

BOARD BRIEF

Regular Meeting

June 8, 2009

AT THE June 8, 2009 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE BOARD TOOK ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS...

RECOGNITION OF SUSAN GRONSKÉ: Mrs. Susan Gronské was recognized as a founding member and president of F.O.R.C.E. for Excellence, Inc., the Long Hill Township School District's Education Foundation. Mrs. Scanlon read a letter from Ms. Sue Becker, former president of the Long Hill Board of Education, thanking Mrs. Gronské for her work on behalf of the schools over the past five plus years. Mrs. Gronské's efforts had a tremendous positive effect on the district over the past five years. Mrs. Scanlon stated that her dedication and commitment have been sincerely appreciated. She stated that she always appreciated Mrs. Gronské's positive attitude in pursuing the goal of "what can we do to make it better." Mrs. Scanlon presented Mrs. Gronské with a token of the Board's esteem.

Mrs. Gronské thanked the Board for this recognition. She indicated that it is been a privilege to serve as president of FORCE. Doing things for the students, like creating the enrichment program, was the motivation that kept her going.

COMMUNICATIONS – The Board received a letter from the officers of the Long Hill Education Association expressing their support for the continuation of a contract with LDP Consulting for health benefit consulting services.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Negotiations Committee – Mr. Meringolo stated that the committee had met and will report to the Board in private session.

Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Dreyer reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met with the management team from Temco this evening. They answered questions from the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The current site manager has been spending time in the district over the past 8 to 10 weeks doing an assessment of the facilities and equipment. They should be able to hit the ground running when the contract takes effect on July 1st.

Policy Committee – Mr. Carbone stated that there are four policies on the agenda for a first reading this evening. The Assistant Superintendent Job Description and the Rights of Persons with Handicaps or Disabilities policies are required for NJQSAC monitoring. The policy on Special Education reflects revised language that is required. The Board is also revising the policy on minutes in light of the proposal to broadcast board meetings via local cable access. Mrs. Scanlon indicated that the Township Committee will be considering the Board of Education's request to utilize the Township facilities and equipment to broadcast the meetings. Mrs. Scanlon stated that Policy 9326E will also need to be reviewed by the Policy Committee.

Curriculum Committee – Mr. Carbone indicated that the Policy Committee received copies of the revised Language Arts Curriculum tonight. The committee will review this document when they meet on June 16th.

Finance Committee – Mr. McCarthy reported that the Finance Committee did not meet. There will be a Bill List for approval at the June 22nd meeting. The March and April Financial Reports were distributed to Board members at the May 18th meeting. They are in order and recommended for approval this evening.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

There have been many end-of-the-year events taking place in all three buildings. Dr. Rovtar indicated that she has tried to attend as many of them as possible, including the Kindergarten Super Summer Send Off, the 5th grade Art Show and Band Concert, and Colonial Day. Dr. Rovtar said she is most grateful for the tremendous parental support that the district enjoys for the large-scale grade level events, like Medieval Day and Colonial Day. Large numbers of parents volunteer their time, take days off from work and do a tremendous job of providing vital learning opportunities for our students. We are very fortunate to have such organized and committed parents. They truly do make a difference in the education of their children.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Wetherell stated that in May, Gillette School conducted an evacuation drill. The students were able to evacuate to Town Hall and return within 45 minutes. Field day was held and was a great success with many parent volunteers. The Volunteer Appreciation Tea was held and Dr. Wetherell thanked Susan Aiello, one of the Gillette School teacher assistants, for her hard work on this event. The Kindergarten Wrap Around program, provided by the Work Family Connection, presented a play recently. There is great coordination between the Wrap Around program and the Kindergarten classes. The first grade students visited Millington School and met the 2nd grade teachers. The Long Hill Township Librarian visited the 1st grade students to tell them about the library's Summer Reading Program. The Kindergarten students performed their Super Summer Sendoff musical program last week. The Town Tour for the 1st graders will be taking place on Monday.

In terms of curriculum, cross-grade articulation meetings took place today. A number of the revised curriculum documents are being completed for presentation to the Board. Mathematics and Physical Education should be ready over the summer.

ADMINISTRATORS AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR'S UPDATES

In Mr. Cimino's absence, Dr. Rovtar provided the following information for Central School: the fifth graders had their orientation program at Central on 5/27. They were regaled by the 7/8 choir and taken on a tour by selected members of the student council. The Medieval Day on 5/29/09 was a huge success. Many thanks to the teachers and the parents who made this day enjoyable and educational. The 7th and 8th grade bands and 7th and 8th grade choir went to a competition in Jackson New Jersey on 5/29. The students performed well in all categories. Both the band and the choir concerts, which were recently presented, were excellent. The baseball team finished its season 9 wins and 4 losses under the coaching of Mr. Freyre. The girls' softball team finished its season undefeated at 13 wins and no losses under the coaching of Mr. Hockmeyer. Many games were rescheduled and alternate plans were made to play as many games as possible, making for a difficult season. The 8th grade social was held on Friday June 5th. The students had a great time with caricaturists, playing games and a hypnotist. The CogAT's were administered to sixth and seventh graders on June 2nd. Mr. Cimino wished to thank Mrs. Molendyke for coordinating things and managing the testing in his absence. Parent orientation for incoming sixth graders will be held on Tuesday June 9th at 7:00 pm in the new gym. The 8th grade French and Spanish students will have their luncheons this week under the direction of Mrs. Siadat and Mrs. Iorillo. Graduation will be held at Central School beginning at 7:00 pm in the new gym.

Mrs. Dawson reported that the fourth grade students served as tour guides for the first graders when they visited from Gillette School. The fourth grade science fair was a big success. Thanks are due to the fourth grade teachers for organizing this event. The timing of the event has become more difficult now that the NJASK is administered in May. We may look to move this event to a different time in the school year. Colonial Day was held on June 2nd. The 5th grade Art Show and Band Concert was held on June 3rd. Mrs. Shanagher and Mrs. Cohen did a wonderful job. Ms. Doyle and her students presented the Rainforest Café last week. The students shared their research about the rainforest and created a living museum by portraying a wide variety of animals from the rainforest. Tomorrow Mrs. Kehoe and her students will be hosting a coffeehouse. Field day was scheduled for June 5th, but was postponed to June 12th. Class picnics are taking place. The awards assembly will be held in the morning on June 19th.

Mr. Blinder said that he is expecting to receive the hardware to permit us to run a pilot test to utilize the free internet service to address our bandwidth issues. He is working with Mr. Magaldo, a local resident, who has volunteered to assist in running this test. Mr. Blinder is putting together the equipment orders for next year. He also wanted to express his thanks to FORCE for all of the technology donations that have made over the years. Mrs. Gronske will certainly be missed.

BOARD SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Mr. Esposito stated that the Board will be meeting with Brian Foley this evening with regard to a proposal for health benefits consulting services. Mr. Foley is the district's broker for property and casualty insurance.

If any Board members are planning to attend the fall conference in Atlantic City, please let Mr. Esposito know as soon as possible.

Weekly meetings with Mr. Esposito, Dr. Rovtar and the management team from Temco are being held. Things are moving forward to the July 1st implementation date.

Teachers have begun the process of ordering their classroom supplies online for the 2009-2010 school year through School Specialty. Mr. Esposito thanked the principals for facilitating the approval of those orders.

Approximately 75 responses have been received to date for subscription busing from 380 letters that were sent out. Mr. Esposito has not received as many questions and telephone calls about subscription busing as he did last year.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Heide indicated that she wanted to bring some of her students who had won awards in the "What Prejudice Means to Me" Essay contest to the board meeting this evening, but she was not in school today, and was not able to confirm their attendance this evening. The presentation will be rescheduled for the June 22nd meeting.

Mrs. Heide stated that she was pleased to see the Board approve a contract with the National Writing Project at Rutgers. She had attended one of their workshops and it was a very positive experience.

Mrs. Franklin thanked the Board for their consideration of the LHEA's letter regarding the health benefits consultant. She also expressed her thanks to Mrs. Gronske for taking the initiative in developing the FORCE enrichment programs.

RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

- Approved the minutes of the May 18, 2009 – Worksession Meeting – Public & Private Sessions as presented.

Financials

- Certified that as of March 31, 2009 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 N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(B), and sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the year.
- Certified that as of April 30, 2009 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 N.J.A.C. 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 Treasurer of School Funds for the month ending March 31, 2009.
- Accepted the financial reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Funds for the month ending April 30, 2009.
- Approved the transfers for March 2009.
- Approved the transfers for April 2009.
- Approved an agreement with the Board of Education of Pittsgrove, New Jersey, to purchase paper, materials and supplies.
- Approved the following resolution:
 - WHEREAS, Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18a:11-12*, in each pre-budget year, the Long Hill Board of Education is required to establish a maximum travel expenditure which may not be exceeded; and
 - WHEREAS, The Board of Education has determined that the maximum travel expenditure amount includes all travel that is supported by State and local funds; and
 - WHEREAS, the Board of Education had previously established a maximum amount for the pre-budget year 2008-2009 as \$20,000.00; and
 - WHEREAS, the Board of Education has expended \$16, 220.00 of the maximum amount for the pre-budget year to date; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has not elected to exclude travel expenditures supported by federal funds from the maximum travel expenditure amount; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Long Hill Township Board of Education hereby established the maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2009-2010 school year as \$25,000.00.

- Authorized the Business Administrator to enter into an Inter Local Transportation Agreement for Participation in Coordinated Transportation with the Somerset County Educational Services Commission for special education and non-public school students for the 2009-2010 school year. The district will pay the pro-rated cost of each bus contract, based on the number of students on the route, plus a 6% administrative fee to the Somerset County Educational Services Commission.
- Acknowledged the joint donation by the PTO and F.O.R.C.E. for Excellence, Inc. of a whiteboard, computer and projector in the amount of \$4,862.90 to be used in the classroom of Mr. Marco Freyre at Millington School.
- Approved the Travel/Conference registration for the staff indicated for professional improvement or development as per the attached listing.

Curriculum

- Approved a contract for the National Writing Program at Rutgers to deliver inservice training during the 2009-2010 school year. Total program participation cost will be \$4,350.00 which will be paid through No Child Left Behind or other grant funding.

Personnel

- Approved the appointment of the following person to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school year:
Denise Ricci (substitute secretary)

Policy

- Approved the first reading of the following policies:

2131.1JD	Job Description – Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum
2225	Rights of Persons with Handicaps or Disabilities
6171.4	Special Education
9326	Minutes

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Scanlon reminded the Board of the Board Retreat scheduled for July 13th at 6:00 p.m. to be followed by the regular board meeting at 7:30 p.m. She had emailed out the self-evaluation document following the last meeting. She will send it again. Board members should return it by June 15th.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

HEARING ON CONTRACTS FOR SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

In accordance with provisions of P.L. 2007, 53, An Act Concerning School District Accountability and Section 5 of the Act, the Long Hill Township Board of Education provided public notice 30 days prior to the renegotiation, extension, amendment or alteration of employment contracts with the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator, and did publish through the district's official newspaper and, as required by section 5, provided public notice of a public hearing 10 days prior to the renegotiation of an employment contract with the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator as required by the Act.

At this time the Board of Education invites members of the public to submit comments regarding the contracts for 2009-2010 for the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator.

No members of the public made any comments about the 2009-2010 contracts for the Superintendent and the School Business Administrator.

PRIVATE SESSION

The Board shall enter into Private Session for the purpose of discussing the contracts of the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator, merit pay determinations for the school principals and technology supervisor in accordance with the existing contracts, and Business Office and Superintendent’s Office staff and technology supervisor salary determinations for 2009-2010. The board will also discuss 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.

It was expected that action on personnel recommendations will be taken when the Board returns to public session.

- Approved the annual salaries for the 2009-2010 school year as follows:

Mary Herrmann, Secretary to the Business Administrator

Base Salary	\$61,042.08
5% Longevity	<u>\$ 3,052.10</u>
Total Salary	\$64,094.18

Lori Karasewicz, Financial Supervisor

Base Salary	\$68,256.71
3% Longevity	<u>\$ 2,047.70</u>
Total Salary	\$70,304.41

Liz Bussiculo, Secretary to the Superintendent

Base Salary	\$47,025.00
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- Approved an annual salary of \$109,000.00 for John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. The contract will be amended to eliminate the clause for merit pay. Mr. Esposito will receive tenure in the district with this contract.
- Approved an annual salary of \$83,109.19 for Alex Blinder, Technology Coordinator, for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Mr. Blinder’s contract will be amended to eliminate the clause for merit pay and the clause requiring an annual physical examination.
- Established a salary of \$155,000.00 for René Rovtar, Superintendent of Schools, for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.
- Approved merit pay for the below listed administrators, in accordance with contract provisions, for the 2008-2009 school year:

Karen Wetherell, Asst. Supt. of Curriculum/Gillette School Principal	\$5,000.00
Jennifer Dawson, Millington School Principal	\$5,000.00
John Esposito, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary	\$3,000.00
Alex Blinder, Technology Coordinator	\$3,000.00

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETING DATES

June 22, 2009 – Regular Meeting – Gillette Board Office – 7:30 p.m.

July 13, 2009 – Board Retreat, Worksession and Regular Meeting - Gillette Board Office – Retreat at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 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.