

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE WOODSTOWN-PILES GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 17, 2018 AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

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

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.

FLAG SALUTE

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

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Mrs. Chiarelli, Mr. Iocona, Mr. Kinney, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Morris, Dr. Nielsen, Dr. Stanton, Mrs. Wojciechowski, Mr. Zigo, and Mr. Bates.

Members absent: Mr. Rattigan.

Also Present: Mrs. Virginia M. Grossman, Superintendent of Schools

Administrators Present: None.

REFERENDUM/CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Mr. Bruce Harkins updated the Board on the HVAC issues. Two months ago, Mr. Harkins sent a letter to Falasca informing them that they would not be receiving any payments until the air conditioning and heating units were running correctly. The units are still malfunctioning and sensors still need to be replaced. Falasca has said they will be back to correct these problems. Other school districts that have used Falasca are having the same problem. The quality control in place has not been good. Everything is still under warranty and there is a completion date set. An independent group will be making sure everything is fixed correctly.

This summer, the William Roper ECLC will be closed. All extended school year programs will be held at the Mary Shoemaker School.

There is a claim against the district. At this time, discussions have been and are continuing to be held. Mr. Harkins will provide reports as soon as he receives them. The doors and windows have been completed and paperwork should be submitted next week. The camera and swipe cards are complete but some of the doors need to be corrected. The fire doors should be completed once school is out.

The Board reviewed and discussed the agenda items to be presented for action at the May meeting. The following was discussed:

**Annual Appointments and Affirmations for the 2018-2019 School Year**

Mr. Frank Cavallo from Parker McKay addressed the Board and provided background information about the law firm. Parker McKay is a 105-year-old law firm with offices in Atlantic City, Mt Laurel and Lawrenceville and handles all types of legal issues. Mr. Cavallo is the leader in the school law department which consists of 8 attorneys with experience representing school district for as many as 30 years. He has been practicing law since 1986 with his main focus on giving advice to the superintendent, business administrator and board president. Mr. Brett Gorman handles all special education issues and Ms. Susan Hodges, who has been practicing law for 23 years, handles day-to-day problems as well as special education.

Three law firms were interviewed for the professional appointment of school auditor. The Board agreed that Parker McKay stood out with their team of attorneys.

**Instruction/Curriculum**

The Board discussed middle school intramural sports and if \$5,000 were to be raised, the intramural sport could be provided for middle school and those students not having winter track. The proposal is for a stipend for a teacher(s). No competitions would be held, therefore, alleviating any cost for travel. This would be a club, not a competitive sport. Sponsors could be approached for contributions.

The township may be considering a field hockey team. Mrs. Grossman will ask Ms. Bramante to speak with the recreational department to verify.

The Board requested to have the cost of the field trips on the agenda. A policy needs to be put in place for any group that makes it to a higher level of competition that would cost a much larger amount of money to attend. A maximum amount would be included in the policy for each group. A rubric would be created in addition to the policy to establish the norms.

**Administration/Personnel** - Discussion will take place in executive session.

**Operations/Finance**

The NJDOA food service audit will take place this month. It had been rescheduled in order to allow Nutri-Serve to prepare. The goal is to pass the audit.

A meeting was held with Mr. Ryan Danner, Nutri-serve and Collingswood as they may have the capability of fixing some of our equipment.

The district has applied for a loan to cover the last two state aid payments of the school year. This is not a new practice for the district. Once the state releases the state aid funds, the loan will be paid off and the state will pay the interest.

**Policy**

The student dress code was under discussion. Some board members feel that the current policy targets females more than males. The dress code needs to be equal. Strauss Esmay is currently reviewing our policies and we will have a new policy book shortly. The dress code in student handbooks is not the same as in policy. Mrs. Grossman is aware and will be looking into the matter.

**Reports**

It was discovered that there are scholarships available that have not been used in the past four years. We are working toward having more students receive them.

An outside group did a safety audit on the district. All of the information cannot be shared due to security reasons. A meeting will be held with Mr. Chris Snyder to go over the report and update our emergency plan. KDNFS has said they will do professional development for our staff regarding security issues.

The administrators will participate in a retreat this summer to go over a new hiring protocol and safety issues. They were asked if any thought had been given to letting the public know what we are doing in the district. The administrative team will be trained first, then the public will be given further information.

New Jersey School Boards is reviewing their safety report and updating it. It is quite comprehensive.

A new strategic plan will be created through small groups in the community. A survey is being created for public input and topics will come from the survey created at the Wolverine Den meeting. This will take about a year to complete.

**RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION I**

The Open Public Meetings Act allows the Board to enter into executive session for confidential matters (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b). Matters discussed in executive session will remain confidential until such time as the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Motion that the Board of Education enter into executive session, by resolution, to discuss legal matters and personnel. It is expected that the executive session will last approximately 90 minutes. The Board will reconvene in open public session immediately following. Formal action may or may not be taken as a result of the executive session. (8:15 p.m.)

Motion made by: Patrick Bates

Motion seconded by: Eileen Miller

Voting

- Maricia Chiarelli - Yes
- Robert locona - Yes
- Michael Kinney – Yes
- Eileen C. Miller – Yes
- Richard C. Morris – Yes
- Anne Nielsen – Yes
- Julie Stanton – Yes
- Amy Wojciechowski – Yes
- Travis Zigo – Yes
- Patrick Bates – Yes

**RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING**

Motion to resume the public portion of the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Motion made by: Patrick Bates

Motion seconded by: Eileen Miller

Voting

- Maricia Chiarelli - Yes
- Robert locona - Yes
- Michael Kinney – Yes
- Eileen C. Miller – Yes
- Richard C. Morris – Yes
- Anne Nielsen – Yes
- Julie Stanton – Yes
- Amy Wojciechowski – Yes
- Travis Zigo – Yes
- Patrick Bates – Yes

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn this meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Motion made by: Patrick Bates

Motion seconded by: Eileen Miller

Voting

- Maricia Chiarelli - Yes
- Robert locona - Yes
- Michael Kinney – Yes
- Eileen C. Miller – Yes
- Richard C. Morris – Yes
- Anne Nielsen – Yes
- Julie Stanton – Yes

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Amy Wojciechowski – Yes  
Travis Zigo – Yes  
Patrick Bates – Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Rose Wang Chin  
SBA/BS

Approved by Motion of the Board

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Date

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Signature /SBA