

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Newton, NJ  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2015

Ms. Dunn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Board Office at 57 Trinity Street, Newton, NJ, noting in the opening statement that the notice of this meeting was sent to the New Jersey Herald, the Star Ledger, and the Town Clerk of Newton on December 18, 2014, and appropriately posted. The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied. OPENING

Members Present: Mr. Caffrey, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Egner, Mr. Fancher, Ms. Faye, Ms. Ham, Mr. Heckman, Ms. Larsen, Mr. Morris, Mr. O’Gorman, Mrs. Thomas and Dr. Greene. ROLL CALL

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Donna C. Snyder.

Mrs. Snyder, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Board Member John O’Gorman, representative from Green.

There were no public comments. PUBLIC  
COMMENTS

Negotiations—Mr. Caffrey stated that the Negotiations Committee met on January 28, 2015 and will meet again on February 18, 2015. COMMITTEE RPTS.

Finance—Meeting rescheduled and will be held sometime after the February 3, 2015 Board Meeting.

ESC—Meeting was cancelled.

Town Council—Mr. Morris reported that there was a lot of discussion and that the Master Plan Ordinance Amendment passed.

Andover—Roof remediation is completed and students will move back in shortly. Presentation was given on send/receive. Andover’s next meeting will be held on February 17, 2015. SENDING  
DISTRICTS

Green—At Green’s meeting, there was a motion by the Operations Committee to explore options to current send/receive agreement. Look for all three districts to participate in the development of the RFP to undertake a study. Next meeting is February 18, 2015.

Educators of the Year SUPT.’S REPORT  
ED. HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Greene recognized the Educators of the Year as follows:

- Elizabeth Fusco—Newton High School
- Karen Mazur—Newton High School
- Joanne Nieman—Halsted Middle School
- Erin Marmara—Halsted Middle School
- Cindy Lasky—Merriam Avenue School
- Dierdre Iuliani—Merriam Avenue School

Ms. Cooke

Dr. Greene thanked Ms. Ann Marie Cooke for her service on the Board. Ms. Cooke read a statement thanking the Board for their dedication and stating how much she enjoyed working with the Newton Board of Education.

Sussex County School Boards Association

Dr. Greene thanked those who attended the County meeting in Newton.

District Action Plan Progress Report

Dr. Greene explained that this is a report on the status of progress towards achieving District goals.

School Performance Reports

These reports were released Friday and will be posted on the district website.

Food Service Request for Proposal—Ms. Snyder stated that the Newton Board of Education is required to solicit RFP's for the 2015-16 school year.

SBA/BS REPORT

Merriam Avenue School

Breakfast—Although there has yet to be a full week of school due to inclement weather, breakfast counts are up 20% since the implementation of the longer serving time.

Budget

Tonight will mark the fourth attempt to have another Finance Meeting. Ms. Snyder stated that she did receive the Certified Tuition Letter from the State today. It is exactly what was submitted and has already been shared with the sending district Business Administrators.

Fire Incident

Dr. Greene thanked the departments that responded. It was a very small incident that generated a lot of smoke. In fact, the damage was so minor that there will not be an insurance claim. The heater in the fish tank stopped operating properly when the water level dropped. The heater did not shut off, but the unit was plugged into a GFI, and it did operate properly and cut off the electrical power.

An inspection report was received that cited the presence of an extension cord, hunting racks on the walls that interfered with the fire equipment, and the electrical panel had items stored within the 3 foot clearance area.

Newspaper

Dr. Greene will be meeting with the editor and reporters from the New Jersey Herald on Wednesday.

Mr. Fancher arrived at 7:16 PM; and Mrs. Snyder, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Board Member Michael Fancher as the representative from Andover. Mr. Fancher then gave the Andover Report, which is reflected under Sending District Reports.

Motion made by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Caffrey, to approve the following:

BOARD BUSINESS

- A. Approve the minutes of the following meetings:
  - Reorganization Meeting of January 6, 2015
  - Regular Meeting of January 6, 2015
  - Executive Session of January 6, 2015
- B. Authorize the secretary to pay bills and warrants Nos. 041473 to 041665 as per bill list dated January 27, 2015, in the amount of \$4,080,345.46, as per Attachment A.
- C. Approve the financial reports from the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of December, 2014 as on file in the Business Office.
- D. Accept the Board Secretary's certification, as attached, (pursuant to NJAC 6:20-2.12(d)) that as of December 31, 2014, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Board of Education pursuant to NJSA 18A-22-8 & 18A-22-8.1.
- E. Pursuant to NJAC 6:23-2.11, certify that as of December 31, 2014, after review of the secretary's financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of NJAC 6:20-2.12(a) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- F. Approve the line item transfers and 10% report as per Attachment B.

G. Approve Food Service checks from December, 2014 as per Attachment C.

Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 member Board with the following exceptions:  
Mr. O’Gorman abstained on Board Business Item A.

