

LONG HILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION
JANUARY 12, 2009

The Long Hill Township Board of Education held a Worksession on Monday, January 12, 2009 in the Gillette Board Office. The meeting was called to order by Board President Suzanne Becker at 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Blocker, Mr. Carbone, Mr. Dreyer, Mr. McCarthy,
Mr. Meringolo, Mrs. Nyquist, Mrs. Scanlon, Ms. Becker.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Butterworth.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Rovtar, Superintendent
Mr. Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Dr. Wetherell, Asst. Supt./Gillette School Principal
Mr. Cimino, Central School Principal
Mrs. Dawson, Millington School Principal
Mrs. Barbara, LHEA Co-President
Mr. Blinder, Technology Coordinator
8 residents
6 students

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ms. Becker 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 April 28, 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.

MILLINGTON SCHOOL FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS

Mrs. Dawson introduced a group of fifth grade students from Millington School. The students spoke about the Astronaut for a Day Program and their trip to the Buehler Space Center in Paramus. The students described the activities they participated in including

working with bulky gloves to simulate the conditions that astronauts work under and other tasks involving communication skills, geology and team building. The students also spoke about the field trip to the Buehler Space Center which allowed them to experience a simulated space mission.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Rovtar noted that the Board had copies of Mr. Reeves' letter regarding custodial duties.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Technology Committee – Mr. Meringolo talked about a technology committee meeting held last week. Two major issues were discussed: the district's phone system and the purchase of a new student database program. The cost of the new phone software is about \$25,000, but we could save some money by eliminating phone lines. The two student record programs looked at were Genesis and Power School. The existing system, SASI, will not be supported after next year. The committee is recommending that the Board select Genesis, which is also used by Watchung Hills High School.

Community Relations – Mr. Carbone will be meeting with Mr. McCarthy to coordinate Finance and Community Relations in regards to the 2009-2010 budget. He is also working with the Long Hill Township Senior Citizens on several issues.

Township Liaison – Mrs. Scanlon stated that she attended the Long Hill Township meeting last week. The mayor was re-appointed, and Mrs. Harrington was selected as the township liaison to the School Board. The Safe Route to Schools grants were announced, and no municipalities in Morris County were awarded funding. Mrs. Scanlon reported the township engineer, Justin Lizza, is leaving for another position.

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Scanlon noted that two resolutions are on the agenda for tonight as a result of a meeting held last week. She said that Dr. Wetherell put together a great deal of information on virtually every curriculum. An in-service day will be held January 19, focused on curriculum. Mr. Carbone commented that Dr. Wetherell did an excellent job in organizing the information.

Policy – Mrs. Scanlon and Mr. Carbone met and will be doing so again to review several critical policies.

Finance – Mr. McCarthy stated that the committee met beforehand to discuss the 2009-2010 budget. He said that there is again a 4% cap on the tax levy.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Rovtar reported on the following:

- Focus now is on finance and budget – the State will be conducting sessions on budgetary issues during the next few weeks.
- The 2009-2010 calendar will be revised to reflect a change in teacher conference dates.
- Dr. Rovtar attended the school concerts prior to the holidays and she thought the students and staff did excellent jobs.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Wetherell reported on the following:

- FORCE has approved several grants for Gillette School.
- Ice cream day was held last week.
- Kindergarten registration is next Wednesday and Thursday.
- Food days are January 17 and 31.
- Curriculum Committee meetings have been held in anticipation of professional day on January 19, 2009.

ADMINISTRATORS AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR UPDATES

Mr. Cimino reported on the following:

- Thanked PTO for their Holiday Luncheon.
- Victorian Tea is being held tomorrow.
- Geography Bee competition is this week.
- Consortium events are upcoming the next few weeks.
- High school orientations will be held next week, with 8th graders invited to attend.
- Students will be allowed to watch the inauguration on January 20.
- Mrs. Berlin was given a grant for a laptop and Mr. Cimino thanked FORCE for their donation.

Mrs. Dawson reported on the following:

- School Spirit Day was last Friday.
- Visiting poet came to school today and will return Wednesday, an event sponsored by the PTO.
- International Day is on January 30, 2009.
-

- FORCE awarded fourth and fifth grade teachers a grant for novels.
- Inauguration will also be watched as an assembly by the entire school.

Mr. Blinder reported on the following:

Kidspiration Software is used by K-6 and projects created by this program are arranged on the walls of the Board conference room. Mr. Blinder demonstrated some of the skills children used in order to master the software. He played a tape of some of the students describing the posters they created.

BOARD SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Banking - Mr. Esposito reported he and Dr. Rovtar met with representatives from Investors Savings Bank who are aggressively seeking our business. We will meet with PNC Bank to review our accounts and see if they can be competitive regarding rates and services.

Custodial, Maintenance and Grounds Management Services – A pre-bid meeting was held last Tuesday, January 6th. Three companies – Temco, Pritchard and Aramark – attended the meeting. A walk-through of each school was conducted and the vendors asked questions about the district. Following the meeting, Mr. Esposito developed a list of questions and issues to be addressed in the invitation to bid and has been working with our attorney to create an addendum that will respond to and clarify issues raised at the meeting. The bid opening will have to be moved back a week, as the addendum must be published in a newspaper and distributed to all companies who picked up a packet (about 12).

Staff Issue – Our Financial Supervisor is out indefinitely with an injury. Mr. Esposito has been working with Mr. Cimino on Student Activities and also worked on and submitted the payroll today through R&L, our payroll company. Mrs. Karasewicz is expected back in a week or so.

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.

MRS. BARBARA commented on the loyalty of the current custodial staff.

MR. GIANAKIS asked about the outsourcing of custodians.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It was moved by Mr. Dreyer and seconded by Mrs. Scanlon 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

December 15, 2008 – Worksession and Regular Meeting – Public and Private Sessions

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #1:

YES: Mr. Blocker	Mr. Dreyer	Mrs. Nyquist
	Mr. McCarthy	Mrs. Scanlon
Mr. Carbone	Mr. Meringolo	Ms. Becker

NO: None.

Resolution #1 carried 8-0.



It was moved by Mr. McCarthy and seconded by Mrs. Scanlon that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 2,3,4.

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

APPROVAL OF TRAVEL

3. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, adopt the following resolution to request a waiver of the district’s participation in the Special Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2009-2010 school year.

APPROVAL OF
REQUEST FOR
MEDICAID
WAIVER

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district’s participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2009-2010 school year, and

WHEREAS, the Long Hill Township Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 30 Medicaid eligible classified students,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Long Hill Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Morris an appropriate request for a waiver of the requirement of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2009-2010 school year.

4. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, establish the following tentative fees for subscription busing for the 2009-2010 school year:

APPROVAL OF
BUSING FEE

Individual student fee	\$350.00
Maximum fee per family	\$800.00

It was moved by Mr. Meringolo that the Long Hill Township Board of Education reduce the fee for busing from \$350.00 to \$325.00.

There was no second for the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 2,3,4:

YES: Mr. Blocker	Mr. Dreyer	Mrs. Nyquist
	Mr. McCarthy	Mrs. Scanlon
Mr. Carbone	Mr. Meringolo	Ms. Becker

NO: None on resolutions 2 and 3.
 Mr. Meringolo voted "no" on resolution #4.

Resolutions #2 and #3 carried 8-0.
 Resolution #4 carried 7-1.

It was moved by Mr. Carbone and seconded by Mrs. Scanlon that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 5,6,7,8,9,10.

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

5. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Director of Special Services and the Business Administrator, approve the payment of \$650.00 to Dr. Vanna Amorapanth for a neuro-developmental evaluation for student #201560. The evaluation is part of the re-evaluation process for this student.

APPROVAL OF
 PAYMENT TO
 DR. AMORAPANTH

6. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Director of Special Services and the Business Administrator, approve the termination of the district's contract with Above and Beyond Learning Group effective December 18, 2008 at the provider's request. Services were being provided to student #999903.

APPROVAL OF
 TERMINATION
 OF CONTRACT

7. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Business Administrator and Middle School Principal/ Director of Athletics approve the following appointments:

APPROVAL OF
 BASEBALL
 STIPEND

Sport/Activity	Advisor	Stipend
Boys' Baseball	Marco Freyre	\$2,557.01*

*Stipend to be paid from existing activity account balances and/or pay to play/participate fees paid.

8. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, appoint Marie Laurita as a maternity leave replacement teacher for the preschool disabled class at Gillette School for the period February 10, 2009 through June 30, 2009 at the Step 1BA salary of \$42,595.00 prorated.

M. LAURITA
APPOINTED
MATERNITY
LEAVE
REPLACEMENT

9. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Director of Special Services and the Business Administrator, appoint Barbara Schwartz to provide 30 sessions of remedial reading instruction to a student in accordance with the student's 504 plan. Compensation to Ms. Schwartz will be at the contractual rate of \$25.00 per session.

B. SCHWARTZ
TO PROVIDE
REMEDIAL
READING
INSTRUCTION

10. 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 2008-2009 school year:

APPOINTMENT
OF SUBSTITUTE
TEACHERS

- Ann Chapman
- Carolyn Mazzucco
- Mary Driver

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 5,6,7,8,9,10:

YES: Mr. Blocker	Mr. Dreyer	Mrs. Nyquist
	Mr. McCarthy	Mrs. Scanlon
Mr. Carbone	Mr. Meringolo	Ms. Becker

NO: None.
 (Mrs. Nyquist abstained on resolution #10.)
 Resolutions 5,6,7,8,9 carried 8-0.
 Resolution #10 carried 7-0-1.



It was moved by Mr. Blocker and seconded by Mrs. Scanlon that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 11,12,13.

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.

11. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the acquisition of the Genesis Student Information System for implementation beginning July 1, 2009 at a cost not to exceed \$18,000.00 for the 2009-2010 school year (including set-up costs).

APPROVAL OF GENESIS SYSTEM

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

APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIP

May 29, 2009 RVCC Planetarium All 3rd grade students(117)
\$10.00 per student North Branch, NJ 5 teachers,1 nurse,20 parents
Parent paid

13. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent, approve the curriculum guides as listed below:

APPROVAL OF CURRICULUM GUIDES

Prejudice Reduction, Holocaust and Genocide Curriculum K-8
Computer Integration K-8

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 11,12,13:

YES: Mr. Blocker Mr. Dreyer Mrs. Nyquist
 Mr. McCarthy Mrs. Scanlon
 Mr. Carbone Mr. Meringolo Ms. Becker

NO: None.
Resolutions 11,12,13 carried 8-0.



It was moved by Mrs. Nyquist and seconded by Mrs. Scanlon that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 14 and 15.

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.

14. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, approve the second reading of the following policies:

SECOND READING
OF POLICY AND
JOB DESCRIPTION

- 2120 Organization Chart
- Job Descriptions: Substitute Teacher
- Teacher Assistant
- Guidance Counselor-Central School
- District Guidance Counselor

15. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, approve the first reading of the following policy:

FIRST READING
OF POLICY

- 4131/4131.1 Staff Development; In-Service
- Education/Visitations/Conference

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 14 and 15:

YES: Mr. Blocker	Mr. Dreyer	Mrs. Nyquist
	Mr. McCarthy	Mrs. Scanlon
Mr. Carbone	Mr. Meringolo	Ms. Becker

NO: None.

Resolutions 14 and 15 carried 8-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Nyquist asked if the district was OK with job descriptions.

Mr. Carbone thanked Mr. Blinder for setting up his e-mail.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

MR. GIANAKIS asked about the subscription bus fee for next year and Mr. Esposito responded.

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

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETING DATES

January 26, 2009 – Regular Meeting – Gillette Board Office – 7:30 p.m.

February 8, 2009 – Worksession – Gillette Board Office – 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Esposito
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Dr. René Rovtar
Superintendent of Schools