



**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
Board of Education**

**REGULAR MEETING
September 20, 2021**

The meeting was held in the Theater

1. Call to Order

President Cama called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

1.01 Pledge of Allegiance

1.02 Open Public Meeting Announcement

In accordance with requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notice has been given of tonight's meeting in the Hunterdon County Democrat and have been 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 and posted on the school website on January 21, 2021.

1.03 Roll Call

C. Cama, Pres.	<i>Present</i>	V. Evans	<i>Present</i>	A. Luciano	<i>Present</i>
R. Falcon	<i>Present</i>	K. Sutton, V. Pres.	<i>Present</i>	E. Tomasini	<i>Present</i>
J. Witkowski	<i>Present</i>	N. Diaz, Superintendent	<i>Present</i>	L. Tirone	<i>Present</i>

2. Presentations - None

3. Minutes

- 3.01 August 23, 2021 – Regular Meeting
- 3.02 August 23, 2021 – Executive Sessions 1 and 2

Resolved, to approve the above listed minutes.

Motion Witkowski Second Luciano By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

4. Business Administrator Report – Lori Tirone

The gymnasium is progressing. The backboard glass will be installed on Wednesday, September 22. The doors and lock sets should arrive any day. The work on the floor has been delayed but will resume on Thursday. We anticipate delivery of the bathroom partitions and lockers tomorrow.

The oil tank replacement is moving along, the Engineer was out last week reviewing the area.

5. Superintendent's Report - Nicholas Diaz

- Congratulations to Ms. Gooditis and our Sustainable New Jersey team. Thanks to the team's efforts, FTS has achieved Sustainable Jersey for Schools **2021 Silver certification** and is among the first schools to also be recognized as a Digital Schools Star. This is another great honor for our District and we are looking forward to the virtual award ceremony on Oct 20th.

- Our fall sports programs have begun. Our student-athletes are participating in soccer, volleyball, and cross country. A special thank you to Mr. Timko and the coaches for their efforts.

- We will be implementing the NJDOE required, Start Strong Assessment. ELA and Math will be the required assessment for students in grades 4-8 and science will be assessed for all students in grade 6. Our plan is to implement the assessment starting next Monday the 27th. The Start Strong Assessment is intended to:
 - Produce information that should be used as a standards-based complement to the resources used by educators in their classrooms to evaluate the needs of students.
 - Be administered quickly and provide immediate results.

- We applied for the Covid testing funding that is now available to schools. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded \$267 million to NJDOH to assist in COVID-19 screening testing. There were two options in the grant.
 - **Option 1-** An outside vendor paid for by the grant (and assigned by the NJDOH) would take care of all the testing for the school community on a weekly basis.
 - **Option 2-** The District does their own testing, purchases all materials associated with it and later on submits for reimbursement.

- We applied for **Option 1**, as I believe that it is a cleaner process and adds less burden to our nurse. At our Superintendent’s roundtable meeting, we learned that FTS will be approved for this program and that we will be able to offer on-site Covid testing for our school community. The testing is mainly for screening asymptomatic individuals and will allow any non-vaccinated staff members to comply with the Governor’s EO, that requires all staff to be either fully vaccinated or submit to weekly Covid testing beginning October 18th. This program still requires express consent of staff members, and non-vaccinated staff will still have the option of getting Covid tested on their own time. Families who desire to take advantage of this service for their children can do so as well, but will have to give express consent.

- We recently met as an Ad Hoc committee and discussed the gifted and talented program. We recently surveyed our G&T families and the consistent feedback was a desire to return the program within the school day. Moving it back to the school day would be a significant unbudgeted cost differential of \$22K (assuming we could find a part-time teacher willing to work). The reality is that we would most likely be forced to hire a full-time teacher which would add an additional 40 to 50k unbudgeted cost. The plan is to continue with G&T outside of the school day for the 2021-22 SY and reassess during budget preparation for the 2022-23 school year.

- To reduce unmasked/close contact time during lunch, we will be introducing an outdoor eating option on days when the weather cooperates. Students will be asked to bring in a large beach towel where they can enjoy their lunch and move right into recess afterward. The plan is to begin this on Thursday.

6. **Public Comments - Privilege of the Floor (3 minutes)**

Mrs. Bradley, PTA, reported that the PTA painted 4 Squares and Hopscotch squares on the playground. The Book Fair is being held in the library. The PTA meeting is this Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

7. **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence at this time.

8. **Subcommittee Discussion and Action Items**

All resolutions are upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

8.01 **Ad Hoc** (Board Goals, Supt Goals/Personnel)/**Strategic Plan** – Mr. Cama, Mrs. Luciano, Mrs. Tomasini

8.02 **Facilities and Finance** - Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Witkowski

Resolved to approve items 8.02.1 – 8.02.5:

8.02.1 School Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) Grant

Resolved to accept School Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) Grant in the amount of \$3,100.00.

8.02.2 Rescind Educational Services Contract

Resolved to rescind a contract between Franklin Township Board of Education and the Mountain Lakes Board of Education, for September 9, 2021 - June 23, 2022, for Student ID# XXXX for educationally handicapped educational services at \$72,037.00. Student is no longer in the Franklin Township School District.

8.02.3 Preschool Tuition Contact

Resolved to approve the following parent-paid Preschool Tuition Contract for the 2021-2022 school year:

Student ID# 39326 \$7,150.00

8.02.4 Joint Transportation Agreement – Hunterdon County ESC

Resolved to approve the Joint Transportation Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year between the Franklin Township Board of Education (Joiner) and the Hunterdon County Educational Services Educational Services School District (Host) as follows:

Start Date	End Date	Route #	Destination	Contracted Vehicle	Contractor Code	Host Students	Joiner Students*	Joiner Cost (per diem)
08-26-20	06-30-21	FA	FTS	Y	37 C958	0	54	\$174.77
08-26-20	06-30-21	FB	FTS	Y	37 C958	0	54	\$188.00
08-26-20	06-30-21	FC	FST	Y	37 C958	0	54	\$182.53
08-26-20	06-30-21	FD	FTS	Y	37 C958	0	54	\$188.00
08-26-20	06-30-21	FE	FTS	Y	37 C958	0	54	\$174.77

* Number of seats on the bus.

8.02.5 Contracted Services Agreement – Groundsperson

Resolved, to approve the Contracted Services Agreement between the Franklin Township Board of Education and the Union Township Board of Education for a Groundsperson for the period of October 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Motion by: Witkowski Seconded by: Luciano

Discussion: 8.02.5 – 50% share, Employed by Franklin and shared with Union. Snow Plowing: Reach out to township for snow plowing support.

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0
Motion Carried				

8.03 **Curriculum & Education** – Mr. Falcon, Mrs. Luciano, Mrs. Tomasini
Nothing at this time.

- 8.04 **Policy** - Mrs. Evans, Mr. Falcon, Mrs. Tomasini
 8.04.1 **Resolved** to adopt, after a second reading, the following policy:

2224.1	Title IX – Sex Based Discrimination
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Motion	Witkowski	Second	Luciano	By Voice Vote	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
					7	0	0	0

- 8.05 **Negotiations** - Mr. Cama, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Witkowski
 Discussed in Executive Session.

9. **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.

9.01 **Budget and Finance**

9.01.1 Secretary and Treasurer Report

Approve the Secretary and Treasurer Reports submitted for the months ending August, 2021, which agree with each other and the bank.

9.01.2 Financial Reports Certification

Approve the following resolution:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(c)3, the Board Secretary certifies that no line account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10(a) and; pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(c)4, we certify that as of August 2021 after review of the monthly reports (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate officials, to the best of our knowledge no major line account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district’s financial obligations for the entire fiscal year.

9.01.3 Transfer of Funds

Approve the transfer of uncommitted funds within the 2021-2022 school year budget as per the attached list.

9.01.4 Bill List

Approve the August, 2021 bill list in the amount of \$781,547.44.

9.02 **Education**

No Consent Items

9.03 **Personnel**

9.03.1 **Approve** the following substitute personnel applications:

- Gail Ferdinando
- Shawn Lee

9.03.2 Approve the following professional day requests:

Date	Employee	Name of Professional Development Program	Registration Cost	Mileage Exp.
October 19&20, 2021	Elisabeth Alexander	45 th Annual NJ Science Convention	\$300.00	.35/mile
October 8, 2021	Karin Stumpf	NJSCA Annual Fall Conference	\$134.00	.35/mile

9.03.3 Approve the following course application:

Employee Name	Name of Course	College/University	Session	Amount of Reimbursement
David Giantisco	Coaching Teachers	University of Delaware	Fall 2021	\$1,672.80

9.04 **Facilities**
No consent items.

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Nicholas Diaz, to approve the above stated consent agenda items.

Motion by: Witkowski Seconded by: Sutton
Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0
Motion Carried				

10. **Board Matters/New Business**

Mr. Falcon had a question about the Historic School House. We will be receiving money from the Township Grant.

11. **Public Comments- Privilege of the Floor**

There were no comments from the public.

12. **Personnel - All resolutions are upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.**

12.01 Appointment of Stipend Positions

Resolved, to approve the following employees for the stipend positions listed below for the 2021-2022 school year.

Name	Position	Amount
Courtney Panerali Kate Matassa	Softball Coach	\$2,106.00 (\$1,053.00 ea.)
Alyssa Zollinger	Volleyball Coach	\$2,106.00
Patrick Smith	Art Club Advisor	\$1,428.00
Karin Stumpf	Spring Track Coach	\$2,106.00
Harmony Stryker	Cross Country Coach	\$2,106.00
Maura Perry	Assistant Coach (Cross Country)	\$765.00
Emily Kastner Alyssa Zollinger	Drama Club Advisor	\$1,530.00 (\$765.00 ea.)

Motion by: Witkowski Seconded by: Sutton
Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0
Motion Carried				

12.02 **Resolved**, to approve the following staff members to be Homework Help/Detention Teachers after school for the 2021-2022 school year at the hourly rate of \$30.00, not to exceed a total amount of \$2,100.00.

- Karin Stumpf
- Susan Rainaldi
- Jenienne Balducci

Motion by: Witkowski Seconded by: Luciano
 Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0
Motion Carried				

12.03 **Resolved** to approve Katrina Mani to assist in the health office during the 2021-2022 school year at the hourly rate of \$30.00, not to exceed \$900.00.

Motion by: Witkowski Seconded by: Sutton
 Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0
Motion Carried				

12.04 **Resolved** to accept, with regret, the resignation of Michael Licata, Spanish teacher, effective November 8, 2021 or sooner.

Motion by: Witkowski Seconded by: Luciano

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0
Motion Carried				

12.05 **Resolved** to appoint Reinhard M. Sorge as Shared Grounds Person at an annual salary of \$42,500 to be prorated from the start date of October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Motion by: Witkowski Seconded by: Luciano

Discussion: Re: Posting for part time custodial position.

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0
Motion Carried				

13. **Executive Session**

13.01 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 September 20, 2021 for the purpose of discussing personnel. It is expected that the results of the discussion undertaken in closed session will be made public at the time official action is taken. The board expects to reconvene into public session in approximately 45 minutes. Action will be taken.

Motion Witkowski Second Sutton By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

13.02 **Resolved, to return to Open Public Session at 8:16 pm.**

Motion Witkowski Second Luciano By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

14. 2021-2022 Quantitative/Qualitative Merit Goals – Superintendent

Resolved that the Board approve the submission of the following 2021-2022 Quantitative and Qualitative Merit Goals for Nicholas Diaz to the County Superintendent for approval:

- Quantitative Goal 1 – Grant Acquisition, totaling \$5,661.00 at 3.33%, \$5,100 at 3.0%, \$3,400 at 2.0%
- Qualitative Goal 1 – Intervention Program Plan totaling \$4,250.00 at 2.5%

Motion by: Witkowski Seconded by: Sutton

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mr. Falcon	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0
Motion Carried				

15. **Other Business**

Mrs. Sutton asked about the gym project and Mrs. Tirone addressed her concerns.

16. **Adjournment**

16.01 **Resolved to** Adjourn from the Public Meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Motion Witkowski Second Evans By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Tirone, SBA/BS