Motion made by Ms. Larsen, seconded by Ms. Egner, to approve the following:

PROGRAM

A. Approve the following trips for Merriam Avenue School:

<u>Class/Club</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>
Grade PreK	Field Trip	Skylands Ice World, Stockholm, NJ

B. Approve the following trips for Halsted Avenue School:

<u>Class/Club</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>
Symphonic Choir	Field Trip	Eisenhower Middle School, Succasunna, NJ

C. Approve the receipt of the following homeless students. The district of residence will be billed for their tuition and services:

Student ID #11393 (Montclair)	Grade PSD	Effective 1/26/15
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Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 9 member Board.

Motion made by Mr. Caffrey, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, to approve the following:

D. Approve the following trips for Newton High School:

<u>Class/Club</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>
Robotics	Field Trip	SCMUA, Lafayette, NJ
Spanish Club	Field Trip	Dance Studio/Hackettstown & Restaurant/ Dover, NJ

E. Approve the following students for homebound instruction in accordance with N.J.A.C.6:14:

Student ID #S10325	Grade 10	Effective 1/13/15
Student ID #S3686	Grade 11	Effective 1/21/15

F. Approve the following new high school courses for the 2015-16 school year:

- Sports and Entertainment Management (Business Education full-year upperclass elective)
- Mystery and Horror in British and American Literature (English Language Arts upperclass semester elective)

Mrs. Thomas asked for an explanation on the Sports and Entertainment Management course. Dr. Greene explained that credits count, but it does not fit a graduation requirement. It would fit in the Business curriculum as an elective.

Mrs. Thomas asked if the Mystery and Horror elective was an offset to another elective and Dr. Greene said yes. Mr. Heckman asked how this would be structured as far as staffing.

G. Approve the Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) as the District’s dyslexia screening assessment.

Ms. Dunn asked Dr. Greene to explain why the Board is approving this when they do not normally approve assessment tools. The statute specifically requests it for dyslexia.

Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 member Board.

Motion made by Ms. Larsen, seconded by Ms. Egner, to approve the following:

PERSONNEL

A. Approve Dee Penoyer as Title II Part-Time Reading Teacher at Merriam Avenue and Halsted Middle Schools, Step D-10, 60% (\$42,085) prorated to start date of February 4, 2015.

B. Accept the resignation of Hayley Lenscak as Part-Time Teacher Assistant and After School Enrichment Teacher at Merriam Avenue School, effective February 20, 2015.

- C. Approve Jennifer Kedash as Part-Time Teacher Assistant at Merriam Avenue School, replacing Hayley Lenscak, Step 2, \$17,760 prorated 83% to \$14,741, effective February 23, 2015.
- D. Approve Lynn Sodora as Title I After School Instructor at Merriam Avenue School effective February 1, 2015 @ \$30/hr., not to exceed \$1,800.
- E. Accept the resignation of Joanne Naumowitz as Merriam Avenue School Title I Parent Academy Instructor effective February 3, 2015, and approve Kelsey Nelson as Merriam Avenue School Title I Parent Academy Instructor effective February 3, 2015 @ \$30/hr., not to exceed \$450.
- F. Approve 2015 Spring Coaches at Halsted Middle School as per Attachment D.
- G. Approve Deirdre Iuliani as Mentoring Supervisor at Merriam Avenue School for the 2014-15 school year @ \$30/hr., not to exceed \$1,080.
- H. Approve Shannon Williams, Physical Education Teacher at Halsted Middle School, for a combination of paid and unpaid leave effective on or about April 21, 2015, through June 30, 2015.

Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 9 member Board with the following exceptions:  
Mr. Morris abstained on Personnel Item A.

Motion by Mr. Caffrey, seconded by Mr. Heckman, to approve the following:

- I. Approve the following substitutes for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year:
  - Raquel Holbrook      Substitute Teacher
  - William Annunziata      Substitute Custodian
- J. Approve 2015 Spring Coaches at Newton High School as per Attachment E.
- K. Approve Athletic Site Supervisors, Clock Operators/Announcers, and Ticket Takers for 2014-15 as per Attachment F.
- L. Approve the following Special Education Teachers for a 6<sup>th</sup> Teaching Period at Newton High School to cover Angela Dunbar's leave effective January 26, 2015 through April 2, 2015 at \$967.73 each:
  - Jack Choma
  - Elizabeth Fusco
  - Michael Grifone
  - Robyn Kurelja
  - Glen Parker
- M. Approve Barbara Straulina as Teacher Assistant for an MD student at Newton High School for after school activities as per IEP needs effective January 29, 2015, at her hourly rate of \$15/hr., not to exceed 25 hours.

Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 member Board with the following exceptions:  
Mrs. Thomas voted "No" on Personnel Item J for the softball coach only.

Motion by Ms. Larsen, seconded by Ms. Egner, to approve the following:

BUSINESS

- A. Approve district travel expenses as per Attachment G.
- B. Approve the following district purchases for the 2014-15 school year:

<u>Newton Board of Education</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cooper Electric Supply	Electric Supplies	\$ 2,500.00
INC Educational Impact	Professional Development	\$ 7,500.00
Lakeland Andover School	Final 2013-14 Tuition	\$12,777.00
NJ FAA Association	Affiliation Fee 2014-15	\$ 3,600.00
Rabbitt, Lauren	Aide in Lieu of Transportation	\$ 2,652.00
Ricoh Americas Corp.	Copier Lease Purchases	\$13,980.95
Sussex Cty. Ed. Svcs.	IDEA St. Joseph's School	\$ 4,442.50
Sussex Cty. Technical School	Bus Maintenance	\$ 3,000.00
Trussell, Patrick & Michele	Aide in Lieu of Transportation	\$ 2,652.00
Willowglen Academy	Adj. Tuition Billing 2012-13	\$20,621.00

<u>Newton High School</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CDWG, Inc.	Access Points for PARCC Testing	\$ 3,153.40
Robomatter, Inc.	Technology Competition Kits	\$ 3,709.96

- C. Authorize the Newton Board of Education to purchase natural gas services through The Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) Bid.
- D. WHEREAS, the Newton Board of Education is the receiving district for students from Andover and Green and must by statute set estimated tuition rates for the following year by February 4<sup>th</sup>, and;

WHEREAS, the Newton Board of Education has worked with sending district administration each year to set the rate, and;

WHEREAS, the gap between estimated and actual has continued to grow each year, resulting in discussions over the last month amongst Finance Committees and the administrations of all three districts about the need to close the gap, and;

WHEREAS, pending legislation Senate No. 2658 would cap the estimated tuition rate at a 2% increase per year and would result in perpetuating increasing back tuition amounts, and;

WHEREAS representatives of all three districts have agreed that the estimated tuition rate needs to be set at a figure that is at least the actual of the prior year plus 2%;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Newton Board of Education approves the following tuition rates for the 2015-2016 school year:

Kindergarten	\$ 8,565
Grades 1-5	\$ 13,969
Grades 6-8	\$ 13,969
Grades 9-12	\$ 14,886
Multiple Disabilities	\$ 18,000
Preschool Disabled	\$ 10,916
LLD	\$ 16,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as per the January 6, 2015 meeting of the Board, the Superintendent and Business Administrator of the Newton Board of Education have met with their peers in the sending districts to discuss, and offered to both sending districts the opportunity to create payment plans in order to alleviate the one year impact; all parties involved are fully aware that there will still be back tuition calculations in the future, but that after the 2014-2015 tuition rate reconciliation the differences should be reduced.

Mr. Fancher stated that he is not comfortable with the word “needs” in the fifth paragraph.

Mr. O’Gorman asked about the status of the payment option request by Green. Ms. Snyder replied that it will be discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting following the Board of Education Meeting.

- E. Approve a contract to Atlantic Business Products for Managed Print Services at no cost until the district-owned toner credit has been exhausted; then at \$.0257 per print in black & white, and \$.0920 per print in color.

Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 member Board.

Self-Defense—Mrs. Thomas asked if there has been any progress towards creating a course.

OLD BD. BUSINESS

Mr. O’Gorman asked about property purchase and future plans. Ms. Snyder and Dr. Greene explained that the district has a contract but does not yet own the property.

Send/Receive—Mr. O’Gorman asked about status of contract and who would be negotiating the future agreement.

Tri-District Consortium (TDC)—Mr. O’Gorman asked about status. Mr. Heckman gave the long-term history and asked Ms. Snyder to talk about the shared services for cost reasons. Dr. Greene summarized the accomplishments.

PARCC—Mr. Heckman distributed some articles about PARCC. He has asked Ms. Dunn and Dr. Greene if we could have a presentation at a future meeting. He asked the Board Members to send their questions to Dr. Greene.

NEW BD. BUSINESS/  
OPEN DISCUSSION

Regionalization Study—Ms. Dunn asked Mr. O’Gorman about the comment from his report regarding options to current send/receive agreement. Mr. O’Gorman responded that a long discussion took place regarding what the sending districts are looking to accomplish with a regionalization study. Both sending district representatives will be asking their Boards to consider re-implementing the TDC.

Mr. Fancher stated that he would like to see the committee get together to resolve the send/receive contract issues without attorneys.

Motion by Ms. Egner, seconded by Mr. Caffrey, to re-establish the Tri-District Consortium.

Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 member Board.

This public session is designed for members of the public to speak on issues for Board consideration. By law, the Board of Education is under no obligation to respond to public comment. If the Board of Education chooses to respond, it does not waive its right thereafter not to respond. Please identify yourself and spell your last name.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

This public committee meeting is designed for the Board of Education to discuss issues that may appear on future board agendas. Please consider that an individual employee’s terms and conditions of employment cannot be discussed prior to that employee being given proper notice.

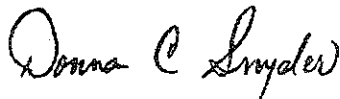
COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

There were no discussions.

Motion by Ms. Larsen, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, that the meeting would adjourn to Executive Session at 9:31 PM to discuss administrative transition planning due to pending retirements (no action anticipated), not to reconvene. There was no opposition.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,



Donna C. Snyder  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary