

Regular Meeting April 27, 2009
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
NEW JERSEY 08868
Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING
April 27, 2009

I. Call to Order

Open Public Meeting Announcement

"In accordance with requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notices have been given of tonight's meeting in area newspapers, which include the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Express-Times and posted on the bulletin board by the main office of the Franklin Township School, sent to the Township Clerk, and to all Board of Education members on April 28, 2008. Mr. Campbell opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call - Barbara Tudek, Interim SBA/BS

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|------------|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| A. Burdick | X | P. DiGiambattista | X | C. Piparo | X |
| N. Reed | X | T. Schultz | X | L. Vail | X |
| K. Weiss | X | T. Wolak | X | J. Campbell Pres. | X |

III. Flag Salute

IV. Motion to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- April 6, 2009 - Regular Meeting
- April 6, 2009 - Executive Session

Moved Ms. Vail Second Mr. DiGiambattista Motion Carried

Mr. Piparo and Mr. Schultz abstained

V. Correspondence

VI. Construction Update - Dave Tillou and Frank Bell

Mr. Bell reported that the DCA reviewed the plans and submitted a request for additional information. Mr. Bell distributed copies of the DCA request to board members. He stated the it will take approximately two to three week to address the request.

Mr. Shultz expressed concern regarding several item on the DCA review list of compliance items..

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VII. Public Comments

Mr. Lawrence Wright made the following statement:

“I will start this comment by saying that what I am about to say has nothing to do with having sour grapes regarding the outcome of the BOE election. I am here tonight because I am appalled at the behavior of individuals in the two opposing ”camps” that exist in this township and I want it brought to light tonight because I feel that my civil rights have been violated. Last week, one day prior to the election, a flyer was distributed throughout the township by one camp, left on mailboxes. The content of this flyer was an attack on the candidates associated with FTvote, on the status of the construction project, and on challenging voters on election day. It contained viewpoints which were completely opposite to those I expressed at both candidate nights and in numerous newspaper editorials and interviews. The perpetrators of the flyer (whom I assume, based on the content of the flyer, are here tonight) remained anonymous, but decided to include my name along with several other candidates’ names at the bottom of this list of lies and propaganda, without my permission or knowledge, intentionally misrepresenting my views right before the election.

Furthermore, I now know that the other camp has spread an electronic scan of their flyer throughout the township post-election. It has been e-mailed to members of Rural Awareness, to the PTA president, to candidates and current BOE members, and countless other Franklin citizens, further defaming my character and slandering me. What effect did this have on the outcome of the election? I will never know. What I do know is that these tactics of dirty politics have got to stop. It is setting the wrong precedent regarding the democratic process, causing further dissension in the community, and most importantly, showing our children that it is ok to abuse civil liberties and discredit people just because they don’t share your same viewpoint. I wish I had the time and money to pursue legal action to make the person(s) from both camps responsible for their actions: for fraudulent misrepresentation, malicious libel and defamation of character. Both sides have clearly abused the first amendment for personal gain. Further, if any sitting board members had anything to do with these malicious acts, you have clearly lost sight of the true purpose of those seats you are sitting in, and you are in need of an education in civics, morality and ethics”.

Mrs. Campbell commented about tabling the appointment of the attorney, and indicated that it should be discussed in public rather than executive session.

Mr. Dahan congratulated the newly elected board members. He stated that he is surprised to hear Mr. Wright’s comments and said that this type of activity should not be brought to the township. Mr. Dahan urged the board to focus more on issues dealing with the education of students rather than cleaning, repairing buildings and other non-instructional issues.

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Mrs. Coe stated that she hopes the board will approve the PTA use of facilities for the After School Program.

Mr. Stryker asked the board to consider appointing a liaison to attend planning board meetings. He stated that the tax base is effected by future planning and also applies to planning for future school enrollment. Mr. Stryker asked the board to consider refinancing the school bonds and invest funds at the best rate.

Mr. Campbell stated that the first bond call is not until 2015 which means that refinancing is not an option at this time.

Mrs. Cullen welcomed the new board members on behalf of the QEA and said that she is looking forward to a good year.

VIII. Consent Agenda

The matters listed below have been referred to the Board for reading and studying and are to be considered routine. They will be enacted with one motion. If separate discussion is desired, an item may be removed by Board assent.

A. EDUCATION

No consent items.

B. PERSONNEL

1. **Approve** the following professional day requests:

- Wilson Reading System - Introduction/Applied Methods, August 26, 27 and 28, 2009, Registration, \$575.00, mileage reimbursement, \$44.64 - 1 staff member

C. FACILITIES

1. **Approve** the following use of facilities requests:

- PTA After School Program, Room 18, May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2009, 3:20 - 4:30 p.m. (enclosure)

D. BUSINESS

1. **Approve** the April 2009 bill list in the amount of \$562,255.51 which includes \$53,567.36 from the capital projects account. (enclosure)

E. POLICY

No consent items

F. OTHER MATTERS

No consent items

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G. **Motion** to approve the above stated consent agenda items.

Motion Ms. Vail Second Mr. Weiss

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|------------|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| A. Burdick | Y | P. DiGiambattista | Y | C. Piparo | Y |
| N. Reed | Y | T. Schultz | Y | L. Vail | Y |
| K. Weiss | Y | T. Wolak | Y | J. Campbell Pres. | Y |

IX. Discussion & Action Agenda

A. **EDUCATION:** Interim Superintendent's Report - Dr. James Dwyer

1. **Informational/Discussion Items:**

- a. Enrollment (343) (enclosure)
- b. Distinguished Student Award - We are pleased to announce that Melissa Jannuzzi has been chosen as the district's Distinguished Student for the 2008-2009 school year.
- c. Summary of County Superintendent/Board President discussion of possible consolidation of school districts held at Hunterdon County Polytech.
- d. Baseball/Softball Fields
- e. NJASK State Testing
- f. Megan Carbone's poem was selected for an award at a recent Holocaust Conference held at the Raritan Valley County College.

B. **FACILITIES**

No action items

C. **BUSINESS**

1. **Financial Reports:**

- a. **Treasurer's** Report and **Board Secretary's** Reports, (Funds 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50) for February 2009.
- b. **Motion** to adopt the following resolutions:
 1. **Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3** the board secretary certifies that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a) for February 2009.
 2. **Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4** the board of education certifies, after review of the board secretary's and treasurer's February 2009 financial reports, that no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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Motion Ms. Vail second Mr. Weiss

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|------------|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| A. Burdick | Y | P. DiGiambattista | Y | C. Piparo | Y |
| N. Reed | Y | T. Schultz | Y | L. Vail | Y |
| K. Weiss | Y | T. Wolak | Y | J. Campbell Pres. | Y |

- c. Construction Manager Budget Buyout reconciled with Business Administrator Financial Report.

2. Action Items:

- a. **Motion** to approve the nonpublic instructional services agreement for IDEA (Individuals with Disability Education Act B Initiative) chapter 226 Non-Public Nursing Agreement for the 2009-10 school year between the Franklin Township School District and the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission.

Moved Ms. Vail Second Mrs. Wolak Motion Carried

- b. **Motion** to approve the proposal for purchase and installation of approximately 250' of 48" high chain link fence from Eagle Fence & Supply, Inc. at a cost of \$2,440.

The board discussed getting an estimate for a split rail fence.

Moved DiGiambattista Second Mrs. Wolak to table item b. Motion Carried

3. Information Item:

- a. As previously discussed at our last meeting, we have received an estimated two-part quote for certified playground safety surfacing in the following amounts:``

- 80 yards at \$2,400.00
- 100 yards at \$2,800.00

Both of these costs are below the bid threshold level. The Board indicated it wishes to pursue this playground improvement, and asked for 2 additional quotes.

D. TRANSPORTATION

No action items

E. BOARD MATTERS

Mr. Campbell reminded board members that the superintendent applications are due in next week and the review process is due to be complete by May 14.

F. POLICY

G. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Weiss asked about forming a new negotiations committee.

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Executive Session

Adopt the Following Resolution

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED *by the Franklin Township Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4 -13 and 10:4 -12 that said public body hold a closed session on Monday, April 27, 2009 for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining for 2009-2010 and beyond, other matters relating to the building project and related legal issues and the appointment of the attorney. It is expected that the discussion undertaken in closed session will be made public at the time official action is taken.*

Moved Ms. Vail Second Mrs. Wolak at 9:18 p.m. Motion Carried

XI. Motion to return to Open Public Session at 10:11.

Moved Mrs. Wolak Second Mr. DiGiambattista Motion Carried

XII. PERSONNEL None

XIII. Public Comments

XIV. Motion to Adjourn from the Public Meeting at 10:18 p.m.

Moved Mrs. Wolak Second Mrs. Reed Motion Carried

Certified by:

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Tudek
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary