

MINE HILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
January 25, 2010

Opening Statement

The Regular Meeting of the Mine Hill Township Board of Education was called to order at 7:31 PM on January 25, 2010, by Board President Mary Jo Walilko. Adequate notice of the date and time for this meeting was advertised in the Daily Record on April 28, 2009, in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mrs. Walilko led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:

Caryn Battaglia, Steve Hoh, Margo Maher, Bridget Mauro, Mary Jo Walilko

Absent:

Patricia Hernandez and Anthony Novelli

Also Present:

Julia Coyne, Nancy Gulley, Vincent Montanino, Katine Slunt and Ernest Palestis

Mrs. Walilko indicated that the Board is aware of Mr Novelli's absences thus far.

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Bridget Mauro, the Board accepted the Closed Session minutes of the Conference/Action meeting held on January 11, 2010.

Steve Hoh Abstained

Roll Call Vote-All Others Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Bridget Mauro, the Board accepted the minutes of the Conference/Action meeting held on January 11, 2010.

Steve Hoh Abstained

Roll Call Vote-All Others Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

Correspondence

None

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Palestis discussed the Race to the Top Grant. He indicated that initial information received was that New Jersey was not going to participate in the countrywide federal grant. The state held a meeting in Trenton and it was decided that New Jersey would participate. Although statewide the NJEA is opposed to the grant, Dr. Palestis indicated that it would be prudent for the

Mine Hill Township school district to move forward with the grant application since funding could possibly be obtained.

- Dr. Palestis indicated that the lottery for admission to Roxbury High School will be held tonight.
- Dr. Palestis indicated that an additional School Choice Meeting will be held for potential Choice families on February 4, 2010.
- Dr. Palestis publicly thanked the Mine Hill Educational Foundation for their generous donation of a new AR reading program for the students of Canfield Avenue School.
- Dr. Palestis informed the Board that the Achieve 3000 grant will be implemented during this school year. The staff will need to complete 6 hours of training.
- Dr. Palestis indicated that the Business Administrator, Katine Slunt, and he have been meeting with food service vendors and insurance brokers.
- Dr. Palestis reported that the recent in service professional development day held on January 18, 2010, was very successful.
- Dr. Palestis announced to the Board that the NJSBA Convention potentially will be moved from Atlantic City. Further information will be provided as it is known.

Board Discussion/Reports

- Census- No discussion

Presentations

- Dr. Palestis expressed his respect for all of the members of the Board. He thanked them for their tireless commitment to the students and families of Canfield Avenue School and the community of Mine Hill. He presented them their Certificates of Appreciation in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

Business Administrator's Report

- The report was presented (see attached.)
- Mrs. Slunt gave the floor to Vincent Montanino, VM Associates, and he presented the CAFR report (see attached.)
- Mr. Montanino opened the floor for questions. Ernest Palestis asked if any other reserves could be established and Mr. Montanino gave his recommendations to the Board. Mrs. Slunt will follow up.

Public Discussion

None

FINANCE Steve Hoh, Patricia Hernandez

Motion by Steve Hoh and seconded by Margo Maher, the Board approved the payment of bills as per the attached bill list in the amount of \$ 580,336.09. (Attachment 1)

Motion by Steve Hoh and seconded by Margo Maher, the Board approved the Board Secretary and Treasurer Reports for November 2009 and December 2009.

Note: The Board Secretary and Treasurer Reports were handed out at the time of the meeting.

WHEREAS, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, the secretary has certified that, as of the date of the report, no budgetary 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), now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education accepts the above referenced reports and certifications subject to reconciliation of the secretary's report with the treasurer's report when received, and orders that it be attached to and made part of the record of this meeting, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the board of Education certifies that, after review of the board secretary's and treasurer's monthly financial reports (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge, 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 year.

Motion by Steve Hoh and seconded by Margo Maher, the Board approved the requested budget transfers as per the list in the amount of \$ 10,855.00.

Note: The budget transfers list was handed out at the time of the meeting

Motion by Steve Hoh and seconded by Margo Maher, the Board approved the 2008-2009 Annual Audit Corrective Action Plan and CAFR Synopsis. (Attachment 2)

Motion by Steve Hoh and seconded by Margo Maher, the Board approved the goals and the first draft of the 2010-2011 School Budget as presented.

Motion by Steve Hoh and seconded by Margo Maher, the Board approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on November 25, 2009, the Mine Hill Township Board or Education held a public bid opening for the HVAC Project for the Canfield Avenue School (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Board received eight (8) bids at the public bid opening; and

WHEREAS, the Board’s ability to proceed with the Project is premised on the Board obtaining a portion of the Project funding by means of a grant from the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (“NJSDA”); and

WHEREAS, the NJSDA has taken certain actions in the past several weeks that jeopardize the likelihood of the Board receiving its grant from the NJSDA for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board cannot pay for the Project without the NJSDA grant; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in light of the Project funding the Board has determined to abandon the Project in accordance with the N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22; and

BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, that the Board hereby directs the Business Administrator to return the bid bonds to all bidders with a note of thanks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that once the Project funding is restored, that the Board hereby authorizes the Business Administrator to re-bid the Project.

Motion by Steve Hoh and seconded by Margo Maher, the Board approved the acceptance of a donation of \$1,801.75, from the Mine Hill Educational Foundation to purchase an updated AR program for the Canfield Avenue School. (Attachment 3)

Motion by Steve Hoh and seconded by Margo Maher, the Board approved the workshop travel request for the following: (Attachment 4)

Name	Workshop	Location	Dates	Cost	Mileage
Gregory Hobaugh	Annual CHOICE meeting	Trenton, NJ	March 10, 2010	N/A	112 miles at .31/mile + 2.80 for tolls total=\$37.52

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

Motion by Margo Maher and seconded by Caryn Battaglia, the Board approved the following request for services: (Attachment 5)

Student ID #	Service	Provider	Date	Cost
3731463506	Home Instruction	TBD	TBD	Maximum of 10 hours per week at \$30.69 per hour

Motion by Margo Maher and seconded by Caryn Battaglia, the Board approved, pursuant to the Board of Education Policy 5119, the following student to attend Roxbury High School as a Board of Education paid tuition student, September 2010 through June 2014, as per the results of the Roxbury Lottery to be held this evening:

Name of Student	Lottery Position	Result
Chelsea Maher	1 st	Enrollment in Roxbury High School

Motion by Margo Maher and seconded by Caryn Battaglia, the Board approved the following students to be placed on a Waiting List to attend Roxbury High School as Board of Education paid tuition students should the above named student not attend, as per the results of the Roxbury Lottery to be held this evening:

Name of Student	Lottery Position	Result
Alexis Lutton	2 nd	#1 on waiting list
Shannon Rabbitt	3 rd	#2 on waiting list
Nicholas Boyle	4 th	#3 on waiting list
Naomi Babe	5 th	#4 on waiting list

Motion by Margo Maher and seconded by Caryn Battaglia, the Board approved the request for out of district placement for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year, beginning January 27 and ending June 25, for the following student:

Student ID #	Placement	Tuition	Transportation	Total cost to District
1365963628	Gramon School, Fairfield, NJ 07004	\$26,513.28 for remainder of school year (96 days)	\$8,640.00 for remainder of school year (96 days)	\$35, 153.28

Explanation: This is a Dover placement.

Margo Maher Abstained from second item
Roll Call Vote-All Others Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

OPERATIONS Margo Maher, Mary Jo Walilko

Motion by Margo Maher and seconded by Caryn Battaglia, the Board approved the Second Reading of the following Policies and Regulations as amended:
(Attachments 6 a-p)

- 3325 Staff Use of Internet Social Networks and Other Forms Electronic Communication
- 2415.03 Highly Qualified Teachers
- 2423 Bilingual and ESL Education (Policy and Regulation)
- 2560 Live Animals in School (Policy and Regulation)
- 3126 Induction Program for Provisional Teachers(Policy and Regulation)
- 3240 Professional Development (Policy and Regulation)
- 3281 Inappropriate Staff Conduct (Policy and Regulation)
- 4281 Inappropriate Staff Conduct (Policy and Regulation)
- 3431.3 New Jersey's Family Leave Insurance Program
- 4431.3 New Jersey's Family Leave Insurance Program

