

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
MIDDLEBUSH CONFERENCE ROOM  
JUNE 20, 2013 – 5:45 PM**

Mr. Richard E. Arline - absent  
Mr. Delvin Burton - absent  
Mr. Thomas J. Lewis  
Mrs. Eva M. Nagy, Vice President  
Dr. Julia M. Presley, President - absent

Mr. Richard Seamon  
Ms. Keisha Smith-Carrington  
Mr. Robert T. Trautmann - absent  
Mrs. Betty Whalen

Mr. Edward Q. Seto, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. John Calavano, Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary  
Ms. Every Pagán, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction - absent  
Mrs. Gail Reichg, Director of Personnel  
Ms. Pamela R. Horn, Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
Mr. Orvyl Wilson, Director of School Management - absent

And 8 Members of the Public

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mrs. Whalen 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 June 13, 2013 and June 14, 2013. 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.

Ms. Smith-Carrington 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 commit to continuous improvement of student achievement through the implementation of rigorous curriculum aligned to the 2009 NJCCC and Common Core Standards, as evidenced by grade-level performance and student growth as measured by multiple measures.*

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:** *To strengthen District communication through the use of the District and school-based websites and other media and to increase public engagement in the District through increased collaboration with the community.*

**SAFETY AND SECURITY:** *To continue the District's efforts to improve the culture and environment of our schools and to build positive relationships that promote respect, motivation for learning, and creativity in and for our students.*

**FACILITIES:** Utilizing the District's 2011-2021 Long-Range Facilities Plan, develop a building program 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 five years; address critical maintenance issues in all existing facilities and consider potential changes to the delivery of education and identify potential future buildings to support this paradigm shift.

**PURPOSE: Appointment of Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The meeting was opened for public comment at 5:47 PM on a motion by Mr. Seamon, seconded by Mr. Lewis. 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.

Govind Seshadri requested to know the reason for the need for an interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Leslie Davis-Primo inquired to know why the district is not keeping the current person in the position.

Angela Barkley doesn't understand why the current Director of Pupil Personnel Services is being replaced.

Leslie Davis-Primo questioned if there was *anything* she can know regarding a personnel matter? What can she ask and why is this job vacant?

Myra Mitchell requested to know how we got here and pointed out that more than 25 court cases existed prior to Ms. Horn joining the district. She questioned when Ms. Horn ever had a chance or the time to put her job into jeopardy. Ms. Mitchell inquired as to what constitutes someone being let go. She asked who in the district holds the position of Affirmative Action Officer.

De Sanders expressed her hope that administration confirmed that all rules and protocols were followed and truly investigated the truth in this matter. She questioned the high turnover rate and if it is legal to appoint an interim prior to the dismissal of the current employee.

Vaths Seshadri spoke about her very positive experience with the current Director and said many other parents have the same feelings. She requested that board members take that into consideration.

Angela Barkley expressed concern that when the school district gets a competent person, that person is always let go. In some cases, it seems discriminatory to her.

Govind Seshadri inquired about the nature of the court cases and what information may be released to the public.

De Sanders questioned paying an interim \$30,000 for the next two months, as opposed to keeping the current person in place and if it is possible to keep the current person on longer? Ms. Sanders pointed out that this seems personal.

Myra Mitchell questioned how the district can let someone go based on one person's assessment and who the employee can turn to if it is blatantly discriminatory. She expressed concern that administration didn't like her and that they misunderstand women of color. Ms. Mitchell questioned when this person became incompetent.

De Sanders asked if the board ever says to the Superintendent that anything is possible?

Angela Barkley requested to know if the Superintendent's request can be denied and how many court cases are presently under Ms. Horn.

Myra Mitchell questioned the rush of this vote and if it can be postponed to the June 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

De Sanders questioned the \$100,000+ salary of the interim Director and what would happen to the interim if the current Director was re-hired.

Angela Barkley requested to know why the interim Director was given a contract.

Myra Mitchell questioned if the interim Director was investigated and if a Committee interviewed her.

Motion to close the public portion of the meeting at 6:21 PM by Mr. Seamon, seconded by Mr. Lewis. All board members were in agreement.

**P-1 Personnel Report No. 23, dated June 20, 2013**

Moved: Mr. Seamon                      Seconded: Mr. Lewis

As recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, approve Personnel Report No. 23, as detailed in Exhibit P-1 attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

<u>Absent</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Arline	Burton	Lewis	Presley	Seamon	Smith-Carrington	Trautmann	Whalen	Nagy

Motion Fails

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved: Mr. Seamon                      Seconded: Mr. Lewis

Action to adjourn at 6:25 PM.

<u>Absent</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Arline	Burton	Lewis	Presley	Seamon	Smith-Carrington	Trautmann	Whalen	Nagy

Respectfully submitted,



John Calavano  
Board Secretary