

BOARD BRIEF

Regular Meeting

May 4, 2009

AT THE May 4, 2009 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE BOARD TOOK ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS...

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to report.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Mr. McCarthy stated that there is no Bill List for this evening's meeting, so no Finance Committee meeting was held.

New Jersey School Board Association – Mr. Meringolo stated that the New Jersey School Boards Association will be holding legislative days on May 19th and 20th. Mr. Meringolo plans to attend the May 19th session.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Scanlon reported that there are three policies on the agenda for adoption on a second reading this evening. The policies were reviewed at the last meeting. Minor changes were made. Mrs. Scanlon also mentioned that she had emailed the Policy Grid out to all of the Board Members last week.

Committee Assignments - Mrs. Scanlon announced the following Board Committee assignments for 2009-2010:

<u>Finance:</u>	Mr. McCarthy (chair), Mr. Blocker, Mr. Dreyer
<u>Policy:</u>	Mr. Carbone (chair), Ms. Barone, Dr. Verlezza
<u>Buildings and Grounds:</u>	Mr. Dreyer (chair), Mr. McCarthy, Dr. Verlezza
<u>Negotiations:</u>	Mr. Meringolo (chair), Dr. Rae, Mr. Blocker
<u>Curriculum:</u>	Mr. Carbone (chair), Ms. Barone, Dr. Verlezza
<u>Technology (Ad Hoc):</u>	Mr. Blocker (chair), Dr. Rae, Mr. Meringolo
<u>Community Relations:</u>	Mr. Dreyer (chair), Mr. Carbone, Mr. McCarthy
<u>Legislative Liaisons:</u>	Mr. Meringolo, Ms. Barone
<u>Special Educ. Liaison:</u>	Mr. McCarthy
<u>Township Liaison:</u>	Mr. Meringolo
<u>WHRHS Liaisons:</u>	Mr. Blocker, Dr. Verlezza
<u>All Schools Council:</u>	Mr. Carbone
<u>NJSBA and MCSBA:</u>	Mr. Meringolo, Ms. Barone
<u>Educ. Serv. Comm.:</u>	Dr. Rae
<u>SPORT Liaison:</u>	Mr. Dreyer
<u>FORCE and PTO:</u>	Mrs. Scanlon

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Rovtar stated that a great deal of time last week was devoted to conference calls at the county and state level with regard to the prevention of the spread of swine flu. To date, no cases have been reported in Long Hill Township. We are in the midst of state testing. Seventh and eighth grades tested last week. This week we have third, fourth and fifth grades testing and make-ups for grades 7 and 8.

Dr. Rovtar explained that this evening the Board will be taking action on the staffing recommendations for 2009-2010. Action must be taken to be in compliance with state code which requires that we provide notification to teaching staff members by May 15th relative to their appointment or nonrenewal for next year. All teaching staff members are observed and evaluated according to the same criteria which include: lesson planning, incorporation of the core curriculum content standards, differentiation of instruction, classroom environment and whether the teacher constructs lessons in accordance with the basic design principles of setting forth objectives, teaching the materials to the students, checking for understanding, and assessing student mastery of the material. In April, the administrative staff met to chart out the staffing for next year. All of the available slots were filled,

first with tenured staff members and then non-tenured. Unfortunately, there were some reductions in positions which led us to not have enough positions to offer reappointment to some staff members.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Wetherell stated that the first graders enjoyed their field trip to the Saw Mill Museum. The Kindergarten students will be going on their field trip to the Staten Island Zoo on Friday. The school evacuation drill that was planned for today was postponed due to the inclement weather. There will be a Volunteer Appreciation Tea on May 20th. Students who participate in the Kindergarten Wrap-Around Program, provided by the Work Family Connection, will be presenting a play on May 21st. On May 27th the first grade students will be visiting Millington School. May 29th is Field Day. This Friday will be Yellow Day at Gillette School.

ADMINISTRATORS AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR'S UPDATES

Mrs. Dawson reported that the NJASK is being administered this week. On May 19th the PTO will be sponsoring a Teacher Appreciation event for the staff. The DARE Graduation will be held on May 20th. On May 21st, the 4th grade students will be going to the Bronx Zoo on their field trip. May 27th is the date for the fifth grade visit to Central School. June 1st is Colonial Day. Last week the second grade participated in Environmental Day. The class took a half-day field trip to the Great Swamp, which was funded by the PTO. On Thursday they participated in an outdoor event at school featuring booths on the Great Swamp and recycling as well as environment-related activities. It was a wonderful learning experience for the students. Mrs. Dawson thanked the parents and teachers for their work in organizing the program.

Mr. Cimino reported on the various upcoming activities at Central School: May 19th will be the 8th grade picture. Choral and Band concerts are coming up. A school dance, the last of the year, for all grades will be held on May 22nd. On May 27th the 5th graders will be visiting. On that date, Central School will also have a visiting author, Jim Murphy, who is being sponsored by the PTO. Medieval Day, an interdisciplinary day for the 6th graders, will be held on May 29th. Mr. Cimino said that the weather has been wreaking havoc on the baseball and softball schedules.

Mr. Blinder indicated that the new board members have been provided with Long Hill Township Board of Education email accounts. The VersaTrans program for transportation has been installed on a server which was donated by Mr. Rosenblum. We are grateful for his generosity.

BOARD SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Mr. Esposito stated that the information for the New Jersey School Boards Fall Workshop came out last week. Participation in this conference is restricted in some ways by the accountability regulations with regard to travel. If board members are interested in attending the workshop, they should let Mr. Esposito know.

PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

Mrs. Yavelberg gave a presentation on "The Alphabet Soup of Special Education," explaining the many acronyms that are used to describe various aspects of special education programs and procedures. Mrs. Yavelberg stated that special education is governed by N.J.A.C. Title 6A, Chapter 14. She explained that children may be identified for special education services at age birth through 3 by Early Intervention Services. The school district does not pay for those services. When the child reaches the age of 3, special education services become the responsibility of the local school district. A school district is responsible for educating a special education student from age 3 through age 21 or until the child graduates from high school. Mrs. Yavelberg explained the Intervention and Referral Services (I & RS) Committee that is used to review the needs of students who are struggling to achieve. This is not a special education committee, but one comprised of various staff members who discuss and implement strategies to improve student achievement. She explained the referral process for special education. Referrals can come from teachers, pediatricians or parents. The Child Study Team members were described, including external professionals who provide input to the district CST. Once referred, the CST then makes a decision as to whether the student is eligible or ineligible for special education and related services. If the student is eligible for services, an IEP (Individual Education Plan) is prepared for the student. Mrs. Yavelberg described the various related services that might be necessary and explained the concept of least restrictive

environment. The law requires a school district to educate a special education student in the least restrictive environment, ranging from a general education class through an out-of-district residential placement.

The special education code governs the age range that is permissible in special education classes, the number of students permitted in a class, and the number of staff members required and their certification. She explained the difference between modifications (adjustments to the curricula to facilitate learning) and accommodations (adjustments to the learning environment to facilitate learning) which can be included in a student's IEP. Once an IEP has been developed for a student, it must be reviewed and adjusted annually. A triennial evaluation occurs every three years. A triennial is a re-evaluation through standardized testing to determine continued eligibility.

In Long Hill Township, the special education population is approximately 15% of the total student population. The average ranges from 12 to 15% statewide. She would like to see the number be a little smaller, but it is within the normal range. One percent of our students are in out-of-district placements. Periodically the state conducts monitoring of each district's special education programs. They spot check student records and district compliance with educating students in the least restrictive environment. Long Hill is in good shape with regard to both of these indicators. The state checks to see if there is "over-classification" of students or if minority students are over-identified. We do not have problems in either area. A parent satisfaction survey is also administered independently by the state. The state expects a satisfaction rating of 81.6%, Long Hill's rating was 85.1%.

Mrs. Yavelberg indicated that the district is exploring the possibility of creating an autistic program at Millington School. Creating a new program is a very lengthy process: the program must obtain approval from the Executive County Superintendent, it must be budgeted for, staffing and supplies must be secured. We are at the preliminary stage at this point for a possible implementation in 2010-2011.

Mrs. Yavelberg explained the distinction between an IEP and a 504 plan. A 504 plan has nothing to do with special education. It is generally put in place in response to a medical diagnosis, such as an insulin dependent student or other situations of a chronic medical nature, to allow accommodations to be put in place for the student. The I & R S committee functions as the 504 committee in each school. Mrs. Yavelberg has general oversight of 504 and serves as a resource to the school level committees.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Dennis Sandow read a list of 18 Board Members and stated that Mr. McCarthy has outlasted them all in his service on the Long Hill Township Board of Education. Mr. Sandow expressed appreciation to Mr. McCarthy for his continued service as Vice President of the Board and Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr. McCarthy thanked Mr. Sandow for his kind words. He stated that Mr. Sandow has helped the Board improve its communications and has been a great friend of the Board.

RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

- Approved the minutes of the April 27, 2009 – Reorganization and Regular Meeting – Public & Private Sessions

Financials

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

Special Education

Approved payment to parents of student #3493945835 for VB/ABA Behavior Therapy. The student is to receive 10 sessions per month, 1 hour each session at a cost of \$65.00 per session for the period July 1 through July 30, 2009 as part of the Extended School Year Program. Services will be provided by Child's Play Center.

-Approved payment to parents of student #3493945835 for VB/ABA Behavior Therapy. The student is to receive 10 sessions per month, 1 hour each session at a cost of \$65.00 per session for the period September 8, 2009 through November 25, 2009. Services will be provided by Child's Play Center.

-Approved the provision of home instruction for student #7675887735. Home instruction, up to ten hours per week, will be provided at the Millington School, after school hours. Home instruction will begin May 1, 2009 and continue until the student is able to return to school.

Personnel

-Approved the list of Substitute Teachers, Substitute Secretaries, Substitute School Nurses, Substitute Lunch Aides and Home Instructors for the 2009-2010 school year as attached.

-Approved the appointment of administrators for the 2009-2010 school year as listed below:

Alex Blinder	Supervisor of Technology
Richard Cimino	Principal of Central School
Jennifer Dawson	Principal of Millington School
John Esposito	School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
René Rovtar	Superintendent
Karen Wetherell	Assistant Superintendent/Principal of Gillette School

-Approved the appointment of tenured teachers for the 2009-2010 school year with annual salaries to be determined pending the ratification of the contract between the Long Hill Township Board of Education and the Long Hill Education Association for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012

Maura Aimette	Kristi Flint	Pricilla Kehoe	Kathryn Ralston
Kerri Altebrando	Jane Fragnito	Pamela Kmetz	Anthony Rideout (.50)
Joanne Barbara	Lauren Franklin (.20)	Miriam Kohler-Pogash	Nancy Riley
James Barnum	Karen Freeman	Mary T. Kordal	Aviva Rosenberg
Alfred Bartolomucci	Katherine Frees	Michael Lisbona	Daniel Salzer
MaryBeth Bawarshi	Marco Freyre	Beth Lommel	Donna Schmitz
Susan Berlin	Maureen Furlong	Margaret Magee	Linda Schneider
Johnathan Bircckhead	Andrew Gillespie	Mary Lisa Mastrogiovanni	Barbara Schwartz
Guy Buffone	Margaret Givens	Maria McCoy	Kristen Segreto
Elisa Burns	Frances Golub	Noelle Milito	Eileen Shangher
Christina Cirelli	Patrick Golub	Maura Millman	Janet Shannon
Colleen Clifford	Carmella Gonnella	Danielle Minerva (.40)	Phoebe Sharp
Wendi Cohen (.80)	Kathleen Gray	Jean Molendyke	Afsaneh Siadat
Donna Delanoy	Terry Heidi	Charles Mott	Marcie Skrobacz .46BSI/.095TA
Diane Dellureficio	Julie Hersh	Kathryn Murdoch	Mary Jean Snow
Cynthia DeMartino	Peter Hockmeyer	Martha Newcomb	Michele Spinello (.40)
Rosemary DiCarlo	Kimberly Horincewich	Laura Novak	Catherine Tedesco
Cathy Dobiszewski (.80)	Maryann Infantini	Elizabeth Nusser	Jennifer Tremaco
Shawn Doyle	Rosina Iorillo	Angela Petrilli	Rachel Vachon
Theresa Dunn (.70)	Marion Kales	Michele Piscioti	Stacie Wright
Lorraine Elg	Lynn Kaplan	Bonnie Plotkin	Michelle Wycko
Tovah Ferges	Monique Kaye	Dawn Ragno	

-Granted tenure for the following teaching staff members during the 2009-2010 school year:

Johnathan Bircckhead	Margaret Givens	Donna Schmitz
Christina Cirelli	Rosina Iorillo	Janet Shannon
Colleen Clifford	Pamela Kmetz	Catherine Tedesco
Carmella Gonnella	Anthony Rideout	

-Approved the appointment of the following non-tenured teachers for the 2009-2010 school year with annual salaries to be determined pending the ratification of the contract between the Long Hill Township Board of Education and the Long Hill Education Association for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012.

Jessica Coletta	Deborah Lamer (.49)	Sarah Romeo
Kimberly Gordon	Joyanna Milo (.49)	Michael Velez
Heather Hoagland (.59)	Jocelyn Pashko	Susan Verdes
Danielle Junior		

-Approved the appointment of support staff – tenured and non-tenured - for the 2009-2010 school year with annual salaries to be determined pending the ratification of the contract between the Long Hill Township Board of Education and the Long Hill Education Association for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012.

Board Office:

Liz Bussiculo	Mary Herrmann	Lori Karasecwicz
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School Secretaries:

Ann Kisch	Colleen Pepe	Debra Tremarco
Joseph Lunardoni	Lillian Ralston	Debra Jane Termarco

Lunch Aides:

Ann Louise Hurlock Helen Koss (.67)

Teaching Assistants:

Suzanne Aiello (7 hrs) Karen Riggi (7 hrs) Doreen Unterwald (4 hrs)
Nancy Dunster (4 hrs) Marcie Skrobacz (.095) Noemi Vealquez (7 hrs)
Yailin Fajardo (7 hrs) Josie Smith (7 hrs) Judith Waller (7 hrs)
Laurraine Lemond (7hrs) Donna Strock (4 hrs) Dena Wells (7 hrs)
Lauren O'Donnell (7 hrs)

-Approved the following in-district transfers of teaching staff for the 2009-2010 school year.

Teacher	From	To
Guy Buffone	Dean of Students/Teacher of Soc. Studies	Teacher of Social Studies
Colleen Clifford	5 th Grade	3 rd Grade
Heather Hoagland	FT LDK – Gillette	.59 Special Education – Gillette
Maryann Infantini	Spec. Educ. – Millington	Special Education – Gillette
Meg Magee	Reading Recovery/Kindergarten	Kindergarten
Beth Nusser	Kindergarten	First Grade
Donna Schmitz	Special Education	3 rd Grade
Michael Velez	.83 physical education Mill/Gill/Central	.74 physical education Gillette/Central

-Approved the attached list of teaching and support staff that are not being re-hired for the 2009-2010 school year.

Christie Cortese Jennifer Pearson Thomas Schwartz Susan Stone

-Approved the appointment of the following people to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school year:

Cary Stanek

Policy

- Approved the second reading of the following policies:

5125 Student Records
5127 Commencement Activities
5131 Harassment, Bullying, Intimidation and Threatening Behavior

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Meringolo asked the Board to consider the possibility of televising Board meetings, perhaps once a month. He stated that this issue has been previously considered by the Board. He feels that it would increase transparency. He would request that the Township allow us to utilize their facilities and equipment at no cost of the school district. If the Board wanted to broadcast from Gillette School, we would need to purchase additional equipment.

Dr. Rae stated that he would agree with this proposal and feels that every Board meeting should be broadcast.

Mrs. Scanlon stated that the concern has always been the cost. She does believe that this would be a benefit to the Board in terms of public involvement, but has concern about the structure of the meeting space at Town Hall. She likes being able to have eye contact with all Board Members and feels that our present arrangement facilitates discussion. Perhaps tables in the area below the committee members' seats could be rearranged to more closely duplicate our current set up.

Mr. Meringolo stated that the cameras could be set up in advance and no personnel would be necessary to run the equipment at our meetings.

Mr. Blocker said an alternative would be to film the meetings here and then have them rebroadcast.

Mr. McCarthy said that people want to see what's going on. The Board should consider broadcasting once a month.

Mrs. Scanlon said that this will be added as a discussion item at the May 18th meeting.

Mrs. Scanlon reported that a mini-New Board Member Training was held for the three new members prior to this evening's meeting. Ms. Becker assisted in providing the training.

Mrs. Scanlon stated that she will be following up with the Board Members to identify a date in June for the Board Retreat meeting to be held here to establish goals and conduct the Board Self-Evaluation.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Chris Conner, a planning Board Member for the past 3 years, stated that the Planning Board has begun to broadcast their meeting during the past year. The Board of Education would become accustomed to the format after a while. The WHRHS tapes that are broadcast are visually not that good and the audio is of poor quality. Long Hill would probably have similar problems if they attempted to record in the Board conference room. If the Board broadcasts on delay, not everyone will know when to view the broadcast. People do know when regular meetings are scheduled and do watch the meetings live from home. Mr. Connor knows that many people watch the Planning Board meetings based on the comments he receives from community members. He feels that broadcasting the meetings is a healthy way to do things and he encouraged the Board of Education to give it a try.

PRIVATE SESSION

The Board entered into Private Session for the purpose of discussing the negotiations with the LHEA. 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.

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETING DATES

May 18, 2009 – Regular Meeting – Gillette Board Office – 7:30 p.m.

June 8, 2009 – Worksession 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.**