

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING

Monday, December 9, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Minutes of December 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, Jasmine Francisco, Nicholas Riess (arrived at 7:07pm), Patrick Rock and Karen Graf, President. In addition, Keith Neuhs, Superintendent, Jean Flynn, Business Administrator, Jessica Garcia, Principal and Jessica McDonagh, Principal.

Members absent: None

Flag Salute

Motion by Edward Kemp, seconded by Jennifer Knittel, to approve the minutes and executive session minutes of November 18, 2024, as presented. **(Attachment #1 & #1a)**

MV: all voting yes, Eisner and Rock abstained, motion carried.

B. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION: (Agenda items)

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

C. SECRETARY'S REPORT:

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

MV: all voting yes, motion carried.

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

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

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

(Attachment #4)

MV: all voting yes, motion carried.

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

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel, Francisco, Rock 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 Kristopher Eisner, to rescind the following motion, as recommended by the Superintendent.

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

Motion by Nicholas Riess, seconded by Jasmine Francisco, to approve the following personnel for the 2024-2025 school year, pending satisfactory completion of hiring requirements, as recommended by the Superintendent.

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

Employee	Position	Salary/Rate/Per Diem
Sarah Piccione	Paraprofessional	\$16.25, Step 1

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Edward Kemp, to accept with regret, the resignation of Agatha Russo, Paraprofessional, effective December 6, 2024, as recommended by the Superintendent.

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

Motion by Jennifer Knittel, seconded by Nicholas Riess, to approve the following Personnel for the 2024-2025 school year, pending satisfactory completion of hiring requirements, as recommended by the Superintendent.

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

Employee	Position	Salary/Rate/Per Diem
Molly Margolin	Substitute	Daily Rate
Emily Conklin	Substitute	Daily Rate

Motion by Jasmine Francisco, seconded by Jennifer Knittel, to approve the Professional Development Programs, as recommended by the Superintendent.

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

Staff Member	Type of Travel/Workshop	Registration Fee	Dates	Mileage RT	Parking	Tolls	Lodging	Meals
Peggy Edmiston	Transportation Meeting	-	Dec. 12, 2024	47.4	-	-	-	-

Motion by Jasmine Francisco, seconded by Edward Kemp, to approve Home Instruction for Student Local #16509675, up to 10 hours weekly to begin on or about December 2, 2024, with an end date TBD, with Warren County Special Services, at an hourly rate of \$74.73 (70.50 w/Admin. fee of \$4.23), as recommended by the Superintendent.

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

Motion by Jennifer Knittel, seconded by Jasmine Francisco, to approve curriculum work for K-6 Math and Language Arts at a rate of \$500 paid to WCSSSD, as part of Warren Hills Cluster Curriculum Project. The curriculum work will include updating New Jersey state-mandated curriculum requirements, as recommended by the Superintendent.

RCV: Eisner, Kemp, Knittel, Francisco, Rock and Graf all voting yes, Riess abstained, motion carried.

E. PRINCIPALS' REPORT (Attachment #7)

F. CORRESPONDENCE: (Attachment #8)

- Email from Agatha Russo

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: NONE

Facilities: NONE

Motion by Edward Kemp, seconded by Nicholas Riess, to approve the following Resolution to apply for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, FY25 Local Recreation Improvement Grant for \$100,000 with a \$25,000 match from the Washington Township Board of Education, as recommended by the Superintendent.

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

Finance & Policy: NONE

Personnel: NONE

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.)

- Parent, Kimberly Deloatch, discussed two racial incidents with inappropriate comments toward her child
- Mrs. Knittel discussed delegate assembly topics
- Mr. Rock expressed his concerns regarding lunch procedures, socialization, school sponsored events and clubs and online tutoring during the school day

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

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Jennifer Knittel, 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: 8:17pm

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Nicholas Riess, to return to open session.

MV: unanimous, motion carried.

Time: 8:27pm

J. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kristopher Eisner, seconded by Jasmine Francisco, to adjourn.

MV: unanimous, motion carried.

Time: 8:27pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Flynn, Business Administrator/Board Secretary