

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
280 ASBURY-WEST PORTAL ROAD
ASBURY, NEW JERSEY 08802
908-479-6336



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2020

(Held virtually due to state of emergency from coronavirus)

For the Regular Meeting of the
Bethlehem Township Board of Education being held by video conference call and
video conference on
Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER - President Staiano called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending notice to: The Hunterdon County Democrat, Bethlehem Township Clerk and by posting on the bulletin boards in the Ethel Hoppock and Thomas B. Conley Schools and on the District website.

There are two options to participate in the meeting - please use the Google Meet link below or join by phone:

[Join with Google Meet](#) meet.google.com/hev-rfqo-nzy OR [Join by phone](#) (US) +1 484-775-0710 PIN: 652 005 627#

IV. ROLL CALL

Mr. Joey Pinto - Present

Mrs. Debra D. Roosen - Present

Mrs. Chrysa Staiano - Present

Ms. Kellie Bancalari - Present

Dr. Allison Isola - Present

Mr. Gregory Glazar - Present

Dr. Gregory C. Farley, CSA - Present

Mrs. Beverly Vlietstra, Interim SBA/BS - Present

Ms. Fiona Cousland, Attorney - Present

V. BOARD CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

A. BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS - To fill one vacant board member seat through the Board's reorganization meeting in January 2023.

- Candidates for Board Vacancy -

Ms. Kerry Vellucci - Mrs. Staiano thanked Ms. Vellucci for applying and invited questions from the Board. Mr. Pinto asked Ms. Vellucci what her priorities are with the education of the children. Ms. Vellucci is making education a high priority for her and her family. Dr. Isola inquired about courage of conviction regarding popular and unpopular decisions. Ms. Vellucci responded that she believes her strong morals are compassion and empathy and she does what she believes is the right thing to do. Mrs. Roosen thanked Ms. Vellucci for applying and questioned if she was aware of the time and training for the position as well as the

ethics law disclosures? Ms. Vellucci does not know the ethics law disclosure but is open to training. The amount of time is not a concern because she has a flexible work schedule and can be available Monday thru Thursday. Ms. Bancalari inquired if Ms. Vellucci can identify an issue in the school district and how to resolve it? Ms. Vellucci's main priority is the safety of the students and staff due to the covid pandemic. Mr. Glazar inquired about her interest to run for the board and a long range goal? Ms. Vellucci wanted to help the community out in some way. Mrs. Staiano asked what would make her a meaningful member of the board. Ms. Vellucci's husband is from the area and her willingness to learn quickly and how to give back to the community through her children. Mrs. Roosen mentioned that one of the goals is to become certified through extra training which might require travel and an occasional Saturday commitment. Ms. Vellucci is willing to take on the extra time responsibility thanks to her husband's support.

- Mr. John Logar: Mrs. Staiano thanked Mr. Logar for applying for the position. Mr. Logar thanked the members for volunteering on the board. He was a Board member from 2011 to 2017 and served as president part of the time. Mr. Logar feels he would like to give back to the community through his experience and mentioned while he was on the board they were able to give money back to the township. Mr. Pinto asked Mr. Logar what his priority or focus would be. The children's solid education and that the teachers and administration are taken care of and making sure the community is fiscally balanced. Dr. Isola asked Mr. Logar about an example of a tough decision. Mr. Logar mentioned when he was on the school board he had to ask the V.P. of the Board to step down. Dr. Isola asked why the gap to leave and come back. Mr. Logar decided not to rerun because there were other members who were interested and his work schedule caused a lot of traveling. Mrs. Roosen asked Mr. Logar about his availability because of the pandemic and will it continue after the pandemic with extra training or meeting? Mr. Logar has more flexibility with his job and his children are more independent and understands the commitment to be a successful board member Monday-Thursday as required. Ms. Bancalari asked Mr. Logar what his most successful accomplishment on the board was. One of the things he did on the board was to open up transparency with teacher contracts and administration. There was a capital surplus when he was on the board. Mr. Glazar asked about the school budget and where the school needs to go in the next few years. Mr. Logar looked at consolidation and he sees an opportunity to be proactive and deliver a high quality education for the children. Mrs. Staiano likes his diversity and how he prioritizes his children and work schedule. Mrs. Roosen asked about his concerns about the district. His goal is to re-engage with the current situation collectively with the board and work with the budget and what's best for the kids.
- Ms. Danielle Sepelya: Mrs. Staiano thanked Ms. Sepelya for applying. Mr. Pinto asked what her priorities are? Ms. Sepelya's priority is the kids' education and making sure the teachers have what they need. Dr. Isola asked about an example of a difficult decision. Ms. Sepelya experienced a work decision with the FDA that wasn't popular, but she followed through and it was the right decision. Mrs. Roosen asked if she was aware of the time and training and the ethics disclosure and extra training and occasional Saturdays? Ms. Sepelya works from home and is available Monday-Thursday and occasional Saturdays. Ms. Bancalari asked if she can identify an issue in the district and how to fix it. Ms. Sepelya thinks remote learning for the children, teachers and parents is hard adjustment. Mr. Glazar asked about what sparked her interest and a long range goal? Ms. Sepelya's love for kids and watching them grow makes the district great. Long term is keeping up with the technology needs, equipment and books for the kids. Mrs. Staiano asked her to let herself shine. Ms. Sepelya has worked with kids during summer camps, volunteering and her relatives and loves sharing her own experiences to move them forward in their education. Mrs. Roosen asked about her 3-sport athlete mentoring. Ms. Sepelya went to Rider University and became a mentor in boys and girls clubs in Trenton by helping them with school work and tutoring them in math and science.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - A

MOTION by Mr. Glazar, seconded by Mrs. Roosen to enter into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), that the Board enter into Closed Session at this time to discuss confidential matters pertaining to: Board Candidates

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in Closed Session should be made public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer exists, but it is not known at this time when that may be.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. Motion passes.

MOTION by Mr. Glazar, seconded by Mrs. Staiano, to return to public session at 8:13 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Glazar, seconded by Ms. Bancalari, to appoint Mr. Logar to fill a vacancy in the Board from December 15, 2020 until the Board's reorganization meeting in January 2023.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor except for Mrs. Roosen, motion passes.

VII. NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER SWORN IN - The Board is unable to swear Mr. Logar in due to pending criminal background check which should be completed by the reorganization meeting.

Reading of Board Member Code of Ethics and Board members signs for receipt of Board Member Code of Ethics.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please be advised:

- Pursuant to Board Policy #0167, members of the public who wish to make a statement during the Public Comments portion of the meeting may speak for no more than three (3) minutes.
- Pursuant to Board Policy #0167, all statements from the public must be directed to the President or other presiding officer; no participant may address or question board members individually.
- Pursuant to Board Policy #0164.6, the Board shall require members of the public to identify themselves prior to speaking. Please state your name and address, or name and group you are representing.
- Since this meeting is being held by video conference call and videoconference due to the coronavirus pandemic, if the public wishes to make a comment, they may do so by:
 - (1). Calling in to the number provided for participants on the videoconference or by Google Meet. Press *6 to unmute during the call and *6 again to mute.
 - (2). Sending an email to the board president - cstaiano@btschools.org prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. In the subject line, please write "public comment" if you wish for your email to be read verbatim during the public comments section of the meeting.
- Public participation at board meetings is intended to allow individual members of the public to address the Board on issues of public concern. The public comment period is an opportunity for the Board to listen to citizen concerns, but not to debate issues or enter into a question-and-answer session or a "cross examination" between the public and individual members. While all comments made by the public will be taken under advisement, the Board will not respond to comments made by the public.

Mrs. Santoro thanked the applicants for applying. Mrs. Santoro talked about snow days since our area is conducive to a lot of snow and because the children spend far too much time on their computers and I-pads. She would love the board and administration to consider giving the kids a snow day right before Christmas.

Mrs. & Mr. Fol feel disappointed that the school decided to go 100% virtual without any known covid cases or try to ask the 7 or 8 substitutes to cover the teachers. She also wanted to know why an email went out about the two staff members at Hoppock who had potential exposure to covid, but no follow up email on whether or not those two individuals were positive or negative. She would also like to know what the plan is to make school open up on January 19, 2021 as it is a disservice to the kids who want to be in school and are hurting academically, socially and emotionally. Mr. Fol inquired about whether the children will go back on January 19, 2021 or if that is an evaluation date pending cases or circumstances and feels every option should be exhausted for the good of the children to go back to school.

