

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
JUNE 19, 2014 – 6:10 PM**

CALL OF ROLL

Mr. Richard E. Arline
Mr. Delvin Burton –arrived at 6:35 PM
Mrs. Christine Danielsen
Mrs. Nancy LaCorte
Mrs. Eva M. Nagy, Vice President

Mr. Edward Potosnak III
Dr. Julia M. Presley, President - absent
Ms. Keisha Smith-Carrington – arrived at 6:20 PM
Mrs. Betty Whalen – arrived at 6:33 PM

Dr. LeRoy E. Seitz, Interim Superintendent of Schools – arrived at 7:33 PM
Mr. John Calavano, Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary
Ms. Lynne Crawford, Director of Pupil Personnel Services - absent
Mr. Orvyl Wilson, Director of School Management – arrived at 7:33 PM

And 25 Members of the Public

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mr. Potosnak 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 and May 16, 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. Danielsen 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 with Addendum

Moved: Mrs. LaCorte

Seconded: Mr. Arline

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

II. Confidential Session - Library

Moved: Mr. Arline

Seconded: Mrs. Danielsen

Motion to adjourn to confidential session at 6:14 PM to meet with the Superintendent search firm, Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, to discuss the Leadership Profile they have developed for the district. Minutes of the confidential session will be made public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

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

Returned to open session at 7:33 PM in the Cafeteria.

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

III. Presentations

Mr. Harold Dunsavage, Somerset County Educational Services Commission, spoke about the Career Center Opening.

Dr. Leroy Nunery and Mr. Dwight Pfennig, Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA), presented the Leadership Profile for the Superintendent search, which included the search process, community engagement process, common themes and preliminary selection criteria.

The meeting was opened for public comments at 8:04 PM, on the Leadership Profile presentation only, on a motion by Mrs. Whalen, seconded by Mrs. LaCorte. All board members were in agreement. There were no public comments at this time. Motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting by Mrs. LaCorte, seconded by Mrs. Danielsen. All board members were in agreement.

Mrs. Eileen Brett, Principal of Sampson G. Smith School, and Mr. Orvyl Wilson, Interim Principal of Franklin High School, spoke about schedule changes at their respective schools.

IV. Public Hearing

Violence, Vandalism, Substance Abuse & District Student Discipline Bi-Annual Report by Mr. Orvyl Wilson, Director of School Management.

V. Comments From The Public (3 minutes per speaker – Public Hearing only)

The meeting was opened for public comments at 9:37 PM on a motion by Mr. Potosnak, seconded by Mrs. LaCorte. 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:

Bill Connell spoke about consistency of enforcement across all the schools.

Motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting at 9:40 PM by Mrs. Whalen, seconded by Mr. Burton. All board members were in agreement.

VI. Interim Superintendent's Update

ACLU Letter

As you may have seen in the press recently, our district was one of many which received a letter from the ACLU NJ questioning our registration process and the forms of identification which we require. We were not one of the districts which this organization named in a lawsuit. The original letter from the ACLU was forwarded to the Board Attorney who has reached out to the organization to discuss our registration procedures. I will continue to keep the board and public updated on this matter.

Referendum Date

As reflected in tonight's agenda, we expect the board to discuss moving the referendum date from September to December 2014.

Schedule for the Last Week of School

Due to inclement weather earlier this school year, changes were made to the calendar for the week of June 23rd. There will be a full day of school for Grades Pre-K – 8 on Monday, June 23rd; Tuesday, June 24th and Wednesday, June 25th. Franklin High School will have minimum sessions on those days. There will be minimum session days for all students on Thursday, June 26th and Friday, June 27th. Graduation will be held on June 27th at 3:00 PM in the Sun Bank National Center in Trenton.

Babysitting Transportation Forms

The district provides transportation to and from babysitters and day-care providers as defined by district policy. Forms were recently mailed to our student families and are available on our website. These requests for transportation to or from a babysitter/day-care location should be completed and returned on or before July 14, 2014 in order to be processed before the school year begins. More information is available on the district and school- based websites.

ELA Workshop

We were pleased to host a Parent Information Night on the Common Core Standards and PARCC Assessment at Franklin High School on Tuesday, June 17th. Approximately 70 individuals attended this event. Those present were given an overview of the Common Core Standards in the English Language Arts area and the PARCC assessment. Break-out groups followed the general presentation and parents in the elementary and secondary levels were given more specific information. Those present were given the opportunity to take a sample PARCC exam on laptops. I would like to thank the volunteer teachers, coaches and the tech personnel who made this event possible. Earlier this year our Mathematics Supervisors held two similar events. The presentations from these events are posted on the website and the elementary mathematics presentation as well as the ELA workshop will be shown on district television shortly. I would like to remind the board that it is uncertain at this time what effect the results of the PARCC exam will have on teacher evaluations going forward.

Franklin Middle School Award

The New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC) has recognized Franklin Middle School with the "Community Smile Award" for 2014! This award, given in recognition of service to school and the Franklin Community, was made possible by the efforts of the Student Council, Beautification Committee and National Junior Honor Society of Franklin Middle School.

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

The meeting was opened for public comments at 9:45 PM on a motion by Mrs. Whalen, 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:

Skip Schaeffer spoke about inconsistencies with the schedules and short lunch periods. He requested to know the origin of these proposed schedules and pointed out that there are issues with changes every year and people are generally not happy.

David Kraus concurs with the previous speaker and indicated that FHS students taking AP Science will be most affected and it is unfair to them.

Albert Kraus, Franklin High School student, expressed his concern with the proposed high school schedule. He believes this schedule is unfair to students taking AP classes.

Bill Connell spoke about the proposed schedule changes, teachers and students needing consistency and doing the best thing for 2,000 students, not just one or two of them.

Denise Davis believes the community does not get a say in major decisions and questioned why the community and students did not receive a survey. She spoke about the 1-10 page study guides being provided to students one week prior to exams and stated that it is unreasonable. She requested to know if teachers will stay after school to meet with students.

Neha Hinduja, a Franklin High School student, spoke about the current schedule and losing 15 minutes every 4 days. She is losing a lot of class time and believes a change is necessary. Ms. Hinduja believes that last year's schedule was better because she was permitted to follow a no-lunch schedule.

Motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting at 10:02 PM by Mrs. LaCorte, seconded by Mr. Burton. All board members were in agreement.

VIII. Committee/Liaison Reports

Ms. Smith-Carrington, Curriculum Committee Chair, reported on the June 2nd meeting.

Mr. Arline, Facilities Committee member, reported on the June 11th meeting.

Mrs. Whalen, Communications Ad Hoc Committee Chair, reported on the June 10th meeting.

Mrs. Whalen, Policy Committee member, reported on the June 10th meeting.

Mr. Potosnak, Safety Ad Hoc Committee Chair, reported on the June 18th meeting.

IX. New Business

1. Review of June 26, 2014 Action Meeting Agenda
2. Action Items for June 19, 2014

Action Items

Resolution of Appreciation for Joan Novellano

Moved: Mr. Arline

Seconded: Mr. Burton

Whereas, Joan A. Novellano, has served the Franklin Township School District as the Food Services Director 2004 to 2014; and

Whereas, During this period of leadership, Joan A. Novellano has clearly, consistently and tirelessly worked with the parents, staff, Board of Education, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Superintendent of Schools to champion, promote and advocate services and opportunities for the benefit of all students; and

Whereas, Joan A. Novellano, promoted a standard of leadership as the Food Services Director, which created a wonderful era for the District, a standard for all to follow; and

Whereas, Joan A. Novellano has publicly and personally joined the Board of Education in support of its vision of the future of education for the children of Franklin Township;

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved that the members of the Board Education and the Superintendent of Schools of the Township of Franklin, Somerset County, New Jersey do hereby take the opportunity to express their deep gratitude and affirmation to Joan A. Novellano for her excellence, dedicated service and leadership to the Franklin Township Board of Education, School District and Community.

<u>Yes</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	Potosnak	Presley	Smith-Carrington	Whalen	Nagy

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

A-01 Travel & Related Expense Reimbursement

B-01 Contract Approval

B-02 Approve the Sale of a Portion of Elizabeth Avenue School Property (Addendum)

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 May 1, 2014 through June 11, 2014 as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit R-01)

Administration

A-01 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 as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit A-01)

Business

B-01 Contract Approval

Agreements with Middlesex Regional Educational Services to provide the following services to nonpublic schools for the 2014-2015 school year – all grant funded:

- a. Instructional Services – Chapters 192-193, as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made part of the minutes. (Exhibit B-01.a)
- b. Nursing Services, as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made part of the minutes. (Exhibit B-01.b)
- c. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – B Initiative, as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made part of the minutes. (Exhibit B-01.c)
- d. School Textbook Program, as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made part of the minutes. (Exhibit B-01.d)
- e. School Technology Initiative Program, as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made part of the minutes. (Exhibit B-01.e)

B-02 Approve the Sale of a Portion of Elizabeth Avenue School Property

Whereas, the Franklin Township Board of Education has obtained minor subdivision and variance approval for Block 14.01, Lot 502.02 from the Franklin Township Zoning Board of Adjustment under Docket No. ZBA 13-0020, memorialized January 9, 2014; and

Whereas, the Franklin Township Board of Education has awarded a bid and has entered into an Agreement of Sale to convey a 14± acre portion of Block 14.01, Lot 502.02 (to be known as Lot 14.04) to the adjacent owners of Block 502.02, Lot 32 after perfection of the subdivision; and

Whereas, the Franklin Township Board of Education is desirous of reserving an easement across, in, over, along and upon a portion of said Property, for the purpose of installing and maintaining drainage basins, drains, underground stormwater systems and related stormwater control systems on said Property to provide such stormwater drainage services to The Franklin Township Board of Education property; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary, Board President, Vice President and/or Attorney are hereby authorized to take the necessary steps to perfect the subdivision and to execute and deliver any necessary Deeds, Easements and other documents relating to the sale of the property including, without limitation, settlement sheet and/or other necessary closing documents.

<u>Yes</u> Arline	<u>Yes</u> Burton	<u>Yes</u> Danielsen	<u>Yes</u> LaCorte	<u>Yes/Abs</u> Potosnak	<u>Absent</u> Presley	<u>Yes/Abs</u> Smith-Carrington	<u>Yes</u> Whalen	<u>Yes</u> Nagy
----------------------	----------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------------	--------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------	--------------------

Mr. Potosnak abstained on the Resolution B-02 (Addendum).
Ms. Smith-Carrington abstained on Resolution R-01.

X. Old Business

The board discussed moving the referendum date from September 30, 2014 to December 9, 2014. Action will occur at the June 26, 2014 meeting.

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

The meeting was opened for public comments at 10:40 PM on a motion by Mrs. LaCorte, 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:

Neha Hinduja, Franklin High School student, spoke about not rehiring a guidance counselor and a petition signed by over 100 students for her to stay. She urged that the board to reconsider the decision.

Alan Tsai also spoke positively about Guidance Counselor, Ms. Anand-Sethi.

Khonaja Karimi spoke as a parent in support of Ms. Anand-Sethi and requested that her contract be renewed.

Bill Connell spoke about questioning Dr. Seitz's judgment recently. He also spoke about the Special Ed Audit and Mr. Arline's comments about mismanagement of \$3M in public funds, which did not reflect the truth of what had occurred. Another situation that Mr. Connell spoke about was when Mrs. Nagy and Dr. Presley benefitted from their vote on the Superintendent Seto's Separation Agreement. He believes this board does not "self-police".

Skip Schaeffer spoke about inconsistencies in scheduling over the last 10 years with minimal staff input and zero input by students and parents. He pointed out that at least two board members are education professionals and he sees little value coming from them. He requested to know where their experience and leadership come into play for the district. He also questioned how Mrs. Nagy draws from her 20+ years of experience in the district and the lack of decision-making regarding the referendum and the Superintendent search.

Motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting at 10:55 PM by Mrs. LaCorte, seconded by Mrs. Danielsen. All board members were in agreement.

Adjournment

Moved: Mrs. LaCorte

Seconded: Ms. Smith-Carrington

Action to adjourn at 10:55 PM.

<u>Yes</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	Potosnak	Presley	Smith-Carrington	Whalen	Nagy

Respectfully submitted,

John Calavano
Board Secretary