

BOARD BRIEF

Regular Meeting

November 10, 2008

AT THE November 10, 2008 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE BOARD TOOK ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS...

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiations Committee – Mr. Meringolo reported that he will be providing an update to the Board in Private Session this evening. A tentative agreement has been reached with the Teamsters.

Community Relations – Mr. Carbone reported that he attended four programs during the workshops in Atlantic City, three of them addressing community relations and strategies for engaging the public. He will be scheduling a meeting of the community relations committee soon.

Township Committee Liaison – Mrs. Scanlon reported that she attended the recent Township Committee meeting. George Vitoreira was re-elected and Nan Harrington was elected for three year terms to begin in January 2009. This Thursday a meeting will be held with the Mayor and Richard Sheola, the Township Administrator, to discuss shared services. Mrs. Scanlon, Mr. Esposito and Dr. Rovtar will represent the district. This is a continuation of the dialogue that had previously been initiated on the topic of sharing services.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Mr. Dreyer reported that the committee met this evening to review a number of ongoing projects. Mr. Esposito is exploring energy conservation programs and he is waiting for information from an energy management company. On Wednesday morning, Mr. Dreyer, Mr. Esposito and Dr. Rovtar will be meeting with Mr. Sheola and Mr. McNany to discuss ways to improve the supervision of recreation programs at the schools.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Nyquist reported that the Policy Committee met last week. There is an addendum this evening regarding some policies which can be rescinded because the subjects they cover are addressed in law, code and employee contracts. There is also a recommendation to approve Policy 3220/3230 State Funds/Federal Funds on a first reading. The changes to this policy are required by the accountability regulations, specifically the application for funding through the Special Education Medicare Initiative.

Finance Committee – Mr. McCarthy reported that the Finance Committee met this evening prior to the Regular meeting. The payroll figure in item #2 is correct. The acceptance of the Board Secretary and Treasurer Reports appears to be in order. The committee also reviewed the budget development timeline that has been prepared by Mr. Esposito. It sets forth the meetings and tasks to be accomplished from now through the school election on April 21st. The Community Relations Committee and the Finance Committee will have to work cooperatively to develop the plans for the budget.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Rovtar reported that the state reporting cycle is drawing to a close. There have been a large number of state report submissions that have involved various administrators. Compiling the required data is always quite cumbersome and time consuming. Thankfully, we are nearing the end.

Last week parent conference were held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The administration has been discussing some possible changes that might be recommended to provide additional conference slots, greater access for parents and perhaps shifting the conference dates to another week to discourage parents from taking their children out of school for a vacation week. The 2009-2010 calendar has already been adopted by the Board, but we may want to make some revisions. Dr. Rovtar indicated that she would draft some recommendations, share them with the LHEA for feedback and then bring the recommendations to the Board. Any revisions to the calendar should be acted on no later than January to make sure parents have adequate time to plan.

Dr. Rovtar stated that our current student information system – SASI – is being phased out and we need to select a new system. Mr. Cimino has organized the selection process by scheduling demonstrations, meeting with other administrators to discuss the pros and cons of the system and preparing a summary of his findings for the administration. The technology committee now needs to

discuss the matter. The selection is focused on two products. It is important that the Board make a decision so that it can be reflected in the 2009-2010 budget. We would also need to make arrangements to schedule training for the staff in the spring if a new system would be implemented in the 2009-2010 school year so that they would be prepared to work with the new system when they return in September.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Wetherell reported that on October 26th, 17 staff members and parents participated in the Walk for Autism which was held in Cranford. The district team raised approximately \$3,000. and was part of a group of 6000 walkers. On October 29th she attended the curriculum articulation meeting for the WHRHS sending districts. The high school transition to freshman geometry was discussed as well as the world language programs that are being offered in the elementary districts. She has provided copies of the Computer Integration Curriculum Guide and the Prejudice Reduction, Holocaust and Genocide Curriculum Guide to Dr. Rovtar. The documents will need to be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee. The first curriculum committee meetings for the year were postponed. The next meetings are scheduled for November 24th. The first meeting of the Parents of Exceptional Children Group was well attended. The next meeting of this new group will be held on November 12th at 7:00 p.m. at Gillette School.

ADMINISTRATORS AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR'S UPDATES

Mr. Cimino reported that the entire student body at Central School will participate in the Veteran's Day ceremony tomorrow. He offered his thanks to the PTO for the purchase of the math textbooks. Some of them have already begun to arrive. He also thanked the PTO for the outstanding assembly program they provided last week. Dr. Michael Fallon presented a wonderful program on character education and the students responded very well. A parent survey was conducted regarding the 8th grade trip to Boston. Twenty parents indicated that they would not be willing or able to pay for a three day trip. The trip has been changed to a two day, one night trip. All of the most popular elements of the trip have been retained. A parent meeting will be held on November 18th to discuss the trip. The Central School students participated in a mock election which was won by Barack Obama. Mr. Cimino thanked the social studies teachers for planning and executing a wonderful election. Students needed to go through a registration process and then cast their vote in the schools' polling place. Central School will again be participating in the School Consortium on New Jersey which sponsors a number of competitions: spelling bee, knowledge bowl, volleyball tournament, etc. Faculty members have agreed to supervise all of the various events. Students now need to sign up so that we have complete teams to compete. The marking period ends tomorrow and report cards are scheduled to go out on November 20th. On November 19th Central School will be inviting parents to visit classes as part of American Education Week.

Mrs. Dawson stated that Millington School's goals for the year are focused on improving student performance on the math portion of the MAT. She has worked with the second grade teachers and developed a timeline as well as packets for instruction to increase student mastery of solving the type of word problems found on the test. The Millington student election resulted in a tie between Barack Obama and John McCain. Mrs. Dawson thanked Katie Greves, a student teacher at Millington for her efforts in organizing the student election. The Halloween Parade benefited from the great weather and was very well attended. Parent conferences were also very well attended. A veterans' assembly will be held at Millington School November 11th at 9:30 a.m. She thanked Mrs. Kehoe for chairing the program and all of the other staff members who have worked to make it a success. The marking period will close tomorrow at Millington with report cards being issued on November 20th. November 21st is spirit day – blue and gold.

Mr. Blinder reports that the new servers are working well. He has been working on solving daily IT issues. He will be working with the first grade teachers on a grant proposal for some technology equipment. Mr. Blinder indicated that district email accounts have been established for all board members. All Board correspondence should not be directed to these accounts.

BOARD SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Mr. Esposito reported that the District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS) and the Application for State School Aid (ASSA) were successfully submitted to the state. Last week was the kickoff of the budget development process. Mr. Esposito will be meeting individually with all of the principals over the next week to review budget information. The bid specifications for the outsourcing of custodial and maintenance services have been reviewed by the board attorney and some recommended revisions will be incorporated. The district will then be going out to bid.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Gronske stated that F.O.R.C.E. has \$16,000 available for teacher and/or administrator grants. Given the fact that the district budget has been frozen, they are encouraging teachers to apply for grants. F.O.R.C.E. prefers grant requests that are more program-oriented. The PTO has grant funding available for teacher supply items. She also received an email from Investor Savings inviting F.O.R.C.E. to reapply in January for a community grant through the bank.

RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

- Accepted as the minutes of the October 27, 2008 Regular Meeting – Public & Private Sessions.

Financials

- Approved the Payroll for October 30, 2008.

Payroll October 30, 2008	
Fund 10	\$ 23,454.66
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$389,070.39
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -0-
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ -0-
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -0-
Debt Services – Fund 40	\$ -0-
Total	\$412,525.05

- Certified that as of August 31, 2008, after review of the Board Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of NJAC 6:20-2.13(B), and sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

- Accepted the financial reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Funds for the month ending August 31, 2008.

- Approved the transfers for August, 2008.

- Approved the Travel/Conference registration for the staff indicated for professional improvement or development as per the attached listing.

Personnel

- Approved the salary guide movement for Christie Cortese for the 2008-2009 school year from Step 1 BA \$42,595 to Step 1 BA + 30 \$45,395.00.

- Approved the following appointment:

Cheerleading advisor	Danielle Junior	\$1,948.90*
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*Stipend to be paid from existing activity account balances and/or pay to play/participate fees paid.

- Approved the appointment of the following people to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2008-2009 school year:

Megan Nord

Lauren Lozowski (substitute nurse)

Policy

- Approved the second reading of the following policies:

1100 Communicating with the Public
3541.31R Use of Privately Owned Vehicles

- Approved the first reading of the following policy:

3220.3230 State Funds/Federal Funds

- Approved the deletion of the following policies:

4115/4116AG Teacher Evaluation (Administrative Guidelines)
Dated December 21, 1998
4115/4116 Teacher Evaluation dated January 29, 1999
4117.4 Personnel Reduction/Abolishing a Position
Dated April 23, 1979
4117.41 Non-renewal dated June 25, 1990

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

PRIVATE SESSION

The Board entered Private Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with the Teamsters. Disclosure of the above will be permitted following formal action by the Board at an open public meeting. Formal action is anticipated as soon as these matters are no longer of a confidential nature.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

- Approved a one year contract with the Teamsters Union, representing district custodian and maintenance personnel, for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 which represents a salary increase of 3.67%.

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETING DATES

November 24, 2008 – Regular Meeting – Gillette Board Office – 7:30 p.m.

December 15, 2008 – Worksession and Regular Meeting – Gillette Board Office – 7:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED AT ALL BOARD MEETINGS
THE BOARD BRIEF DOES NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION.**