

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WOODSTOWN-PILES GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 6, 2017 AT THE MARY S. SHOEMAKER SCHOOL LIBRARY AT 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bates, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Bates then led the group in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

READING OF STATEMENT OF NOTICE

Mr. Bates read aloud the following: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Woodstown-Piles Grove Regional Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the South Jersey Times, Elmer Times, Borough of Woodstown Municipal Hall, Township of Piles Grove Municipal Hall, general offices and faculty rooms of the district's four schools, the school district's central office, and with the Borough of Woodstown Clerk and the Township of Piles Grove Clerk.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Mr. Iacona, Mr. Kinney, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Morris, Mr. Pennal, Mr. Rattigan, Mrs. Spence-Lacy, Dr. Stanton, Mr. Zigo and Mr. Bates.

Members absent: None

Also Present: Mr. Thomas A. Coleman, Jr., Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Andrew R. Eubanks, Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Administrators Present: Ms. Cioffi, Ms. Pessolano, Mr. Fry and Mrs. Martinez.

Mr. Bates addressed the audience concerning the Board's intention to appoint the new superintendent at tonight's meeting. Mr. Bates then read a statement outlining the superintendent candidate Mrs. Virginia Grossman as follows:

The Woodstown-Piles Grove Regional School District Board of Education is very pleased to announce the appointment Ms. Virginia Grossman as the new Superintendent effective July 1, 2017. Her appointment was approved by the Board at a public meeting April 6 at the Mary Shoemaker School in Woodstown.

The 2017 Burlington County Superintendent of the Year, Ms. Grossman brings 25 years of education and leadership experience. She comes to Woodstown-Piles Grove following 5 years as Superintendent of Westampton Township Public Schools in Westampton, NJ and 2 ½ years as Superintendent of Hainesport Township Public Schools in Hainesport, NJ. Prior to that, Ms. Grossman spent the previous 17 years as an elementary school teacher, a curriculum director and principal. She has a proven track record of serving students, faculty, staff, parents, guardians, alumni, and the school community by sustaining a collaborative climate and school culture focused on continuous learning, advancing the Board of Education's vision and facilitating data-driven instructional leadership.

A South Jersey native, Ms. Grossman is a 1983 graduate of Delsea Regional High School and a 1987 graduate of the University of Notre Dame where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. She holds Master's degrees from both Rowan University and Rider University.

Ms. Grossman's long career in education has been highlighted by her work in fully inclusive instructional settings. She serves with the New Jersey Department of Education on the Teacher Leader Endorsement Committee. She is also the Chairperson of the NJ ASA Professional Development Committee. She has led professional development in clinical supervision, curriculum standards, curriculum mapping, formative benchmark assessments, differentiated instruction and reading and writing workshops. She works as an instructor for the University of Pennsylvania's Penn Literacy Network, training teachers, developing school leaders, and designing coursework in language arts literacy and leadership. She is a student-centered administrator who adamantly believes that all children are unique learners who benefit from a positive school environment that is filled with exploration.

The Woodstown-Piles Grove School Board is very excited to begin collaborating with Ms. Grossman in the coming months. Ms. Grossman was hired after an extensive search, interview and vetting process facilitated by professionals with the New Jersey School Boards Association. She will replace the outgoing Superintendent, Mr. Tom Coleman, who announced his retirement recently which will be effective July 1. The Board extends its congratulations to Ms. Grossman, its gratitude to Mr. Coleman and best wishes to both.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Bates then introduced Mrs. Grossman and asked if she would like to address the room. Mrs. Grossman introduced herself and shared with the Board and the audience her experience, initial plans and excitement in joining the Woodstown family.

Mr. Bates then asked if any audience members wished to speak and requested that the audience address their questions to the Board of Education.

Eileen Morris of Woodstown asked the Board how they plan on informing Mrs. Grossman of the district's traditions. Mr. Bates stated that the traditions of the district and community are very important to the Board members as this is their community too and that this was discussed.

Sara Horner of Woodstown asked the Board what the protocol was when selecting the candidate and that she is disappointed the community did not have input on the selection. She felt the process was rushed and also wanted to know if the Board has a responsibility to the community to introduce the candidate prior to appointment. Mr. Bates responded that a community meeting was advertised on the district's website, flyers home with students and the district's phone calling system and held in January in which approximately 10 community members attended. He also stated that the final decision is the Board's decision as they were elected by the community to represent them.

Jennifer Dubler of Woodstown stated that the community is concerned about transparency and asked if there is a timeline to fill the position. Mr. Bates reviewed the timeline that New Jersey School Boards helped the Board of Education set. Mr. Coleman stated that he is required to give 90 days notice however, he gave notice to the Board in October 2016 as to allow time for a thorough candidate search and possibly second search if the first search did not produce a qualified candidate.

Dana Hitchner of Woodstown wanted to know why the candidate was interested in coming to Woodstown. Ms. Hitchner also stated that we want someone who is going to make Woodstown their home for years to come. Mr. Bates asked Mrs. Grossman if she wanted to answer the question. Mrs. Grossman stated that Woodstown's reputation, farm community, and like mindedness, all attracted her to the district as she is from South Jersey. She plans to take a year or more to learn the culture and stated that the district is a gem and would like to preserve it.

Doug Painter of Pilesgrove stated that he respected the work the Board of Education did to get to this point. He asked if the candidate has high school experience as a superintendent. Mr. Bates asked Mrs. Grossman if she wanted to comment. Mrs. Grossman stated that she has K-8 superintendent experience but is intricately involved with the receiving district. Mr. Painter also asked how the Board arrived at the proposed salary. Mr. Bates stated that the salary is significantly less than the exiting superintendent's salary and that other district's of the same student body size was taken into consideration as well as the salary cap currently in place by the State of New Jersey. Mr. Painter cautioned the Board on hiring a superintendent without high school experience.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board then discussed the need to recess into executive session and chose not to recess.

**OTHER ITEMS**

Motion to approve Virginia M. Grossman as the Superintendent of the Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020 at a salary of \$147,500 for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion made by: Julie Stanton

Motion seconded by: Michael Kinney

Voting

Robert locona – Yes

Michael Kinney – Yes

Eileen C. Miller – Yes

Richard C. Morris – No

Floyd Pennal – Yes

Ron Rattigan – Yes

Valerie Spence-Lacy – Yes

Julie Stanton – Yes

Travis Zigo – Yes

Patrick Bates – Yes

Mr. Bates thanked the Board for their due diligence, as the Board has put in many extra nights and long hours during this search.

Mr. Bates informed the audience that the Board would take a 10 minute recess and reconvene for a work session on the 2017 2018 school budget and that no formal action would be taken on the budget. He reminded the audience that the public hearing on the budget would be held April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Mr. Coleman reviewed all questions that were previously asked by Board members concerning the 2017-2018 district budget.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn this meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Motion made by: Julie Stanton

Motion seconded by: Michael Kinney

Voting

Robert locona – Yes

Michael Kinney – Yes

Eileen C. Miller – Yes

Richard C. Morris – Yes

Floyd Pennal – Yes

Ron Rattigan – Yes

Valerie Spence-Lacy – Yes

Julie Stanton – Yes

Travis Zigo – Yes

Patrick Bates – Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Andrew R. Eubanks  
Interim SBA/BS

Approved by Motion of the Board

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Date

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Signature /SBA