Mrs. Glazar is very disappointed by the way the school is handling the staffing issues that are preventing a full day of school which is hurting both her children emotionally and academically. Mrs. Glazar is asking the Board and Administration what the plan is to make sure the kids go back in January.

Mrs. Fish echos the past three comments and feels this is unacceptable due to the mental health effects on the kids and is requesting the board to come up with a creative solution because this is inexcusable and shameful.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE - Dr. Farley received some correspondences from some parents regarding remote learning. If the district can open up earlier, the administration will update the public soon.

X. MINUTES - M1

MOTION by Ms. Bancalari, seconded by Mr. Pinto to approve the regular minutes from October 27, 2020 and the executive minutes from July 29, 2020 and October 27, 2020.

BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of the Board of Education meeting, held on the date indicated as transcribed, be approved and filed.

July 29, 2020 - Executive Session Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2020 - Regular Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2020 - Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Roosen requested the minutes be tabled because Page 6 is missing from the October 27, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Mrs. Staiano agreed to table the October 27, 2020 meeting minutes. Mrs. Roosen and the Board Secretary discussed the July 29, 2020 executive session minutes. The board voted to approve the July 29, 2020 executive session minutes with Ms. Bancalari absent and the October 27, 2020 executive session minutes.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor except for Mrs. Roosen who voted no on the July 29, 2020 Executive Session Minutes. Motion passes.

XI. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Progress toward 2020-2021 District goals - Dr. Farley updated the Board on the district goals. Improving academic achievement through professional development over the summer. The committee met last week and finalized the finishing touches on professional development with a draft plan using training in technology, data analysis, benchmark testing and placement testing, engagement strategies for online learning and working with reluctant learners to begin next year. Goal #1 Minding Your Mind, Social/Emotional Learning goal, empathy and emotional regulation. Goal # 2, the curriculum committee talked about editing and adapting the current curriculum and to build upon our success with Q-SAC and the 5-year revision cycle so our students and families have what they need in the classrooms. Goal #3 will help enhance our school communication for an action plan to identify priorities and objectives like school messenger, the website and social media. Goal #4 Diversity to work together and to get certified in “No Place For Hate”. Final Goal:

Long Range Plan to be updated later in the meeting regarding consolidation and regionalization. Mrs. Staiano asked about the significant progress the district made on the social/emotional learning goal and how the issues are addressed during the remote learning period.

- Monthly Professional Development Update - Dr. Farley spoke about how our school counselors through I.R.&S. virtually address student issues to help families by forming student groups to have conversations about strategies and by using professional development for the teachers. Mrs. Roosen questioned if the goals are being used all year or just from January through June? Dr. Farley stated the teachers and guidance counselors have been using the professional development strategies throughout the year. Mrs. Roosen inquired about discipline reports. Dr. Farley will look into it, but thinks it's from last year. Mrs. Roosen inquired about PLC's. Dr. Farley said it's professional development for teachers to discuss curriculum issues, student issues regarding academics and behavior. Mrs. Roosen questioned how one math teacher can belong to a professional learning community? Dr. Farley mentioned there are other ways the teacher can meet, such as grade level teams, lower grades or HS teachers/coaches. Dr. Farley let the board know that all the evaluations from this summer's professional development are available and Peggy can access them.

XII. SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

A. BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION

- Thank you to Dr. Allison Isola for serving as a member of our Board of Education since February 2020 and Mr. Joey Pinto for serving as the Board Vice-President for November and December 2020 and as a member of our Board of Education for 2 years. We appreciate their dedication to the children in our district and our entire school community as they complete their board member terms this month.
- Thank you to Mrs. Jessica Gleason for serving as Board Vice-President from January through October 2020 and as a member of the Board of Education for three years until her resignation from the board last month. We appreciate her dedication to the children in our district and to our entire school community.

XIII. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

A. NOVEMBER 3, 2020 CERTIFIED ELECTION RESULTS

The following candidates were elected to the Board of Education to fill three seats commencing at the Board Reorganization Meeting in January 2021:

- Travis Roop - 1,776 Votes
- Jessica Gleason - 1,720 Votes
- Kyle Harris - 1,683 Votes

Board Secretary Vlietstra is working on the 'Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act' (Alyssa's Law) grant money. Leftover grant money was spent on safety and security projects by updating the door access control at Conley and we hope to replace the light fixtures in the Conley parking lot. I have been checking the state website daily for the budget calendar, but it has not been updated yet. The audit is still being worked on and is due by the beginning of January. Mr. Glazar inquired about the progress of the audit?. The auditors received everything they asked for.

XIV. FINANCE

MOTION by Mr. Pinto, seconded by Mrs. Roosen to approve Finance items A, B, C, F, H, I & K.

A. Approval of Bills List - Att #1

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approve the attached list of district bills for payment as presented by the Interim School Business Administrator for the period November 18, 2020 through December 15, 2020 for a total amount of \$704,358.32, which includes two payrolls: November 27, 2020 and December 15, 2020.

B. Acceptance and Approval of Board Secretary's Report for the month of November 2020 - Att #2

BE IT RESOLVED that upon review of the Board Secretary's Report for the month of 2020 in November consultation with appropriate district officials, the Board of Education certifies that no fund had been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16:10(b); and the Board of Education further certifies, based on the Board Secretary's certification, that the total of encumbrances for each line item account does not exceed the line item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16:10(a).

C. Acceptance and Approval of Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2020 - Att #3

BE IT RESOLVED that upon review of the Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2020 in consultation with appropriate district officials, the Board of Education certifies that no fund had been over expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16:10(b); and the Board Secretary further certifies, based on the Board Treasurer's Report, that the total of encumbrances for each line item account does not exceed the line item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16:10(a).

The Board Secretary certifies, pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A-16:10(c)(3), that the total of encumbrances for each line item account does not exceed the line item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16:10(a).

Beverly Vlietstra, Interim Board Secretary

Date

D. Approval of Snow Plowing Contract with the Township of Bethlehem

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the Snow Plowing contract between the Bethlehem Township Board of Education and the Township of Bethlehem. There will be no charge for snow plowing at the Thomas B. Conley School and the Ethel Hoppock Middle School for the 2020-2021 School Year unless there are extreme snowfall amounts, an agreement of compensation between the parties shall be negotiated on an event by event basis.

E. Approval for DRG Architects, AIA, Inc. to Perform a Civil Survey at Conley School - Att #4

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the proposal by DRG Architects, AIA, Inc. to perform a civil survey for Thomas B. Conley School in the amount of \$3,750.00.

F. Approval for Commercial Interiors Direct to install carpeting in Conley School Library - Att #5

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Commercial Interiors Direct Inc. to install carpeting in the Conley School Library through the Hunterdon ESNJ #65MCESCCPS Bid for \$ 8,943.12.

G. Approval of Public Relations Contract with Camden County Educational Services Commission (CCESC) for 2020-2021 School Year - Att #6 CCESC Price List 2020-2021 - Att #6-A

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the contract with the Camden County Educational Services Commission (CCESC) for a Public Relation Services Contract for the 2020-2021 School Year at the hourly rate \$95.00 (up to 25 hours) with an Administration Fee of 5%. The term of this contract is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 (pro-rated).

H. Acceptance of Donation from Hunterdon County Community Strong - Att #7

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, accept a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Hunterdon Strong in Flemington, NJ for our school district. Our township won second place in the challenge (26 municipalities were involved) that was held from September 23 to November 13, 2020 through online donations to help 12 non-profit organizations within Hunterdon County.

I. Approval of Cooper Technology Group for Installation of Door Access Controls at Conley School - Att #8

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Cooper Technology Group to install door access controls in the Conley School for \$6,250.00, using the grant money under the Securing our Children's Future Bond Act (Alyssa's Law).

J. Approval of Proposal from DRG Architects (Design Resources Group Architects, A1A, Inc.) for Architect/Engineering Services at Conley School - Att #9

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve the proposal from DRG Architects (Design Resources Group Architects, A1A, Inc.) for Architectural/Engineering Services at Conley School in the amount of \$20,000.00.

K. Approval of Board, staff workshop attendance and travel expenditures

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator make the findings and approve attendance and travel for the following workshops/meetings.

- that travel is directly related to and within the scope of the employee or Board member’s duties or responsibilities; and for employees, the school district’s professional development plan;
- that travel is critical to the instructional needs of the district or furthers the efficient operation of the district;
- that the travel is in compliance with state and federal travel payment guidelines; and
- that the travel is in compliance with the District policy on travel.

Date(s)	Admin./Staff Member	Where	Cost	Sub. Needed
Feb. 22 and 23, 2021 - 2 days	Heather Radcliffe-McGinnis	NJ Assoc. For Health, P.E. Recreation and Dance (NJAPERD) Annual Convention - Held virtually due to the pandemic	Regis. - \$99.00	Yes - one sub. Needed for 2 days @ \$100.00 each day

Mrs. Straiano pointed out Item D - “No charge for snow plowing at the Thomas B. Conley School and the Ethel Hoppock Middle School for the 2020-2021 School Year unless there are extreme snowfall amounts. An agreement of compensation between the parties shall be negotiated on an event by event basis.” Previous snow plowing costs were extremely high and we thank our Mayor, Mr. Baumgarten for his generosity. Mr. Pinto mentioned Wednesday and Thursday is deemed to be an excessive snowfall and inquired if the board knew what the cost would be. Dr. Farley replied, the cost of labor and materials. Mr. Glazar questioned if that would be at straight time, double time or time and a half and he suggests the administration get it spelled out in black and white. Mrs. Roosen agreed. Mrs. Vlietstra suggests getting an average cost of labor for day time plowing and another cost for after hours plowing. Mr. Pinto suggested a budget limit. Dr. Farley will check with Peggy for an agreement. Mrs. Roosen expressed concern over the vagueness of expense. Mrs. Staiano asked if we should remove item D until we have a negotiated agreement? Dr. Farley mentioned Board Attorney, Teresa Moore, advised we remove the link until further discussion on December 17 to edit the language in the contract. Ms. Cousland recommended we table item D.

Mrs. Staiano asked Dr. Farley to clarify Item G for the Board. Dr. Farley shared the feedback from the Technology Committee meeting about the public relations contract with Camden County Educational Service Commission (CCES) to improve the school communication. Such as crisis communication, putting out information to the public and assisting in all means of getting out school communication on an as needed basis. Mrs. Roosen commented about how disappointed she is to see the hiring of a communication consultant when the board has to make budget cuts and would rather save teacher jobs or add more teachers. Mr. Pinto agrees with Mrs. Roosen. Mrs. Staiano recommends removing item G until the consultant can make a presentation to the board highlighting her services.

Mrs. Roosen inquired about item F replacing the rugs in the Conley Library. Mrs. Vlietstra mentioned that the bookcases needed to be moved because of Covid and they tried replacing the missing carpet with pieces but it looked awful.

Mrs. Roosen has concerns about items E & J. She requested they be put on hold temporarily until we get a demography presentation. Dr. Farley offered to do a long-range Buildings and Grounds update for the public to get more feedback. Mrs. Staiano agrees, we need to show the data to the public before going forward. Dr. Farley recommends the architect make a presentation to the board, so they can ask questions and the public can listen. Mrs. Staiano and the board agreed to table items E & J.

Dr. Farley would like to congratulate the students for their participation in the Hunterdon County Community Strong Contest and earning second place for collecting the most money. District resident, Lynn Coates, presented the student council with a check for \$500.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. Motion passes.

XV. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

A. Committee Report - Mr. Glazar gave the board an update on the current projects. The addition update will be presented by Dr. Farley. The Conley School had a boiler issue which was covered under our insurance and has been replaced with an upgraded boiler. The library and kitchen at Conley have been painted. Safety drills continue to be practiced in both buildings. Finance summary indicates there could be a \$250,000 reduction in state aid for the 2021-22 school year. We received a dividend check from the state health insurance fund for \$45,000 and a workmen's compensation liability check, amount unknown at this time.

