

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
NEW JERSEY 08868
Board of Education

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 31, 2011-7:30 p.m.

A G E N D A

I. Call to Order - 7:41 p.m.

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 on May 25, 2011.

II. Roll Call

J. Foran, V. Pres.	<u>absent</u>	G. Burdick	<u>X</u>	C. Crielly	<u>X</u>
C. Ewing	<u>X</u>	K. Lundgren	<u>X</u>	R. Masino	<u>X</u>
T. Schultz	<u>X</u>	K. Weiss	<u>X</u>	C. Piparo, Pres.	<u>X</u>

III. Flag Salute

- IV.** Mr. Piparo stated that the bill list was for checks pulled. Construction crews were upset and threatened to walk off. He met with construction crew. The main issues were work was completed. We need punch list for quality control. Dr. Harttraft said that something is usually given in writing if going to withhold payment.
- Mr. Burdick said we have 20 days after meeting billing date. Today is 20th day and we are still in compliance with the law.
- Mr. Masino said the intent was simply to have leverage because some work needs quality control/improvement. Reserve monies not sufficient for some of the corrections.
- Mr. Piparo asked that for next meeting a punch list please be provided.
- Mr. Weiss asked who has the right to create items on the punch list. He's more comfortable knowing who the person is to make recommendations on quality.
- Mr. Schultz said that we are the end buyers.
- Dr. Harttraft said that the construction manager is the mediator between "we" and construction workers. Be careful about collective "we" vs. construction workers.
- Mr. Burdick wants to see daily logs from Dave Tillou before asked to approve construction bills. Dr. Harttraft said okay, not a problem.

Motion to approve the May 2011 bill list in the amount of \$229,720.01 in the Capital Projects account.

Moved: Mr. Masino		Second: Ms. Crielly		Motion Carried 7-1	
J. Foran, <i>V. Pres.</i>	<u>absent</u>	G. Burdick	<u>No</u>	C. Crielly	<u>Yes</u>
C. Ewing	<u>Yes</u>	K. Lundgren	<u>Yes</u>	R. Masino	<u>Yes</u>
T. Schultz	<u>Yes</u>	K. Weiss	<u>Yes</u>	C. Piparo, <i>Pres.</i>	<u>Yes</u>

V. Public Comments

Vivian Paulter asked if we will have public comments after, to please open the floor again.

Kathleen Mahoney said that shared service of some sort is a good idea. Decisions take months/years. She feels like budget was prepared with this scenario in the back of mind. Planning needs to happen earlier. Don't prepare a budget with no superintendent in the budget.

VI. Superintendent/Principal Replacement Plan

Mr. Foran arrived approximately 9:20 a.m.

Mr. Piparo said we have been looking at and talking about different scenarios for a few months which is probably why Dr. Harttraft made the choice to leave/look for a new job. Lambertville and West Amwell is entering into a joint contract. Dr. Shaddow is very supportive and interested. He feels like it is the vision of the state.

Dr. Harttraft said that for the safety of children and oversight of staff, the school really need 2 administrators. Administrators must have administrative certificate and must be able to do teacher evaluations. Law is that we must have one non-teaching administrator. Dr. Harttraft's opinion is that you have another full-time administrator to handle number of issues, discipline, schedules, etc. Districts sharing superintendents must be flexible and work together to meet joint needs.

Mr. Masino asked if the cost savings is worth the actual savings.

Mr. Piparo said there is a possible 25-30% savings.

Mr. Weiss said that maybe we should consider sharing both positions (Principal/Vice Principal).

Mrs. Ewing still thinks it is a possible to have a Principal and a part-time flex schedule Vice Principal.

Dr. Harttraft is not sure how administrative principal position deals with the Board issues. The Board can produce a lot of work.

Mr. Burdick asked if we can have an acting superintendent instead of interim.

Dr. Harttraft said that an acting superintendent usually means no certificate.

The following discussion referred to a list of 5 options regarding the Superintendent/Principal Replacement Plan:

#1 - Hire a replacement as soon as possible.

#2 - Hire an Interim - reconfigure administration.

#3 - Promote within - reconfigure administration.

#4 - Partner with other districts.

#5 - Partner with North Hunterdon.

Mr. Schultz said we should focus on #3.

Mr. Weiss said that option #1 was not for him, but a straight forward process because hypothetically smaller districts may have contracts coming due. Option #2 gives us time, combo of 2 & 3 and seeing how people perform.

Mr. Masino thinks #1 may be a good option. Continuity is most important to keeping education best possible.

Mr. Burdick said for short term consider option #3. Long term, still continue with #1 and #4 during process to determine best long-term option.

Mrs. Ewing asked Dr. Harttraft if she knew of any contracts coming due.

Mr. Piparo said that Jane K. of NJSBA does not know of any others.

Dr. Harttraft said that an interim buys you time and lets you have time to reconfigure.

Option # 1 as soon as possible defeats the purpose of the resignation which was to create opportunity to reconfigure.

Mr. Weiss said that starting with # 1 doesn't show that we've tried everything to public.

Mrs. Lundgren likes the short/long combination. Long term being #5, short term being #2 or #3 or combination thereof.

Ms. Crielly likes short/long. Long #4, fear of # 5 being "where is the superintendent?" High school is a very different beast than elementary. Short term look to #3, speaks volumes to staff willing to promote.

Mr. Foran said that #1 and #2 are not working. #3 and #4 are best options.

Mr. Piparo's personal thoughts are # 2 is best option if we can hire very experienced interim to help us navigate the rest of the options.

Dr. Harttraft agreed with the idea to hire a one year interim - could be internal or external candidate.

VIII. Public Comments

Kathleen Mahoney - pragmatic usually, is warm-and-fuzzy aspect of this. Promote from within, boost moral, get school back-on-track. Take other options.

Patty DeVletter - What happens if no decisions are being made?

Answer: Decision must be made

Question: What happens if someone hired from within? Vacancy left.

Vivian Paulter said if someone promoted, someone still needs to be hired. Person must be someone who takes initiative, well respected. What do you do with #3 if person doesn't perform?

Mr. Weiss said that we would look at entire administration configuration.

Kathy Piparo: Regarding #4 & #5, she wanted to know how that works budget wise. Two different budgets that need to pass.

Mrs. Paulter asked if #2 and #3 could be combined. That way not locked.

Mr. Piparo said that short term: Exploratory calls made on #1. Immediately start interim search, whether internally or externally. Work on a job description, post for current role interim with _priority being reconfiguration of district.

Mr. Burdick and Ms. Crielly are working on a draft of the job description. Dr. Harttraft to email current one.

IX. Motion to Adjourn from the Public Meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Moved: Mr. Burdick

Second: Mrs. Ewing

Motion Carried 9-0

Certified by:

Respectfully submitted,

Board President

Raelene M. Catterson
Business Administrator/Board Secretary