

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Newton, NJ
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

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 January 9, 2014, and appropriately posted. The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied.

OPENING

Members Present: Mr. Caffrey, Ms. Cooke, Ms. Dunn, Ms. Egner, Mr. Fancher, Ms. Faye, Ms. Larsen, Mr. Morris, Mrs. Thomas and Dr. Greene.

ROLL CALL

Members Absent: Mr. Goldschmidt and Mr. Heckman

Also Present: Donna C. Snyder

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC
COMMENTS

Ms. Egner stated that there is a regulation that allows the Town Manager in towns with more than 20% tax exempt properties to approach tax-exempt property owners and ask them to pay in order to provide tax relief. Ms. Egner also reported that permission was given to the Town Planner to prepare an amendment to the Newton Redevelopment Plan that would allow a Dunkin Donuts on the Quick Mart Lot.

COMMITTEE RPTS.

Ms. Faye reported that the Ed. Services Commission is ready to start negotiations.

Andover—Mr. Fancher reported that Andover had a good start to the school year and a successful Back-to-School Night.

SENDING
DISTRICTS

Green--Ms. Cooke said that Green ratified their agreement with the teachers on September 17, 2014. The agreement is in effect from 7/1/13-6/30/16.

Report on Student Achievement Data and School Improvement Plans

SUPT.'S REPORT
ED. HIGHLIGHTS

The Principals presented accomplishments, test data, challenges, goals and activities for each of their respective buildings.

QSAC Review

Dr. Greene reported that Newton is waiting for the State to finish revising the District Performance Reviews for high-performing districts.

PRIDE Day

The Superintendent stated that Mr. Al Cronin achieved 100 goals.

Standard & Poor's Bond Rating

SBA/BS REPORT

Ms. Snyder reported that she received notice that the bonds that were issued through the "State Enhancement Program" have been downgraded to "A" from "A+", but have been removed from the watch list, so are now "stable". This is a reflection of the State's financial status, and is not in any way based upon data regarding the Newton Board of Education or the Town of Newton. The district is eligible to pursue refunding of bonds next year, and it is likely that will be done based upon the Newton Board of Education's bond rating versus the State's rating.

Clean Energy Project at Newton High School

This project should be finalized this week. The project will come in on budget, with a project cost of approximately \$183,000, State incentive of \$130,000, and a district share of \$53,000.

Property Purchase

Ms. Snyder will be meeting with the architect next week to finalize the land acquisition application for submission to the Department of Education.

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

BOARD BUSINESS

- A. Approve the minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Meeting of September 9, 2014
Executive Session of September 9, 2014
- B. Authorize the secretary to pay bills and warrants Nos. 040822 to 040984 as per bill list dated September 23, 2014, in the amount of \$1,831,964.63, as per Attachment A.
- C. Approve the draft financial reports from the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month of August, 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 August 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 August 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.

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

Mr. Caffrey abstained on Board Business Item A.
Ms. Larsen abstained on Board Business Item A.

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

PROGRAM

- A. Approve three Newton homeschooled students to participate in Halsted Middle School's Band, Chorus, and Drama Programs for the 2014-15 school year.

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

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

- B. Approve the following trips for Newton High School:

| <u>Class/Club</u> | <u>Purpose</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Business Classes/Yearbook | Field Trip | Various Local Businesses, Newton, NJ |
| Calliope | Field Trip | NJPAC, Newark, NJ |
| Robotics | Field Trip | Sussex Library, Wantage, NJ |
- C. Approve the accuracy and submission of the QSAC Statement of Assurance for the 2014-15 school year.
- D. Approve the following students for homebound instruction in accordance with N.J.A.C.6:14:

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Student ID #10322 | Grade 10 | Effective 9/19/14 |
|-------------------|----------|-------------------|

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

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

PERSONNEL

- A. Approve movement on guide for the following teachers, effective October 1, 2014:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Stephen Down | From Step B-3, \$54,400 to C-3, \$58,980 |
| Susanna Zwarych | From Step A-5, \$53,850 to B-5, \$55,850 |
- B. Approve Margaret Dworzycki and Valerie Russell, Part-Time Teacher Assistants at Merriam Avenue School, to have 100% of their salaries paid through Title I.

- C. Approve Joanne Naumowicz and Susana Smith as Title I Parent Academy Instructors at Merriam Avenue School @ \$30/hr., not to exceed \$900 each.
- D. Approve Guadalupe Carrero as Part-Time Teacher Assistant at Halsted Middle School, for the 2014-15 school year, Step 2, 83% to \$14,741, start date pending approval of criminal history.
- E. Rescind the June 17, 2014 motion to approve Victoria Farrell as Teacher Assistant, Step 1, 67% to \$11,832 and as a Lunchroom Aide @ \$20/hr. for 180 hrs., \$3,600 at Merriam Avenue School, and approve as follows:

Victoria Farrell as a Part-Time Teacher Assistant at Merriam Avenue School for 25 hrs./week, Step 1, 83% to \$14,658 for the 2014-15 school year.
- F. Rescind the June 17, 2014 motion to approve Sean Mulligan as Teacher Assistant at Merriam Avenue School, Step 2, 83% to \$14,741, and approve as follows:

Sean Mulligan as Part-Time Teacher Assistant at Merriam Avenue School, Step 2, 71% to \$12,610 and as a Lunchroom Aide @ \$20/hr. for 135 hours, \$2,700 for the 2014-15 school year.
- G. Rescind the June 17, 2014 motion to approve Yasmin Caruso as Teacher Assistant at Merriam Avenue School, Step 4, 33% to \$5,927, and as Lunchroom Aide @ \$20/hr. for 360 hours, \$7,200, and approve as follows:

Yasmin Caruso, Part-Time Teacher Assistant at Merriam Avenue School, Step 4, 54% to \$9,698, and Lunchroom Aide @ \$20/hr. for 315 hours, \$6,300, for the 2014-15 school year.
- H. Approve Brittany Marinaro as Title I After School Enrichment Teacher at Merriam Avenue School @ \$30/hr., not to exceed \$3,600.
- I. Approve Therese Johnson as temporary Night Foreman at Merriam Avenue School effective September 16, 2014, \$1,000 prorated.
- J. Temporarily rescind the May 27, 2014 motion for the \$1,000 Night Foreman stipend for Frank Fasolo at Halsted Middle School effective September 22, 2014 prorated.
- K. Approve Peter Kazmierski as temporary Night Foreman at Halsted Middle School effective September 22, 2014, \$1,000 prorated.

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

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

- L. Approve the following Substitutes for 2014-15:
Carrie Kerrick Substitute Teacher
Michael Galonski Substitute Teacher
Elizabeth Viersma Substitute Teacher
- M. Approve Afterschool Instruction for the following teachers at Newton High School @ \$30/hr, 2.5 hrs./week:

Mike Bussow & Ella Gaal—Science (will split time)
Kelly Gvoth—Math
Kristen Hauser—English
German Rueda—History, World Language
- N. Approve the following stipends for Matthew Petrozelli, Music Teacher at Newton High School:
- AP Music Theory--\$1,000
 - Madrigals—Step 1, \$666

- O. Rescind the May 14, 2014 motion appointing Edythe Bertoldo and Brian Karns as Athletic Trainers at Newton High School for the 2014-15 school year, and approve Edythe Bertoldo and Brian Karns as Athletic Trainers at Newton High School for the 2014-15 school year at a salary of \$36,965 each, effective September 16, 2014.
- P. Approve the revised list of 2014-15 bus stops as per Attachment C.
- Q. Approve Michelle Minisi as Part-Time Teacher Assistant at Newton High School for the 2014-15 school year, Step 2, 83% to \$14,741, start date pending approval of criminal history.
- R. Approve Ana Maniago for up to 50 hours for IEP and report translation Professional Services for the 2014-15 School year @ \$30/hr., not to exceed \$1,500, to be paid through IDEA funds.
- S. Rescind the June 17, 2014 motion approving Cindy Tracey as Teacher Assistant at Newton High School, Step 6, 100% to \$18,400, and approve as follows:

Cindy Tracey as Teacher Assistant at Newton High School, Step 6, 87% to \$16,008, and as MD Lunch Supervisor @ \$20/hr. for 135 hours, \$2,700 for the 2014-15 school year.
- T. Approve Barbara Straulina as Teacher Assistant to support Child Study Team students in the After-School Program at Halsted Middle School @ \$15/day for 1 hr./day effective September 24, 2014.
- U. Approve Winter Athletic Coaches as per Attachment D.
- V. Accept the resignation of Vincent White, Part-Time Teacher Assistant at Newton High School, effective September 29, 2014.

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

Mr. Fancher abstained on Personnel Item L.

Mr. Morris asked if background checks are done on volunteers. Dr. Greene said they are if the volunteer is with students three or more times per week. Mr. Morris also asked if Newton has lost volunteers who did not want to pay the \$200 criminal history fee, and the Superintendent said yes.

Mrs. Thomas said that it's really nice to see the names of Newton graduates as new hires.

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

BUSINESS

- A. 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. | Computer Adapters & Accessories | \$ 3,349.63 |
| Handi-Lift Service Co. | Wheelchair Lift Repair | \$ 4,055.75 |
| Handi-Lift Service Co. | Wheelchair Lift Repair | \$ 3,685.99 |
| Success Advertising | Classified Ad | \$ 2,067.17 |
| Taj Mahal Casino Resort | NJSBA Workshop | \$ 2,140.00 |
| Telecom Management | Bus Cameras & DVR | \$ 5,848.00 |
| Telecom Management | Telephone Station Module & HMS | \$ 2,250.00 |
| | | |
| <u>Newton High School</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
| Newton Athletic Dept. | Officials Fees | \$20,000.00 |
| Newton Police Dept. | Police Escrow | \$ 7,000.00 |

- B. Approve district travel expenses as per Attachment E.
- C. Approve a Joint Transportation Agreement with Kittatinny Regional High School for Route K-26 for the 2014-15 school year at a cost of \$582.87.

D. Approve the disposal of textbooks at Newton High School as follows:

| <u>Qty</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Publisher</u> |
|------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 9 | MS Office | 2000 | Course Technology—Thomas Learning |
| 51 | Marketing Essentials | 2002 | Farese, Kimbrell and Woloszyk |
| 5 | Intro to Business 4 th Ed. | 2003 | Eggland, Dlabay, Burrow and Ristau |
| 20 | Calculus 5 th Ed. | 1998 | Prentice Hall |
| 34 | Preparing for HSAP | 2002 | Ed Design |

E. Approve the acceptance of the SeaPerch Teach, Build, Become Program Grant for Halsted Middle School in the amount of \$1,925, funded by the Office of Naval Research, providing students with the opportunity to learn about robotics, engineering, science and mathematics (STEM).

Mrs. Thomas asked who is writing the grants. Ms. Snyder replied that some, like this one, are written by the teachers.

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

Booster Club Snack Stand—Ms. Larsen asked about the possibility of using the small room by the gym. Dr. Greene referred her to High School Administration.

OLD BD. BUSINESS

Back-to-School Picnic—Mr. Caffrey gave kudos to the Merriam Avenue School PTO for the wonderful job with the picnic.

ABC Video—Ms. Dunn asked Dr. Greene what had happened to the video that he was involved in last year. Dr. Greene responded that there had been no follow-up communication.

Ms. Cooke thanked Newton for the athletic passes.

NEW BD. BUSINESS/
OPEN DISCUSSION

Alternative Funding—Ms. Dunn asked if anyone would be interested in exploring this topic. Mr. Fancher stated that another district does automobile test drive donations. Another suggestion is sponsorship signs around the field.

Phone App—Ms. Dunn said another school's public relations had addressed an "app" for information about their district. Dr. Greene said he will look into the possibility of doing that in Newton.

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.

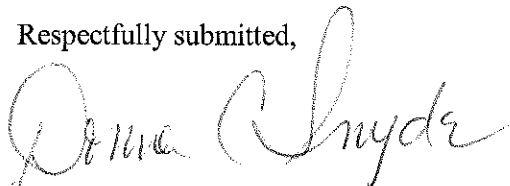
COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

There were no discussions.

Motion by Ms. Larsen, seconded by Mr. Caffrey, that the meeting would adjourn at 9:40 PM. There was no opposition.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,



Donna C. Snyder
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary