

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.**

CALL OF ROLL

Mrs. Christine Danielsen – arrived at 8:17 PM
Mrs. Nancy LaCorte, Vice President
Mr. Edward Potosnak, III, President
Dr. Julia Presley
Mr. Richard Seamon

Ms. Patricia E. Stanley – absent
Mrs. Margaret E. Steele
Ms. Latee E. Walton-McCleod - absent
Mrs. Betty Whalen

Student Liaisons
Sophia Felix
Karmen Normandia, Alt.
Both departed at 7:50 PM

Dr. John A. Ravally, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. James H. Strimple, Jr., Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary
Dr. Jeffrey Charney, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction - absent
Mr. Orvyl Wilson, Director of School Management
Dr. Brenda Sofield, Director of Pupil Personnel Services - absent

And 10 Members of the Public

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Karmen Normandia, Student Liaison, led the Board in the pledge.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

Mr. Strimple 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 5, 2015. 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.

Mrs. LaCorte read the following statement:

DISTRICT GOALS 2015-2016

- ***To establish the Superintendent as the Educational Leader of Franklin Township Public Schools.***
- ***To utilize data analysis in reviewing our educational programs and make recommendations for subsequent years to improve college and career readiness for all students.***
- ***To recruit and retain high quality staff and re-energize current staff through continued support and professional development.***
- ***To continue progress on our facilities projects with the least amount of disruption to the educational process.***

I. Action to Adopt the Agenda

Moved: Mr. Seamon

Seconded: Mrs. LaCorte

<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Danielsen	LaCorte	Presley	Seamon	Stanley	Steele	Walton-McCleod	Whalen	Potosnak

II. Superintendent's Update

What We Did This Summer

I would like to give a brief summary of some of the programs and professional development that were held in the district this summer.

Books in the Park, our summer mobile lending library visited six sites each week in July and checked out 1,823 books to the children of Franklin Township during that month. Thank you to our two ESL teachers who ran the program, Fran Bardusco and Farah Hussain, and our student volunteers from Franklin High School for their dedication.

Academic Support Programs - We were able to once again run a variety of academic support programs this summer. Our English as a Second Language Enrichment Program provided support to approximately 120 students; our Summer Academies served 105 Sampson G. Smith and Franklin Middle School students and our Extended School Year Program for students with special needs was held at Franklin Park and Franklin High School for over 200 students.

College Application Boot Camp – This was our first year and it was held over four days at the end of August. It was a success with 30-40 Franklin High School students attending each day. Workshops included information on filling out the common application, writing your personal statement and creating a resume.

Professional Development and Curriculum Revision were held over the summer in the areas of Special Education and Primary and Secondary Mathematics. Social Studies and Language Arts Literacy teachers worked on curriculum and common assessment revisions. Several of our mathematics teachers attended the Central Jersey Mathematics Partnership at Rutgers University. During this program teachers gained an understanding for effective mathematics teaching strategies. Several administrators and a media specialist attended the Confratute, a week-long gifted education conference at the University of Connecticut. They learned a variety of principles and techniques to both engage advanced learners and advance all learners by focusing on students' areas of skill and interest.

Working with the State - This summer representatives from our Health and Physical Education Department were invited to the Department of Education by Peter Mazzagatti, Policy Analyst in the Office of Evaluation. Physical Education and Health Supervisor, Rebekah Solomon, and teachers, Lauren O'Donnell (FMS), Ashley Sogluzzo (FMS), Daryn Plummer (FHS), and Christine Schwartz (FHS) collaborated with the State Department to create Physical Education SGO exemplars. I am proud to report that what they created will be used as a model for Health and PE throughout New Jersey.

Retreat and Convocation - Our administrators gathered for a retreat at the end of August engaging in work focused on instructional leadership using the work of Robyn Jackson as a focus for activities and discussion. As the new school year approached, we held a New Teacher Orientation to welcome 94 educators to our Franklin family. The rest of the staff attended our Welcome Back Convocation on September 1st. This was followed by professional development sessions and faculty meetings at our schools prior to the successful opening of school on September 3rd. Congratulations and thanks to all on a successful start to the 2015-2016 school year.

Sharing Our Facilities - Finally, as you are aware much work was done in and around the district facilities this summer. Our architects will be updating the Board and public at our October 15th meeting on all of our projects, including projects related to the "One Less Move" referendum.

III. Board President's Update/Focus on Franklin

Opening of School

Thank you and congratulations to our staff and students for a smooth start to the school year. Congratulations to Dr. Ravally on his inaugural opening.

Franklin High School Clubs – National Competitions

Several members of Franklin High School's Future Business Leaders of America, as well as their advisor, Ron Richter, attended the National Competition in Chicago this past summer. Two students, Shrika Patel and Tapan Desai, finished 6th place in the nation and three others, Jemmie Tsai, Stephanie Tu and Melissa Tu, were among the top 15 students in the nation. This was the best performance to date from our Future Leaders of America in this competition.

Several members of the Franklin High School Junior Classical League also attended a national competition this summer, along with their advisor, Ms. Jennifer Jones. They joined approximately 2000 students at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Among the awards won by our students at that competition were Adam Platek, 5th place in the national writing contest; Jessica Serpe for the Nancy Howell scholarship; and Sydney Rosen, 9th place in English oratory. Meera Surampudi and Megan Sweat won awards in reading comprehension and Caitlin Hibbard, won 7th place in traditional photo. Team awards included volleyball, soccer, spirit, relay and publicity. The Franklin High School Junior League website, created by Angela Brosius and Oise Ohiwerei, took 9th place and the club's scrapbook, created by Sydney Rosen and Shrikar Patel, won 7th place.

Following the trip, Franklin High School Principal, Dr. Tom DiGanci received a letter from the National Junior Classical League Committee Chair requesting that he commend Advisor Jennifer Jones for her "tremendous dedication both to the Latin students from Franklin High School and to the Classics." Dr. DiGanci was pleased to do so.

Event this Weekend

On Saturday, September 19, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the auditorium of Franklin High School, there will be a performance of *Where is Jonah Now?*, an original musical written by a Franklin resident, directed by Franklin High School teacher, Tim Walton, and produced by Sampson G. Smith School teacher, Terri Seggio. Franklin Middle and High School students appear in the show, as well as Franklin High School teacher, Sherri Richardson. Information on tickets for this one-night-only performance is available in the Community Events Section of the district website.

Moment of Silence

Our Franklin family lost two of our retired educators recently, Pat Weinert, retired Franklin High School Health/PE Teacher and Coach who taught in Franklin for 40 years and coached Franklin athletes for 36 years. Anita Ventantonio, a former teacher who retired in 2003, after serving our students for 25 years, also passed away recently.

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

The meeting was opened for public comments at 7:45 PM on a motion by Mrs. LaCorte, seconded by Mrs. Whalen. All board members were in agreement. There were no public comments at this time.

Motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting at 7:46 PM by Mrs. LaCorte, seconded by Mrs. Whalen. All board members were in agreement.

V. Committee/Liaison Reports

Karmen Normandia and Sophie Felix, Student Liaisons, spoke about the FHS Student Government supporting the organization called Hope Loves Company for children with ALS. They also spoke about the FHS fall play, *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, free SAT/ACT practice tests, new clubs and athletic game scores.

Nancy LaCorte, Policy Committee member, reported on the September 9th meeting.

Betty Whalen, Communications Ad Hoc Committee chair, reported on the September 9th meeting.

VI. New Business

1. Review of September 24, 2015 Action Meeting Agenda
2. Action Items for September 17, 2015

Action Items

A-01 <u>Travel & Related Expense Reimbursement</u> P-01 <u>Personnel Report No. 3, dated September 17, 2015</u>
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Moved: Mrs. LaCorte

Seconded: Mr. Seamon

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)

Personnel**P-01 Personnel Report No. 3, dated September 17, 2015**

As recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, approve Personnel Report No. 3, as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit P-01)

<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes/Abs</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes/Abs</u>
Danielsen	LaCorte	Presley	Seamon	Stanley	Steele	Walton-McCleod	Whalen	Potosnak

Mrs. LaCorte abstained on Resolution A-01, Nancy LaCorte only.
Mr. Potosnak abstained on Resolution A-01, Edward Potosnak only.

Board Discussion:

Board President Potosnak announced that Betty Whalen will act as the school district's representative to the Somerset County Educational Services Commission.

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

The meeting was opened for public comments at 8:25 PM on a motion by Mr. Seamon, seconded by Mrs. LaCorte. All board members were in agreement. Public comments were heard by the Board of Education.

Phil Kramer spoke about upcoming events in Franklin, such as Franklin Day, Canalfest and Canal Walk & Roll. He spoke about the devastating flood in Sierra Leone and that many of our students come from there. He welcomed Dr. Ravally and suggested further discussions regarding the potential to share the township newsletter with the school district.

Monique Thompson questioned the district's food allergy policy and the purchase of musical instrument supplies for her son.

Motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting at 8:31 PM by Mrs. LaCorte, seconded by Mrs. Whalen. All board members were in agreement.

Adjournment

Moved: Mrs. LaCorte

Seconded: Mrs. Whalen

Action to adjourn at 8:34 PM.

Motion was approved by voice vote with no opposition.

Respectfully submitted,

James H. Strimple, Jr.
Board Secretary