

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE WOODSTOWN-PILES GROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON THURSDAY EVENING, AUGUST 15, 2019 AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Miller, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

READING OF STATEMENT OF NOTICE

Mrs. Miller 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

Mrs. Miller then led the group in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Mrs. Chiarelli, Mrs. Miller, Dr. Nielsen, Mr. Pennal, Dr. Stanton, Ms. Wojciechowski and Mr. Zigo.

Members absent: Mr. Carney, Mr. Kinney, Mrs. Madiraca and Mr. Morris.

Also Present: Mrs. Virginia M. Grossman, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Rose Chin, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Administrators Present: Mrs. Spaventa.

Minutes – Mrs. Grossman thanked Dr. Stanton for edits to minutes which have been incorporated.

Superintendent's Report

- Mrs. Grossman presented QSAC progress via Google Doc tool, demonstrated select items below (but not limited to): curriculum matrix, observation schedule, CAFR, policies and regulation links.
- Preschool Expansion Aid (PEA).
  - Mrs. Grossman updated Board on topics such as, but not limited to:
    - PEA informational session: ~15 attendees from community
    - Funding formula based on enrollment resulted in a lower budget than originally anticipated; hence some risk to the district financially as PEA eliminates tuition revenue
    - Mrs. Grossman stated her motto that applying for the PEA is “what is right for kids”
    - # of classes anticipated; full time program anticipated
    - Anticipate collaboration with preschool vendor venues (“school outside the school premises”) in subsequent years if PEA is approved; District would provide staff and curriculum
  - Other discussion points:
    - New hires understand that position will become full-time if PEA is approved
    - No half day option anymore if PEA is approved
    - Eat lunch in classroom; family style
    - Goal is to reach universal population ~240 kids
- Mrs. Grossman informed good news that our District received the Anti-Defamation Grant; theme: “no place for hate”; program promotes various anti-bias activities.

Mr. Pennal left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Instruction/Curriculum – Items were clarified as needed.

- Mrs. Miller discussed Athletic Foundation idea, which is anticipated to be a 501c3 fundraising vehicle to facilitate fundraising; various ideas/goals were discussed, including but not limited to:
  - Ensure structure is simple and makes sense
    - Anticipated vehicle to be “arms length” in nature and desire for a “clean” approach
    - Similar to the School Foundation vehicle
  - Ensure equity in fundraising
  - School is responsible for proposing “what” programs to fund
  - Vehicle will determine “how” to fundraise
  - Bylaws are being reviewed by attorney; school will have oversight of bylaws
  - Dr. Stanton cautioned that bylaws must state what “type” of fundraiser is allowed
    - Mrs. Grossman stated that we anticipate that Athletic Director could be on this foundation's Board (to liaise for the District)
  - Dr. Stanton discussed the need to ensure that (in general) fundraising spend be spent on what was intended/communicated
  - Mrs. Grossman discussed the need to strike a balance between flexibility vs. constraining; between District image vs. fundraising needs
  - Hall of Fame idea was discussed; community expressed interest; WHS principal is looking into alumni association idea
- Handbook -- some updates of policies; new bell schedule included.

Administration/Personnel – Items were clarified as needed.

- Discussion of the approval of a new position as it will impact the Position Control Roster.
- Discussion of the revised Dean of Students job description, and its rationale.

Operations/Finance – Items were clarified as needed.

- Some clarifications of transportation routes, jointures, etc. were discussed.
- Discussed the submission of the second McKinney-Vento grant for Mercer and Burlington counties and proposed stipends for the BA Office staff for additional responsibilities undertaken.
- Mrs. Grossman and Mrs. Chin updated Board re: Charter school.
  - Transportation bids deadline was the day of the Work Session; no vendors bid based on the current schedule; an alternate plan to be devised
  - Discussed current student count (4); seeking County advice if there is a tuition opportunity as a result of lower than projected enrollment
- Add a motion re: seal coating at MSS in August Board agenda.
- Mrs. Grossman discussed upcoming meeting with DOT to discuss construction delays, impact on school opening transportation, and brainstorm solutions with all relevant parties.

Policy – Item was discussed and clarified.

Mr. Pennal rejoined the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Old Business

- Fundraising policy discussion (#5830 Fundraising policy)
  - Mrs. Miller moderated; Mrs. Miller stated that “current policy needs modification”; go around the table for Board members to express their opinions.
    - Dr. Stanton -- aim to represent community; does not want to micromanage; only aim to show district in the most positive light; Dr. Stanton drafted some new policy language; her goal is to help further the conversation; Dr. Stanton’s draft incorporated some fundraising literature she deemed relevant, and added some components to shape/eliminate some gaps; stated that faculty handbook has no guidance on fundraising; believes a post fundraiser analysis is reasonable to expect
    - Mrs. Chiarelli -- thanked Dr. Stanton for drafting ideas
    - Dr. Nielsen -- clarified some aspects of Dr. Stanton’s draft document; her goal is to gain transparency (e.g., school’s percentage take)
    - Mrs. Miller -- her goal is to identify aspects in our fundraising policy that the Board wishes to maintain, or feels is lacking
    - Mr. Zigo -- cannot comment on details of Dr. Stanton’s draft ideas until he does his due diligence; he likes the foundation idea, as long as activities are “under control”; he is not against fundraising activities that will be popular
    - Mrs. Wojciechowski -- main goals include, but are not limited to: how fundraisers represent our schools; understand the percentage of school’s take in a fundraiser; what fundraising money is used for; is it worth staff/students’ time and effort
    - Mr. Pennal -- interested in how fundraiser is perceived by the public; he presented a hypothetical negative scenario
  - Mrs. Grossman -- confirmed that the Board’s role is to set policy; District’s goal is to ensure policy follows regulations/guidelines; Strauss Esmay lawyer is reviewing Dr. Stanton’s draft ideas and providing comments
  - Board identified next steps and timing to continue discussion at September BOE meeting

New Business - None

Reports

- Mrs. Chin stated the following:
  - Now that 19/20 budget started... recall there were many cuts in the 19/20 to ensure balance
    - Recap of progression: each department asked to cut 15% of non-salary cost
    - After roll-up, budget had a \$1.4MM imbalance, which we solved despite Charter School bad news (e.g., personnel; efficiencies; programmatic)
    - Within Curriculum budget, we prioritized spend on an incremental item:
      - Pearson Math \$22K
    - While decisions are not one-off (i.e., cut X to pay for Y), it was determined that Extra Duty G&T Stipends is an area to look at:
      - cut ~\$7,600 (from 27.6K to 10K) or 27%
    - Had hoped that Federal grants would absorb more; instead ESEA grant (cut by \$31K)
    - Mrs. Grossman provided more details programmatically
      - Principals collaboratively made cut decisions of: 1 OM team at each school; cut G1 and G2 clubs
      - Class size reduction is a priority
      - District is open to fundraising of OM needs (transportation)
      - Stellar program still on

Board Reports

- Mrs. Miller gave a preview of various meetings: e.g., topic of Consolidation; 4th Friday; Fall Festival.

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 personnel/legal matters. It is expected that the executive session will last approximately 30 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. 8:51 p.m.)

Motion made by: Maricia Chiarelli  
Motion seconded by: Anne Nielsen

Voting

Maricia Chiarelli – Yes  
Eileen C. Miller – Yes  
Anne Nielsen – Yes  
Floyd Pennal – Yes  
Julie Stanton – Yes  
Amy Wojciechowski – Yes  
Travis Zigo – Yes

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING

Motion to resume the public portion of the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Motion made by: Amy Wojciechowski

Motion seconded by: Travis Zigo

Voting

Maricia Chiarelli – Yes  
Eileen C. Miller – Yes  
Anne Nielsen – Yes  
Floyd Pennal – Yes  
Julie Stanton – Yes  
Amy Wojciechowski – Yes  
Travis Zigo – Yes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn this meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Motion made by: Amy Wojciechowski

Motion seconded by: Maricia Chiarelli

Voting

Maricia Chiarelli – Yes  
Eileen C. Miller – Yes  
Anne Nielsen – Yes  
Floyd Pennal – Yes  
Julie Stanton – Yes  
Amy Wojciechowski – Yes  
Travis Zigo – Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Rose Wang Chin  
SBA/BS

Approved by Motion of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature /SBA