

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY
JANUARY 23, 2014 – 7:30 P.M.**

CALL OF ROLL

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

Dr. Julia M. Presley, President – arrived at 7:43 PM
Ms. Keisha Smith-Carrington - absent
Mr. Robert T. Trautmann
Mrs. Betty Whalen

Mr. Edward Q. Seto, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. John Calavano, Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary
Ms. Eveny Pagán, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Lynne Crawford, Director of Pupil Personnel Services – arrived at 7:46 PM
Mr. Orvyl Wilson, Director of School Management

And 25 Members of the Public

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mr. Burton 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.

Mrs. Whalen 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: Mr. Trautmann

Seconded: Mrs. Whalen

Motion to amend the agenda to hold a confidential session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel matters and no action will be taken.

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

MOTION

Moved: Mr. Burton

Seconded: Mr. Trautmann

Motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion on the selection process of a new Superintendent of Schools.

Vote on Amendment

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

Vote on Original Motion with Amendment

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

II. Superintendent's Update

Franklin High School Cheerleaders

As you know, at our Board of Education meeting on December 19, 2013, the board approved the field trip application for our cheerleaders to attend a national competition in Florida next month. All applications for field trips that are over 150 miles or require air travel or an overnight stay require specific board approval. Field trips that are less than 150 miles or are "day trips" require board approval of the destination.

The application for the cheerleader trip in February, appropriately, did not request that any district funds be allocated. District funds have not been expended for athletic competitions that are not sanctioned by the NJSIAA, which is the governing body for our high school athletic competitions. On occasion, tax levy local LEA (district) funds are used to supplement funds contributed by students and through other fundraising efforts, for academic competitions and leadership training conferences. Generally, these contributions fund land transportation or the lodging expenses of the club advisor.

Other extracurricular clubs and teams have, in the past, taken trips to Florida to perform or compete in events that were not controlled by the NJSIAA; however, they were funded by the students themselves and/or through fundraising efforts.

We are extremely proud of our cheerleaders and as a district will do what we can to spread the word about their fundraising efforts, however, the district is not in a financial position to fund such a trip.

Emergency Closure Days

As you are aware, the snowstorm required that we close our schools yesterday, Wednesday, January 22, 2014. Since we had previously utilized the four "emergency" days included in the district's calendar, all schools will now use the first planned "take away" day on Monday, February 17, 2014. This means that Monday, February 17, 2014 will now be a regular instructional day for all district schools. All district offices will also be open.

Please note that the students at Elizabeth Avenue School had an additional emergency closing day in the fall due to a heating problem at that school. Therefore, in addition to Monday, February 17, the students and staff at Elizabeth Avenue School must also report on the second take away day, Monday, April 21, 2014 for a regular instructional day.

Our website has been updated with this information and a letter will go out to parents next week to remind everyone of the calendar change. There will also be phone blast reminders from our Principals and the district as the February 17, 2014 date approaches.

Transportation Update

A summary of the events preceding and following my decision to close our schools on Monday, January 6, 2014 due to the bussing issue has been posted on the district and school-based websites. I hope that it will help those who voiced concerns at the last board meeting regarding the timing of our communication to better understand the timing of the decision and the communication surrounding our contract with Atlantic Express. Again, I would like to explain that my decision to close the schools was not made until that Sunday evening. While I understand the concern and the upset that was caused, it could not be helped. Up until that Sunday evening at 7:00 PM, we had every reason to believe that we would have transportation and be able to open the schools.

III. Comments From The Public *(5 minutes per speaker – agenda items only)*

The meeting was opened for public comment at 7:39 PM on a motion by Mrs. LaCorte, seconded by Mr. Trautmann. All board members were in agreement. There were no public comments at this time.

Motion to close the public portion of the meeting at 7:39 PM by Mrs. LaCorte, seconded by Mr. Burton. All board members were in agreement.

IV. Committee/Liaison Reports

Eva Nagy spoke about major changes at the State-level including Superintendent evaluation due date, budget extension date related to tasks, required instruction on responsible use of social media for middle school students, etc.

V. New Business

1. Review of January 30, 2014 Action Meeting Agenda
2. Action Items for January 23, 2014

Action Items

HIB Investigation Report

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

Moved: Mr. Trautmann

Seconded: Mr. Burton

Acknowledge receipt of the HIB Investigation Report for the period December 4, 2013 through January 14, 2014 as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit R-01)

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

Administration**A-01 Resolution of Appreciation for Richard Seamon**

Moved: Mrs. LaCorte

Seconded: Mrs. Nagy

Whereas, Richard Seamon served as a member of the Franklin Township Board of Education from 2010 to 2013; and

Whereas, during those 3 years, Richard Seamon served the Board and his community faithfully and with distinction; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Education hereby expresses its appreciation for Richard Seamon's leadership, dedication, commitment and service to the Board, to the Franklin Township Public School District, and to the Franklin Township Community.

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

A-02 Resolution of Appreciation for Thomas J. Lewis

Moved: Mr. Trautmann

Seconded: Mrs. LaCorte

Whereas, Thomas J. Lewis served as a member of the Franklin Township Board of Education from 2010 to 2013; and

Whereas, during those 3 years, Thomas J. Lewis served the Board and his community faithfully and with distinction; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Education hereby expresses its appreciation for Thomas J. Lewis' leadership, dedication, commitment and service to the Board, to the Franklin Township Public School District, and to the Franklin Township Community.

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

A-03 School Board Recognition Month

Moved: Mrs. Danielsen

Seconded: Mrs. LaCorte

Whereas, the New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2014 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time that all residents might acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

Whereas, the Franklin Township Board of Education is one of 586 local school boards in New Jersey that sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

Whereas, the Franklin Township Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

Whereas, New Jersey's local school boards help determine community goals for the education of approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

Whereas, New Jersey's 4,800 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

Whereas, school boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

Whereas, boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

Whereas, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in indicators such as high school graduation rates, class size, college entrance exam participation, and Advanced Placement offerings and test scores. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Franklin Township Board of Education does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2014 as School Board Recognition Month; and be it further

Resolved, that the Franklin Township Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staffs toward the improvement of our children's education.

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

A-04 Appointments

Moved: Mr. Trautmann

Seconded: Mr. Burton

Appoint Board representatives to the following state and county organizations:

- a. Delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Association – Eva Nagy/Julia Presley
- b. Delegate to the Somerset County School Boards Association – Nancy LaCorte
- c. Member Board of Education Somerset County Educational Services Commission – Richard Arline
- d. Member Board of Education Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission – Robert Trautmann

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

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

The meeting was opened for public comment at 7:57 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.

Katie Van Why, Cheerleading Coach, spoke about being proud of the cheerleading team on being regional champions and announced upcoming fundraisers.

Caylia Wallace and her teammates spoke about it being the first time in FHS history that the cheerleaders were named regional champions and invited to Florida.

Debra Palmer requested to know the right course of action to take next year for the cheerleaders to attend the Florida competition.

John Felix read the last sentence of Resolution A-03 and requested to know what criteria is in place to find an experienced Superintendent and when the process will begin.

Bill Connell spoke about the Sampson G. Smith play and thanked the parents for helping him over the past month. He mentioned the board is silent as to how and what they are doing regarding the Superintendent search. He compared the intensive discussions regarding the Freshman Focus Program vs. discussions regarding the Superintendent search.

Motion to close the public portion of the meeting at 8:07 PM by Mr. Trautmann, seconded by Mrs. LaCorte. All board members were in agreement.

Discussion on Superintendent Search

The board members discussed the Superintendent search process, and Dr. Presley addressed various questions and concerns.

Confidential Session - Library

Moved: Mr. Trautmann

Seconded: Mr. Burton

Motion to adjourn to confidential session at 8:28 PM for the purpose of discussing a confidential personnel matter. Minutes of the confidential session meeting will be made public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

Returned to open session at 8:55 PM in the Cafeteria.

Reconvening roll call – All board members were present, with the exception of Mr. Arline and Ms. Smith-Carrington.

Adjournment

Moved: Mrs. Nagy

Seconded: Mr. Burton

Action to adjourn at 8:55 PM.

<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Absent</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
Board Secretary