

LONG HILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD RETREAT, WORKSESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
JULY 13, 2009

The Long Hill Township Board of Education held a Board Retreat, Worksession and Regular Meeting on Monday, July 13, 2009 in the Gillette Board Office. The Board Retreat was held at 6:00 p.m. and the Worksession and Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Board President Lisa Scanlon.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Barone, Mr. Blocker, Mr. Carbone, Mr. Dreyer,
Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Meringolo, Dr. Rae, Dr. Verlezza (arrived
at 7:30 p.m.), Mrs. Scanlon.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Rovtar, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Joanne Borin, New Jersey School Boards Representative
Mr. Cimino, Central School Principal
Mrs. Dawson, Millington School Principal
Mr. Blinder, Technology Coordinator
22 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 11, 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.

BOARD RETREAT

Ms. Borin conducted the annual Board Retreat and reviewed the Board Self-Evaluations that had been submitted.

The Board established the following DISTRICT GOALS for the 2009-2010 school year:

- raise NJASK scores, particularly in mathematics
- pass the QSAC state monitoring
- improve Community Relations
- explore controlling costs with regard to sp. ed., transportation and health insurance.

The Board established the following BOARD GOALS for the 2009-2010 school year:

- complete any mandated Board Member training.
- ensure all QSAC-required policies are up to date and in compliance
- improve community relations
- prepare and pass a fiscally responsible budget.

WORKSESSION/ REGULAR MEETING

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Scanlon stated that she had received some communications from parents with regard to the achievement of 8th grade students on the 8th grade math final exam.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPORT – Mr. Dreyer reported the SPORT committee raised over \$17,000 to carryover to 2009-2010 after all the purchases were made in 2008-2009.

Buildings & Grounds – The PTO has offered to landscape the front of Millington School. Mrs. Dawson thanked them for their generosity.

Policy – Mr. Carbone reported there is one new policy on the agenda for first reading: the Mission Statement. The committee is still working on the Missing Child Policy, and are reviewing the curriculum policies with Dr. Wetherell.

Finance – Mr. McCarthy stated the committee reviewed the bills list and all is in order for payment. However, the May financial reports will be held until the next meeting.

Mrs. Scanlon noted that beginning on August 17, 2009 Board meetings will be broadcast live from Town Hall.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Rovtar made some comments regarding the district's Math Program. She stated that student performance on 8th grade math final exam were disappointing. Dr. Rovtar said that the largest issue was related to the position of math teacher, but noted that this person could not be reviewed in public. Dr. Rovtar is confident that the newly hired math teacher will be an asset to the district. She described the many steps that were taken over the year in an effort to improve math scores.

Dr. Rovtar explained the explanation given for the situation last year was that the students did not complete the curriculum. Dr. Rovtar, Mr. Cimino and Mr. Schwartz met with Mr. D'Alessio, the math department chair at the high school to review the curriculum maps to make sure that all of the content would be covered. Dr. Rovtar requested that the high school provide us with their mid-term exams which we administered to our students, in abbreviated form, in January. The exam results at that point were on target.

When we had the final exam results and saw the poor performance of many students, we contacted Mr. D'Alessio and explained the situation to him. The high school's determination was that the results on the final examination would not impact the student's math course placement for this fall. Dr. Rovtar recommended that the Board approve funding to allow us to provide a series of 6 review sessions which students may attend on a voluntary basis this summer. Six sessions will be provided for algebra and six for pre-algebra. In speaking with Mr. D'Alessio last week he also indicated that when the students begin Algebra II as sophomores, the first part of the course involves a review of Algebra I concepts.

Mr. Cimino stated that he is ultimately responsible for the situation. He has already met extensively with the new math teacher in preparation for her beginning in September. The Board will be installing a Smart Board in her classroom, just as we have in the other two Central math classrooms.

Mrs. Scanlon then opened the meeting up to public comments on this issue.

MRS. GRONSKA asked about the test that was conducted in January. She also commented that Long Hill should do better, as other districts are doing. She asked that the Board evaluate why this happened and how we can improve our scores.

MR. MC CARTHY commented that the Board was disappointed in the math test scores and would do everything possible to fix it.

MRS. SCANLON also noted that the Board would get all the issues on the table and address them.

MRS. GOETZ commented on the math curriculum and the preparedness of a 9th grader. She then talked about the cost of tutoring kids over the summer.

MRS. COSTA said that the math curriculum should be more detailed, similar to the high school.

Dr. Rovtar will provide information on the action plan to be implemented at the August 17th Board meeting.

MR. VELLING commented that there are websites and technology available to assist in learning the math curriculum.

MRS. GRIECO asked if there weren't warning signs prior to year-end.

MR. GIANAKIS asked about test scores for the younger grades and Dr. Rovtar responded.

MRS. NOVAK thanked the Board for listening to the parent's comments and concerns, and expressed hope that the new math teacher would help improve district scores.

MR. CIMINO reviewed some of the steps he is taking in an effort to address some of these issues related to math.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

In Dr. Wetherell's absence, Dr. Rovtar gave the Gillette report:

- Curriculum – Inservice programs were held on June 22 and 23.
- Gillette School – Current enrollment is 87 in kindergarten, 89 in first grade. If the kindergarten enrollment rises above 88 the Board must consider waiving the current class size police of 22, hiring a teacher assistant for the class above 22 or hiring a part time kindergarten teacher for a 5th section.

ADMINISTRATORS AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR'S UPDATES

Mrs. Dawson reported on the following:

- End of year activities went well and she thanked the parents for their help.
- Attended a workshop by Alan November.
- Thanked the PTO for the plan to do the landscaping in front of Millington School.
- Reviewed a schedule change for second grade
- 11 new students enrolled since June and only 2 leaving
- 100 students in 2nd grade, 113 students in 3rd grade, 119 students in 4th grade, 111 students in 5th grade for a total of 443

Mr. Cimino reported on the following:

- Thanked the PTO for the end of year picnic
- He is working on the master schedule for next year
- He is learning the Genesis Software
- Temco is working on the second floor of Central
- Old gym floor has been dried out and will be re-surfaced.

Mr. Blinder reported he attended a technology conference in Washington D.C. and visited several of our vendors. He talked about some of the new software and hardware available to schools.

BOARD SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Mr. Esposito reported on the following:

- Temco Services has started and the transition is going well; there are some minor glitches.
- Training session on VersaTrans Bus Software. We get 18 hours but may not need all the hours.
- Mr. Esposito discussed resolution #6 regarding maintenance bids.
- Many annual purchase orders are being done.

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 asked about the hardware that the district is testing in August and Mr. Blinder responded. He also asked about the broadband needed for netbooks or other services and Mr. Blinder responded.

MRS. DALEY asked about the number of out of district special education children and Dr. Rovtar responded.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It was moved by Mr. McCarthy and seconded by Mr. Carbone 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

June 22, 2009 – Regular Meeting – Public & Private Sessions

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolution #1:

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

NO: None.

Mr. Blocker and Mr. Dreyer abstained.
Resolution #1 carried 7-0-2.

It was moved by Mr. Meringolo and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 2,3,5,6. Resolution #4 was removed from the agenda.

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 approve the Payrolls for June 15, 23 and 30, 2009 and the List of Bills for June 29, 2009 for payment as follows:

APPROVAL OF
BILLS LIST

Payroll for June 15, 2009

Fund 10	\$ 23,586.61
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$414,160.38
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -0-
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ -0-
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -0-
Debt Services-Fund 40	\$ -0-
Total	\$437,746.99

Payroll for June 23, 2009

Fund 10	\$ 16,654.80
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$264,092.45
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -0-
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ -0-
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -0-
Debt Services-Fund 40	\$ -0-
Total	\$280,747.25

Payroll for June 15, 2009

Fund 10	\$ 6,931.81
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$169,742.97
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -0-
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ -0-
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -0-
Debt Services-Fund 40	\$ -0-
Total	\$176,674.78

Bills List for June 29, 2009

Fund 10	\$ -0-
Current Expense-Fund 11	\$222,541.16
Capital Outlay-Fund 12	\$ -0-
Special Revenue Fund-Fund 20	\$ 11,998.74
Capital Projects-Fund 30	\$ -0-
Debt Services-Fund 40	\$ -0-
Total	\$234,539.90

3. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(E), certifies that as of May 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.

APPROVAL OF
FINANCIAL
CERTIFICATIONS
MAY, 2009

5. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the transfers for May 2009.

APPROVAL OF
MAY TRANSFERS

6. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the attached quotes received for repair and maintenance work for the 2009-2010 school year as per bids received on June 4, 2009 by Energy for America, Roseland, NJ on behalf of the Long Hill Township School District.

APPROVAL OF
QUOTES FOR
MAINT. WORK

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 2,3,5,6:

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

NO: None.

Resolutions 2,3,5,6 carried 9-0.

It was moved by Ms. Barone and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 7,8,9,10,11.

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 the Director of Special Services and the Business Administrator, approve the provision of home instruction for student #2210260939. Home instruction, up to ten hours per week, will be provided in the student's home. Home instruction will begin July 1, 2009 and continue through August 12, 2009. This instruction is being provided in lieu of an extended school year program for this student.

APPROVAL
OF HOME
INSTRUCTION

8. 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 \$125.00 a day to the parents of student #5986153941 for transportation of the student to and from the Lakeview School as per the student's IEP. The student will attend the Extended School Year Program beginning July 1, 2009 and continue through August 12, 2009.

APPROVAL OF
PAYMENT FOR
TRANSPORTATION

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, approve the placement and payment of tuition, as per the student's IEP for the following out-of-district placements for the 2009-2010 school year.

