractor for the new Franklin Township High School construction project ("Project"); and
WHEREAS, Subsequent to the completion of the Project, Bonland filed a lawsuit against the Board in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Somerset County, seeking the recovery of damages allegedly incurred during the construction of the Project, for an amount in excess of $770,000.00. Bonland’s lawsuit included claims for unpaid contract balance, disputed change order work, and increased costs incurred as a result of delays and re-sequenced work; and

WHEREAS, M & R filed a claim in this lawsuit against the Board seeking the recovery of damages allegedly incurred during the construction of the Project, for an amount in excess of $565,000.00. M&R’s lawsuit included claims for unpaid contract balance, disputed change order work, and increased costs incurred as a result of delays and re-sequenced work; and

WHEREAS, Bonland has agreed to settle the lawsuit, and to dismiss each claim against the Board, with prejudice, in exchange for payment in the amount of $450,000.00, this sum representing a portion of the amount of payment allegedly owed to Bonland; and

WHEREAS, M & R has agreed to settle the lawsuit, and to dismiss each claim against the Board, with prejudice, in exchange for payment in the amount of $87,500.00, this sum representing a portion of the amount of payment allegedly owed to M & R; and

WHEREAS, The Board, its counsel, and its construction claims consultant have carefully analyzed the merits of M & R and Bonland’s claims; and

WHEREAS, The Board has carefully considered M & R and Bonland’s settlement offers; and

WHEREAS, The Board deems it to be in its best interest to accept M & R and Bonland’s settlement offers; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Franklin Township Board of Education agrees to pay M & R $87,500.00 for materials supplied to, and incorporated into the Project, in full and final settlement of the above referenced lawsuit; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Franklin Township Board of Education agrees to pay Bonland $450,000.00 for materials supplied to, and incorporated into the Project, in full and final settlement of the above referenced lawsuit.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Mrs. LaCorte
Seconded: Mrs. Pietrucha

Action to adjourn at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Calavano
Board Secretary