

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Newton, NJ  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 12, 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 <u>New Jersey Herald</u> , the <u>Star Ledger</u> , 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.	
Mr. O’Gorman arrived at 7:07 PM. Ms. Larsen arrived at 7:08 PM. Ms. Faye arrived at 7:12 PM.	
There were no public comments.	PUBLIC COMMENTS
<u>Town Council</u> —Mr. Morris said that there was a lot of discussion about Spring Street becoming a one-way street. Signage was also discussed.	COMMITTEE RPTS.
<u>ESC</u> —Currently in negotiations. ESC has a Twitter account. They are having an audit for Federal Compliance.	
<u>Andover</u> —Mr. Fancher was not present, but he informed Ms. Dunn that Ms. VanAuken, Business Administrator in Andover, had announced her September retirement.	SENDING DISTRICTS
<u>Green</u> —Mr. O’Gorman stated that Green approved their 2015-16 budget. The district has applied for the Farm to School Program. Also, Board Member Betsy Wermuth has resigned.	
<u>Altitude Program</u> —Ms. Jennifer Reynolds and four students presented an overview of this project, run in conjunction with Newton Medical Center and Pass It Along.	SUPT.’S REPORT ED. HIGHLIGHTS
<u>Paperless Classroom</u> —Mr. Joe Bolen and Ms. Megan O’Mara gave a presentation along with students Ivy Nisler, Peter VanOrden, Max Weiss and Jessica Vasquez.	
<u>District Action Plan</u> —Dr. Greene presented the Summary Report on the District Action Plan.	
<u>Superintendent Evaluation</u> —Dr. Greene distributed new evaluation forms with evidence in each area of responsibility. Ms. Dunn asked Board Members to provide her with their input by May 19 <sup>th</sup> .	
<u>Champions for Charity</u> —Newton High School students and faculty collected 3,640 lbs. of food through this campaign for the local food bank	
<u>Spanish Teacher</u> —Dr. Greene explained that due to scheduling and more students taking Spanish, there is a need for a new staff position that was not in the original 2015-16 budget.	
<u>Field Space</u> —Recent communication with St. Paul’s Abbey indicates that we will not be using their field space. The Recreation Department and the Town will be working to help accommodate the District’s need.	
<u>PRIDE Foundation</u> has renewed the Wall of Fame.	
<u>Principal Search</u> —Dr. Greene met with Newton High School Staff to get input on attributes and criteria. Received 25 applications and scheduled 6 interviews.	
<u>2015 Election</u> Ms. Snyder stated that she filed the appropriate forms with the County Clerk’s Office. There are 3, three-year positions open for January, 2016.	SBA/BS REPORT
<u>Tuition Appeal</u> —Ms. Snyder advised the Board that Hampton Township has appealed the results of our successful tuition appeal.	
<u>Budget</u> —Ms. Snyder stated that pending some significant Special Education Out-of-District and residency tuition disputes, there may be funds available in June. She asked if the Finance Committee would like to meet or if the Board would like a plan to be provided at the next meeting. Consensus was that the Finance Committee will meet at 6:30 PM on May 26, 2015.	

Property—Ms. Snyder reported that the closing on the new property is scheduled for the end of the month.

Sick Bank—Ms. Snyder said that there is a need for a Sick Bank Committee meeting; and since Mr. Morris will be out of town, we will need a substitute.

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

BOARD BUSINESS

A. Approve the minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Meeting of April 28, 2015  
Executive Session of April 28, 2015

Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 member Board with the following exceptions:  
Mr. Heckman abstained on Personnel & Negotiations (NEA) in Executive Session.  
Mr. O’Gorman abstained on Legal (Send-Receive) in Executive Session.

Motion made by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Caffrey, 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 1	Field Trip	Turtle Back Zoo, West Orange, NJ

B. Approve the following trips for Halsted Middle School:

<u>Class/Club</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>
Grade 5	Field Trip	Field Station Dinosaurs, Secaucus, NJ

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

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

C. Approve the following trips for Newton High School:

<u>Class/Club</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>
AP Bio. & Environ. Science	Field Trip	Turtle Back Zoo, West Orange, NJ
Family & Consumer Science	Field Trip	Homestead Montessori Schl., Glen Spey, NY

D. Approve all Newton High School Athletics teams to commence summer practice on June 8, 2015 as per NJSIAA guidelines; approve August 3, 2015 to begin to allow for heat acclimatization per NJSIAA recommendations and safe, appropriate practice time before first scrimmages; and approve August 10, 2015 as the first day of fall season practice at Newton High School for the 2015-16 school year.

E. Approve the 2015-16 membership of the Newton Public Schools in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, agreeing to be governed by the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA, including all rules governing student-athletic eligibility at a cost of \$2,150, and also to participate in the Northwest Jersey Athletic Conference and Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex Athletic Conference.

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

Student ID #11564 (Roseland, NJ)	Grade 10	Effective 4/28/15
Student ID #10128 (Oxford, NY)	Grade 9	Effective 9/4/14
Student ID #10123 (Oxford, NY)	Grade 5	Effective 9/4/14

G. Approve the revised list of out-of-district placements for 2014-15 as per Attachment A.

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

Student ID #2295	Grade 9	Effective 5/4/15
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Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 member Board.

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

PERSONNEL

- A. Accept the resignation of Brittany Marinaro, Part-Time Teacher Assistant at Merriam Avenue School, effective May 1, 2015.
- B. Approve Jill Merson as Grade 2 Teacher at Merriam Avenue School for the 2015-16 school year, Step A-2, salary TBD.
- C. Approve Audrey Wilson as Grade 4 Teacher at Merriam Avenue School for the 2015-16 school year, Step A-2, salary TBD.
- D. Approve Lauren Nethery, Grade 1 Teacher at Merriam Avenue School, for a combination of paid and unpaid leave effective September 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.
- E. Approve Shannon Frick for Student Teaching Field Experience through William Paterson University to work at Halsted Middle School with Kara Hartzell, Grade 6-12 Music/Vocal Teacher, from September 2, 2015 through December 10, 2015.
- F. Approve Joanne Nieman as a new teacher mentor at Halsted Middle School for the 2014-15 school year at a stipend of \$550.
- G. Approve the voluntary transfer of Jane Langeveld from Child Study Team Social Worker to Social Worker at Merriam Avenue School for the 2015-16 school year.
- H. Approve the voluntary reassignment of Steve Sandor to a Teacher at Merriam Avenue School, effective July 1, 2015, Step C-7 salary TBD.
- I. Approve the following appointments for the 2015-2016 school year:
 

MAS Teaching Staff	Attachment <u>B</u>
HMS Teaching Staff	Attachment <u>C</u>

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

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

- J. Approve Leesha Torppey as a new teacher mentor at Newton High School for the 2014-15 school year at a stipend of \$550.
- K. Approve Diana Guerriero as a Homebound Instructor for the 2014-15 school year.
- L. Approve the following appointments and salaries for the 2015-2016 school year:
 

Administrators	Attachment <u>D</u>
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- M. Approve the following appointments for the 2015-2016 school year:
 

NHS Teaching Staff	Attachment <u>E</u>
NHS Athletic Trainers	Attachment <u>F</u>
CST Teaching Staff	Attachment <u>G</u>

Carried unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 member Board with the following exceptions:  
Mr. Heckman abstained on Personnel Item L.

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

BUSINESS

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

<u>Newton Board of Education</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CDWG, Inc.	Technology Accessories	\$ 8,246.42
Darleen Nelson	Robotics Trip Hotel Rooms	\$ 6,877.28
<u>Newton High School</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Makerbot Industries LLC	Robotics Classroom Kit	\$ 3,048.20
<u>Halsted Middle School</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hertz Furniture Systems	Classroom Chairs	\$ 4,148.16
- C. Approve a Joint Resolution for Participation in Transportation Services for the 2015-16 School Year with the Sussex County Regional Cooperative, as per Attachment I.

- D. Approve the purchase of a 2010 GMC Collins 21-Passenger Mini-Bus with Wheelchair Lift, VIN #1GDKG31K591155622, from the Green Township Board of Education at a cost of \$15,000.
- E. Accept a donation of a Pro-Form Low Impact Elliptical Exerciser 485 for the Halsted Middle School workout room, valued at \$165, from Jonathan and Nancy Owens.

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

Academic Excellence @ Newton HS—Mrs. Thomas asked about the status and Dr. Greene has given the information to the High School Administration. OLD BD. BUSINESS

Homebound Students—Ms. Dunn asked if all 5 slots are full and if we will be expanding. Dr. Greene responded affirmatively.

Newton Day—Dr. Greene said that there will be documents available for distribution.

Choice Students—Mrs. Thomas asked if we were still recruiting. Dr. Greene said that it is really not necessary since we are limited to the number of slots we can fill. NEW BD. BUSINESS/  
OPEN DISCUSSION

Realtor Material—A document will be created and put on the website to provide information about our schools.

Touring Choir—Honors Choir received a Superior Rating at Disneyworld.

Teacher Appreciation Week—Mr. Heckman said that for as much as we say we appreciate staff, he feels it was unfortunate that the high school staff were not provided with any “Teacher Appreciation Week” activities. Other Board Members stated this is usually provided by the PTO’s.

Staff with ESL Students—Mr. Heckman stated that the high school staff was told they needed to take an on-line course. He expressed concern that not only did this happen at a busy time, but also that the students will be moving on. Dr. Greene responded that it is a new state requirement and that all staff at the elementary and middle school took the session. Not all staff at the high school was required to take it, and those that did were provided release time.

Jazz Band—The jazz band competed in the North Warren Jazz Festival and won 2 Silver Awards, Best Rhythm Section, and 3 Best Soloist Awards.

Pass It Along did a service day with Newton students and it was impressive to see all that was accomplished.

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

Kristen Narvaez, a parent of two elementary students, spoke in support of the Assistant Principal at Merriam Avenue 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

Food Service Management Company Contract—Ms. Snyder explained the process used to evaluate the RFP’s and thanked Ms. Ham and Mr. Morris for their time. She distributed a summary of financial data and the scoring matrix. The Committee recommended Sodexo, and the Board had no objection; motion will be at a future meeting.

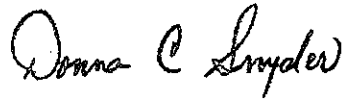
Ethics Training—Dr. Greene and Ms. Snyder conducted the required annual School Ethics Training.

Parette Somjen Generator Proposal—Ms. Snyder reported on the need for the Board to approve a proposal so that electrical schematics could be prepared and submitted for electrical construction permits for all three buildings.

Motion by Mr. Caffrey, seconded by Ms. Egner, that the meeting would adjourn at 9:59 PM, not to reconvene. There was no opposition.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna C. Snyder". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Donna C. Snyder  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary