

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL**  
**NEW JERSEY 08868**  
**Board of Education**  
REGULAR MEETING

**September 14, 2020**

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Cama, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 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 16, 2020.*

1.01 Roll Call – Patricia Martucci, SBA/BS, determined that a quorum was present. Present: Mr. Cama, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Luciano, Mrs. Sutton (left at 9:45 p.m.), Mrs. Tomasini, Mr. Witkowski, Mr. Yasunas (arrived 6:37 p.m.)

2. **Flag Salute** – Led by Mr. Cama, President

3. **Minutes**

- 3.01 August 17, 2020 – Regular Meeting
- 3.02 August 17, 2020 - Executive Session

**Resolved**, to approve the above listed minutes.

Motion Sutton          Second Witkowski          By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
6	0	0	1

4. **Superintendent’s Report - Nicholas Diaz**

- 4.01 We have been in school now for two weeks starting our third week. I would like to thank the Board for the additional professional development we were able to have by moving the start date back. I also want to thank our teachers, staff, and administration for all their hard work and dedication.
- 4.02 To date, we have zero confirmed COVID cases.
- 4.03 BTSN will be virtual this year. Ms. Gooditis made a very creative Bitmoji virtual room to make Zoom sessions easily accessible to our community.
- 4.04 The school garden is on its way! Former FTS student TJ Mani, has been hard at work delivering necessary supplies and creating blueprints from the garden.
- 4.05 Strategic planning helps organizations to create a vision that will direct, motivate, and inspire all members of the community to work together to advance student achievement. From the beginning, this process has been an eye-opening experience for all participants. I value the time, energy and creativity that the Strategic Planning Committee put forth to create this plan. Together, we can take pride in the strengths that exist in our schools and improve where opportunities present themselves. This plan will take you through the three main themes. The themes of #FTSreimagined are 1. excellence in education, 2. the whole child, and 3. facilities and fiscal resilience. All three are intertwined and create a positive teaching and learning environment.
- 4.06 Enrollment – 256 (decrease in enrollment due to loss of preschool students and smaller incoming Kindergarten class than outgoing Class of 2020)

5. **Business Administrator Report - Patricia Martucci**

5.01 Project Updates

- a. Pole Building – completed
- b. Window Replacement (1934/1970) – window/door specifications have been submitted to several manufacturers to see who can provide the windows in the shortest amount of time.
- c. 2020-21 working with SSP Architects on possible renovation of the gymnasium and a more permanent solution for the walking track.

5.02 Safety Incentive Program Award 2019-20. Qualified for \$3,500.00 credit towards the 2020-21 premium by holding Safety Meetings and doing quarterly inspections, etc.

5.03 Thank you to Mr. Schwar for reports and monthly update – Mr.Cama

6. **Public Comments** – Nothing at this time.

7. **Correspondence** – Nothing 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) - Mrs. Luciano, Mrs. Tomasini, Mr. Witkowski  
Nothing at this time.

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

8.02.1 Joint Transportation Agreement - Hunterdon County ESC

Resolved to approve a State of NJ Department of Education Office of Student Transportation Joint Transportation Agreement for the 2020-2021 school year between the Franklin Township Board of Education (Joiner) and the Hunterdon County Educational Services School District (Host) as follows:

Start Date	End Date	Route #	Destination	Contracted Vehicle	Contractor Code	# Host Students	# Joiner Students	Joiner Cost*
08-31-20	06-30-21	FA	FTS	Y	37 C958	0	54	\$171.87
08-31-20	06-30-21	FB	FTS	Y	19 3768	0	54	\$170.60
08-31-20	06-30-21	FC	FTS	Y	37 C958	0	54	\$179.50
08-31-20	06-30-21	FD	FTS	Y	19 3768	0	54	\$170.60
08-31-20	06-30-21	FE	FTS	Y	37 C958	0	54	\$171.87

\*per diem rate

Motion by: Yasunas                      Seconded by: Witkowski

**Roll Call Vote:**

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			
Mr. Yasunas	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7			

8.02.2 School Alliance Insurance Fund (SAIF) - Resolution for Renewal of Membership

**WHEREAS**, the **Franklin Township Board of Education**, hereafter referred to as "**Educational Facility**" is a member of the School Alliance Insurance Fund, hereinafter referred to as "**Fund**"; and

**WHEREAS**, said renewal membership terminates as of July 1, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. standard time, unless earlier renewed by agreement between the **Educational Facility** and the **Fund**; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Educational Facility** is afforded the following types of coverages:

- Workers' Compensation
- Supplemental Indemnity - Workers' Compensation
- Package - Property, Boiler & Machinery, General and Auto Liability, Environmental Impairment Liability
- Excess Liability (AL/GL)
- School Leaders Professional Liability
- Excess Liability (SLPL)

**WHEREAS**, the **Educational Facility** desires to renew said membership; **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

1. The **Educational Facility** agrees to renew its membership in the **Fund** for a period of three years beginning July 1, 2020, and ending July 1, 2023 at 12:01 a.m. eastern standard time, and to be subject to the coverages, operating procedures, bylaws, and other organizational and operational documents of the **Fund** presently existing or as from time to time amended by the **Fund** and/or the Department of Banking and Insurance.
2. The **Educational Facility's** Business Official, Patricia Martucci, is hereby appointed as the **Educational Facility's** Fund Commissioner and is authorized to execute the renewal Indemnity and Trust Agreement thereby evidencing annexed hereto and made a part hereof and to deliver same to the **Fund** the **Educational Facility's** renewal of its membership.

Motion Yasunas      Second Witkowski      By Voice Vote

Yes 7	No 0	Abstain 0	Absent 0
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8.03 **Curriculum & Education** - Mr. Cama, Mrs. Luciano, Mrs. Tomasini

8.03.1 Mentoring Plan – 2020-2021

**Resolved**, to approve the 2020-2021 Mentoring Plan.

Motion Yasunas      Second Sutton      By Voice Vote

Yes 7	No 0	Abstain 0	Absent 0
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8.03.2 Professional Development Plan – 2020-2021

**Resolved**, to approve the 2020-2021 Professional Development Plan.

Motion Yasunas      Second Witkowski      By Voice Vote

Yes 7	No 0	Abstain 0	Absent 0
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8.03.3 2020-2021 DEAC/SCIP Committee Appointment

**Resolved**, to appoint the following individuals to participate on the DEAC/SCIP Committee for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Nicholas Diaz - Superintendent
- Lindsay Gooditis - Principal
- Lillian Bickhardt - Special Education Teacher
- Anita Petersen - Kindergarten Teacher

Hunter Timko - P.E./Health Teacher  
 Laura Marchese - Special Education Supervisor  
 Frank Yasunas/Karen Sutton - BOE Member  
 Katrina Mani – Parent

Motion Yasunas Second Witkowski By Voice Vote

Yes 7	No 0	Abstain 0	Absent 0
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8.04 **Policy** - Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Tomasini, Mr. Witkowski

8.04.1 **Resolved**, to adopt, after a second reading, the following policy:

4119.27/ 4219.27	Code of Conduct Remote Teaching-Learning
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Motion Yasunas Second Witkowski By Voice Vote

Yes 7	No 0	Abstain 0	Absent 0
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8.05 **Communications** - Mrs. Luciano, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Yasunas  
 Nothing at this time.

8.06 **Strategic Plan** - Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Yasunas  
 Nothing at this time.

8.07 **Negotiations** - Mr. Cama, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Yasunas  
 Nothing at this time.

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/Treasurer’s Report**

**Approve** the Secretary/Treasurer’s Reports submitted for the months ending July and August 2020, 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 July and August 2020 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 2020-2021 school year budget as per the attached list.

**9.01.4 Bill Lists**

**Approve** the August, 2020 bill list in the amount of \$604,784.33.

9.02 **Education**

No Consent Items

9.03 **Personnel**

9.03.1 Approve the following substitute teacher applications:

- Benjamin Bala

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: Yasunas                      Seconded by: Witkowski

Roll Call Vote:

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

10. **Board Matters/New Business**

10.01 Discussion - School Re-Opening Plan

Mr. Witkowski would like to continue to plan to bring all students back safely. Surveying parents and students, additional staffing and transportation were discussed. Mr. Diaz shared August and September survey. Mr. Diaz also said the we would need 3 additional teachers to bring students in gradually by grade. Each Board member shared their thoughts. Options were discussed pertaining to virtual Wednesdays, hiring a part time custodian and having 3 substitutes per day.

**Motion**, to amend plan beginning September 23, 2020 with half day (1:00 p.m.) virtual instruction until the Board of Education subcommittees meet to review other possible options that can be put into effect.

Motion Yasunas      Second Witkowski      By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

10.02 **Resolved**, to approve the date of the October Board meeting to be changed from October 12th to October 26th, due to school being closed on Columbus Day.

Motion Yasunas      Second Witkowski      By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

10.03 The calendar was discussed for Cohort A and B. Total days for the school year is 71 for Cohort A and 70 for Cohort B. November is out of balance due to NJEA and Thanksgiving Recess.

10.04 There was a request to remove resources on racism from the website. Parents are concerned with content. Consensus was to remove objectional material and provide other resources.

10.05 Mr. Cama commented on Board members attending BOE meetings person. Mrs. Sutton felt exceptions should be made such as quarantine. Mrs. Luciano commented that members should not be force to be in person and accommodations should be made.

10.06 Mrs. Tomasini asked if Books are all online. Ms. Gooditis said that students were told to leave the textbooks at home and not carry them back and forth.

11. Personnel - All resolutions are upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

11.01 **Resolved**, to appoint Michael Licata as Spanish Teacher at the rate of \$200.00 per day for the period of August 26, 2020 – October 30, 2020; and beginning November 2, 2020 to be paid the annual salary of \$60,646.27 (to be prorated) through June 30, 2020 pending certification.

Motion by: Yasunas                      Seconded by: Witkowski

Roll Call Vote:

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

11.02 **Resolved**, to accept, with regret, the retirement of Martha Shoudt, Library/Classroom Aide, effective September 2, 2020.

Motion by: Yasunas                      Seconded by: Witkowski

Roll Call Vote:

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

11.03 **Resolved**, to approve the following employees for the stipend positions listed below for the 2020-2021 school year.

Name	Position	Amount
Jen St. Laurent	Student Council Advisor	\$2,595
Karen Brokaw/Jen St. Laurent	Yearbook Advisor	\$2,468 (\$1,234 ea.)

Motion by: Yasunas                      Seconded by: Witkowski

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mrs. Evans	X			
Mrs. Luciano	X			
Mrs. Sutton	X			
Mrs. Tomasini	X			
Mr. Witkowski	X			

Mr. Yasunas	X			
Mr. Cama	X			
Totals:	7	0	0	0

11.04. **Resolved**, to ratify approval for Christina Kocsi to be compensated for attending an IEP meeting on August 11, 2020, at the rate of \$30.00 per hour not to exceed \$60.00.

Motion by: Yasunas                      Seconded by: Witkowski

Roll Call Vote:

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

11.05 **Resolved**, to approve a request for intermittent, unpaid child bonding and child rearing leave, to run concurrently with provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), for David Giantisco, pursuant to Article XIII D.2. of the Agreement Between the Quakertown Education Association and the Franklin Township Board of Education (2020-2025), commencing on or about October 1, 2020 and terminating on or about October 26, 2020.

Motion by: Yasunas                      Seconded by: Witkowski

Roll Call Vote:

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

12. **Public Comments** – Three parents commented mostly on remote learning. There was another request to remove the videos on racism from the school website. One parent was thankful for all of the communication from the school. Another parent said that the teachers are doing an excellent job.

13. **Executive Session – 8:43 p.m.**

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 14, 2020 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 may be taken.

Motion Yasunas      Second Witkowski      By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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7	0	0	0
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Mrs. Sutton left the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

13.02 **Resolved, to return to Open Public Session at 9:52 p.m.**

Motion Yasunas      Second Witkowski      By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
6	0	0	1

14. **Presentation – Sustainable Jersey for Schools** – Lindsay Gooditis will give the presentation at the next BoE meeting.

15. **Other Business** – nothing at this time.

16. **Adjournment**

16.01 **Resolved to** Adjourn from the Public Meeting at 9:53 p.m.

Motion Evans      Second Yasunas      By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
6	0	0	1

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Martucci  
Board Secretary