

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
FEBRUARY 17, 2014 – 7:42 PM**

Mr. Richard E. Arline - absent  
Mr. Delvin Burton - absent  
Mrs. Christine Danielsen  
Mrs. Nancy LaCorte  
Mrs. Eva M. Nagy, Vice President

Dr. Julia M. Presley, President  
Ms. Keisha Smith-Carrington  
Mr. Robert T. Trautmann  
Mrs. Betty Whalen

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  
Mrs. Maureen Manning, Assistant Business Administrator  
Mr. Brian Bonanno, Manager, Administrative Services

And 215 Members of the Public

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mrs. Danielsen 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 February 12, 2014. Copies of this notice were faxed to the **Courier News**, the **Home News Tribune**, **The Star-Ledger**, **The Times of Trenton**, Franklin Township Clerk/Manager, WCTC Radio, District Schools, Offices and Associations, PTO Presidents, and posted on the Central Administration Building notice board.

**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.

- PURPOSE:**
- Discuss Privatization of Paraprofessionals and Substitute Teachers
  - Discuss Interim Superintendent Search Process
  - Public Hearing Regarding the Terms and Conditions of the Interim Superintendent of School's Contract
  - Approve Contract for Interim Superintendent of Schools
  - Ratify All Actions Taken at the January 31, 2014 Special Meeting

**I. Ratify All Actions Taken at the January 31, 2014 Special Meeting**

Moved: Mrs. Nagy

Seconded: Mrs. Danielsen

Ratify the following actions taken at the January 31, 2014 Special Meeting of the Board:

- a. Resolution P-01: Approve a Separation Agreement With the Superintendent of Schools
- b. Resolution P-02: Approve Personnel Report No.12 dated January 31, 2014

**MOTION**

Moved: Mr. Trautmann

Seconded: Mrs. LaCorte

Motion to table the resolution to ratify all actions taken at the January 31, 2014 Special Meeting.

**Vote on Motion to Table**

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

Motion Fails

**Vote on Original Motion**

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

Mrs. Danielsen voted no on Resolution P-01.

Mrs. LaCorte voted no on Resolution P-01.

Mrs. Nagy voted no on Resolution P-02, 1<sup>st</sup> name only.

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

**MOTION**

Moved: Ms. Smith-Carrington

Seconded: Mrs. Nagy

Motion to confirm that what happened on January 31, 2014 was the vote of the board and the board accepts it.

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

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

**II. Public Hearing**

Regarding the Terms and Conditions of the Interim Superintendent of School's Contract

### III. Comments From the Public *(3 minutes per speaker – Public Hearing topic only)*

The meeting was opened for public comment at 8:00 PM on a motion by Mrs. Nagy, seconded by Mrs. Whalen. 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.

John Felix congratulated Ms. Pagán on her appointment and requested to know why Eva Nagy voted no on this appointment.

Motion to close the public portion of the meeting at 8:06 PM by Mrs. Whalen, seconded by Mrs. Nagy. All board members were in agreement.

<b>Personnel</b>
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#### P-01 Contract Approval

Moved: Mrs. Nagy

Seconded: Mrs. Whalen

Approve an individual employment agreement with the Interim Superintendent of Schools for the period February 1, 2014 through March 28, 2014 as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit P-01)

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

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

#### Board Discussion:

The board discussed the Interim Superintendent search process and the proposed privatization of paraprofessionals and substitute teachers.

*Motion to take a 5-minute recess at 10:13 PM by Mrs. Danielsen, seconded by Mrs. LaCorte. All board members were in agreement.*

### Comments From the Public *(5 minutes per speaker – any topic)*

#### MOTION

Moved: Mr. Trautmann

Seconded: Mrs. Danielsen

Motion to allow 3 minutes per speaker, rather than 5 minutes per speaker.

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

The meeting was opened for public comment at 10:19 PM on a motion by Mr. Trautmann, seconded by Mrs. Nagy. 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.

Laurel Kane indicated she has been employed in the school district for 17 years and has to have benefits. She asked the board not to privatize the paraprofessionals.

Sami Ishaq, 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Sampson G. Smith School, read a statement about his paraprofessional and asked the board to save the paraprofessionals.

Natasha Ishaq, 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Franklin Middle School, spoke about why she is here today and spoke in support of Anna Boardman.

Another student asked to keep all the skilled paraprofessionals.

Jennifer Boardman, a senior at Franklin High School, spoke in support of substitute teachers.

Upendra Chivukula, spoke in support of paraprofessionals and asked that other possibilities be explored.

Anna Boardman spoke about her students and stated that she works an average of 9 hours per day. She spoke against privatization of the paraprofessionals.

Janice Regan indicated that substitute teaching leads to teaching jobs and suggested that an outside agency look at our budget. Ms. Regan requested that administration look over the budget again and be creative and to trim back administrative salaries.

Paula Jara expressed her hope that the board does not vote to privatize the paraprofessionals.

Another member of the public indicated that people's jobs are on the line, that students need consistency and to find other ways to save money.

Kathleen Damore spoke about paraprofessionals being the most dedicated people you will meet and requested to know why the board is exploring this again.

Emily Amon spoke in support of the dedicated paraprofessionals and questioned how the students will be impacted.

Karen Melhorn pointed out that the paraprofessionals already took a pay cut and a reduction of benefits.

Another member of the public expressed concern with the pay structure at Hunterdon County Ed Services Commission and that the budget is not on the website.

A paraprofessional from Franklin Park School spoke about current paraprofessionals and asked the board not to privatize them. She does not want to lose her job and indicated most of the current paraprofessionals will not work with Hunterdon County Ed Services Commission.

A district teacher requested that the board consider what is best for the students.

Nancy Llanos spoke positively about the paraprofessionals and that her son benefited from a paraprofessional. She pointed out that not everyone can do this job.

Maddy Michaylin has been an employee for the past 10 years and invited the Board of Education members into her classroom. She suggested alternate ways for getting revenues and emphasized that the paraprofessionals are valuable.

Debra Abramo indicated that you cannot put a price on the paraprofessionals and urged the board members to support her just as she supported them.

Monica Espinoza spoke about the training she received as a paraprofessional and is afraid of who will replace her.

Tamara Johnson indicated she is a one-on-one aide for an autistic student and pointed out that paraprofessionals are critical. If the board decides to privatize, they are firing 123 paraprofessionals.

Matilda Vajtay asked the board to consider spending an hour in a special education classroom and pointed out that “we voted you in”. She restated the district’s Mission Statement.

Dan Epstein spoke about the diversity in the district and that actions have consequences.

Susan Lenczewski paid tribute and honored MacAfee’s educational support staff that has a total of 132 years of service.

Michelle Croll believes the board cares more about numbers than them. She spoke about unemployment benefits, out-of-district placements and litigation.

Carol Croll spoke about special needs students and pointed out that most paraprofessionals are community members. She pointed out that “your child is every child”.

Joseph Adriano asked the board not to privatize the paraprofessionals.

Anthony Greder asked the board not to put a dollar sign on people.

Janet Grosso spoke about being a paraprofessional and that privatizing them is a disservice to dedicated and loyal employees.

Virginia McDonald spoke about her career as a paraprofessional.

Patricia Martinelli, teacher, indicated she cannot teach her students without her paraprofessionals.

Pam Wewers spoke about being a paraprofessional.

Chris Boardman spoke about his mother’s work as a paraprofessional and finished Anna Boardman’s statement.

Patrick Froin expressed his anger over privatization.

Barbary Mikyuck stated that someone making an hourly wage will not do this job and that students will have a different aide every day.

Fern Shegoski indicated she was not aware of the privatization of substitutes and feels they are not respected. There is a major trust issue with the board.

Jackie Yanchuk spoke about being a paraprofessional and her qualifications. She asked why the board targets paraprofessionals every year and they will get what they pay for.

Mary Murdock stated that her niece works for Hunterdon County Ed Services Commission and receives no benefits, with salaries between \$15.55 – 22.43 per hour.

Lorri Mountainland thanked her members for coming out to support the paraprofessionals, asked the board to abandon privatization and pointed out there is a contractual obligation not to privatize.

Paul Walczyk surveyed the paraprofessionals and reported the results.

Ardaman Singh believes that privatizing the paraprofessionals to close the budget gap is a bad idea and it will adversely impact the learning community.

Linda Powell spoke against privatization and about budget options developed three years ago from a small group of people. She spoke about district turnover.

Angela Barkley believes privatizing the paraprofessionals and substitutes is a bad idea and that privatizing will weaken the school and community relationship.

Wendell Steinhauer, President of the New Jersey Education Association, thanked the board for their services. He indicated that paraprofessionals cannot be devalued anymore.

Stephanie Gonzalez indicated that she was devastated when the district removed the kindergarten paraprofessionals years ago. She asked the board not to outsource the paraprofessionals and take away their livelihood.

Karen Ellis asked the board to please listen to what was said tonight.

Motion to close the public portion of the meeting at 12:15 PM by Mrs. Nagy, seconded by Mrs. Whalen. All board members were in agreement.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

Moved: Mrs. Nagy

Seconded: Mrs. Whalen

Action to adjourn.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Calavano