



**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
Board of Education**

**REGULAR MEETING
October 18, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Cama, President, called the meeting to order at 6:33 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.	Present	V. Evans	Present	A. Luciano	Present
R. Falcon	Present	K. Sutton, V. Pres.	Present	E. Tomasini	Present
J. Witkowski	Present	N. Diaz, Superintendent	Present	L. Tirone	Present

2. Presentations - none

3. Minutes

- 3.01 September 20, 2021 – Regular Meeting
- 3.02 September 20, 2021 – Executive Session

Resolved, to approve the above listed minutes.

Motion Evans Second Falcon By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

4. Business Administrator Report – Lori Tirone

The gym and locker room renovation has yet to be completed. We had met with Billy Construction and SSP Architects this past Wednesday to do a punch list inspection and as of today there are still too many punch list items that need to be addressed. There are safety hazards such as the ADA metal saddles were not installed in the corridor thresholds and the metal edge trim at the corner of the tile wall in the locker room is sticking out of the wall. There are cosmetic issues, items installed incorrectly, missing items and items that have not yet been resolved. The final inspections were approved on October 14th. But due to the safety hazards and unfinished items it is not safe to have students and construction workers in the gym at the same time. On Friday, I had emailed all the outstanding items to Billy Construction and our architects. Today the architects updated the punch list items and Billy Construction will be working on minor punch list items tomorrow.

5. Superintendent's Report - Nicholas Diaz

- Professional Development
This month we had our full-day inservice for staff development. This packed day included training on our new assessment format, Linkit, phonics via the Heggerty program, and our Lifelines training. Lifelines is a County Wide suicide prevention initiative for middle and high schools. The training focused on administrative guidelines and procedures for responding to students at risk; and better equip the school in identifying and responding to suicidal students.

- **Week of Respect**
The first week of October is designated as the Week of Respect. This week emphasizes the importance of character education and teaches students strategies on how to be compassionate, thoughtful, and caring people in and outside of school. This week is but one of the many weeks throughout the year we foster and promote an environment of respect for all students in order to create a positive school climate for growth and learning.
- **Testing**
This week, Governor Murphy's EO 253 went into effect, requiring all school personnel to either be fully vaccinated or submit to weekly Covid testing. The district took advantage of the federal funding available to provide on-site Covid screening testing. Unfortunately due to the high demand, the State Approved vendor, Mirimus, could not yet provide the screening testing to many school districts. FTS is one of those districts. The state took this into consideration and sent all impacted districts the following communication:

The Governor's office has granted limited and targeted flexibility related to E.O.253. LEAs are expected to adhere to the implementation date in EO 253. However, for those LEAs that have selected Option 1 in the k-12 testing program and now face vendor-related implementation delays that render them unable to meet the 10/18 implementation date, as long as they have ascertained the vaccination status of all covered workers and are ready to begin testing as soon as the vendor is able, they will be considered compliant with E.O. 253.

Any questions on any items so far? As the next item may lead to a Board discussion.

- **Regionalization/Consolidation Study**
As you may know, The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has made grant funding available through the Local Efficiency Achievement Program to schools and townships to participate in regionalization/consolidation studies. Recently, I reached out to NJASA to get assistance in facilitating a discussion surrounding this opportunity. In looking at local school districts and their current leadership situations, we identified Union, Franklin, Bethlehem, and Hampton SD's as potential partners in this study. All 4 of these districts are close in proximity and send their graduates to North Hunterdon/Voorhees. We also looked at Bloomsbury, but they are still currently locked into an agreement with Phillipsburg.

I bring this information to the Board to see if this is something that the Board would be interested in pursuing. I recently reached out to Hampton and Bethlehem and received a response from Hampton that they would like to participate in the study. If Franklin is interested, my suggestion would be for the President, VP, SBA, and Superintendent, to meet with representatives from the other 3 districts along with a representative from either NJASA or DCA to answer any questions the Board may have. If all 4 districts or some of the districts were interested, then the next step would be to pass a resolution at the following BOE meeting indicating the Board's commitment to participate in the study. Some basic information I have been able to gather thus far:

- The cost for the study would be covered by the LEAP grant. There would be no cost to the districts.
- The study would take between 12-18 months to complete.
- The study would look at potential aspects of the schools involved. Ex. What would a consolidation of 4 of the districts look like? Or a combination of some of them.
- The study would only provide information. Districts would not be required to implement anything.

So I wanted to open this question up to the Board. Is the LEAP grant something FTS should pursue?

The board members showed interest in participating in the study. A resolution will be on the November board meeting.

6. **Public Comments - Privilege of the Floor (3 minutes)**
There were no comments from the public.

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)/**Strategic Plan** – Mr. Cama, Mrs. Luciano, Mrs. Tomasini
Committee did not meet.