B. CSA update on Long Range planning - Dr. Farley updated the Board on the long range planning 2020-2025 with a slide show. Due to the shortage of funding and the declining student enrollment, a committee was formed in the beginning of the prior school year. Based on the survey results of 40% chose consolidate, 30% regionalize and 30% needed more information, Dr. Farley provided two demographic studies over the next five years based on the survey results and the projected enrollment. Areas explored were regionalization, choice program/tuition students and consolidation including the addition of eight classrooms, a middle school wing with storage and lockers at a cost of \$5,000,000 located at Conley next to the gym, art and music room. Once we receive the land survey, we'll know more about the septic being in the way. Mrs. Roosen asked for a thorough report on the Choice and Tuition Student Program so the Board can discuss the advantages and disadvantages? Dr. Farley explained the Choice Program is frozen at five students. Our attorney, Teresa Moore, explained that if you are in the Choice Program, you cannot accept tuition students. Mrs. Roosen requested more information on tuition students. Mr. Pinto asked if we would be able to get more than five tuition students and wondered what the average number of tuition students at other districts is. Dr. Farley suggested Attorney Teresa Moore help us with a comparison study on the facts and procedures with the Choice/Tuition Program. Mrs. Roosen asked what happens if the septic is in the way? Dr. Farley replied the survey will determine that. Mrs. Roosen requested the Board get a cost analysis of how much the

savings come out to by not sending the fifth graders to Hoppock. Dr. Farley will provide a breakdown of those savings. Dr. Farley expressed that this is a multi-year process and we will keep gathering information for the public and continue to get their feedback.

XVI. EDUCATION

MOTION by Mr. Pinto, seconded by Mrs. Roosen to approve education item A.

A. Acceptance of Fire and Security Drill Reports for November 2020

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, accept the Fire and Security Drill Reports for November 2020 for the Thomas B. Conley School and Ethel Hoppock Middle School:

MONTH	SCHOOL	FIRE DRILL	SECURITY DRILL
November 2020	EHMS	11/09/2020	11/30/2020
November 2020	TBC	11/09/2020	11/30/2020

Mrs. Staiano inquired if the 11/30/2020 date was a remote learning date. Dr. Farley replied it was a district wide notification test drill.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. Motion passes.

XVII. CURRICULUM/STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A. Committee Report

1. Ms. Bancalari reported the committee met on December 7, 2020 with myself, Dr. Farley, Dr. Isola and Mr. Pinto. We discussed the need to compare benchmark data to identify gaps in remote learning during the pandemic. Dr. Farley is working on getting the data by the next committee session so no students fall behind.
2. Student activities were discussed and the committee recommended the approval of Ms. Swenson for the Maker Space student activity and the Code Club. The committee thanks the administration for offering after school extracurricular clubs. Dr. Farley also added the students will be working with Legos in the Maker Space Club.

B. Professional Development Plan - Handout - Please see Dr. Farley’s CSA report.

C. Update on Ski Club - Ski Club is on hold because of the travel advisory into Pennsylvania. If it changes before January 2, 2021 Ski Club Members will be notified by Mrs. Radcliffe-McGinnis.

Mr. Glazar asked when the data report on the learning gaps will be available. Dr. Farley has a spreadsheet and will do an analysis and contact the families individually. Mrs. Roosen asked if an analysis of gaps was done for Zoom or Hybrid learning. Dr. Farley is putting together an analysis of those spreadsheets also and comparing the cohorts and will share the data.

XVIII. POLICY

A. Committee Report

MOTION by Mrs. Roosen, seconded by Mr. Pinto to approve items B & C.

B. Approval of Second Reading of Policies - Att #10

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator approve the Second Reading of the following policies:

Policy # 1648.03 Restart and Recovery Plan – Full-Time Remote Instruction (M) (New)

Policy # 1620 Administrative Employment Contracts (M) (Revised)

Policy # 2431 Athletic Competition (M) (Revised)

C. Approval of First Reading of Policies - Att #11

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator approve the First Reading of the following policies:

Policy # 1648.02 Remote Learning Options for Families

Policy # 5330.05 Seizure Action Plan

Policy # 7440 School District Security

Policy # 7450 Property Inventory

Mrs. Roosen reported the Policy Committee reviewed 14 policies and included seven for this meeting. Mrs. Staiano thanked the policy committee for all their hard work on such incredibly important guidelines and asked Dr. Farley about the Restart and Recovery Plan Policy, if a student feels ill, can an in-person student join the remote learning just for the day? The answer was yes with the parents being able to switch from in-person learning to remote at any time. Mr. Pinto mentioned he called the front office at Conley and was told 48 hours notice was required to switch. Dr. Farley recommends we fix the date and have the students follow along with the remote learning to avoid any gaps. Mrs. Roosen recommends we remove this policy from the agenda today.

Mrs. Staiano inquired again about a change in the wording to the School District Security Policy about access to school buildings. Mrs. Roosen believes it doesn't refer to access to the building, but rather to who has a key to open the building. Dr. Farley asked Fiona Coulsland about the interpretation of the word 'access'. Fiona Coulsland agrees that it refers to who has a key, but the wording is unclear and that sentence can be revised to 'key access to outdoor school buildings should be limited to personnel'. Mrs. Roosen recommends we approve the policy in the first reading and add that language.

Mrs. Roosen thanked Dr. Isola for all her efforts. Her valuable insight and diligence will be missed.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. Motion passes.

XIX. TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A. Committee Report - Committee members, Ms. Bancalari, Mrs. Staiano, Dr. Farley, myself, talked with Lori Perlow about a brief overview of the services she would provide with assisting us with communication, but we tabled that matter at tonight's meeting to relook at it in the future. We talked about a feedback survey in order to improve virtual learning by looking at grades, subjects or individuals, but first we have to get the data information. For reliable internet, jet packs will be distributed to individuals who qualify so no child will be left behind. I recommend Ms. Bancalari take over as chairperson for the Technology and Community Relations Committee. Ms. Bancalari thanked Mr. Pinto.

XX. EXECUTIVE SESSION - B

MOTION by Mrs. Roosen, seconded by Mr. Pinto to go into Executive Session at 10:32 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), that the Board enter into Closed Session at this time to discuss confidential matters pertaining to:

- Personnel - recommendations for appointments, separations, changes in assignment and/or leaves of absence.
- Pending or anticipated litigation or matters falling within the attorney-client privilege

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in Closed Session should be made public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer exists, but it is not known at this time when that may be.

MOTION by Mr. Glazar, seconded by Mr. Pinto, to return to public session.

On a voice vote all present were in favor to return to public session at 12:20 a.m.

XXI. PERSONNEL

MOTION by Dr. Isola, seconded by Mrs. Staiano to approve items A-C.

A. Approval of Substitute Teacher Applicant

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator approve Jennifer DeLorenzo as a substitute teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. (Pending Criminal History Review)

B. Approval of Stipend Advisors for the 2020-2021 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator approve the advisors for the following stipend positions for the 2020-2021 School Year:

Jenifer Swenson (HOP-TCH-MEDIA-1) - Code Club - \$571.00

Jenifer Swenson (HOP-TCH-MEDIA-1) - Makerspace Club - \$571.00

C. Accept Letter of Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, accept the letter of resignation from Susan Murphy (CON-TCH-BSI), effective January 8, 2021.

Mrs. Staiano thanked Mrs. Murphy for her dedication to the kindergarten students and wished her all the best in her future endeavors.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. Motion passes.

XXII. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

XXIII. REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

- Dr. Allison Isola - Thanked all the Board members for such a great experience working with them.
- Mrs. Debra Roosen - Disappointed to lose two great Board members, but commends them for their perspective and insight and thanked them for their public service to the community.
- Ms. Kellie Bancalari - Great pleasure working with both of you. Looking forward to paths crossing.
- Mr. Gregory Glazar - Also a pleasure working with both of you and you will definitely be missed.
- Mr. Joey Pinto, Vice-President - After working with the Board Members and Educators for two years

he has a heavy heart and thanked them for how much he has learned.

XXIV. NOTEWORTHY DATES:

- A. January 5, 2021 (snow date - January 6, 2021) - Virtual Board Reorganization Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- B. January 19, 2021 - Back To School

XXV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Mrs. Roosen, seconded by Mr. Glazar to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 12:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Vlietstra

Beverly Vlietstra
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary