

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
FEBRUARY 20, 2014 – 7:34 P.M.**

CALL OF ROLL

Mr. Richard E. Arline	Dr. Julia M. Presley, President - absent
Mr. Delvin Burton	Ms. Keisha Smith-Carrington
Mrs. Christine Danielsen	Mr. Robert T. Trautmann – departed 9:50 PM
Mrs. Nancy LaCorte – departed 9:55 PM	Mrs. Betty Whalen
Mrs. Eva M. Nagy, Vice President	

Ms. Eveny Pagán, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Mr. John Calavano, Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary
Ms. Lynne Crawford, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Mr. Orvyl Wilson, Director of School Management – arrived 7:40 PM

And 200 Members of the Public

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mr. Trautmann led the Board in the pledge.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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 January 6, 2014. Copies of this notice were faxed to the **Courier News**, the **Home News Tribune**, **The Star-Ledger**, **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.

Ms. Smith-Carrington 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 that meet or exceed New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards 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

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION: *To develop and implement a comprehensive assessment program designed to meet the needs of all students through the use of formative and summative assessments aligned to the common core standards and integrated into instruction.*

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: *To promote community engagement and effective communication to and from all stakeholders.*

CULTURE AND CLIMATE: *To continue the District’s efforts to safeguard students and staff, enhance the culture and environment of our schools and improve relationships among and between students; staff; parents/guardians; and the community that promote respect, motivation for learning and creativity in and for our students.*

FACILITIES: *Utilizing the District's 2011-2021 Long-Range Facilities Plan, finalize a building program (including application for state grants and outside funding sources) that will enhance and improve the District's delivery of education to all students; provide additional classroom space to address the projected enrollment growth over the next several years; address critical maintenance issues in all existing facilities and consider potential changes to the delivery of education.*

I. Action to Adopt the Agenda

Moved: Mrs. Whalen Seconded: Mr. Burton

<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Arline	Burton	Danielsen	LaCorte	Smith-Carrington	Trautmann	Whalen	Dr. Presley	Nagy

II. Interim Superintendent's Update

Ms. Eveny Pagán reported on the following:

- Moving the vote to outsource the paraprofessionals to February 27, 2014
- Revisions to the school calendar
- The transition plan for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction position

III. Comments From The Public *(3 minutes per speaker – agenda items only)*

The meeting was opened for public comment for one hour with three minutes per speaker at 7:44 PM on a motion by Mrs. Whalen, seconded by Mr. Trautmann. All board members were in agreement. Public comments were heard by the Board of Education. The following is a brief synopsis of comments made by the public.

Nick DiMeglio requested that board members speak at PTSO meetings and, as Chair of the Referendum Steering Committee, he believes that if the paraprofessionals are privatized, the board should hold off with the referendum.

Lorri Mountainland indicated that she found it odd that staff was notified by phone and e-mail about moving the vote to next week. She never before received a phone call and e-mail about a change in the agenda and requested to know why.

Fern Shegoski requested clarification regarding substitutes and asked if the board is looking at other agencies for privatization. She requested to know why Monday's meeting was not taped.

Jessie Lindsay suggested that if the district cannot afford the staff, it should not have a referendum. She spoke about cutting administrative salaries and requested to know from Mr. Calavano if he would work for \$85 per day.

Karen Melhorn spoke about \$4.9M surplus and requested to know if we will have it this year.

Jackie Yanchu spoke about privatization taking place in Livingston, NJ and they went back to rehire their own paraprofessionals.

Dan Epstein spoke about privatizing the paraprofessionals and requested to know if Hunterdon provided data regarding turnover in attendance..

Mary Murdock spoke about a special education child and an ad from Hunterdon County Ed Services Commission looking for paraprofessionals with a substitute certificate.

Fontella Best requested to know how the loss of paraprofessionals will impact quality education.

Anna Boardman spoke about privatizing the paraprofessionals and being tired of fighting this battle every year. She asked how administrators can make this decision without going into classrooms. Ms. Boardman requested the board members to act on the community's behalf and dismiss this proposal.

Kim Thorne expressed her support for the paraprofessionals. She requested to know the reason for the increased communication today and how lengthening the school year will affect graduation. She spoke about low pay for substitute teachers, transportation issues and outsourcing.

Barbara Mikytuck spoke about absenteeism among paraprofessionals.

Laurel Kane requested to know who provides a substitute if a paraprofessional is absent.

Maureen Zgorzelski spoke about the Flemington School District losing a lot of paraprofessionals when Hunterdon County Ed Services took over.

Emily Amon pointed out that in AESOP a substitute is not needed when a paraprofessional is absent. She asked the board to vote for what is best for our children and community.

Carol Croll compared Franklin and Flemington statistics.

Michelle Croll repeated the heads or tails comment from Monday's meeting.

Monica Espinoza requested to know what guarantee the schools will have that lower costs will result in higher levels of service.

Andrea Frain indicated she is appalled with privatizing the paraprofessionals and believes administration is top heavy.

Sue Grass spoke about not having a paraprofessional for the last two days. She requested to know if it makes sense to have graduation in an arena that costs money versus at home. She also requested to know if staff was asked about the proposed extension of the school year.

Patrick Froin spoke about 13 positions that earn over \$100,000.

Jenny Kafas spoke in support of paraprofessionals.

Sue Kafas spoke about her positive experiences with paraprofessionals and said they know what they are doing.

John Cochran spoke against privatizing the paraprofessionals and expressed concern with not being provided with good answers from the board.

Linda Powell sensed that something smelled fishy on Monday and suggested community members provide expertise to review the budget.

Lorie Smith requested to know if duty aides are included in the privatization. She spoke about the 3-year old child left on the bus and how much that child's life is worth. Ms. Smith suggested that the Assistant Superintendent position should be changed to a Director position.

Mary Murdock spoke about a full analysis if we do not have enough paraprofessionals, a \$2M shortfall and transportation issues. She requested to know if a forensic audit was conducted. She suggested hiring a Superintendent at a lower salary and hiring a grant writer.

Motion to close the public portion of the meeting at 8:45 PM by Mr. Trautmann, seconded by Mr. Burton. All board members were in agreement.

IV. Committee/Liaison Reports

Mrs. Whalen, Communications Ad Hoc Committee Chair, reported on the February 11th meeting.

Mr. Trautmann, School Safety & Security Ad Hoc Committee Chair, reported on the February 11th meeting.

V. New Business

1. Review of February 27, 2014 Action Meeting Agenda
2. Action Items for February 20, 2014

Action Items

R-01 HIB (Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying) Investigation Report

A-02 Changes to the 2013-2014 School Calendar

C-01 Approve “Shadows Show” to Co-host/Participate in Anti-Bullying Conference

Moved: Mrs. LaCorte

Seconded: Mr. Burton

HIB Investigation Report

R-01 HIB (Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying) Investigation Report

Acknowledge receipt of the HIB Investigation Report for the period January 15, 2014 through February 14, 2014 as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit R-01)

Administration

A-02 Changes to the 2013-2014 School Calendar

As recommended by the Interim Superintendent of Schools, approve the following changes to the 2013-2014 school calendar due to inclement weather school closings exceeding the four (4) days built into the school calendar:

- **Using the Board approved Take-Back Days, the District will now be in session on:**
 - Monday, February 17, 2014
 - Monday, April 14, 2014 (Entire District - Minimum Session Day)
 - Tuesday, April 15, 2014 (Elizabeth Avenue Only – Minimum Session Day)
- **June 18, 19, 20 are now full days to accommodate the end-of-year Minimum Session Days.**
- **June 23 and 24 are now full days for Pre-K through Grade 8 and Minimum Session Days for FHS.**
- **Instructional Days to be added back to school calendar:**
 - June 25 (Full Day for Pre-K through Grade 8 – Minimum Session Day for FHS)
 - June 26, 27 (Entire District – Minimum Session Day)
 - June 27 – Last Day of School.

As detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit A-02)

Curriculum

C-01 Approve “Shadows Show” to Co-host/Participate in Anti-Bullying Conference

Approve the Franklin High School Applied Theatre Extra-Curricular Club’s the “**Shadows Show**” to co-host/participate along with the National School Climate Center in an Anti-Bullying Conference on February 26, 2014 at Kean University, Union, New Jersey. Funds from the Student Activities’ Account will be used to pay each presenter \$80 for their participation.

Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No/ Yes	Yes/No	Yes	Absent	Yes
Arline	Burton	Danielsen	LaCorte	Smith-Carrington	Trautmann	Whalen	Dr. Presley	Nagy

Ms. Smith-Carrington voted no on Resolution R-01.
Mr. Trautmann voted no on Resolution C-01.

Alternate Location**Confidential Session – Room 313**

Moved: Mr. Trautmann

Seconded: Mr. Burton

Motion to adjourn to confidential session at 8:56 PM for the purpose of discussing the candidate for the position of Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Minutes of the confidential session meeting will be made public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes
Arline	Burton	Danielsen	LaCorte	Smith-Carrington	Trautmann	Whalen	Dr. Presley	Nagy

Returned to open session at 9:23 PM in the Cafeteria.

Reconvening roll call – All board members were present, with the exception of Dr. Presley.

Personnel

VI. Public Hearing

Regarding the Terms and Conditions of the contract for the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

VII. Comments From the Public *(5 minutes per speaker – Public Hearing item only)*

The meeting was opened for public comment at 9:24 PM on a motion by Mrs. LaCorte, seconded by Mr. Burton. All board members were in agreement. Public comments were heard by the Board of Education. The following is a brief synopsis of comments made by the public.

Walter Scott spoke about the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction candidate’s stipend and requested to know if experience was taken into consideration. He made an additional comment about the candidate that was personal in nature.

Angela Barkley spoke about the district’s hiring practices and requested that there be handouts to the public for these important decisions.

Fern Shegoski requested to know where the money is coming from for these per diem rates.

Myra Mitchell suggested that an integrity clause be put into the agreement.

De Sanders requested to know why the board is putting someone into this position immediately.

Motion to close the public portion of the meeting at 9:34 PM by Mr. Trautmann, seconded by Mrs. Whalen. All board members were in agreement.

P-01 Personnel Report No. 13, dated February 20, 2014

P-02 Contract Approval

Moved: Mrs. LaCorte

Seconded: Mr. Burton

P-01 Personnel Report No. 13, dated February 20, 2014

As recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, approve Personnel Report No. 13, as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit P-01)

P-02 Contract Approval

Approve an individual employment agreement with the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for the period February 21, 2014 through June 30, 2014 as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit P-02)

<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Burton	Danielsen	LaCorte	Smith-Carrington	Trautmann	Whalen	Arline	Dr. Presley	Nagy
Motion Fails								

Ms. Smith-Carrington wanted to clarify her no vote because of her concern with the stability in the district and to maintain a stable building leadership.

Mr. Trautmann is required to abstain, due to his spouse's employment in the school district.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Ms. Mary Ann Friedman, New Jersey School Boards Association, discussed the Superintendent search process with the board.

Mrs. Nagy gave a referendum update to the board.

VIII. Comments From The Public (5 minutes per speaker – any items)

The meeting was opened for public comment at 10:07 PM on a motion by Mrs. Whalen, seconded by Mr. Arline. All board members were in agreement. Public comments were heard by the Board of Education. The following is a brief synopsis of comments made by the public.

Linda Powell suggested community input for the Superintendent selection. She indicated her agreement with Ms. Sanders about the Assistant Superintendent position.

Francine Pfeffer expressed concern over privatization of the paraprofessionals and described them as part of the fabric of the school.

Joe Liotine requested to know if privatizing the paraprofessionals is worth putting the referendum in jeopardy. He spoke about questions not being answered and lack of information.

Angela Barkley spoke about the candidate for Interim Assistant Superintendent and requested to know how the board determines one person's abilities over another. She also requested to know the criteria used to appoint individuals to these positions.

De Sanders confirmed there was no posting for the interim positions and suggested they be posted in the future. She requested to know if the contract with Hunterdon County Ed Services Commission will increase in time. Ms. Sanders expressed concern with privatization and asked about the current reserve or surplus. Ms. Sanders inquired as to the Personnel Director vacancy.

Kim Edwards asked a question about privatization.

Gayle Nelson requested to know, if the district privatizes the paraprofessionals, who would provide specialized training. She spoke about an incident that occurred at Conerly Road School years ago. Ms. Nelson expressed her support for the paraprofessionals.

Myra Mitchell pointed out that the district still needs a Director of Personnel. She requested to know if administration is playing games and who is running the Personnel Department.

Emily Russoniello spoke about doing the proper research prior to the vote.

Phil Kramer indicated that his heart goes out to the board and spoke about the 2% cap. He indicated that the Township had to lay off police officers and believes that this topic will come up again and there will be a time when there is no other choice but to privatize. Mr. Kramer believes this is a fundamental problem that goes beyond the board and needs to be addressed in Trenton.

Fern Shegoski requested to know if the district had used New Jersey School Boards Association in the past. She spoke about computer equipment in the basement and items being removed from the Auto Shop. She asked the board to hear the words, not the sound of their voices.

Motion to close the public portion of the meeting at 10:44 PM by Ms. Smith-Carrington, seconded by Mr. Burton. All board members were in agreement.

Adjournment

Moved: Mr. Burton

Seconded: Mrs. Whalen

Action to adjourn at 10:45 PM.

<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Arline	Burton	Danielsen	LaCorte	Smith-Carrington	Trautmann	Whalen	Dr. Presley	Nagy

Respectfully submitted,

John Calavano
Board Secretary