APPROVAL OF
SP.ED. TUITION

Student #	Placement	Tuition
3946115768	Rock Brook School	\$43,778.00 + \$26,820.00 1:1 aide
2839236123	Midland School	\$40,518.00
2210260939	Midland School	\$40,518.00
9581966316	Early Childhood Learning Center	\$36,076.00 + \$16,200.00 1:1 aide
3406636382	P.G. Chambers	\$64,375.00
6241890732	Center for Lifelong Learning	\$37,080.00
1983896768	Cedar Hills School	\$57,281.00 includes 1:1 aide
9438898703	Crossroads	\$59,800.00 + \$30,868.00 1:1 aide

1186412480	Newmark School	\$44,995.00
5986153941	Lakeview School	\$66,000.00
999903	Developmental Learning Ctr.	\$76,220.00

10. 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 contracts with the Summit Speech School for the following students:

APPROVAL OF
SUMMIT SPEECH
SCHOOL
PAYMENTS

- #8359943629 4 sessions per week @\$145.00 per session
- #8410365288 4 sessions per week @\$145.00 per session
- #2473524162 3 sessions per week @\$145.00 per session

11. 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 contract and payment to Pediatric Workshop for physical therapy services for student #2210260939. In accordance with the student's IEP, the student is to receive 2 physical therapy sessions per week for 40 minutes each session, at a cost of \$80.00 per session for the 2009-2010 school year. Services will be provided at the student's out-of-district placement, as per the IEP. The cost for services is not to exceed \$6,400.00.

APPROVAL OF
PAYMENT TO
PEDIATRIC
WORKSHOP

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 7,8,9,10,11:

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

NO: None.

Resolutions 7,8,9,10,11 carried 9-0.

It was moved by Mr. Blocker and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 12,13,14,15,16,17,18.

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.

12. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, accept the resignation of Maria Frucci from the position of Teacher Assistant effective June 29, 2009.

M. FRUCCI
RESIGNATION

13. 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
SUB. TEACHERS

Glenn Pecoraro, Jennie DeMizio, Peter McCoy

14. 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 an additional three hours of employment for Anne Elmowitz, Wilson Reading Coach for the Long Hill Township Extended School Year Program, at a total cost of \$210.00.

APPROVAL OF
INCREASE IN
HOURS FOR
A. ELMOWITZ

15. 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 a revision to the number of hours for Jessica Coletta, occupational therapist, for the Long Hill Township School District's Extended School Year Program. Ms. Coletta's hours are hereby revised from 15 to 41.25.

APPROVAL OF
INCREASE IN
HOURS FOR
J. COLETTA

16. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve a revision to the appointment of Jacky Grossberg for the Extended School Year Program. Ms. Grossberg will be compensated at a rate of \$32.23 per hour (Step 1, MA) for the hours that she serves as a Teacher in the program (due to extended staff

REVISION TO
J. GROSSBERG'S
APPOINTMENT

absence) rather than her original appointment as a Teacher Assistant.

17. 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 staff members to prepare and conduct mathematics review sessions during the months of July and August, 2009 at a cost not to exceed \$900.00.

APPROVAL OF
MATH. REVIEW
TEACHERS

Name	Hourly Rate
Kristi Flint	\$36.90
Linda Sepe	\$34.30

18. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Business Administrator, approve the practicum and student teacher experience assignment for Stefanie Perez at Millington School as listed below for the 2009-2010 school year:

APPROVAL OF
STUDENT
TEACHER

Practicum experience – 1 day per week –
Sept. 21 – Nov. 25, 2009

Student Teaching:

Jan. 1 – March 12, 2010 – Grade 4 – Jennifer Tremarco –
Cooperating Teacher

March 15 – May 7, 2010 – Grade 2 – Kimberly Horincewich –
Cooperating Teacher

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 12, 13,1,15,16,17,18:

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

NO: None.

Resolutions 12,13,14,15,16,17,18 carried 9-0.

It was moved by Dr. Rae and seconded by Mr. Carbone that the Long Hill Township Board of Education approve the following recommendations of the Superintendent numbered 19 and 20.

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.

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

FIRST READING
OF POLICY

9000.1 Mission Statement

20. RESOLVED that the Long Hill Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials and agree to abide by the provisions therein for the 2009-2010 school year.

APPROVAL OF
MEMORANDUM
OF AGREEMENT

ROLL CALL VOTE on resolutions 19 and 20:

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

NO: None.

Resolutions 19 and 20 carried 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next meeting, August 17, 2009, and all subsequent meetings will be held at Town Hall.

Dr. Rae commented that the Board should make sure that the problems with our math program are corrected. Dr. Rovtar talked about some of the things being done and will provide a written update and action plan at the August 17, 2009 meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding how best to address the math problems and how progress would be monitored.

Mr. Blocker stated that the parents should be more involved with what goes on in the classroom.

Mr. Dreyer suggested getting external benchmarks to monitor our students' progress in math this year.

It was moved by Ms. Barone and seconded by Mr. Meringolo that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:44 p.m.

PRIVATE
SESSION

FUTURE MEETING DATES

August 17, 2009 – Worksession and Regular Meeting – Town Hall – 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Esposito
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Rene Rovtar
Superintendent of Schools

JE:mh