

# **BOARD BRIEF**

## **Regular Meeting**

### **November 24, 2008**

AT THE November 24, 2008 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE BOARD TOOK ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS...

Ms. Becker introduced Mr. Lawrence Solomayer from Lincoln Investment. Mr. Solomayer presented a gift card to Mrs. Nyquist, which she won in a drawing at the School Boards Conference last month.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Dr. Rovtar noted that the Board members had received a copy of the retirement letter from Mrs. Martell. The Board also received a letter from Mrs. Barwashi expressing her support for the custodians at Gillette School.

#### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Negotiations Committee – Mr. Meringolo reported that the negotiations committee met last week. He will be providing an update to the Board in closed session this evening.

Community Relations – Mr. Carbone reported that the Committee met last Friday. Mr. Carbone discussed with the committee the action labs that he had attended at the Fall Conference in Atlantic City. The theme of the presentations was information and contact equal trust. The committee will be pursuing the possibility of having a monthly “ask the superintendent” column in the local newspaper. Having student presentations at board meetings was also discussed. Dr. Rovtar will contact the Senior Citizens, the Chamber of Commerce and the Mom’s Club to offer district/board personnel as speakers at their meetings if desired.

Finance Committee – In Mr. McCarthy’s absence, Mr. Dreyer reported that the Finance Committee met this evening prior to the Regular meeting. The numbers contained in resolution number 2 correspond to the figures on the Bill List. Mr. Dreyer recommended approval of the resolution.

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Scanlon reported that the curriculum committee met last week. They reviewed the curriculum status by subject. Science textbooks will be recommended for next year. The district is pursuing grant funding to help offset part or all of the projected cost of \$42,000. The Language Arts curriculum is in the development phase. The math curriculum is in the implementation phase. The curriculum for world language is being worked on and some new materials may be necessary for implementation. The committee is reviewing two curriculum documents that have been prepared: Computer Integration and Prejudice Reduction, Holocaust and Genocide. The documents will be brought to the Board for approval when the committee has completed its review. The next meeting of the committee will be on December 15<sup>th</sup>

Township Committee Liaison – Mrs. Scanlon reported that she attended a meeting with the Mayor and Township Administrator, Mr. Esposito and Dr. Rovtar on shared services this morning. Potential areas for sharing of services, including snow removal and grounds maintenance, were discussed. Both entities are already part of cooperative purchasing groups for energy costs, insurance and other supplies. The summer pilot 4-day work week was discussed. The Township is still gathering data to analyze if there were cost savings in the alternate schedule. Mr. Esposito and Mr. Sheola will share information to explore the potential for shared services on snow removal and grounds maintenance.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Nyquist reported that the Policy Committee met last week. They have done a lot of work on the manual and there will be a lot of policy activity on the next board agenda. Mrs. Nyquist stated her desire to make sure that the new requirements of the adopted policies, such as the use of private automobiles, are enforced by the administration. The district will need to post the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy on the website and notify parents that it has been posted there. Dr. Rovtar said she would make sure that this was done.

Delegate Assembly – Mr. Blocker attended the New Jersey School Boards Association Delegate Assembly this past Saturday. He indicated that in the future NJSBA training may be going online to increase efficiency. There was one resolution, put forth by the Rutherford District, to require that schools

be closed on Veterans Day. Mr. Blocker explained that there were many amendments to the resolution and it was a tedious process to endure. The meeting also included a panel discussion on regionalization. There was a great deal of interesting information presented. In the case of regionalization, the salary guide of the largest district becomes the salary guide for the new regional district. The increased salary costs typically negate any cost savings achieved through the elimination of some administrative positions. Only three districts have regionalized since 1986, but there have been numerous deregionalizations. Smaller suburban districts typically have high achievement than larger urban districts, so bigger is not always better.

Mrs. Nyquist indicated that she and Mr. Carbone had attended a critical issues workshop on regionalization and consolidation. The information from the presenter was that there typically are not significant economic gains in these situations.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Dr. Rovtar reported that last week the district celebrated National Education Week and welcomed parents into the schools. The Curriculum Committees met today for the first time this year. All teachers have been assigned to one of the various committees. Phase II of the accountability regulations were introduced last week. Dr. Rovtar provided a summary document for the board members which is far shorter than the 178 page original document.

Dr. Rovtar explained that the Board will be asked this evening to authorize submission of the five year Preschool Plan to the NJ Department of Education. Due to the fact that Long Hill is projected to only have one three year old and one four year old to serve, our plan calls for the 2009-2010 school year to be a planning year to allow us to pursue options with other neighboring districts.

### **BOARD SECRETARY'S UPDATE**

Mr. Esposito gave the board members copies of an article from yesterday's Bergen Record. The article addresses cost cutting measures that are being adopted by other school districts to deal with budgetary concerns. The Long Hill District has already implemented all of these measures. An increasing number of districts are finding themselves in a difficult financial position.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **Minutes**

- Accepted the minutes from the November 10, 2008 – Regular Meeting – Public & Private Sessions

#### **Financials**

- Approved the List of Bills for November 3 – November 24, 2008, including payroll, for payment as follows (as attached):

Bill List for November 3 through 24, 2008 (including payroll)	
Fund 10	\$ 23,296.58
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$705,761.77
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -0-
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ 24,660.85
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -0-
Debt Services – Fund 40	\$ -0-
Total	\$753,719.20

- Approved the Agreement with On-Tech of Red Bank, New Jersey, for E-rate Application Completion Services for the 2009-2010 school year. Cost of the service is 20% of any funding received, to be reimbursed by the savings realized from filing the application.
- Retroactively approved a payment in the amount of \$2,496.00 to the Union County Educational Services Commission for extended school year transportation to Cedar Hill School for special education student #2016245.
- Approved the following resolution:
  - Whereas in response to recently released IRS regulations establishing a requirement for written documentation of the 403(B) tax-sheltered program offered to employees of the Long Hill Township Board of Education (the 'District');
  - Whereas the District wishes to adopt the 403(B) Plan Document, a copy of which is attached to this agenda; and
  - Whereas this document is based upon model language released by the IRS for such purpose;
  - THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby adopt the 403(B) Plan Document for Public Education Organizations (the 'Plan'), which will, at all times, conform to the regulations of Section 403(B) of the Internal Revenue Service Code and applicable regulations; and
  - BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the intention of the Board that the 403(B) program will conform with all federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to 403(B) plans, except that the program set forth above shall not be subject to the requirements of Title I of ERISA because the district is exempt from such requirements; and
  - BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Business Administrator to act on the Board's behalf with respect to this plan and to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to implement, maintain, and administer the plan set forth above in accordance with the Board's intentions and all applicable state and federal laws.
- Approved a 2008-2009 Joint Transportation Agreement with the Warren Township School District for regular education student transportation for three Central School Math students for route #W-137 at a total cost of \$900.00
- Approved the Travel/Conference registration for the staff indicated for professional improvement or development as per the attached listing.

**Special Education**

- Approved payment to Above and Beyond Learning Group for Home Programmer-Teacher services. Student #999903 is to receive, in accordance with the student's IEP, 10 sessions per week with a home programmer, 1 hour each session, at a cost of \$85.00 per session, 2 sessions per week with the Program Coordinator at a cost of \$145.00 per hour and 2 hours per month of team meetings. Services will begin December 1, 2008 and continue until June 30, 2009. The total cost for services is not to exceed \$34,000.00. Approval of these services replaces home programming services currently being provided by the Morris Union Jointure Commission. The arrangement outlined in the above resolution provides for the services, as required by the IEP, at a substantial savings over the previous contractual arrangement.

**Personnel**

- Accept, with regret, the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Virginia Martell from the position of ESL teacher effective December 1, 2008.
- Approved the following appointments:

<u>Sport/activity</u>	<u>Advisor</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Boys' Basketball	Peter Hockmeyer	\$2,557.01*
Girls' Basketball	Kerri Altebrando	\$2,557.01*
Girls' Softball	Peter Hockmeyer	\$2,557.01*

\*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:

Katie Greves

### **Policy**

- Approved the second reading of the following policies:  
3220/3230 State Funds/Federal Funds
- Approved the deletion of the following policy:  
4219.23 Smoking, Drinking, Use of Drugs and Gambling in School Worksites

### **OTHER**

- Approved the submission of the Long Hill Township School District's Five-Year Preschool Program Plan for the period 2009-2010 through 2013-2014 to the New Jersey Department of Education.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Nyquist commented that a while ago there had been discussion about the elimination of Santa and the Easter Bunny from school programs. She stated that her husband had portrayed Santa and she had portrayed the Easter bunny for a number of years. She acknowledged the extra effort of the teachers in working to make these events learning experiences for the students without there being a religious connotation. There was a fun element to the visit. Mrs. Nyquist thought that there might have been some confusion and she just wanted to set things straight and correct the context of the situation.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public.

### **PRIVATE SESSION**

- Moved that the Board go into Private Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with the Long Hill Education Association.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

### **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

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.**