

**MINE HILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES**  
**CONFERENCE/ACTION MEETING**  
**April 12, 2010**

Opening Statement

The Conference/Action Meeting of the Mine Hill Township Board of Education was called to order at 7:33 PM on April 12, 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:**

Patricia Hernandez, Steve Hoh, Bridget Mauro and Mary Jo Walilko

**Absent:**

Caryn Battaglia, Margo Maher and Anthony Novelli

**Also Present:**

Cheryl Ashton, Julia Coyne, Simone DeJesus, Nancy Gulley, Emily Guidi, Lorelei Guidi, Jean Kraemer, David Percely and Ernest Palestis.

The Board is aware of Mr. Novelli's absences.

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Patricia Hernandez, the Board accepted the closed session minutes of the Regular monthly meeting held on March 22, 2010 and the Special meeting held on March 29, 2010.

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes- Motion Carried

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Patricia Hernandez, the Board accepted the minutes of the Regular monthly meeting held on March 22, 2010 and the Special Meeting held on March 29, 2010.

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

Correspondence- Mrs. Walilko read the following letters:

- Letter from Assemblyman Anthony Bucco regarding the New Jersey Privatization Task Force
- Letter from Anthony Bucco to Bret Schundler regarding the sink hole
- Letter from Anthony Bucco to Bret Schundler regarding choice aid
- Mrs. Walilko expressed her thanks on behalf of the Board to Assemblyman Bucco for his support of Mine Hill, its students and residents.

### Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Palestis welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also expressed his gratitude to Assemblyman Bucco for his continuing support of Mine Hill.
- Dr. Palestis indicated that the copy of the calendar the Board members received was in the rough draft stage. He asked for input from the Board and it was decided that the Mine Hill Township School District calendar should match as closely as possible to the Dover School District school calendar.
- Dr. Palestis thanked Steve Hoh and Katine Slunt for putting together the ad to go into the Neighbor News. He indicated that these are historic times in New Jersey regarding education. Dr. Palestis reminded everyone about the upcoming elections on Tuesday, April 20, 2010. He stressed voter awareness was key and will introduce contact sheets for the Mine Hill Township School District employees to use to contact residents of Mine Hill.

### Board Discussion/Reports

- The 2010-2011 School Calendar dates were discussed. The Board agreed to match, as closely as possible, the Dover School District calendar. The possibility of a 2 hour delay on Easter Monday was discussed.

### Presentations

- None

### Business Administrator's Report

- None

### Public Discussion

- Nancy Gulley presented the Board with a playbill from the Dover High School production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown."
- Jeanne Kraemer expressed her enthusiasm for the new AR program. Mrs. Walilko indicated that the Mine Hill Educational Foundation should be thanked for their generous donation of the program.
- Cheryl Ashton had concerns about the sink hole. Dr. Palestis went over what had been done about the situation up to now and indicated that it will be addressed again in July when the water table is lower. The cost for remediation is unknown at this time. Mrs. Ashton inquired about a cap of the number of students per classroom and Dr. Palestis responded that there was no such limit. Mrs Walilko urged the public to understand that the decision to have only two grade six homerooms was difficult. The Board felt, although regrettable, it was the best alternative. If additional funds are available the Board will reinstate the three homerooms for sixth grade. Mrs. Ashton inquired about saving field trips. Mrs. Walilko indicated that outside funding might be available. Mrs. Ashton asked about evaluations for teachers and Dr. Palestis responded with procedures and his addition of the "10 Minute Walk Through" observation.

- David Percely thanked the Board of Education for their budget presentation. As a choice parent, he expressed concerns about the legality of the elimination of the “Aid in Lieu of” funding for transportation. The Board will look into the regulations of the school choice program. Mr. Percely urged the Board to look into asking the state for reimbursement of the transportation monies paid out thus far to choice families as a way to recoup some funding revenue. Mr. Percely asked about the number of teachers not returning for the 2010-2011 school year. Dr. Palestis responded that as it stands now four non-tenured teachers, the Spanish teacher as well as the retiring Speech teacher will not be returning. Mr. Percely questioned if Mr. Novelli would be returning to the Board and Mrs. Walilko indicated the Board has addressed the situation.
- Lorelei Guidi had a concern and Dr. Palestis reviewed the proper procedures in addressing these situations.
- Emily Guidi had a question about bullying and the policies in place at Canfield Avenue School. Dr. Palestis indicated that the policy requires that the Division of Youth and Family Services must be contacted in cases of alleged abuse. Dr. Palestis explained the chain of command that must be followed for situations to be brought to the Board’s attention.
- Simone DeJesus asked about the special education students that are returning to Canfield Avenue School. Dr. Palestis stressed that the students returning to Mine Hill from their out of district placement in Wharton will have no change in their special education services.

## FINANCE

Steve Hoh, Patricia Hernandez

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Patricia Hernandez, the Board approved the workshop **travel request for Tim Collins** on April 30, 2010, to attend, at no cost, the New Jersey School IPM Training: Making the Plan Work, Montclair, New Jersey, with mileage totaling 32 miles, at a total cost to district of \$9.92. (Attachment 1)

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

## CURRICULUM AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Anthony Novelli, Margo Maher

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Steve Hoh, the Board approved the **Application to Operate Summer School, pending funding from an outside source**, from July 6, 2010 to July 30, 2010, with the hours of operation of 9:00 am to 11:00 am, and consider approving the filing of the New Jersey Department of Education application.

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Patricia Hernandez, the Board approved the **draft of the 2010-2011 Professional Development Plan.**

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Patricia Hernandez, the Board approved the **request for services** for the following student(s): (Attachments 2 to 4)

<b>Student ID</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Cost</b>
3258911802	Psychiatric Evaluation	Center for Child and Family Services, Morristown	TBD	\$625
3489687404	Occupational Therapy Evaluation	ESC of Morris County	TBD	\$355
3206091314	Occupational and Physical Therapy	Essex Regional Services Commission	2010-2011 School Year (11 month program)	\$97.00 per hour for an approximate total of \$2,134.00

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

OPERATIONS Margo Maher, Mary Jo Walilko

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Patricia Hernandez, the Board approved the **Draft of the 2010-2011 Technology Plan** and consider approving the filing of the Technology Plan with the New Jersey Department of Education.

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 Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Patricia Hernandez, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the following **salary adjustments**, effective April 15, 2010:

Staff Member	Original Guide Step	Original Salary Amount	Revised Guide Step	Revised Salary Amount
Joan Colquhoun	BA + 12 Step 11	\$54,308.00	BA + 24 Step 11	\$54,828.00
Michelle Eastman	BA Step 11	\$53,788.00	BA + 06 Step 11	\$54,048.00
Janetfelice Leeds	MA + 18 Step 08	\$53,693.00	MA + 24 Step 08	\$54,083.00
Gina Naclerio	MA Step 11	\$57,688.00	MA + 06 Step 11	\$58,078.00
Tabitha Hertz-Neglia	MA + 06 Step 09	\$53,928.00	MA + 12 Step 09	\$54,318.00
Marilyn Rand	BA Step 01	\$46,523.00	BA + 21 Step 01	\$47,303.00
Theresa Steele	BA Step 02	\$46,523.00	BA + 23 Step 02	\$47,303.00

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Patricia Hernandez, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the following appointment of **new Substitute Teachers** for the 2009-2010 school year:

Dana Strodt	\$75 per day, \$85 after 10 days
Jillian Rallo	\$75 per day, \$85 after 10 days
Rachel Windish	\$75 per day, \$85 after 10 days

Motion by Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Patricia Hernandez, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approved the **placement of Morris County College student Philip Wilk** to observe Mrs. Ramacciotti’s fourth grade class for one day on Friday, April 16, 2010.

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS Caryn Battaglia, Anthony Novelli

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS Bridget Mauro, Caryn Battaglia

Motion by Mary Jo Waliko and seconded by Patricia Hernandez, the Board approved the **request to plant a tree in recognition of Earth Day** from the Mine Hill/Wharton Cub Scout Pack 45 **per approval of administration.** (Attachment 5)

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried

Dover Report Bridget Mauro

- Mrs. Mauro reported that some presentations were made at the Dover Board of Education meeting. The Board requested information about the progress of the Mine Hill students in Dover. Mrs. Mauro will follow up and Dr. Palestis will send correspondence to Mr. Becker inviting Dover staff to present to the Mine Hill Township Board of Education, some time in the future, that information.

MHEF Report Margo Maher

- None

Old Business

- None

## New Business

- Mrs. Walilko expressed the Board's enthusiasm for more presentations to the students of Canfield Avenue School. Dr. Palestis will follow up with Mr. Hobaugh.
- The ad for the 2010-2011 school budget will be in the Neighbor News on Wednesday, April 14.
- Patricia Hernandez attended the Educational Services Commission's board meeting and indicated that they are experiencing similar budget challenges and may face losing staff.
- Mrs. Hernandez also had a concern with the Dover Middle School and Dover High School buses. Dr. Palestis informed Mrs. Hernandez that the Educational Services Commission will be installing cameras. Mrs. Hernandez suggested that as soon as the bus driver had any issues with any student(s) he should pull over and call the police and contact the appropriate school (Dover Middle School or Dover High School.)
- Mrs. Walilko was informed that the Dover Middle School late bus was departing too early. Ernest Palestis will follow up.
- Patricia Hernandez inquired about "Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day" being and excused absence. Dr. Palestis indicated that past practice would be followed.

## CLOSED SESSION

On the motion of Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Bridget Mauro at 9:10 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 Steve Hoh at 9:19 PM, the Board returned to the regular session meeting.

#### Public Discussion

- None

#### ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mary Jo Walilko and seconded by Bridget Mauro, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Roll Call Vote-All Present Voting Yes-Motion Carried