

BOARD BRIEF

Regular Meeting

May 18, 2009

AT THE May 18, 2009 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE BOARD TOOK ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS...

VOICE OF THE STUDENTS – Presentation by Central School Environmental Club – Ms. Maura Aimette and members of the Central School Environmental Club discussed the projects undertaken by the Club. The Club meets twice a month to discuss environmental issues and activities. Earlier this year a fundraiser was held which allowed the club to contribute to the preservation of endangered animals. On Fridays the club members give up their study or guide periods to assist with the collection of paper to be recycled in the school. The group has collected more than 250 pounds of batteries over the past two years for recycling. They wrote to Governor Corzine with their concern that there is no location near Long Hill to bring the batteries for recycling. The club feels it is important that residents know that recycling is a priority. The next fundraising effort will be targeted to BCCD – Bee Colony Collapse Disorder. There is a group at Penn State that is working on a project to address the decline of honeybees.

The Board thanked the students for their presentation and for their dedication to improving the environment.

RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBERS: The Board of Education adopted the following resolutions honoring departing Board Members Suzanne Becker, Karen Ann Nyquist and Donald Butterworth. Mrs. Scanlon presented framed copies of the resolutions to each of the honorees and thanked them for their long years of service and dedication to the students of Long Hill Township.

WHEREAS, Ms. Suzanne Becker was elected to the Long Hill Township Board of Education by the voters of Long Hill Township, and;

WHEREAS, she has served in that position as a Board Member since July, 2000, and;

WHEREAS, during this time she has exercised board leadership by service on the following committees: Curriculum and T&E Committees, Chairman of the Community Relations Committee, Liaison to the Township Committee, All Schools Council, Policy and Policy Compliance, Personnel, Buildings & Grounds, Long Range Planning and by serving as Vice President and President, and;

WHEREAS, Ms. Becker has earned the admiration and respect of her colleagues and the school community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education acknowledges this period of public service with thanks and extends its best wishes for continued health and happiness in the future.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Karen Ann Nyquist was elected to the Long Hill Township Board of Education by the voters of Long Hill Township, and;

WHEREAS, she has served in that position as a Board Member since 1998, and;

WHEREAS, during this time she has exercised board leadership by service on the following committees: Chairman of the Curriculum, Policy, Buildings & Grounds, Community Relations/Morale and Personnel Committees, and service on the All Schools Council, Finance, Long Range Planning, Affirmative Action and Negotiations Committees and as liaison to Watchung Hills Regional High School and Morris County Educational Services Commission, and;

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nyquist has earned the admiration and respect of her colleagues and the school community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education acknowledges this period of public service with thanks and extends its best wishes for continued health and happiness in the future.

WHEREAS, Mr. Donald J. Butterworth was elected to the Long Hill Township Board of Education by the voters of Long Hill Township, and;

WHEREAS, he has served in that position as a Board Member from 1993 through 2002 and was re-elected in 2003 and served through 2009, and;

WHEREAS, during this time he has exercised board leadership by service on the following committees: Long Range Planning, Morris County Educational Services, Technology, PASS, Finance, Chairman of Buildings & Grounds, Negotiations, Special Issues and as designate to New Jersey and Morris County School Boards Association and alternate Legislative Advisor and by serving as President, and;
WHEREAS, Mr. Butterworth has earned the admiration and respect of his colleagues and the school community;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education acknowledges this period of public service with thanks and extends its best wishes for continued health and happiness in the future.

COMMUNICATIONS – There were no communications

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

NJSBA Legislative Representative – Mr. Meringolo reported that he will be attending the NJSBA Legislative Session tomorrow. The group will be meeting with the Assembly Education Committee. He will give a report at the next Board meeting.

Curriculum Committee – Mr. Carbone reported that the committee met last week. Dr. Wetherell and Dr. Rovtar gave the committee an overview of the curriculum development and review process.

Policy Committee – Mr. Carbone stated that the policy committee also met last week. They are working on a number of policies including 6171.4 – Special Education and 9326 – Minutes. There will be some policy recommendations on the next agenda.

Technology Committee – Mr. Blocker reported that the Technology Committee met on May 11th and May 18th. Alex Blinder provided an overview of the technology infrastructure and the committee has been discussing the need to better utilize the infrastructure to help address the bandwidth issues and provide better service throughout the district. The committee met today with three volunteer consultants, two of them residents, to brainstorm possible solutions. There was a great deal of information shared. Mr. Blinder will gather additional information and prepare a summary for the committee.

NJSBA Delegate Assembly – Ms. Barone reported that she attended the New Jersey School Boards Association Delegate Assembly meeting on Saturday. There was only one resolution that was passed. The Bloomfield School District presented a resolution to allow school districts to utilize tax returns as a document to determine student residency. This would require a change to the current law. The NJSBA revised the wording to support that each school district should be able to determine the documents that will be used to verify residency.

Ms. Barone added that there was also a PowerPoint presentation on the stimulus funding. Dr. Rovtar noted that Long Hill will be receiving \$251,000, nearly \$25,000 of which is set aside for St. Vincent de Paul School. Ms. Barone noted that this funding must be used to supplement, not supplant, the district's current special education funding. There are suggested uses for the funds which include technology for special education, professional development and development and expansion of district processes to collect data. Official guidance and application forms for the additional IDEA funding will be forthcoming from the Department of Education.

Finance Committee – Mr. McCarthy reported that the Finance Committee met this evening to review the Bill List. All is in order and approval is recommended. While the March and April Financial Reports were available this evening, they will be included on the June 8th agenda for approval after the Finance Committee has had the opportunity to review them.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Rovtar stated that she had attended the Morris County Middle School Leadership Awards dinner where one of our graduating eighth graders was honored. She noted that the district received notification from the Department of Education last week that our special education program has received the designation "meets requirements" which is the highest rating given based on the NJ DOE's review.

BOARD SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Mr. Esposito noted that the district receives two state aid payments per month. For the last several years, the state has delayed the final June state aid payment until after July 1st to deal with their cash flow problems but now, both June payments will be delayed until July. This comes on top of the reduction in state aid last month for the pension deferral. Because our monthly state aid payment is relatively small, this will not present a cash flow problem for us. Other school districts may have to enter into short term borrowing to meet their fiscal obligations.

Mr. Esposito has provided student and bus route information to VersaTrans for their use in the mapping process. The online training for the program will be scheduled soon for our staff. Subscription busing letter will be going out soon.

Mr. Esposito thanked Mr. Colantano for his continued support of the award for the most improved math student at the graduation ceremony.

The bids for trade services will be reviewed by Energy for America. It is expected that a recommendation will be made to the Board for the June 22nd meeting.

Teachers have begun the process of ordering their classroom supplies online for the 2009-2010 school year through School Specialty.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Pogash commented on the consulting services provided for health benefits through LDP Consulting. She stated that they have provided a valuable service. They are usually able to resolve issues that would take a great deal of personal time for teachers. She respectfully asked the Board to consider continuing their relationship with this company.

Mr. Esposito added that typically the health insurance company pays the insurance broker directly. The State Employee Health Benefits Plan does not pay brokers. If the district wanted to continue these services, we would have to enter into our own contract with LDP Consulting directly.

Mrs. Franklin stated that this afternoon the LHEA held the ratification vote and approved the proposed contract with the Board of Education. She also wanted to add her own personal experience with LDP was very positive. They were extremely helpful in working through difficult claims and bringing them to arbitration. She also read letters from Ms. Wright and Ms. Gans indicating that they were very pleased with the LDP services. Mrs. Franklin stated that she hoped the board would consider continuing to provide these services.

Mrs. Gronske thanked Ms. Becker for her service. She remembers that Ms. Becker had once told her that if you want to effect change, you get involved. She appreciated that wisdom. She wished Ms. Becker luck. She also thanked Mr. Butterworth and Mrs. Nyquist for their service on the Board. She stated that if they would like to continue serving the schools, they would be most welcome as members of the FORCE Board.

Mrs. Ralston stated that the LDP Consulting services not only help the teachers, but also the administration. Teachers are able to focus on their work, they do not have to spend their prep periods on the telephone. It also is a great support to the Business Office staff.

Mrs. Nyquist stated that she appreciated the Board resolution and presentation very much. She was also very appreciative of the fact that all of the "old" board members took time to take the retiring board members out to dinner last week. The acknowledgement was very much appreciated. She thanked Mr. McCarthy for organizing the dinner. She stated that the presentation by the Environmental Club was very impressive. This is the type of school activity that should be submitted for a School Leader award. We need to make an effort to recognize the good things that are happening in the schools.

Mrs. Kehoe stated that she is also in support of continuing the relationship with LDP Consulting. It is a very valuable service.

Mrs. Nyquist stated that she has dealt with many different insurance companies. Most have a client advocacy department that can be very helpful in resolving difficulties and might serve the same purpose as LDP.

Mrs. Franklin stated that this is a service that the teachers use. If the Board pays for it, it is not a waste of money.

RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

- Approved the minutes of the May 4, 2009 – Worksession Meeting – Public & Private Sessions as presented.

Financials

- Approved the Payrolls for April 15 and 30, 2009 and the List of Bills for March 31 – April 14, 2009 and for April 27, 2009 for payment as follows:

Payroll for April 15, 2009	
Fund 10	\$ 23,549.31
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$ 410,413.53
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ -
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -
Debt Services – Fund 40	\$ -
Total	\$ 433,962.84

Payroll for April 30, 2009	
Fund 10	\$ 23,355.75
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$ 388,183.39
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ -
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -
Debt Services – Fund 40	\$ -
Total	\$ 411,539.14

Bill List for May 5 – May 18, 2009	
Fund 10	\$ -
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$ 335,524.37
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ 7,724.00
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ 35,276.60
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ 3,500.00
Debt Services – Fund 40	\$ -
Total	\$ 382,024.97

- Approved the Travel/Conference registration for the staff indicated for professional improvement or development as per the attached listing.
- Gratefully accepted a donation from William Colantano, Jr., Auditor, of a \$100.00 savings bond for an eighth grade student showing improvement in mathematics.
- Established the tuition rate for the Long Hill Township Special Education Extended School Year program for summer 2009 at \$3,000.
- Renewed the contract with Bollinger Student Accident Insurance for the 2009-2010 school year. (Note: Parents who choose to purchase student insurance pay the entire premium. There is no cost to the Board of Education.)
- Gratefully accepted the donation of \$525.00 from the Long Hill Township PTO for the purchase of seven used cafeteria tables from the West Milford Board of Education.
- Gratefully accepted a donation of two Dell SC1425 Servers from Archer Rosenblum. One server will be used for the new VersaTrans transportation software.
- Gratefully accepted a donation of \$113.71 from the Long Hill Township PTO for the purchase of a picture/document scanner for Central Middle School.
- Approved a Non-public Services agreement with the Educational Services Commission of Morris County to provide administration of the following programs:
 - Chapter 192 Non-public Technology
 - Chapter 193 Non-public Textbooks
 - Non-public Nursing

Special Education

- Approved the payment of tuition in the amount of \$9,900.00 to Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commissioner for student #5986153941 who will attend the Lakeview School in Edison, as per the student's I.E.P. The student will attend beginning May 14, 2009 through June 22, 2009.

- Approved a parent contract for transportation of student #5986153941 to and from the Lakeview School in Edison, as per the student's IEP. Student will attend beginning May 14, 2009 through June 22, 2009. Payment shall be at a rate of \$100.00 per day for the provision of transportation.
- Approved an upgrade of a Dynavox V communication device and transport case to a Dynavox VMax for student #6241890732 as per student's IEP. The cost to the district for the upgrade is \$831.00.
- Approved the placement and payment of tuition, as per the student's IEP, for the 2009 Extended School Year Placements as follows:

<u>Student #</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
2839236123	Midland School	\$ 6,755.00
9581966316	Early Childhood Learning Center	\$ 4,010.00 + \$1,900 for 1:1 aide
3406636382	P.G. Chambers	\$ 9,197.00
6241890732	Bright Beginnings Learning Center	\$ 4,425.00
1983896768	Cedar Hill School	\$ 6,365.00
9438898703	Crossroads	\$ 4,600.00
5986153941	Lakeview School	\$11,600.00
999903	Developmental Learning Center, MUJC	\$12,492.00

Personnel

- Terminated the employment of Ron Rogers, maintenance worker, retroactive to April 28, 2009.
- Appointed Troy Pytell as district custodian from July 1 through August 31, 2009 only. Mr. Pytell will receive health benefits for that time period, but will not accrue any vacation, personal or sick days. Mr. Pytell's salary will be \$7,264.45 for this period (calculated based on 2008-2009 salary of \$43,586.70 pro-rated for two months.)
- Ratified the Agreement Between the Long Hill Township Board of Education and the Long Hill Education Association for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012.
- Approved the appointment of the following people to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years:

Amy Skrobacz Diana Hackett Robert Ostroff

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The Board discussed broadcasting Board meetings via the local cable access channel – LHTV. The consensus of the Board was that this is a good opportunity for the Board to highlight the good things happening in the district. It was felt that this is a good opportunity for the Board to show the public what they are doing. In order to move ahead, Mrs. Scanlon will send a letter to the Township Administrator inquiring as to whether we might be able to arrange to use Town Hall for meetings and to broadcast over LHTV with no cost to the district now or in the future. The Board will await a response and then discuss how to proceed.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board will hold its annual self-evaluation/retreat/goal setting on July 13th. We will change the July meeting date from July 20th to the 13th. The retreat will begin at 6:00 and the regular meeting will be at 7:30 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Gronske stated that broadcasting Board meetings is an excellent idea. The Board can share information broadly. For example, the Board would have been able to provide more direct and accurate information on the separate question to more of the community. More people will be involved and understand the issues.

Mr. McCarthy thanked Mrs. Gronske for her dedication to FORCE over the years.

PRIVATE SESSION

The Board entered into Private Session for the purpose of discussing a contract proposal for health benefits consultant services. 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

June 8, 2009 – Worksession Meeting - Gillette Board Office – 7:30 p.m.

June 22, 2009 – 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.**