

**MINUTES  
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
OCTOBER 15, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.**

**CALL OF ROLL**

Mrs. Christine Danielsen  
Mrs. Nancy LaCorte, Vice President  
Mr. Edward Potosnak, III, President  
Dr. Julia Presley - absent  
Mr. Richard Seamon

Ms. Patricia E. Stanley  
Mrs. Margaret E. Steele  
Ms. Latee E. Walton-McCleod – arrived at 7:46 PM  
Mrs. Betty Whalen

Student Liaison

Sophia Felix – departed at 8:05 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 20 Members of the Public

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Sophia Felix, Student Liaison, led the Board in the pledge.

Mr. Strimple read the following statement:

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT 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.

Mr. Potosnak read the following statements:

**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 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: Mrs. Whalen

Seconded: Ms. Steele

*Motion was approved by voice vote with no opposition.*

**II. Superintendent's Report****In-Service Day - October 12, 2015**

On Monday, October 12, 2015, our certificated staff members participated in an in-service professional development day. The majority of our Grade 3 and above math teachers and language arts teachers attended sessions on understanding and using data to drive instruction. These sessions were provided by I-READY, the on-line diagnostic and progress monitoring tool being utilized by teachers in Grades 3 through 8.

Teachers of our younger students benefitted from sessions on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, developing academic vocabulary, implementing differentiated instruction and the use of educational technology applications.

Our principals and supervisors conducted sessions on Student Growth Objectives (SGO's). SGOs are academic goals that teachers, in consultation with administrators, set for a group of students to help guide their work through the year. Finally teachers in our specialized areas, such as Physical Education, Health, Fine Visual and Performing Arts reviewed common assessments and curriculum.

**Upcoming Presentations**

As you are aware, our architects are here tonight to update the Board of Education and the public on the status of our One Less Move referendum projects, which "IS" as we say "On the Move". We had originally scheduled Mr. Wilson to deliver his Violence and Vandalism Data Report tonight as well, however, the State has not yet made the data available so we will need to postpone his report to a later date.

At our November 12, 2015 Work Session meeting, we anticipate having two presentations. The first will be from a representative of the Somerset County Educational Services Commission who will speak about their new Career Center and the work the commission is doing with our district with regard to use of the Career Center. The second presentation will be an update on our whole school enrichment program, which kicked off this month.

We had anticipated hearing a presentation on test data in November. However, based upon recent information from the state regarding the availability of PARCC results, we will need to postpone the data presentation to a later date as well.

**Week of Respect**

Last week Franklin Township Public Schools recognized Week of Respect and hosted many special programs throughout the district and here are a few highlights:

At Franklin High School, Week of Respect was marked by daily words of wisdom. Also a selfie campaign was held where students were encouraged to take photos during lunch periods celebrating diversity. Additionally, selected Peer Leaders from SAC Leadership Programs attended the Interhigh Leadership Conference, a multi-school event that brings together student leaders and advisers from schools in the area to promote leadership skills and inspire students to change the culture of their schools in a positive way.

At Franklin Middle School the Week of Respect began with Words of Wisdom readings focused on Respect for Self, Others, the Environment, Community and School. Later in the week all students attended the 3 SCREENS assembly entitled "Epic Ability".

At Sampson G. Smith School, all students attended an assembly on Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying given by Juvenile Detective, Dawn Flanders, from the Franklin Twp. Police Department.

Hillcrest School kicked off the Week of Respect with an assembly for all students entitled "Be More Awesome." There was also a school-wide project in which each homeroom was given a piece of a puzzle to decorate, incorporating the theme "Respect". These were joined together on Friday in an event called Peace-ing our School together.

Conerly Road School had an anti-bullying assembly where staff and students wore Red to STOP Bullying. Classroom lessons given by the guidance counselor covered subjects such as Bullying vs Bad Behavior, Respect and Making Friends.

MacAfee Road School students also had an anti-bullying assembly and were encouraged to wear different types of clothes each day to symbolize an anti-bullying theme.

Elizabeth Avenue students learned a different word associated with respect each day. Classroom teachers were encouraged to have their students create something that they could wear each day emphasizing that word and showing that they not only knew the word on the inside, but that they knew how to behave/treat others on the outside.

Franklin Park School students also learned daily words of wisdom and showed respect for their bodies by participating in an exercise assembly.

At Pine Grove Manor School, students reviewed and signed an anti-bullying pledge card and drew respect messages on the sidewalk leading into the building on "Chalk it Up to Respect" day.

Finally, on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Wilson and I had the pleasure of attending a Multicultural Awareness Dinner hosted by our Road to Success Program. All were encouraged to bring an entrée or dessert that represented their particular culture or heritage. It was a wonderful program! A special thanks to all those involved.

### **III. Committee/Liaison Reports**

Sophia Felix, Student Liaison, announced activities in the Asian Awareness Club and the Cooking Club.

Mrs. LaCorte, Policy Committee member, reported on the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **IV. New Business**

1. The board reviewed the October 22, 2015 Action Meeting agenda.

### **V. Presentation**

Representatives from SSP Architectural Group and Design Resources Group gave a referendum progress update. The presentation can be found on the District website.

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

The meeting was opened for public comments at 8:40 PM on a motion by Richard Seamon, 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:

Amita Patani spoke about the Franklin Park School CARE Program and questioned when the Claremont School will open.

Gina Cruz also spoke about the Franklin Park School CARE Program.

John Felix announced the BOE Candidate's Night is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> at Franklin Middle School at 7:00 PM.

Rena Shah had questions about the zoning for the new school.

Tamara Hollinger thanked the board for the paving in the parking lot at Pine Grove Manor School and requested to know if any consideration has been given to an addition at that school.

Motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting at 8:50 PM by Mrs. LaCorte, seconded by Mrs. Whalen. All board members were in agreement.

## VII. New Business (Cont'd)

### 2. Action Items for October 15, 2015

### Action Items

## **HIB Investigation Report**

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

Moved: Ms. Stanley

Seconded: Mrs. Whalen

Acknowledge receipt of the HIB Investigation Report for the period September 3, 2015 through October 6, 2015 as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit R-01)

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

## **Administration**

### **A-01 National School Bus Safety Week - October 19-23, 2015**

### **A-02 School Violence (Prevention) Awareness Week**

### **A-03 Travel & Related Expense Reimbursement**

### **A-04 Approve School Connected Organization**

### **A-05 Tuition Waiver**

Moved: Ms. Walton-McCleod

Seconded: Ms. Steele

### **A-01 National School Bus Safety Week - October 19-23, 2015**

Whereas, October 19-23, 2015 is National School Bus Safety Week with this year's theme being "Be Smart – Be Seen, I Wait In a Safe Place"; and

Whereas, the Board of Education of the Township of Franklin recognizes bus safety education as essential to promote the safety and well-being of our children, and urges all students and parents to become aware of and practice the rules for safety relative to school buses;

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Franklin Township Board of Education joins the nation and recognizes the week of October 19-23, 2015 as "National School Bus Safety Week."

**A-02 School Violence (Prevention) Awareness Week**

In accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:36-5.1* and *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.2* the Franklin Township Board of Education observes School Violence (Prevention) Awareness Week, October 19-23, 2015.

**A-03 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-03)

**A-04 Approve School Connected Organization**

Pursuant to Policy 1230 - School Connected Organizations, the Franklin Township Board of Education hereby approves the following school connected organizations for the 2015-2016 school year.

- a) Project Graduation
- b) Choir Parents

**A-05 Tuition Waiver**

Approve a hardship tuition waiver for student #302128 to attend the Sampson G. Smith School C.A.R.E. Program from October 16, 2015 through November 13, 2015.

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

<b>Personnel</b>
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**P-01    Personnel Report No. 5, dated October 15, 2015**

Moved: Mrs. Danielsen

Seconded: Mrs. Whalen

As recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, approve Personnel Report No. 5, as detailed in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. (Exhibit P-01)

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

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

The meeting was opened for public comments at 9:05 PM on a motion by Mrs. LaCorte, seconded by Mr. Seamon. 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 9:06 PM by Ms. Walton-McCleod, seconded by Mrs. Danielsen. All board members were in agreement.

**Adjournment**

Moved: Mrs. LaCorte

Seconded: Mrs. Danielsen

Action to adjourn at 9:12 PM.

*Motion was approved by voice vote with no opposition.*

Respectfully submitted,

James H. Strimple, Jr.  
Board Secretary