

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Newton, NJ
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 10, 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, Ms. Faye, Ms. Ham, Mr. Heckman, Ms. Larsen, Mr. Morris, Mr. O’Gorman, Mrs. Thomas and Dr. Greene.

ROLL CALL

Members Absent: Mr. Fancher

Also Present: Donna C. Snyder.

Mrs. Snyder, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, advised the Board that a reporter has notified her that in compliance with Board Policy, the Board Meeting will be recorded.

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC
COMMENTS

Negotiations—Mr. Caffrey stated that the Negotiations Committee met on March 4, 2015 and will meet again on March 18, 2015.

COMMITTEE RPTS.

Finance—Mrs. Thomas reported that the Finance Committee met on March 4, 2015 with results to be discussed later in this meeting when the tentative budget is reviewed.

ESC—Budget was discussed. Negotiations for a new association contract are also ongoing.

Town Liaison—Mr. Morris reported that the Town passed their budget.

Andover—No report as Mr. Fancher was not present.

SENDING
DISTRICTS

Green—Mr. O’Gorman stated that the next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2015.

Spanish Club Presentation

SUPT.’S REPORT
ED. HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. German Rueda and Ms. Ana Maniago explained some of the activities that are a part of their classes and the Spanish Club, also explaining the importance of learning a second language.

Halsted Physical Education Wellness Initiative

Mr. Jared Roe, Ms. Aimee Stormes, Ms. Shannon Williams, and Halsted student Matthew Guziewicz discussed the Staff Wellness Grant and how students are participating as well.

PARCC

Dr. Greene explained that PARCC testing had gone well from a technical standpoint. Participation at Merriam and Halsted had been strong, but the high school rate on Day 1 was just under 60%. By Day 2 that had improved to nearly 80% and he anticipated it would continue to improve. He also acknowledged an administrative decision to expand final exam exemptions in English and Math to those students who participated in PARCC. Board member questions and comments ranged from concerns about students not taking final exams to how GPA’s would be calculated for those not taking finals to support for PARCC as an academic challenge.

Tara Black expressed concern about what students who took PARCC will be doing during final exams. She stated that some students may have taken PARCC only to be exempt from final exams, and may not have given a good effort. In that case, she expressed concern that the result might be a reduction in our district test scores.

Bonnie Mandrella spoke on her opposition to the offer to exempt students from their final exams if they took the PARCC assessment.

Fran Muhlenbruch stated that she believed PARCC and final exams contain different knowledge and wondered if exempting students from their finals is fair to the students.

Dr. Greene responded to each of the public comments.

Budget

Ms. Snyder stated that discussion on the budget would take place later in the meeting during the tentative budget motion.

SBA/BS REPORT

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

BOARD BUSINESS

A. Approve the minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Meeting of February 24, 2015
Special Joint Meeting with Town of Newton February 24, 2015

Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 member Board with the following exceptions:
Ms. Larsen abstained on Board Business Item A.

Motion made by Mr. Caffrey, seconded by Ms. Larsen, 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 4	Field Trips	Sussex County Courthouse, Newton, NJ

B. Approve the following trips for Halsted Middle School:

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

C. Approve an overnight class trip for the Halsted Middle School 8th Grade Class for two days in June, 2015, to visit Rocking Horse Ranch in Hyland, NY.

Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 9 member Board.

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

D. Approve the following trips for Newton High School:

<u>Class/Club</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>
MD Students	Field Trip	Duke Farms, Hillsborough, NJ
MD Students	Field Trip	Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg, NJ

E. Approve the School Calendar for 2015-16 as per Attachment A.

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

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

PERSONNEL

A. Accept the retirement of Michel Beliveau, Kindergarten Teacher at Merriam Avenue School, effective June 30, 2015.

B. Accept the retirement of Eileen Fritzky, 2nd grade Teacher at Merriam Avenue School, effective June 30, 2015.

C. Accept the retirement of Cindy Lasky, 4th grade Teacher at Merriam Avenue School, effective June 30, 2015.

D. Approve an additional \$1,500 for Linda Sullivan as Title I Afterschool Enrichment Teacher for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year.

E. Approve Judy Meyers as Part-time Teacher Assistant at Halsted Middle School, Step 2, \$17,760 prorated 83% to \$14,741, effective March 11, 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:

F. Approve movement on guide, effective April 1, 2014 for the following:

Lisa Casamassina	C-6 (\$61,230) to D-6 (\$63,110)
Katherine Sura	D-2 (\$60,160) to E-2 (\$62,020)

- G. Accept the retirement of Jeanne DiBenedetto, District ESL Teacher, effective June 30, 2015.
- H. Approve the following substitute for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year:
Christopher Carbone Substitute Teacher
- I. Approve the following new job description as per Attachment B:
 - Director of Special Projects
- J. Approve the following as Part-Time Teacher Assistants for students participating in Newton High School after-school track practice/home meets effective March 9, 2015 for up to 10 hours per week for 10 weeks:
 - Michael Galanski @ \$12.15/hr.
 - Barbara Straulina @ 15.05/hr.

Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 member Board with the following exceptions:

- Mr. Heckman voted "No" on Personnel Item I.
- Ms. Larsen voted "No" on Personnel Item I.
- Mr. O'Gorman voted "No" on Personnel Item I.

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

BUSINESS

- A. Approve district travel expenses as per Attachment C.
- B. Approve the acceptance of the following grants on behalf of the Newton Robotics Team for the 2015 season:

Johnson and Johnson	\$7,500
General Electric	\$5,000
Kohls	\$ 500

C. Approval of Tentative Budget

**Capital Reserve Account Withdrawal
2015-2016**

RESOLVED that the Newton Board of Education requests the approval of capital reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$235,008. The district intends to utilize these funds toward the costs of the following projects: (a) Local share of ROD Grants for generators at all three schools; (b) Newton High School auditorium asbestos abatement and carpet replacement; (c) Merriam Avenue School digital clock system; (d) Halsted Middle School boiler abatement and conversion; (e) Fiber Network connecting all three schools; (f) Newton High School auditorium steps repair/canopy installation.

**Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement
2015-2016**

WHEREAS, the Newton Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$ (N/A) per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out-of-District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out-of-District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$16,469 for all staff and board members.

**Adoption of Tentative Budget
2015-2016**

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2015-2016 School Year using the 2015-2016 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2015-16 Total Expenditures	26,522,388	670,880	592,875	27,786,143
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>14,142,590</u>	<u>670,880</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14,813,470</u>
Taxes to be Raised	<u>12,379,798</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>592,875</u>	<u>12,972,673</u>

And to advertise said tentative budget in The New Jersey Herald in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Newton Board of Education Offices, 57 Trinity Street, Newton, New Jersey on April 28, 2015 at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of approving the budget for the 2015-2016 School Year.

- D. Approve the application of the NJEA Pride in Education Grant for Halsted Middle School to support "One Book, One School, One Community" summer reading program.
- E. Approve the disposal of a Magnum Fitness Systems Treadmill at Merriam Avenue School, Asset Tag #02069.

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

Mrs. Thomas asked for an update on recognition of class valedictorian and salutatorian. OLD BD. BUSINESS
Dr. Greene replied that he was speaking with the high school administration about it.

Ms. Dunn stated that the NJSBA training did not occur in January due to the length of meeting. She asked for input on the concept of a separate meeting as a Board Retreat.

Ms. Dunn also addressed the upcoming town roadwork and said that it is going to be very hard for the community.

Language Immersion Program—Mrs. Thomas asked for an explanation and whether it would be useful in our schools. Dr. Greene gave a brief definition and said that he would look into it. NEW BD. BUSINESS/
OPEN DISCUSSION

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

Ms. Mandrella reiterated her opposition to PARCC. She also expressed her appreciation on how the schools have embraced her children as they moved here from another school.

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

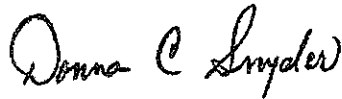
Wide Area Network (WAN)

Ms. Snyder discussed the wide area network and advised that she will be recommending participation in the state's Cooperative Purchasing of Broadband, Wide Area Network Services (WAN) and Internet Access (DRLAP) at the next meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Heckman, that the meeting would adjourn at 9:05 PM, not to reconvene. There was no opposition.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna C. Snyder".

Donna C. Snyder
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary