

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of December 12, 2011

The Washington Township Board of Education met on Monday, December 12, 2011, at 7:35 p.m. for their Regular meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Karen Graf, President. Mrs. Graf read the following statement: The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Washington Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be mailed on May 13, 2011 to The Express Times, and to the Clerk of Washington Township.

Members in attendance were Karen Graf, President, Sheila Dempski, Vice-President, Sally Christine, Jason Ford and Anita Smith. In addition Roger Jinks, Superintendent, Jean Flynn, Board Secretary, and Valerie Mattes and Keith Neuhs, Principals were also present.

Members absent: Jayne Howard and Jude Mohan

Motion by Sally Christine, seconded by Anita Smith to approve the minutes of November 14, 2011, as presented. MV: Ford abstained – All others voting yes – Motion carried **MINUTES**

Motion by Jason Ford, seconded by Sheila Dempski to approve the executive session minutes of November 14, 2011, as presented. MV: Ford abstained – All others voting yes – Motion carried **EXECUTIVE MINUTES**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS & DISCUSSIONS (Agenda Items)

- a. The public may speak for three (3) minutes unless they have requested to be on the agenda.

None

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion by Sheila Dempski, seconded by Anita Smith to approve the Student Activity, Petty Cash, and Cafeteria Account Reports for the month ending November 30, 2011, as presented. MV: Unanimous – Motion carried **STUD. ACT., PETTY CASH & CAFÉ RPTS.**

Motion by Anita Smith, seconded by Sally Christine to approve the Secretary's Report for November 30, 2011, showing a cash balance of \$1,323,086.56. MV: Unanimous – Motion carried **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Motion by Sally Christine, seconded by Jason Ford to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 30, 2011, showing a cash balance of \$1,323,086.56, and note that the report is in agreement with the Secretary's Report for November 30, 2011. MV: Unanimous – Motion carried **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Motion by Jason Ford, seconded by Sheila Dempski to certify that no 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) and no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b). RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried **FUNDS**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Motion by Sheila Dempski, seconded by Anita Smith to approve the following substitutes for the 2011-2012 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried **SUBSTITUTES**

Secretarial: Karen Wiessler, Luanne Clark

Child Care: Karen Tompkins

Teacher: Luanne Clark

Paraprofessional: Luanne Clark

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- Motion by Anita Smith, seconded by Sally Christine to approve the out-of-district In-Service Experiences, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried OOD STAFF DEVELOPMENT
- Motion by Sally Christine, seconded by Jason Ford to accept, with regret, the resignation of Candice Hagerman, part-time custodian, effective November 18, 2011, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried C.HAGERMAN RESIGNATION
- Motion by Jason Ford, seconded by Sheila Dempski to employ Robbie Beers, part-time custodian, salary to be \$10.50 per hour, hours not exceed 30 hours per week, effective December 13, 2011, pending criminal history review, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried R. BEERS P/T CUST.
- Motion by Sheila Dempski, seconded by Anita Smith to adopt the Career Education and Consumer, Family, and Life Skills Curriculum K-6, as recommended by the Superintendent. (Attached) RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried CAREER ED & FAMILY LIFE SKILLS CURR.
- Motion by Anita Smith, seconded by Sally Christine to approve submission of New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) Statement of Assurance, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried QSAC SUBMISSION
- Motion by Sally Christine, seconded by Jason Ford to authorize students from Warren Tech to come to our district to do basic cleaning of our computers (cleaning includes: wipe monitors, vacuum keyboards, towers and disinfect mice and keyboards). Advisor: Mr. Metroke. Cost to our district would include transportation from Warren Tech to each building (Brass Castle one day and Port Colden another) and cost of supplies for cleaning.), as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried COMPUTER CLEANING WARREN TECH.
- Motion by Anita Smith, seconded by Sally Christine to accept the following resolution Seeking Amendment to Senate Bill 2925, as follows, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried BILL 2925 RESOLUTION

Seeking Amendment to Senate Bill 2925 (Ruiz)/Assembly Bill 4132 (Coutinho/Singleton)To Retain Local School Board and Superintendent Authority over Personnel Decisions

- Whereas, Under current law and practice, school district hiring decisions are made upon the recommendation of the chief school administrator to the local board of education; and
- Whereas, Hiring procedures leading up to the chief school administrator's recommendation should always consider the perspective the school principal; and
- Whereas, District-level factors, including the allocation of resources, programming considerations and educational goals, should take precedent when hiring and placing instructional staff; and
- Whereas, Proposed legislation to provide long-overdue reform of the state's tenure process and seniority system also includes provisions that would significantly diminish the involvement of the superintendent and local school board in personnel matters; and
- Whereas In particular, the Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey (TEACHNJ) Act.", Senate Bill 2925/Assembly Bill 4132, would give sole authority to appoint or remove instructional staff to the principal, in consultation with a "school improvement panel," consisting of the principal, an assistant principal and an instructional staff member nominated by the principal and approved by the staff; and

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Whereas, The TEACHNJ Act would completely remove the local board of education and the district superintendent from future personnel decisions; and

Whereas, In New Jersey, the community selects a school board, which has a fiduciary relationship with taxpayers and which sets education policy goals; and

Whereas, The community vests in the board of education the authority to approve or reject personnel recommendations made by the superintendent; and

Whereas, In making his or her personnel recommendations to the local board of education, the superintendent normally seeks the input of district and building-level administrators, including school principals; and

Whereas, The current hiring and staffing process has worked successfully in school districts throughout the state, as evidenced by New Jersey students' performance on nationwide measures of achievement, such as the National Assessment of Education Progress. Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Washington Township Board of Education urges the Legislature to amend Senate Bill 2925 and Assembly Bill 4132 to ensure that personnel hiring and placement decisions remain under the authority of the district superintendent, with the approval of the local board of education, the community's elected or appointed representatives; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be delivered to Governor Chris Christie; State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney; Senator Teresa M. Ruiz, chair, and all members of the Senate Education Committee; Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver; Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, chair, and all members of the Assembly Education Committee; Assemblyman Albert Coutinho; Assemblyman Troy Singleton; and the 23rd Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association and the Warren County School Boards Association.

Motion by Jason Ford, seconded by Sheila Dempski to approve the following substitutes for the 2011-2012 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried

SUBSTITUTE

Teacher: James G. Argentati (pending criminal history review)

Motion by Sheila Dempski, seconded by Anita Smith to approve Rebecca Schleicher, a student from University of Phoenix, to observe 1 hour at the present time with Katherine Penner, with an additional 100 hours and a 12 week student teaching position in approximately a two-year period, dates to be determined. She would also like to be considered for future observations, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried

R. SCHLEICHER
STUDENT TO
OBSERVE

Mr. Jinks reported that there were no HIB incidents.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS

TECHNOLOGY REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE

1. NJ Spot Light – Cerf Issues Reprieve from Statewide Teacher Evaluation Systems.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Policy Committee: No Report

Motion by Sheila Dempski, seconded by Anita Smith to approve the line item transfers, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried TRANSFERS

Motion by Sheila Dempski, seconded by Sally Christine to approve the Bills List for December 2011. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried BILLS LIST

Motion by Sheila Dempski, seconded by Jason Ford to accept an additional \$2,971. in supplemental funding from the Education Jobs Fund, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried ED JOBS FUND

Personnel Committee: No Report

Motion by Anita Smith, seconded by Sally Christine to approve the second reading and adoption of the following job description, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried SECOND READ. & ADOPT. JOB DESC. A-7 BUSINESS OFFICE CLERK

A-7 – Business Office Clerk

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION - old and/or new business
(The public may speak for three (3) minutes unless they have requested to be on the agenda.)

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION - if required as indicated in items ___a, b & i_ below.

Motion by Sheila Dempski, seconded by Jason Ford the Board of Education of the Washington Township School District in the County of Warren will adjourn into a closed meeting to discuss the item (s) which falls within an exception of our open meetings policy and permits the Board to have a private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 b.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule
- b. Individual privacy
- c. Collective bargaining agreements
- d. Purchase or lease of real property if public interest could be adversely affected
- e. Investment of public funds if public interest could be adversely affected
- f. Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting public safety and property
- g. Pending or anticipated litigation
- h. Attorney-client privilege
- i. Personnel – employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee

Be it resolved that the Board will now go into private session to discuss matters rendered confidential due to the nature of: a. Matters rendered confidential by Federal Law, State Law, or Court Rule, b. Individual privacy and i. Personnel – employment matters affecting a specific prospective or current employee. Any discussion held by the Board, which need not remain confidential, will be made public as soon as practical. Minutes of the private session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. All appropriate persons, who may be discussed in private session, have been adequately notified.

MV: Unanimous – Motion carried Time: 8:05 pm

Motion by Sally Christine, seconded by Anita Smith to return to open session.

MV: Unanimous – Motion carried Time: 8:53 pm

OPEN SESSION

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Mr. Jinks reported the results of the Port Colden Indoor Environmental Quality Assessment and Sampling Results.

Motion by Sheila Dempski, seconded by Anita Smith to memorialize sick-time compensation to employees hired prior to 1995 who have accumulated unused sick time may be compensated upon retirement in accordance with the terms of the teachers' contract, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Christine, Dempski, Ford, Smith, Graf – All voting yes – Motion carried

MEMORIALIZE
SICK-TIME
COMP.

ADJOURNMENT:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Sheila Dempski, seconded by Anita Smith to adjourn.

MV: Unanimous – Motion carried Time: 9:03 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Jean Flynn
Business Administrator/Board Secretary