

LONG HILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION
JANUARY 11, 2010

The Long Hill Township Board of Education held a Worksession on Monday, January 11, 2010 in the Long Hill Township Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Board President Lisa Scanlon at 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Barone, Mr. Blocker, Mr. Carbone, Mr. Dreyer, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Meringolo, Dr. Verlezza (arrived at 7:35 p.m.), Mrs. Scanlon.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Rae.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Rovtar, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Villar, Central School Principal
Mrs. Dawson, Millington School Principal
Mr. Blinder, Technology Coordinator
Mrs. Franklin, LHEA President
7 township residents

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Scanlon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADEQUATE NOTICE OF MEETING:

Adequate notice of this meeting of the Long Hill Township Board of Education was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows:

Notice was sent to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel or the Daily Record on June 25, 2009. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the first floor entrance hall of the School District Administration Building, Gillette, New Jersey. Notices were filed with the Township Clerk; and notices were mailed to all persons who have requested individual notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mr. McCarthy reported the committee met earlier this evening and there are no bills or financial reports on the agenda this evening. The committee discussed the preliminary budget for 2010-2011. They will continue to meet and will update the Board as they go along.

Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Dreyer shared information on the situation with the chiller at Central School. A price of \$18,685.00 was obtained from Carrier. Quotes for preventive maintenance on the HVAC equipment at Central School were received and the annual cost will be \$9,308 for all three buildings.

Policy – Mr. Carbone reported our Policy Manual has been reviewed by New Jersey School Boards and found to be in good shape. There were a few recommendations, one being policy 3326 which has been revised and is on the agenda for first reading tonight.

Board President – Mrs. Scanlon reported that she attended the F.O.R.C.E. meeting where a number of fund raising ideas were discussed, including a Battle of the Bands, A Taste of Long Hill and a Wizards basketball game in 2011. Two grants were approved: one will fund a 5th grade field trip to the Newark Museum and one will fund half the cost of participation in MUJC's regional honors musical performance groups.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Rovtar officially welcomed Mr. Villar to his first Board meeting as Central Middle School Principal.

Dr. Rovtar reported that on January 6th, the team from the Morris County Executive Superintendent's office conducted their site visit in connection with the QSAC monitoring. While the district will not receive our official approval letter from the Commissioner for a couple of months, the team did indicate that our score on each of the checklists was above 80% and therefore we would be rated as a high performing district. Dr. Rovtar thanked the staff, the administrators and the board for all of their efforts over the past couple of years preparing for this review.

On the agenda this evening there is a resolution to authorize the district to execute a Memorandum of Understanding relative to our participation in New Jersey's application for Race to the Top grant funding through the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Rovtar is recommending that the Board approve the submission of the Memorandum of Understanding. The success of the State's application is tied to the level of local district support that is demonstrated.

Dr. Rovtar stated that Mrs. Sepe attended a two day workshop on the End of Course Algebra I test that our 8th grade algebra students will be taking in May. Dr. Rovtar will meet with Mrs. Sepe and Mr. Villar to review the information that Mrs. Sepe obtained at the workshop.

ADMINISTRATORS AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR'S UPDATES

Mrs. Dawson reported on the following:

- All of the students in grades 3 through 5 took the Learnia benchmark assessment in language arts and math.
- On January 18 the Millington School teachers will have a workshop on the use of Learnia's Item Bank.
- The second marking period will be ending on January 28th.
- Report cards will be issued on February 9th.
- Millington School will have International Day on January 29th.
- Mrs. Dawson made a presentation on her recommendation to departmentalize the instruction in fifth grade beginning in September 2010. The Board discussed the proposal and Mrs. Dawson answered questions regarding how the schedule would be structured.

Mr. Villar reported on the following:

- He thanked the Board for the terrific opportunity to be Principal of Central School.
- A good portion of his first 6 days in the district has been devoted to meeting with staff.
- He has also spent time before and after school, at lunch and in the hallways getting to know the students.
- A geography bee was held last Friday and the winner will advance to the state level.
- Mr. Villar has been familiarizing himself with the Genesis System.
- On February 2 the Cogats will be administered to 6th and 7th grade students.
- On January 12 there will be a parents and student orientation at Watchung Hills Regional High School.

Mr. Blinder reported on the following:

- The Business FIOS is being installed at Millington School this week.
- The Dept. of Education has released the guidelines for the Technology Three Year Plan that we will need to submit in April.
- Mr. Blinder is continuing to pursue grant funding to assist with the acquisition of technology.

Dr. Rovtar reported on the following:

- Dr. Rovtar is enjoying serving as the temporary building principal at Gillette School, saying the students are delightful and the staff is outstanding.
- There will be an author visit at Gillette School this Wednesday.

- Friday is Purple Day.
- Kindergarten registration will be held on January 20 and 21.

In Mr. Esposito's absence, Dr. Rovtar reported on the following:

- We have received and distributed the required Financial Disclosure Forms to be completed by the Board Members and Administrators. Kindly complete and return to Mr. Esposito as soon as possible.
- Information from NJ School Boards will be forthcoming shortly for school board candidate election. Petitions will be available online and in the Business Office.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

At this point, the Board of Education welcomes comments from any member of the public. Please note that as per Board Policy #1120, a total of fifteen (15) minutes is allocated for public comments at any single Board meeting. In order to provide residents the opportunity to comment, individual speakers are limited to three minutes each at any particular Board meeting. The Board may extend these time limits at its discretion.

MR. GIANAKIS provided additional information on F.O.R.C.E. activities. He stated that registration for the spring F.O.R.C.E. classes is currently open.

MR. GIANAKIS commented on the increase in the subscription busing fee. Mrs. Scanlon responded.

MR. GIANAKIS asked about who will be teaching 5th grade next year. Mrs. Scanlon stated that is an administrative decision, not a Board of Education decision.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It was moved by Dr. Verlezza and seconded by Mr. Meringolo that the following minutes of the Long Hill Township Board of Education be accepted as presented and made part of the public record:

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Dec. 14, 2009 – Worksession and Regular Meeting –
Public and Private Sessions

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #1:

YES: Ms. Barone Mr. Dreyer
 Mr. Blocker Mr. McCarthy Dr. Verlezza
 Mr. Carbone Mr. Meringolo Mrs. Scanlon

NO: None.

Resolution #1 carried 8-0.

It was moved by Mr. McCarthy and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 2 and 3.

Any Board Member who takes exception to any of the following actions may reserve the right to object now, and a separate motion for each of the excepted actions will be entertained.

2. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, establish the following fees for subscription busing for the 2010-2011 school year:

APPROVAL OF BUSING FEE

Individual student fee \$375.00
 Maximum fee per family \$800.00

3. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the Travel/Conference registration for the staff indicated for professional improvement or development as per the attached listing.

APPROVAL OF TRAVEL

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 2 and 3:

YES: Ms. Barone Mr. Dreyer
 Mr. Blocker Mr. McCarthy Dr. Verlezza
 Mr. Carbone Mr. Meringolo Mrs. Scanlon

NO: None.

Resolution 2 and 3 carried 8-0.

It was moved by Mr. Dreyer and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 4,5,6.

Any Board Member who takes exception to any of the following actions may reserve the right to object now, and a separate motion for each of the excepted actions will be entertained.

4. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve an extension of the medical leave for Diane Dellureficio, Library Media Specialist at Millington School, from January 16, 2010 through February 26, 2010.

D. DELLUREFICIO
MEDICAL LEAVE

5. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the extension of the appointment of Christine Brown as a Library Media Specialist Leave Replacement teacher at Millington School for the period January 15, 2010 through February 26, 2010 (or until Mrs. Dellureficio's return, if earlier than February 26th) at the Step 1 BA salary of \$43,945.00 prorated.

C. BROWN
APPOINTED
LEAVE

6. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the appointment of the following people to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2009-2010 school year:

APPROVAL OF
SUBSTITUTES

Melissa Haines Lauren Smith

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 4,5,6:

YES: Ms. Barone Mr. Dreyer
 Mr. Blocker Mr. McCarthy Dr. Verlezza
 Mr. Carbone Mr. Meringolo Mrs. Scanlon

NO: None.

Resolutions 4,5,6 carried 8-0.

It was moved by Mr. Carbone and seconded by Ms. Barone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 7 and 8.

Any Board Member who takes exception to any of the following actions may reserve the right to object now, and a separate motion for each of the excepted actions will be entertained.

7. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the field trips as listed below:

APPROVAL OF
FIELD TRIPS

May 6, 2010	First Grade Trip	Clinton, NJ
\$20 approx. cost*	Red Mill Museum	9 teachers/ 18 parents
Parent paid		

8. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Business Administrator and the Policy Committee approve the policy listed below on a first reading:

FIRST READING
OF POLICY

Policy 3326 Payment for Goods and Services

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 7 and 8:

YES:	Ms. Barone	Mr. Dreyer	
	Mr. Blocker	Mr. McCarthy	Dr. Verlezza
	Mr. Carbone	Mr. Meringolo	Mrs. Scanlon

NO: None.

Resolutions 7 and 8 carried 8-0.

9. It was moved by Mr. Meringolo and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the submission of the Memorandum of Understanding to participate in the New Jersey Race to the Top (RTTT) initiative.

APPROVAL OF
MEMORANDUM
OF
UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by and between New Jersey (“State”) and The Long Hill Township School District (“Participating LEA”). The purpose of this agreement is to establish a framework of collaboration, as well as articulate specific roles and responsibilities in support of the State in its implementation of an approved Race to the Top grant project.

I. SCOPE OF WORK

Exhibit 1, the Preliminary Scope of Work, indicates which portions of the State’s proposed reform plans (“State Plan”) the Participating LEA is agreeing to implement. (Note that, in order to participate, the LEA must agree to implement all or significant portions of the State Plan.)

II. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

A. PARTICIPATING LEA RESPONSIBILITIES

In assisting the State in implementing the tasks and activities described in the State’s Race to the Top application, the Participating LEA subgrantee will:

- 1) Implement the LEA plan as identified in Exhibits I and II of this agreement;
- 2) Actively participate in all relevant convenings, communities of practice, or other practice-sharing events that are organized or sponsored by the State or by the U.D. Department of Education (“ED”);
- 3) Post to any website specified by the State or ED, in a timely manner, all non-proprietary products and lessons learned or developed using funds associated with the Race to the Top grant;
- 4) Participate, as requested, in any evaluations of this grant conducted by the State or ED;
- 5) Be responsive to State or ED requests for information including those regarding the status of the project, project implementation, outcomes, and any problems anticipated or encountered;
- 6) Participate in meetings and telephone conferences with the State to discuss (a) progress of the project, (b) potential dissemination of resulting non-proprietary products and lessons learned, (c) plans for subsequent years of the Race to the Top grant period, and (d) other matters related to the Race to the Top grant and associated plans.

B. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

In assisting Participating LEAs in implementing their tasks and activities described in the State’s Race to the Top application, the State grantee will:

- 1) Work collaboratively with and support the Participating LEA in carrying out the LEA Plan as identified in Exhibits I and II of this agreement;

- 2) Timely distribute the LEA's portion of Race to the Top grant funds during the course of the project period and in accordance with the LEA Plan identified in Exhibit II and all applicable laws or regulations;
- 3) Provide feedback on the LEA's status updates, annual reports, any interim reports, and project plans and products; and
- 4) Identify sources of technical assistance for the project.

C. JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) The State and the Participating LEA will each appoint a key contact person for the Race to the Top grant.
- 2) These key contacts from the State and the Participating LEA will maintain frequent communication to facilitate cooperation under this MOU.
- 3) State and Participating LEA grant personnel will work together to determine appropriate timelines for project updates and status reports throughout the whole grant period.
- 4) State and Participating LEA grant personnel will negotiate in good faith to continue to achieve the overall goals of the State's Race to the Top grant, even when the State Plan requires modifications that affect the Participating LEA, or when the LEA Plan requires modifications.

D. STATE RECOURSE FOR LEA NON-PERFORMANCE

If the State determines that the LEA is not meeting its goals, timelines, budget, or annual targets, or is not fulfilling other applicable requirements, the State grantee will take appropriate enforcement action, which could include a collaborative process between the State and the LEA or any of the enforcement measures that are detailed in 34 CFR section 80.43, including putting the LEA on reimbursement payment status, temporarily withholding funds, or disallowing costs.

III. ASSURANCES

The Participating LEA hereby certifies and represents that it:

- 1) Has all requisite power and authority to execute this MOU;
- 2) Is familiar with the State's Race to the Top grant application and is supportive of and committed to working on all or significant portions of the State Plan;
- 3) Agrees to be a Participating LEA as defined in the application and will implement those portions of the State Plan indicated in the State Plan, if the State application is funded.
- 4) Will provide a Final Scope of Work to be attached to this MOU as Exhibit II only if the State's application is funded; will do so in a timely fashion but no later than 90 days after a grant is awarded; and will describe in Exhibit II the LEA's specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measures ("LEA") in a manner that is consistent with the Preliminary Scope of Work (Exhibit I) and with the State Plan; and

5) Will comply with all of the terms of the Grant, the State’s subgrant, and all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including laws and regulations applicable to the Program, and the applicable provisions of EDGAR (34 CFR Parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85,86,97,98 and 99).

IV. MODIFICATIONS

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended only by written agreement signed by each of the parties involved, and in consultation with ED.

V. DURATION/TERMINATION

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective beginning with the date of the last signature hereon and, if a grant is received, ending upon the expiration of the grant project period, or upon written mutual agreement of the parties, whichever occurs first.

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #9:

YES:	Ms. Barone	Mr. Dreyer	
	Mr. Blocker	Mr. McCarthy	Dr. Verlezza
	Mr. Carbone	Mr. Meringolo	Mrs. Scanlon

NO: None.

Resolution #9 carried 8-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Scanlon reported that the regional presidents and vice presidents would be meeting next week. She will report at the next meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

It was moved by Ms. Barone and seconded by Mr. Meringolo that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

January 25, 2010 – Regular Meeting – Town Hall – 7:30 p.m.

February 8, 2010 – Worksession – Town Hall – 7:30 p.m.

February 22, 2010 – Regular Meeting – Town Hall – 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rene Rovtar
Superintendent of Schools

RR:mh