8.02 **Facilities and Finance** - Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Witkowski
Resolved to approve items 8.02.1 – 8.02.5:

8.02.1 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M1

Resolved, to approve the Franklin Township School CMP (Comprehensive Maintenance Plan) and M1 (Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet) for 2020-21 Actual / 2021-22 Budgeted/2022-23 Proposed, per N.J.A.C. 6A:26A, for submission to the Executive County Superintendent.

8.02.2 Shared Services Agreement

Resolved, to approve Franklin Township School District to participate in a Shared Service Agreement for Communications with Haddon Township.

8.02.3 Submittal of Documentation

Resolved, to approve SSP Architectural Inc. to submit documentation to NJDOE on Franklin Township School Districts behalf.

8.02.4 Participation in Consulting Agreement

Resolved, to approve the Franklin Township School District to participate in a service consulting agreement with Educational Consortium for Telecommunications Savings (ECTS).

8.02.5 Site Investigation of UST Replacement Project

Resolved, to approve Melick-Tilly and Associates a Division of GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (MTA) for Site Investigation (SI) of the active 10,000 gallon No. 2 heating oil UST Replacement Project at the estimated cost of \$11,980.00. They were the lowest quote received for the service.

Motion by: Witkowski

Seconded by: Luciano

Discussion: A Board member questioned if the Underground Storage Tank was included in the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and the Business Administrator said that it was included.

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

8.03.1 21-22 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program

Resolved, to approve the Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion by: Witkowski

Seconded by: Luciano

Discussion: It was clarified that the plan was mandated and applied to COVID 19.

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				

8.04 **Policy** - Mrs. Evans, Mr. Falcon, Mrs. Tomasini
The committee did not meet.

8.05 **Negotiations** - Mr. Cama, Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Witkowski
The committee did not meet.

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 September, 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 September 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 September, 2021 bill list in the amount of \$596,702.38.

9.02 **Education**

No Consent Items

9.03 **Personnel**

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

- James Toner

9.03.2 Approve the following professional day requests:

Date	Employee	Name of Professional Development Program	Registration Cost	Mileage Exp.
Nov. 10, 2021	Lindsay Gooditis	Legal One Evolving Legal Standards for LGBTQ+ Students	\$125.00	N/A
Dec. 10, 11, 12, 2021	Ellen Kassis	Introduction to Prompt	\$599.00	N/A
Nov. 17, 2021	Jordan Simon	Geode Training – Getting Started	\$50.00	N/A

9.04 **Facilities**

No consent items.

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

Discussion: None

Motion by: Evans Seconded by: Luciano

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**

Nothing at this time.

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

There were questions/comments regarding COVID – 19 testing, quarantine requirements, and remote learning. All were addressed by Mr. Diaz.

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

12.01 **Resolved**, to appoint Dana Roberts as full time School Nurse at the annual salary of \$80,000, to be prorated from the start date of December 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Discussion: Salary as per Sidebar Agreement between the QEA and BOE

Motion by: Witkowski Seconded by: Sutton

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 Raeanna Zimmerman and Niquole Allen as teachers for the Work Family Connection Before Care Program held at Franklin Township School at the hourly rate of \$30.00 (Franklin Township BOE will be reimbursed by Work Family Connection for the cost of services).

Discussion: Work Family Connection is having a difficult time finding staff, so we are supplying the staff.

Motion by: Witkowski Seconded by: Luciano

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 Stephani Stephens to be compensated for additional time to complete health office paperwork and COVID-19 contact tracing requirements as needed at the hourly rate of \$30.00 not to exceed \$1,950.00.

Discussion: None

Motion by: Luciano Seconded by: Witkowski

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 retirement of Ranae Pellegrino, School Secretary, effective March 1, 2022.

Discussion: There will be a 2 month overlap to train the new secretary.

Motion by: Evans Seconded by: Witkowski

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 Kristen Andreychak as full time Special Education/G.T. Teacher at the annual salary of \$60,646.27, to be prorated from the start date of November 16, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Discussion: None

Motion by: Luciano Seconded by: Witkowski

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 - 7:08 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 October 18, 2021 for the purpose of discussing personnel and HIB appeal. 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 1 hour. Action will be taken.

Motion Sutton Second Witkowski By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

13.02 **Resolved, to return to Open Public Session at 8:05 pm.**

Motion Witkowski Second Luciano By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

13.03 **Resolved**, to approve Case #128 as a confirmed HIB.

Motion Luciano Second Witkowski By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

13.04 **Resolved**, to amend the Supervisor of Building and Grounds Contract to allow for overtime.

Motion Evans Second Witkowski By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

14. **Other Business**

Nothing at this time.

15. **Adjournment**

16.01 **Resolved to** Adjourn from the Public Meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Motion Sutton Second Falcon By Voice Vote

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
7	0	0	0

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Tirone
SBA/Board Secretary