

MINE HILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
March 22, 2010

Opening Statement

The Regular Meeting of the Mine Hill Township Board of Education was called to order at 7:32 PM on March 22, 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.

Mary Jo Walilko led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:

Caryn Battaglia, Patricia Hernandez, Steve Hoh, Margo Maher, Bridget Mauro, Anthony Novelli and Mary Jo Walilko

Also Present:

Julia Coyne, Mayor Richard Leary, Nancee Seidel, members of the public and Ernest Palestis.

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Caryn Battaglia, the Board accepted the Closed Session minutes of the Conference/Action meeting held on March 8, 2010.

Roll Call Vote-Anthony Novelli abstained
All others Present Voting Yes- Motion Carried

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Caryn Battaglia, the Board accepted the minutes of the Conference/Action meeting held on March 8, 2010.

Roll Call Vote-Anthony Novelli abstained
All others Present Voting Yes- Motion Carried

Correspondence

Mary Jo Walilko indentified the following correspondence and commended the students of Canfield Avenue School for their participation in the “Valentines for Veterans Program”

- Letter from Lutton family
- Copy of letter from Assemblyman Anthony Bucco to Governor Christie
- Letter from Lansing Holman
- Letter and certificate from Rodney Frelinghuysen

Presentations

- Dr. Palestis presented the winners of the Chess Club Tournament with their certificates and thanked the students, families, Mine Hill Educational Foundation and Mr. Ake for their participation.

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Palestis thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Dr. Palestis presented the Preliminary Budget to the public. (see attached)
- Dr. Palestis then handed the floor over to Katine Slunt, Business Administrator, who then presented to the Board a more detailed Preliminary Budget (see attached)

Public Discussion

- Peggy Healey asked if Morris Hills will be making any profit from the proposed shared services agreement. Dr. Palestis stated that they would not. Mrs. Healey inquired about Spanish being state mandated. Dr. Palestis indicated that the state requirements can be met in other ways, for example using Rosetta Stone, online instruction and other options. Dr. Palestis stated the Board's regret in having to make these decisions but have limited choices in these dire times. Mrs. Healey asked about the increase in state health benefits. Ernest Palestis responded that Mine Hill is the only Morris County district, possibly the only one in New Jersey, which has the teachers pay into their benefits. He expressed his pride and commended the Mine Hill Teachers Association and the Board of Education for their long running fiscal responsibility in this matter. Mrs. Healey also inquired about the late bus for the high school and middle school students still being in the budget and Dr. Palestis stated it was. Mrs. Healey asked about Federal funding options available to the district. Dr. Palestis indicated that we receive No Child Left Behind, ARRA and IDEA funds. He made it clear that the ARRA funding was stimulus money and therefore was a one time amount.
- Regina Uccello-Healy inquired about the summer school program relating to the Special Education students. Dr. Palestis indicated that the program referred to in the Preliminary Budget Presentation pertained to the program for regular education students and not those requiring extended school year services. Mrs. Uccello-Healy asked about the PRIDE Program moving back to Wharton and Dr. Palestis responded that the A-STARS program was relocating to Wharton and the PRIDE program would remain housed at Canfield Avenue School.
- John Pascal asked if there would be a Dover tuition deficit this year. Dr. Palestis indicated that the results from the last audit revealed that we would owe Dover \$100,000.

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Steve Hoh, the Board approved the following resolution **adopting the preliminary budget for the 2010-2011 school year:**

WHEREAS the Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with teachers, parents, school and district administrators, and other interested persons, has developed a budget for the operation of the Mine Hill Township school district for the 2010-2011 school year, and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has reviewed the proposed budget and determined that the programs and resources provided are necessary for the thorough and efficient operation of the school district, now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED the Board of Education approves and authorizes the submission of the tentative budget for the 2010-2011 school year to the County Superintendent for state approval. Detailed tentative budgets are available in the Board Office for public review, on or about March 22, 2010:

General Fund	\$ 7,860,115.00
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 230,159.00
Debt Service Fund	\$ 209,175.00
TOTAL BASE BUDGET	\$ 8,299,449.00

and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED to acknowledge that the tentative 2010-2011 budget as described above results in a general fund tax levy of \$5,722,545.00 and debt service in the amount of \$209,175.00 for a total tax levy of \$5,931,720.00 and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the school district Policy 9250, Expenses and Reimbursement, and NJAC 6A:23B-1.2(b), provide that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2010-2011 school year; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Preliminary Budget is subject to amendments and/or modifications by the Morris County Office of the Department of Education and by the Mine Hill Board of Education at the March 29, 2010 Board of Education/Public Hearing meeting.

That the District Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2010-2011 school year no to exceed **\$25,000**, and That the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these cost to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent and Business Administrator/Board Secretary to submit this budget and all supporting documentation to the Morris County Superintendent of Schools and, once approved, to advertise the proposed budget and schedule a public hearing for Monday, March 29, 2010 at 7:30 PM and to comply with all other laws and regulations in regard to the annual school budget.

Motion by Mary Jo Waliko and seconded by Steve Hoh, the Board approved the **payment of bills** as per the attached bill list in the amount of \$776,546.48. (Attachment 1)

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

CURRICULUM AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Anthony Novelli, Margo Maher

OPERATIONS Margo Maher, Mary Jo Walilko

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 Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Margo Maher, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the appointment of **Shari Kuzel as a home provider of ABA Services** at the rate of \$30.69

per hour (Mine Hill Township's curriculum rate), 5 hours per week, effective March 23, 2010, for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year. (Attachment 2)

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Margo Maher, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved **Lansing Holman as a presenter of the Assistive Technology Software** for the Special Education Advisory Council meeting at the rate of \$30.69 per hour (Mine Hill Township's curriculum rate), for 2 hours and 15 minutes for a total of \$69.05, on March 23, 2010. (Attachment 3)

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Margo Maher, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the following appointment of **Substitute School Nurses** for the 2009-2010 school year:

Sharon Ali	\$125 per day
Karen Andrews	\$125 per day
Deborah Savoca	\$125 per day

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Margo Maher, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved **disability leave** lasting approximately four to six weeks for **Lansing Holman** effective April 5, 2010.

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Margo Maher, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appointed the placement of **Traci Sutton, a student teacher from William Paterson University** for the 2010-2011 school year, in Melissa Kenny's Kindergarten classroom, beginning September 2nd and ending December 8th. (Attachment 4)

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS Caryn Battaglia, Anthony Novelli

- Caryn Battaglia will be attending the Senior Citizen's meeting on March 23, 2010. She will remind the seniors of the upcoming Budget Presentation and encourage them to attend.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS Bridget Mauro, Caryn Battaglia

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Margo Maher, the Board approved the following **use of facilities**:

Organization	Facility Requested	Date(s)	Purpose
Mine Hill PTA	Canfield Avenue Parking Lot and Bathrooms	May 22, 2010 7 am to 4 pm Rain date May 23, 2010, same time	Garage Sale Fundraiser
Mine Hill First Aid Squad	Gym, Outdoors and Kitchen	May 15, 2010 6am to 5pm Rain date May 16, same time	King of the Hill Car Show
6 th Grade Class	Gym, Outdoors, Kitchen and Bathrooms	June 5, 2010 12 pm to 6 pm, Rain Date June 6, 2010, same time	6 th Grade Class Picnic

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

Dover Report Bridget Mauro

- Mrs. Mauro indicated that the Dover Board of Education is currently working on its 2010-2011 budget and will conduct a budget hearing meeting on Friday, March 26, 2010.
- The induction ceremony for the Dover High School National Honor Society will take place on Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

MHEF Report Margo Maher
None

Old Business

- Mary Jo Walilko will send another letter Friday, March 26, via the Friday Folders, as a follow up to the letter sent on March 12, 2010.
- The Canfield Avenue School web page has been updated.
- The new AR program should be running in about a week. The Board extended its thanks to Dorothy Quinn for her help with the transition.

New Business
None

CLOSED SESSION

On the motion of Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Margo Maher at 9:07 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 will include items in categories 4.. 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 Caryn Battaglia at 9:25PM, the Board returned to the regular session meeting.

Public Discussion

None

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Caryn Battaglia, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:26PM.

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried