

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOROUGH OF TOTOWA**

MEETING MINUTES

02/17/2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of Totowa was held at Washington Park School Media Center, 10 Crews Street, Totowa, New Jersey and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:48-8(b), and guidance from the NJ Department of Community Affairs Division of Local Government Services via Zoom on February 17, 2021.

1. Call To Order

President Guarneri called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M. and led all present in the salute to the flag and remain standing for a moment of silence for our past and present troops.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Ms. Alesandrelli, Ms. Antonucci, Mr. Bierach, Ms. DeCeglie, Ms. Carr,
Mr. Guarneri, Mr. Kerwin, Mr. Reynoso and Mr. Tangora

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Patricia Capitelli, Superintendent of Schools
Vincent Varcadipane, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mr. Raymond B. Reddin, Board Attorney

3. Open Public Meeting Notice

The following statement was read by Mr. Varcadipane:

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 interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Municipal Building and notice was mailed to the North Jersey Herald News and The Record.

4. Public to be Heard

Mr. Guarneri asked Mr. Varcadipane if there were any questions from the public. Mr. Varcadipane stated there were none.

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5. Extended School Year Operations/Postings

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends the Board approve operating an Extended School Year program at Washington Park School from Monday, June 28, 2021, through Wednesday, July 28, 2021, for nineteen (19) days of instruction from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on Mondays through Thursdays.

The Summer Enrichment recommended staff position postings are as follows: the number of staff required will be dependent upon enrollment.

Special Education Teachers with Autism/ABA experience
Special Education Aides/Instructional Aides with ABA experience
Speech/Language Therapist
Occupational Therapist (part-time)
Physical Therapist (part-time)
Behaviorist (part-time)
Nurse/Aide

6. Inclement Weather Day

The Superintendent recommends the Board retroactively approve the following school closure due to inclement weather:

Monday, February 1, 2021

7. 2021- 2022 Proposed School Calendar

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021 - 2022 proposed school calendar. (see attached)

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8. Remote Learning/Early Dismissal Days

The Superintendent recommends the Board retroactively approve the following Remote Learning/Early Dismissal Days due to inclement weather:

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 & Tuesday, February 9, 2021 - Dismissal - 1:20 P.M.

9. Policy Revision 0145 - Board Member Resignation and Removal

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 0145 - Board Member Resignation and Removal.

10. Policy Adoption 0164.6 - Remote Public Board Meetings During A Declared Emergency

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the new mandated Policy 0164.6 - Remote Public Board Meetings During A Declared Emergency.

11. Regulation Revision 1642 - Earned Sick Leave Law

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Regulation 1642 - Earned Sick Leave Law.

12. Policy Adoption 1643 - Family Leave

The Superintendent presents to the Board the first read of the new mandated Policy 1643 - Family Leave.

13. Policy Revision 2415 - Every Student Succeeds Act

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the first read of the revision of mandated Policy 2415 - Every Student Succeeds Act.

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14. Policy Abolishment 2415.01 - Academic Standards, Academic Assessments, and Accountability

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the abolishment of mandated Policy 2415.01 - Academic Standards, Academic Assessments, and Accountability.

15. Policy Revision 2415.02 - Title I - Fiscal Responsibilities

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the first read of the revision of mandated Policy 2415.02 - Fiscal Responsibilities.

16. Policy Abolishment 2415.03 - Highly Qualified Teachers

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the abolishment of mandated Policy 2415.03 - Highly Qualified Teachers.

17. Policy Revision 2415.05 - Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy - 2415.05 - Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations.

18. Policy & Regulation Revision 2415.20 - Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the revised mandated Policy 2415.20 - Every Student Succeeds Act Complaints.

19. Policy Abolishment 3431.1 - Family Leave

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the abolishment of mandated Policy 3431.1 - Family Leave.

20. Policy Abolishment 3431.3 - New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the abolishment of Policy 3431.3 - New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program.

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21. Policy Revision 4125 - Employment of Support Staff Members

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 4125 - Employment of Support Staff Members.

22. Policy Abolishment 4431.1 - Family Leave

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the abolishment of mandated Policy 4431.1 - Family Leave.

23. Policy Abolishment 4431.3 - New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the abolishment of Policy 4431.3 - New Jersey Family Leave Insurance Program.

24. Policy & Regulation Revision 5330.01 - Administration of Medical Cannabis

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy & Regulation 5330.01 - Administration of Medical Cannabis.

25. Policy Revision 6360 - Political Contributions

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 6360 - Political Contributions.

26. Policy Revision 7425 - Lead Testing of Water in Schools

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 7425 - Lead Testing of Water in Schools.

27. Regulation Adoption 7425 - Lead Testing of Water in Schools

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the first read of the new mandated Regulation 7425 - Lead Testing of Water in Schools.

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28. Policy & Regulation Abolishment 7430 - School Safety

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the abolishment of mandated Policy & Regulation 7430 - School Safety.

29. Policy Revision 8330 - Student Records

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 8330 - Student Records.

30. Policy Adoption 8561 - Procurement of Procedures for School Nutrition

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the first read of the new mandated Policy 8561 - Procurement of Procedures for School Nutrition.

31. Policy Revision 9713 - Recruitment by Special Interest Groups

The Superintendent recommends to the Board the first read of the revised mandated Policy 9713 - Recruitment by Special Interest Groups.

Motion for approval of item 5-31

MOTION: Mr. Reynoso
SECONDED: Ms. DeCeglie
VOTE: Unanimous

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32. Informational

1. NJSLA Testing
2. 100th Day of School
3. Districtwide Food Drive
4. Book Exchange

Dates for Your Information

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 24 | Board of Education Meeting Approval of Budget - W.P.S 7:00 P.M. (tentative) |
| Feb. 26 | Paperless Mid-Marking Period 3 Reports Online Grades 5 - 8 |
| Mar. 24 | Board of Education Meeting Budget Hearing - WPS 7:00 P.M. (tentative) |

Attachments:

News Articles:

"Washington Park School Snowmen"

33. Committee Reports

Mr. Guarneri stated committee meetings were not held.

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34. Executive Session

A request for executive session was made to discuss personnel matters and other business excluded from the Open Public Meeting by Law. The Board entered executive session at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Reddin said, in Executive Session the Board will be discussing personnel and legal matters. The discussion will last approximately twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) minutes and no action will be taken.

Motion for approval of item 34

MOTION: Mr. Reynoso

SECONDED: Mr. Bierach

VOTE: Unanimous

The Board returned from executive session at 7:54 P.M.

35. Rescind Action - Maternity Leave Replacement

The Superintendent recommends the Board rescind the action of January 20, 2021, Item #7 - Approval - Maternity Leave Replacement.

36. Leave of Absence - Ghader Hamad

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board retroactively approve an unpaid medical leave for Ghadeer Hamad, from Friday, January 15, 2021, for an undetermined amount of time.

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37. Maternity/Child Care Leave of Absence - Cristina Kochanski

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the maternity/child care leave of absence for Cristina Kochanski as follows:

Ms. Kochanski will begin her maternity/childcare leave Wednesday, March 24, 2021, through Wednesday, June 30, 2021, as per the following provisions:

1. Leave is granted without pay and benefits.
2.
 - A. Leave will start on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.
 - B. Medical leave will be invoked from Wednesday, March 24, 2021, through Wednesday, May 12, 2021.
 - C. FMLA will be invoked from Thursday, May 13, 2021, through Wednesday, June 30, 2021, - seven (7) weeks. Benefits will be retained in accordance with FMLA.
 - D. Ms. Kochanski will use forty-two (42) sick days.
 - E. Ms. Kochanski will return on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.
 - F. Her annual benefit contribution will be charged. Benefit costs will be incurred by Ms. Kochanski for any further additional time absent outside the FMLA 12-week period.

Motion for approval of item 35-37

MOTION: Mr. Reynoso
SECONDED: Ms. DeCeglie
VOTE: Unanimous

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38. Approval of Minutes- January 20, 2021 – Regular Meeting

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2021 as presented.

Motion for approval of item 38

MOTION: Ms. DeCeglie
SECONDED: Ms. Antonucci
VOTE: Unanimous

39. Approval of Minutes- January 20, 2021 – Executive Session

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the minutes of the Executive Session during the meeting of January 20, 2021 as presented.

Motion for approval of item 39

MOTION: Mr. Tangora
SECONDED: Mr. Bierach
VOTE: Unanimous

40. Approval of Bills List – February

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the February Bills List as presented.

41. Acceptance of Financial Status Report – January

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary recommends the Board accept the Financial Status Report for the month of January 2021, as presented.

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42. Monthly Financial Certification of the Board Secretary and the Board of Education – January

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, recommends the Board certify that the major accounts and fund balances in the 2020-2021 budget have not been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

43. Acceptance of Bank Reconciliations – January

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Bank Reconciliations for the month of January 2021, as presented.

44. Acceptance of Board Secretary Report – January

The Superintendent in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Board Secretary Report for the month of January 2021, as presented.

45. Acceptance of Treasurer of School Monies Report – January

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Treasurer Report for the month of January 2021, as presented.

46. Acceptance of Financial Summary Report – January

The Superintendent in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Financial Summary Report for the month of January 2021, as presented.

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47. Approval of Line Item Budget Transfers – January

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the following line item budget transfer for the month of January 2021, as presented. (See Attachment #1 Monthly Transfer Report)

48. Acceptance of Revenue Report – January

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Revenue Report for the month of January 2021, as presented.

49. Approval of Payment of Cafeteria Invoices

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve payment of the following cafeteria invoices.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Pomptonian	Invoice 912011521	1418	\$ 10,507.09
Pomptonian	Invoice 912012221	1419	\$ 5,428.22
Pomptonian	Invoice 912012921	1420	\$ 12,146.16
Metro Fire & Safety	Invoice SM33112	1421	\$ 195.00

50. Approval of 2020-2021 IDEA Grant - Amendment

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, recommends the Board retroactively approve the 2020-2021 IDEA Grant Amendment. Unexpended monies in the amount of \$2,670.00 for basic and \$25,710.00 for Non-Public Basic. The unexpended monies from the 2019-2020 IDEA Grant will be allocated in the amended 2020-2021 IDEA Grant.

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51. Approval to Receive Bids – Turf Field Construction Phase

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve to receive bids for the Turf Field Construction Phase located at Washington Park School.

Motion for approval of item 40-51

MOTION: Ms. DeCeglie
SECONDED: Ms. Antonucci
VOTE: Unanimous

52. Old Business

There was no old business.

53. New Business

There was no new business.

54. Hearing and Petition of Citizens

Mr. Guarneri asked Mr. Varcadipane if there were any emails from the public. Mr. Varcadipane stated there were no emails.

55. Other Matters of a Timely Nature

Ms. Capitelli stated that next weeks meeting is being postponed and will be rescheduled for March 1, 2020. The meeting will only be held to approve the submission of the budget to the County Department of Education. The budget hearing and presentation is scheduled for the end of March 2021.

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56. Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. Reynoso and seconded by Ms. DeCeglie this meeting was adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Vincent Varcadipane
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary