

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING

Friday, July 31, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Minutes of July 31, 2020

Call to order by Superintendent

Time: 10:00 a.m.

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have 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 emailed on July 29, 2020, to The Star Gazette and to the Clerk of Washington Township.

Members in attendance: Kemp, Jr.-Vice President, Jennifer Knittel, Anita Smith and Karen Graf, President. In addition, Keith Neuhs, Superintendent, Jean Flynn, Business Administrator, Jessica Garcia and Michael Neu, Principals.

Members absent: Casey Grimm, Kimberley Morris and Lauren Schlaffer

B. PUBLIC QUESTIONS & DISCUSSIONS (agenda items) - None

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

C. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Motion by Jennifer Knittel, seconded by Anita Smith, to waive the 60 day notice clause in contract, without setting precedence, and accept, with regret, the resignation for retirement of Laura Dahmer, Music Teacher, effective August 31, 2020, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Kemp, Knittel, Smith and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by, Anita Smith, seconded by Edward Kemp, to waive the 60 day notice clause in contract, without setting precedence, and accept, with regret, the resignation for retirement of Kathleen Giuliano, Art Teacher, effective August 31, 2020, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Kemp, Knittel, Smith and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Edward Kemp, seconded by Jennifer Knittel, to approve Gabrielle Acierno, Teacher, (dual certs.-P-3 teacher/ teacher of students with disabilities), Step 1 BA, salary to be \$50,250, upon completion of employment requirements, effective September 1, 2020, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Kemp, Knittel, Smith and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Anita Smith, seconded by Edward Kemp, to approve Courtney Dunn, Teacher, (dual certs.-K-6 teacher/ teacher of students with disabilities), BA Step 3, salary to be \$51,450, upon completion of employment requirements, effective September 1, 2020, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Kemp, Knittel, Smith and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Edward Kemp, seconded by Jennifer Knittel, to approve Amanda Smith, Teacher, (dual certs.-P-3 teacher/ teacher of students with disabilities), Step 2 BA, salary to be \$50,850, upon completion of employment requirements, effective September 1, 2020, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Kemp, Knittel, Smith and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Anita Smith, seconded by Edward Kemp, to approve Rebecca Clinebell, Teacher, (dual certs.-K-6 teacher/teacher of students with disabilities), Step 3 BA, salary to be \$51,450, upon completion of employment requirements, effective September 1, 2020, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Kemp, Knittel, Smith and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Jennifer Knittel, seconded by Anita Smith, to approve the revised 2020-2021 WTSD calendar (noting early dismissal days from September 2 through September 11, 2020, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Kemp, Knittel, Smith and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Jennifer Knittel, seconded by Anita Smith, to approve the submission of the 2020 Bridge the Digital Divide Grant, in the amount of \$33,277, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Kemp, Knittel, Smith and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Anita Smith, seconded by Edward Kemp to approve two curriculum work positions, to develop technology training documents and resources for staff, students and parents, not to exceed 10 hrs. (each position), at a rate of \$30.00 per hour, as recommended by the Superintendent. RCV: Kemp, Knittel, Smith and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

D. CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from Laura Dahmer
- Letter from Kathleen Giuliano

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION - if required - None

Motion by _____, seconded by _____, 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 meeting policy and permits the Board to have a private discussion, since it deals with specific exceptions contained in N.J.S.A.10:4-12b.

- 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. 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: _____ Time: _____

Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to return to open session.

MV: _____ Time: _____

F 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.)

Bill Darcy: Has it been decided if in-person teacher will also be virtual teachers? Are the virtual teachers new teachers, or existing teachers? Thank you. – Superintendent responded.

Elizabeth North: How will paperwork packets be delivered to those who choose to remote learn? – Superintendent responded.

Karin Burd: If you cannot find an art and music teacher, what happens? – Superintendent responded.

Kristen Klein: What if very few kids sign up for remote? Will classes be merged or will there still be a teacher for each grade? – Superintendent responded.

Bill Darcy – Mr. Neuhs, sorry I had one more question. Will the virtual teachers be existing teachers or are these new teachers allocated to virtual only? – Superintendent responded.

Elizabeth North: Will the remote MD/LLD teacher combine those classes and grades and how will that work online if children struggle with virtual remote learning or learning in groups? – Superintendent responded.

Brianne Stull: Can we do remote learning with one day of in person? Will technology devices be provided if needed? – Superintendent responded.

Denise Dickson: Do we have enough room to social distance if majority of kids attend in person school? – Superintendent responded.

Karin Burd: I know the plan comes out later today, but is the only options still 5 full days or remotely? Hybrid an option? – Superintendent responded.

Elizabeth North: How will social distancing in the hallways work for children who might need breaks or opportunities to walk to calm themselves? – Superintendent responded.

Gerard Cabrera: The parent survey was not clear and not answered correctly. Can a new survey be sent out? – Superintendent responded.

Elizabeth North: How will restraints be managed with social distancing? – Superintendent responded.

Karin Burd: Why are we the only district doing 5 full days when every other district around is doing half days? Can a parent choose to do 5 half days? Can the school switch to half days? – Superintendent responded.

Bill Darcy: I assume this would be noted in meeting minutes and if so, no need to repeat but if not, would it be possible to state the names again of teachers that are retiring? – Superintendent responded.

Gerard Cabrera: Only 14 of 122 in survey indicated childcare concerns. – Superintendent responded.

Brianne Stull: Will there be extra masks available just in case for students? – Superintendent responded.

Elizabeth North: There should be a documented protocol. – Superintendent responded.

Elizabeth North: Could you also restate the names of the teachers being hired? – Superintendent responded.

Lauren Byrne: Based on the number of fully remote requests you've gotten to date; can you share an estimate of the number of students per building/per grade/per class (whichever you might know)? – Superintendent responded.

Elizabeth North: Can you restate who was hired? – Superintendent responded.

Elizabeth North: There was one missing. It was blank. – Superintendent responded.

Elizabeth North: Thank you so much. That is what I was referring to. – Superintendent responded.

Elizabeth North: Thank you again for your continued diligence and support of our community. This is no easy decision for anyone. – Superintendent responded.

Denise Dickson: When will we have teacher info for our children? – Superintendent responded.

Karin Burd: Are we able to see a classroom and lunch set up? Virtually not in person. – Superintendent responded.

Gerard Cabrera: How many classes at lunch at one time? – Superintendent responded.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Anita Smith, seconded by Jennifer Knittel, to adjourn.

MV: unanimous, motion carried. Time: 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Flynn, Business Administrator/Board Secretary