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Margo Maher, the Board **TABLED** the approval of the acceptance of the lease contract between the Mine Hill Township Board of Education and the Mine Hill Educational Foundation.
(Attachment 7)

Motion by Margo Maher and seconded by Caryn Battaglia, the Board approved the following resolution in honor of School Board Recognition Month:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey School Boards Association and the National School Boards Association have declared January 2010 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time that all residents might acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, the Mine Hill Township Board of Education is one of more than 600 local school boards in New Jersey that sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Mine Hill Township Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine community goals for the education of 1.4 million children in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 4,800 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, school boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in indicators such as high school graduation rates, class size, college entrance exam participation, and Advanced Placement offerings and test scores. Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mine Hill Township Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of the local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2010 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mine Hill Township Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staffs toward the improvement of our children's education.

Motion by Margo Maher and seconded by Caryn Battaglia, the Board approved the authorization of the application for the New Jersey Race to the Top (RTTT) grant.

Motion by Margo Maher and seconded by Caryn Battaglia, the Board approved the use of facilities for the following:

Name of Organization	Purpose	Facility/Room	Dates
Mine Hill Educational Foundation	Karate Club	Gym	Tuesday and Fridays January-May 2010 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes- Motion Carried

PERSONNEL

Patricia Hernandez, Steve Hoh

New personnel employment appointments are contingent upon the required state and federal criminal history background checks in accordance with N.J.S.A. 116, P.L. 1986

And be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board submit to the County Superintendent, as required, applications for emergency hiring and the applicant’s attestations that they have not been convicted of any disqualifying crime pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:6-7.1 et.seq.,N.J.S.A. 18A:39-17 et. seq.,or N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4.13 et.seq., on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Motion by Steve Hoh and seconded by Margo Maher, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the appointment of the following staff members for Home Instruction for the 2009-2010 school year, at a rate of \$30.69 per hour, as needed:

Melissa Kenny
Danielle Wilson

Motion by Steve Hoh and seconded by Margo Maher, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the following appointment of Substitute Teachers for the 2009-2010 school year:

Erik Naclerio	\$75 per day, \$85 after 10 days
Hillary Levine	\$80 per day, \$90 after 10 days
Megan Healey	\$75 per day, \$85 after 10 days

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Caryn Battaglia, Anthony Novelli

None

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Bridget Mauro, Caryn Battaglia

None

Dover Report

Bridget Mauro

- Bridget Mauro was sworn in as a member of the Dover Board of Education on January 19, 2010.

MHEF Report

Margo Maher

- Mrs. Maher reported that the PACT Program has begun. The MHEF Karate Club is reported to be a big hit.
- Mrs. Maher indicated that the Mine Hill Educational Foundation is working on ordering a new podium as per Mr. Hobough's request.
- Mrs. Maher reported the additional shed is still pending. Mrs. Maher will follow up. Mrs. Slunt will start pricing concrete pads.
- Mrs. Maher indicated at the next Town Council meeting there will be a resolution for keeping Canfield Avenue School in the Intersdistrict Public School Choice Program. Mrs. Walilko encouraged Board members to attend the council meeting

Old Business

- Steve Hoh explained to the Board that he will no longer be able to attend the Educational Services Commission meetings as the liaison. Caryn Battaglia will follow up with Patricia Hernandez.

New Business

None

CLOSED SESSION

On the motion of Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Caryn Battaglia at 8:29 PM, the Board approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-11, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss: (select one or more)

- 1) *a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law*
- 2) *a matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds*
- 3) *material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy*
- 4) *a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it*

- 5) *a matter involving the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property with public funds*
- 6) *protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law*
- 7) ***pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege***
- 8) *specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session*
- 9) *deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss;*

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Note: This closed session included items in categories 4 and 7. It may be adjourned while business is conducted in public then reconvened after public business has been completed.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

On the motion of Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Margo Maher at 9:12 PM, the Board returned to the regular session meeting.

Public Discussion
None

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Margo Maher, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:18 PM.

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried