

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 9, 2024

7:03 p.m.

Minutes of September 9, 2024

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure 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 January 11, 2024, to Express Times and the Clerk of Washington Township.

Members in attendance: Kristopher Eisner, Edward Kemp, Vice President, Jennifer Knittel and Karen Graf, President. In addition, Keith Neuhs, Superintendent, Jean Flynn, Business Administrator, Jessica Garcia, Principal and Jessica McDonagh, Principal.

Members Absent: Nicholas Riess and Patrick Rock.

Flag Salute

Motion by Edward Kemp, seconded by Kristopher Eisner, to approve the minutes and executive session minutes of August 26, 2024, as presented. **(Attachment #1 & #1a)**

MV: all voting yes, motion carried.

B. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION: (Agenda items) **NONE**

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

C. SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Motion by Jennifer Knittel, seconded by Edward Kemp, to approve the Student Activity and Cafeteria Report for the month ending July 31, 2024, as presented. **(Attachment #2)**

MV: all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Edward Kemp, to approve the attached transfers, as recommended by the Superintendent. **(Attachment #3)**

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Edward Kemp, seconded by Jennifer Knittel, to approve the Bills List for August 2024.

(Attachment #4)

MV: all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Jennifer Knittel, to approve the Board Secretary's and Cash Reports for the month ending July 31, 2024, as presented. **(Attachment #5)**

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington Township Board Secretary, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16, 10(c) 3, does hereby certify that as of the date of these reports, no line-item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line-item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-16.10 (a);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent recommends that the Washington Township Board of Education accept the monthly financial reports of the Secretary and further recommends, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-16.10 (c) 4, that the Board of Education Certifies that no major account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-16.10 (b), and that as of this report sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

D. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: (Attachment #6)

Motion by Edward Kemp, seconded by Jennifer Knittel, to approve the following Substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year, upon completion of employment requirements, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Name
Andrew Kaluzny
Robert Griffiths

Motion by Jennifer Knittel, seconded by Edward Kemp, to approve the following teachers as *formal* mentors for the 2024-25 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

FORMAL MENTOR	STAFF MEMBER
Joan Pare	Zairah Lamothe – 2 nd Year
Toni Smith	Andrew Rusnak – 2 nd Year
Stacie Paruta	Melanie Ward – 2 nd Year
Amybeth Kupcha	Elizabeth Vespucci – 2 nd Year

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Edward Kemp, to approve the following teachers as *informal* mentors for the 2024-25 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

INFORMAL MENTOR	STAFF MEMBER
Dawn Nisivoccia	Jessica Catania
Toni Smith	Deanna Concato

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Jennifer Knittel, to approve the out-of-district experiences, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Staff Member	Type of Travel/Workshop	Registration Fee	Dates	Mileage RT	Parking	Tolls	Lodging	Meals
Jean Flynn	Hunterdon/Warren A.S.B.O. Meeting (Asbury, NJ)	\$195	Sept 25, Oct 30, Nov 20, Dec 11, 2024, Jan 22, Feb 26, Mar 26, April 23, May 21, 2025	12	-	-	-	-
Jennifer Hikade		\$125		11.3	-	-	-	-
Mark Flumerfelt	NJSBA Workshop-Atlantic City NJ	Part of Group Rate	Oct. 21-24, 2024	300 RT	receipts	receipts	131 per night	Receipts not to exceed GSA rates
Erin Karl	NJASSW Fall Institute	\$110	Oct. 25	112	-	-	-	-
Rebecca Whalen	NJ Pyramid Model-CAECMH	\$250.00	1x wk. for 11wks. Starting 10/9/24	80	-	-	-	-

Motion by Edward Kemp, seconded by Jennifer Knittel, to approve \$29,356 of Susan Graham’s salary to be funded by the 2025 ESEA Federal Grant, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Jennifer Knittel, seconded by Kristopher Eisner, to approve the following staff to be on the District Threat Assessment Team for the 2024-25 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Staff Member
Keith Neuhs, Superintendent
Jessica Garcia, BC Principal/District CST Director
Jessica McDonagh, PC Principal
Deb Tierney, Guidance Counselor/Assessor
Jenn Borusovic, School Psychologist/Assessor
Erin Karl, School Social Worker/Assessor
Megan Ordemann, School Social Worker/Assessor
Dawn Nisivoccia, BC Teacher
Kara Cruts, PC Teacher
Jim Hikade, BC School Resource Officer
Vinny Torre, PC School Resource Officer

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Edward Kemp, to recognize that the following staff members have successfully completed Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) De-escalation Training for the 2024-25 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Certified Staff		Non-Certified Staff
Anema, Elizabeth	Lamothe, Zaairah	Anema, Rebecca
Baxendale, Dawn	Mahon, Michele	Bitecola, Janeen
Bettenhausen, Sarah	Margolin, Raphael	Daniel, Cindy
Borusovic, Jennifer	Maurer, Courtney	Dicksen, Denise
Borusovic, Robert	McDonagh, Jessica	Faitoute, Katie
Campagna, Nicole	Meier, Mikaela	Hepp, Jeanne
Carney, Kelly	Mikitiuk, Anissa	Krukowski, Nancy
Catania, Jessica	Mitch, Joanne	Lynch, Holly
Concato, Deanna	Neuhs, Keith	Mecca, Sherri
Cruts, Kara	Nisivoccia, Dawn	Morea, Colleen
Dimitriou, Christopher	O’Cone, Ruth	Pierson, Barb
Drevitch, Christine	Ordemann, Megan	Russo, Agatha
Ferrara, Katherine	Pare, Joan	Schulte, Ann Marie
Galoppo, Lisa	Paruta, Stacie	Seiz, Renee
Garcia, Jessica	Patamia, Melissa	Ward, Courtney
Graham, Susan	Peterson, Susan	
Hawk, Laura	Rader, Rebecca	
Henderson, Jacqueline	Renner, Gina	
Hussey, Jamie	Richardson, Christina	
Kaiven, Heidi	Romel, Patricia	
Karl, Erin	Rusnak, Andrew	
Kruger, Jennifer	Schepis, Thomas	
Kupcha, Amybeth	Vespucci, Elizabeth	

Motion by Edward Kemp, seconded by Kristopher Eisner, to approve the following staff members on the Code Blue Team at Brass Castle School for the 2024-25 school year, as per the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Staff Member
Jacqueline Henderson, School Nurse - CPR Trained
Christine Drevitch – CPR Trained
Christopher Dimitriou – CPR Trained
Deb Tierney – CPR Trained
Tom Schepis – CPR Trained
Laura Hawk – CPR Trained

Steve Scism – CPR Trained
Shannon Wilhelm – CPR Trained
Susan Peterson – CPR Trained
Denise Dickson – CPR Trained
Stacie Paruta – CPR Trained
Jessica Garcia, BC Principal

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Jennifer Knittel, to approve the following clubs at Brass Castle School for the 2024-2025 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Club	Sponsor	Grade	# of Students	Season	Sessions
BC Blue & White Band	Schepis	6	30	Fall/Spring	24
BC Panther Band	Schepis	5	35	Fall/Spring	24
Boys Running Club	Scism	5-6	20-24	Spring	16
Chess Club	Drevitch	4-6	12-16	Winter/Spring	16
Chorus Club	Schepis	5-6	20	Fall/Spring	24
Crafts & Games	Wilhelm	K	30	Winter	8
Girls Running Club	Peterson/TBD	4-6	25	Spring	8
Homework Club	TBD	4-6	5-10	Fall/Spring	80-100
Inspire Ed. Movie Club	Dimitriou	4-6	20	Winter	12
Library Club	Kaiven	4-6	12	Fall/Winter	10-12
Newspaper Club	Kaiven	4-6	12	Fall/Winter	10-12
Robotics	Drevitch/Galoppo/Mahon	4-6	10-20	Spring	16
Robotics/Lego Comp.	Drevitch/Galoppo/Mahon	6	8-16	Fall	25
Senior Program	Meier/Pierson	6	8-10	Fall/Spring	4-6
Sports Club	Scism	4	20-24	Fall	6

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Edward Kemp, to approve Emily Boniface, Centenary University Student in Early Childhood Education, to observe Stacie Paruta, Special Education Teacher and Lisa Galoppo, Math Teacher at Brass Castle School to fulfill course requirements in Fall 2024, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve a health care staffing agreement between the Washington School District and Loving Care Agency, Inc. d/b/a Aveanna Healthcare, to provide one-on-one nursing services on school campus or offsite for a school sponsored event, including transportation, at the following rates for the 2024-2025 School Year, as recommended by the Superintendent. **(Attachment #7)**

RCV: **TABLED ITEM UNTIL OCTOBER 7, 2024 MEETING**

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Edward Kemp, to approve the submission of NJNSGP-The NJ Non-Profit Security Grant Program-Target Hardening Equipment for \$100,000 due by September 30, 2024, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

E. PRINCIPALS' REPORT (Attachment #8)

F. CORRESPONDENCE: None

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education:

Facilities:

Finance & Policy:

Personnel:

Motion by Edward Kemp, seconded by Kristopher Eisner, to approve an unpaid leave of absence, for Employee #4252, through the FMLA, beginning January 6, 2025, with a return date of March 28, 2025, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Edward Kemp, to approve the job description for a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) who provides behavior analysis services, behavior management consultations and behavior intervention plans for students, as recommended by the Superintendent.

(Attachment #9)

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Jennifer Knittel, seconded by Edward Kemp, to approve Heather Kerner, BCBA effective September 30, 2024, salary to be \$80,000 pro-rated, for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of employment requirements, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel and Graf all voting yes, motion carried.

H. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION - old and/or new business

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

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION - if required as indicated in items g below:

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Edward Kemp, 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.

- 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 by Individual privacy. 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: 7:37pm

Motion by Edward Kemp, seconded by Kristopher Eisner, to return to open session.

MV: unanimous, motion carried.

Time: 7:42pm

J. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Edward Kemp, to adjourn.

MV: unanimous, motion carried.

Time: 7:43pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Flynn, Business Administrator/Board Secretary