BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MEETING MINUTES

05/24/2023

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 on May 24, 2023.

1. Call To Order

President Antonucci called the meeting to order at 7:10 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. Carr, Ms. Coiro, Mr. Kerwin, Mr. La Rose, Mr. Parlegreco and Dr. Vancheri
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.

Ms. Antonucci read the following resolution.

YOUTH WEEK

4. Youth Week Resolution - Heather Antonucci

WHEREAS, in the observance of Youth Week, students have been designated in the place and stead of the respective members of the Totowa Board of Education.

WHEREAS, the said students shall conduct the business of the said Board under the guidance of the duly elected Board member.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: by the Board, that any and/or all actions on behalf of said Board are hereby and herewith ratified and confirmed as the official actions of the Board as if the same were acting directly in person.

Motion for approval of item 4

MOTION:	Mr. La Rose
SECONDED:	Mr. Bierach
VOTE:	Unanimous

Ms. Capitelli introduced all of the students and their positions.

2022-2023 YOUTH WEEK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chase Marshall – President – Heather Antonucci -President
Nicole Schaffer – Vice President – Julie Alesandrelli - Vice President
Tanjim Kadir – Gary Bierach
Samantha Rivera – Gregory LaRose
Gianluca Polibio – Nicholas Vancheri
Laisha Gallardo – Joseph Parlegreco
Josh Giarrusso - Kenneth Kerwin
Samera Sherifi – Rose Marie Carr
Caylee Reynolds – Kristen Coiro

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Adam Hinnawi – Chief School Administrator- Patricia Capitelli
Jayden Gandhi - School Business Administrator, Board Secretary- Vincent Varcadipane
Kush Thaker – Principal WPS- David Bower
Leah Clarke - Vice-Principal WPS- Timothy Tracy
Liliani Ramirez – Principal MS- Joseph Compel
Derek Guess – Supervisor/Special Education- Lauren Terranova
Keshav Desai – Supervisor/Curriculum- Aldo Deodino
Krishna Thaker – Board of Education Attorney- Raymond Reddin

5. Graduation

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item #5 on our agenda, Graduation?

GALLARDO: I make that motion.

SHERIFI: I second it.

MARSHALL: Discussion?

POLIBIO: Is June 16th the last day of school for students?

HINNAWI: Yes. The last day of school is June 16th.

KADIR: In the past, wasn't our graduation always held on the evening of the last day?

CLARKE: No. There have been years in the past when the students had to return to school a day or two after graduation to complete the 180th day of school. In the past, students looked forward to coming back again. The pressure is off, and they can enjoy themselves. I know the teachers enjoyed the interaction. They look forward to seeing their students one last time and wishing them luck.

KUSH: The earliest last day of school for graduation this school year is June 16th, so I am recommending that the board approve Friday, June 16, 2023, as the day of graduation.

SHERIFI: I can understand that. Thank you.

RIVERA: The students receive their diplomas the night of the graduation…is that correct?

HINNAWI: Yes. They will receive their diplomas.

MARSHALL: (WAIT A MOMENT FOR OTHER COMMENTS). Roll call please.

GANDHI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

6. Last Day of School

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item #6 on our agenda, last day of school?

RIVERA: I make that motion Mr. President.

MARSHALL: Do I have a second?

GALLARDO: I second it.

MARSHALL: Is there any discussion?

GIARRUSSO: Are we meeting the state requirements for the adequate number of days for this school year?

KRISHNA: Yes, we are. The state requires that students attend school 180 days.

SHERIFI: But what about one session days?

CLARKE: Our dismissals are set at 1:20 P.M. This meets the requirements of the minimum number of hours of instructional time.

KRISHNA: Legally, passing time between classes does not count along with lunch while homeroom does count.

CLARKE: A 1:20 P.M. dismissal ensures this district that the four hours are met beyond a reasonable doubt.

KRISHNA: It is important that the four hour time requirement demand be met without question. Legally, the state could refuse to count a day spent with less than four hours of instructional time and the district would have to schedule another day of school or jeopardize state funding.

MARSHALL: Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

GANDHI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

7. Graduation Dance

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item #7 on our agenda, Graduation Dance and approval of a 1:20 dismissal for eighth grade students.

GIARRUSSO: I make a motion to approve the 8th grade Graduation Dance on Wednesday, May 31st at The Grande and that May 31st be adopted as a one-session day with dismissal at 1:20 P.M. for 8th graders only.

RIVERA: I second the motion

MARSHALL: Discussion...

KADIR: Is it necessary for 8th graders to have a one-session day for this event?

KUSH: This has always been done in the past.

POLIBIO: I just feel that for our students to receive the best education possible, they need to be in class.

HINNAWI: The reason the 8th grade students have a one-session day is to give them extra time to get ready for the dance.

KADIR: I'm just stating my opinion.

SHERIFI: Time in class is important. I agree with Mr. Kadir. We're giving students time off from school to get their hair done.

HINNAWI: If this has always been done, how do we take it away this year?

KADIR: I don't think they should have the day off. Put it to a vote Mr. President.

MARSHALL: Is there any other discussion? (Wait 3 seconds, look around).

REYNOLDS: Yes, I have another question. Concerning our discipline policy and our extra-curricular point system, are students with 11 or more points excluded from this dance?

SCHAFFER: I sat in on those discipline committees and correct me if I am wrong, but we decided since it was the last social event of the year, all would be forgiven, and students would be permitted to attend this dance.

KUSH: That is true, Ms. Schaffer, unless the circumstances warrant our recommendation that a student does not attend the dance.

KADIR: Has a student ever been denied permission to attend this dance?

HINAWI: No, this has not happened yet.

GALLARDO: I would like to ask our attorney for an opinion.

KRISHNA: Well, the board adopted the discipline policy several years ago. They revised this policy as well. The board has the right to make changes or modifications they deem necessary with the recommendation from the Superintendent. I think what you are asking me is…Is it legal for the administration to allow students with 11 points or more to attend the dance? The answer is absolutely. Is it legal for the administration to use its discretion and not allow a student to attend based on extenuating circumstances? The answer to that question is also yes. In fact, in instances of safety and well-being of students, the administration has an obligation to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff.

CLARKE: Again, in the long past, the PTO wanted every student to attend, and they felt it was their dance. The administration was, in effect, powerless to stop a student from attending. After several incidents in the past few years, the PTO has agreed to honor the administration's request to eliminate a student from attending this dance.

KUSH: As principal of Washington Park School, I attend this dance every year. I cannot remember when we recommended that a student being prohibited from attending the dance.

MARSHALL: Thank you everyone. Roll call please.

GHANDI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio		No	
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir		No	
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

8. TPK End-of-the-Year Ceremony

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item #8 on our agenda, TPK End-of-the-Year Ceremony?

RIVERA: I make that motion Mr. President.

MARSHALL: Do I have a second?

GALLARDO: I second it.

RAMIREZ: The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the TPK End-of-the-Year Ceremony to be held on Friday, June 2, 2023.

MARSHALL: Is there any discussion? …..hearing none….roll call.

GANDHI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

9. Kindergarten Moving On Ceremony

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item #9 on our agenda, Kindergarten Moving On Ceremony

GALLARDO: I make that motion.

SHERIFI: I second it.

MARSHALL: Discussion?

RAMIREZ: The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the Kindergarten Moving On Ceremony to be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.

SCHAFFER: Where will this ceremony be held?

RAMIREZ: The ceremony will be held in the back of the Washington Park School Gym.

SCHAFFER: Is there a plan in the event of inclement weather?

RAMIREZ: Yes, there is a rain date of Thursday, June 8, 2023.

MARSHALL: Thank you everyone. Roll call please.

GANDHI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio		No	
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir		No	
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

10. Field Day/Student Appreciation Day

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item #10 on our agenda, Field Day/Student Appreciation Day?

SHERIFI: I'll make that motion.

RIVERA: And I'll second it.

MARSHALL: Discussion?

REYNOLDS: What is the date for SAD Day?

CLARKE: Friday, June 9th.

REYNOLDS: My impression of Field Day is a lot of physical activity, games, contests, etc. Will this be the same?

CLARKE: Yes. Students will move from each activity to the next. There are several activities in each of the five sections including, for example, boxball, kickball, Karaoke, cam jam, and cornhole.

SHERIFI: It will be interesting to see the participation of the students.

MARSHALL: Any further discussion? …..hearing none….roll call.

GANDHI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

11. Professional Days

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item #11 on our agenda, Professional Days?

RIVERA: I make that motion.

REYNOLDS: I second it.

MARSHALL: Any discussion? …..hearing none….roll call.

GANDHI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

12. 2023-2024 School Hours

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item #12, 2023-2024 school hours?

KADIR: I make a motion.

GALLARDO: I second it.

MARSHALL: Discussion?

SCHAFFER: It is recommended that the Board approve the same school hours for the 2023-2024 school year.

REYNOLDS: Would staggered times help our efficiency rating with the State of New Jersey?

RAMIREZ: How would that make any difference? The bus still has to do each route. Wouldn't staggered times just mean that each bus does a double route.

KUSH: Actually, bus numbers 1, 6, and 7 are not filled to capacity. This is due to the fact that we try to ensure the safety of students by picking up and dropping off on the same side of the street.

RAMIREZ: Buses 6 and 7 do the runs on Totowa Road and Riverview Drive. One bus travels down one side and another bus travels down the other side of the road.

POLIBIO: We have never permitted these buses to stop in the middle of these busy thoroughfares to allow children to cross the street to board the bus.

RAMIREZ: I would not feel comfortable doing that either. I would not trust that cars are going to stop and let students board the bus.

HINNAWI: I could never support such a measure for any reason whether it is budgetary or mandates from the state. Children's safety comes first.

MARSHALL: Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

GANDHI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

13. Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG)

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item #13 on our agenda, Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG)?

KADIR: I make a motion.

GALLARDO: I second it.

MARSHALL: Discussion?

REYNOLDS: Is this a state mandated program?

DESAI: Yes, to be eligible for state aid a Parents Advisory Group must be in place. It is required for all school districts in New Jersey.

SHERIFI: What is the purpose of this group?

DESAI: The purpose of these groups is to provide opportunities for parents and community members to offer input to their districts on critical issues relating to students with disabilities.

GUESS: A Special Education Parents Advisory board can communicate the needs of parents whose children receive special education and related services. It can advise school leaders through parental input.

DESAI: This advisory group can provide opportunities for districts to share information with parents about improvements to programs related to special education and other issues.

GUESS: The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG) meetings for the 2023 – 2024 school year to be held at Washington Park School on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 9:30 A.M. and Monday, March 25, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

MARSHALL: Any further discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

GHANDI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

14. Special Olympics - Project Unify

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item #14 on our agenda, Special Olympics - *Project UNIFY*

GIARRUSSO: I'll make that motion.

POLIBIO: And I'll second it.

SCHAFFER: What is the long range goal of this program as it is associated with the Special Olympics?

CLARKE: Project Unify brings together our students to explore and discuss issues of difference through both school and extracurricular activities. It helps to create a school climate of respect and tolerance for all students but more specifically for those with intellectual disabilities.

POLIBIO: What is the responsibility of the advisor?

DESAI: Besides overseeing both school and extracurricular activities, the advisor is the liaison to work with the Special Olympics New Jersey. He/she is also the person who acts as the main point of contact for the school, providing a status update on all Project UNIFY activities since it is funded by the US Department of Education. The advisors for the 2023-2024 school year will be under the supervision of Ms. Terranova.

SHERIFI: Without a doubt, this is a very worthy program.

MARSHALL: Any further discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

GHANDI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

15. 2022-2023 Lead Testing Statement Assurance

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for items #15, 2022 - 2023 Lead Testing Statement of Assurance

GALLARDO: I make a motion.

RIVERA: I second it.

MARSHALL: Discussion?

CLARKE: The recommendation is for the board to approve submission of the Lead Testing Statement of Assurance to the New Jersey State Department of Education for the 2022-2023 school year.

RIVERA: Is this state mandated?

CLARKE: Yes. All district boards of education must submit to the New Jersey State Department of Education on an annual basis a statement of assurance that lead testing was completed. Samples are required to be sent to a certified testing laboratory for analysis.

MARSHALL: Any discussion? …..hearing none….roll call.

GANDHI: Thank you.

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

16. Extended School Year Operations - Revision

MARSHALL: Item #16, Extended School Year Operations- Revision. Can I have a motion and a second?

KADIR: I'll make that motion.

SCHAFFER: I'll second it.

MARSHALL: Any discussion?

KRISHNA: The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends that the Board approve operating the 2023-2024 Extended School Year program at Washington Park School and Memorial School to be run from Wednesday, June 21 through Tuesday, July 25, 2023; 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., Mondays through Thursdays except for Friday, June 23. There will be no class on Monday, July 3, 2023, or Tuesday, July 4, 2023.

SHERIFI: I think it is a great opportunity that the school affords students to provide a program so that children will not digress over the summer break.

MARSHALL: Is there any other discussion?……Roll call.

GANDHI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

17. Recognition of the Passaic Valley Elks #2111 Americanism Essay Contest Winners

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item #17 on our agenda Recognition of the Passaic Valley Elks #2111 Americanism Essay Contest Winners

RIVERA: I'll make that motion.

GALLARDO: And I'll second it.

MARSHALL: Any discussion?

POLIBIO: What were the theme and guidelines for this contest?

DESAI: The theme of this contest was "What Is Your American Dream?" It also had to be written with no more than 300 words, so students had to write clearly and precisely. There were three different tiers for the winners: the Lodge Level, the District Level, which encompasses West Milford to Westwood), and the State level.

POLIBIO: Did Totowa have any winners from any of these levels?

DESAI: Yes, we are very pleased to announce the names of the winners at each level.

Lodge Level:

5th – Joseph Siecieka
6th – James Pasquariello
7th – Mohammad Hinnawi
8th – Obada Arous

District Level:

6th – James Pasquariello
8th – Obada Arnous

State Level:

8th – Obada Arnous

From the state level, Obada Arnous will be moved on to the Grand Lodge Competition, where the winner will be announced in July.

RIVERA: I am sure all the members of the board agree with me that we are very proud of the accomplishments of these students and want to extend our best wishes and good luck to Obada Arnous to win in July at the Grand Lodge Competition.

HINNAWI: In consultation with the Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, I recommend the Board acknowledge the winners of the 2022-2023 Passaic Valley Elks Americanism Essay Contest.

MARSHALL: Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

GHANDI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

18. Use of Facilities PTO Pizza Lunch

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item # 18 on our agenda, Use of Facilities PTO Pizza Lunch.

SCHAFFER: I'll make that motion.

REYNOLDS: And I'll second it.

MARSHALL: Any discussion?

SCHAFFER: According to the agenda, the PTO wishes to use the cafeterias at Memorial and Washington Park School on Friday, June 16, 2023, to provide pizza and water to the students in grades kindergarten through eighth. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the PTO for all their hard work on behalf of our students.

MARSHALL: Any further discussion? …..hearing none….roll call.

GHANDI: Thank you.

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

19. Use of Facilities Totowa Board of Recreation

MARSHALL: May I have a motion for item # 19 on our agenda, Use of Facilities Totowa Board of Recreation.

GALLARDO: I'll make that motion.

KADIR: And I'll second it.

MARSHALL: Discussion?

HINNAWI: In consultation with the Administrative Team, I recommend the Board approve the request of the Totowa Board of Recreation for use of the parking lot at Washington Park School on Saturday, June 10, 2023, from 7:00 A.M. to midnight for Totowa Day.

SCHAFFER: We should all support the Totowa Board of Recreation for all that its members do for the community. I would also like to express my opinion that Totowa residents should step out and support Totowa Day.

MARSHALL: Any further discussion? Roll call.

GHANDI: Thank you.

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

MARSHALL: Mr. Superintendent, can we have your report?

HINNAWI: The school year is soon coming to an end, and what a year it was! With all the challenges, the Totowa teachers have remained dedicated to providing students with a most positive learning environment. There was also much support from the entire Totowa Community.

CLARKE: The students at Washington Park School have been able to take advantage of the nice weather having recess and lunch outside.

KUSH: May I add that teachers are free to sign up and have classes outside on the lunch tables. The students appreciate the change of venue.

DESAI: All state testing, grades 3 through 8, has been completed. April and May were busy months, with NJSLA testing grades three to eight including makeups. The students, as well as the teachers, are glad this can be put behind them, and they could now look forward to moving ahead with plans regarding the completion of the school year. Eighth grade is particularly happy since they could look forward to moving on to high school.

KUSH: Washington Park School's spring concert was held on May 18TH. Students, under the direction of Mr. Carl, worked very hard preparing for the concert. The chorus, under the direction of Mr. Latka, also performed. The chorus represented students from grades four through eight. Their hard work really paid off because the concert was successful, and all who attended seemed to have appreciated all the hours of practice that was put onto the program.

HINNAWI: The students once again visited Washington, D.C. without incident. I would like to thank and commend all the teachers for their time and dedication. It is a huge responsibility to attend an overnight trip like this one, and, with our excellent teachers and administrators, it always proceeds smoothly.

KUSH: Students and faculty were great. Thank you. The students were well behaved and are to be commended.

HINNAWI: On behalf of the students in this year's Youth Week Program, I would like to thank the Totowa Board of Education, administration, teachers, Mayor, and Council for an experience that we will remember for a lifetime. I make a motion that we turn this meeting back over to the elected members of the Totowa Board of Education. Can I have a motion and a second?

REYNOLDS: I'll make that motion.

KADIR: And I'll second it.

MARSHALL: Any other discussions…..hearing none….roll call.

GANDHI: Thank you. May I have a roll call?

	YES	NO	Abstain
Ms. Rivera	Yes		
Ms. Gallardo	Yes		
Ms. Sherifi	Yes		
Ms. Schaffer	Yes		
Ms. Reynolds	Yes		
Mr. Polibio	Yes		
Mr. Marshall	Yes		
Mr. Kadir	Yes		
Mr. Giarrusso	Yes		

GANDHI: Thank You. (BANG THE GAVEL)

Ms. Capitelli congratulated the students on all of their hard work to completing this year's Youth Week. Ms. Capitelli stated that the students great job.

The Totowa Board of Education gave the students a round of applause.

Mr. Parlegrecco left at this time.

20. Informational

NJSLA Testing

Memorial School Spring Concert

Washington Park School Spring Concert

Youth Week

Dates for Your Information:

May 25-29	School Closed – Memorial Day Weekend
May 30	Fifth Grade Trip – Meadowlands Environmental Center
May 31	Municipal Drug Alliance Program "Vaping Prevention" 9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. for 6th – 8Th Grade Students
May 31	PTO Eighth Grade Dance – The Grande
June 1-2	Seventh Grade Trip – Boston
June 5	Sixth Grade Trip – Fairview
June 7	Kindergarten Moving On Ceremony – WPS 6:00 P.M.
June 8	Awards Assembly - WPS 9:30 A.M.
June 8	Kindergarten Moving On Ceremony (Rain Date) – WPS 6:00 P.M.
June 9	Student Appreciation Day – WPS
June 9	Municipal Drug Alliance Program "Mr. Peace-Diversity: Need Human Kindness" 9:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. for 4th & 5th Grade Students
June 13	Fourth Grade Orientation – WPS 4:00 P.M.
June 16	Report Cards Posted Online – Marking Period 4
June 16	1:20 P.M. Dismissal
June 16	Eighth Grade Graduation – WPS 6:00 P.M.

Use of Facility:

June 5	PTO General Meeting – WPS 7:00 P.M.
June 8	PTO Executive Meeting (WPS)

Use of Field:

May	P.A.L. Baseball and Softball Mon. – Fri. 5:00 P.M. – Dusk Sat. – Sun. 9:00 A.M. - Dusk

Attachments:

1st Grade Spring Concert Program
2nd Grade Spring Concert Program
3rd Grade Spring Concert Program
Washington Park School Spring Concert Program

Reports:

Discipline Reports

21. Committee Reports

Ms. Antonucci stated committee meetings were not held.

22. Executive Session

The board did not enter into executive session.

23. Substitute Teachers

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the following substitute teachers submitted by the Substitute Registry:

Priority I

Shaker, Kathryn Leigh
Leibowitz, Neeva

Priority II

Natshe, Ziad
Manzi, Lauren
Atiyat, Razan
Atkhter, Jasmin
Islam, MD
Butler, Angela
Lurato, Lisa

24. Approval Extended School Year Program Staffing

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends the Board appoint to the Summer Enrichment Program from Wednesday, June 21, 2023, through Tuesday, July 25, 2023, from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., on Mondays through Thursdays the following staff members:

Certified Staff – 2022/2023 Salary Prorated Hourly Based on 1/200th Per Diem.

Heather Corrado Alycia Desmond Gina McQuin
Erica Wolpert Maggie Morris (Speech Therapist)
Lori Johnson (School Nurse) from June 21, 2023, to July 6, 2023
Jennifer Schweighardt (School Nurse) from July 10, 2023 to July 25, 2023

Instructional Aide w/Standard Certificate – Salary at the rate of $19.75 per hour.

Brittany Patten Nuria Cordoba

Instructional Aides w/CEAS, CE, or Four Year College Grad – Salary at the rate of $17.75 per hour.

Meredith Warburton Yasmeen Hamideh Jasmine Sulthana

Special Education Aides – Salary at the rate of $17.25 per hour.

Sandy Cittrich Cathy Daniele Filiz Dinc
Toni Malatesta Norka Parrales Joanne Schwartz

Physical Therapist – Northern Regional Educational Services Commission - Not to exceed 12 hours per week.

Occupational Therapist – Not to exceed 12 hours per week at the rate of $80.00 per hour.

Alisha Romano

Behaviorist – Not to exceed 20 hours per week at the rate of $80.00 per hour.

Erica Minde

25. Resignation – Catherine Sofocleus

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board accept the resignation of Catherine Sofocleus, Teacher, for the Totowa School District effective Friday, June 30, 2023.

26. Rescind Action – Appointment Special Education Aide 2022 – 2023 School Year

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board rescind the action of the May 3, 2023, Reorganization Board meeting Item Number Seventeen, the Reappointment of School Aides for the 2023 – 2024 school year as per attached.

Motion for approval of item 23-26

MOTION: Mr. La Rose
SECONDED: Mr. Bierach
VOTE: Unanimous (Dr. Vancheri abstained from Agenda items related to NRESC)

27. Approval of Minutes- May 3, 2023 – Regular Meeting

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the minutes of the meeting of May 3, 2023, as presented.

Motion for approval of item 27

MOTION: Mr. Kerwin
SECONDED: Ms. Alesandrelli
VOTE: Unanimous

28. Approval of Minutes- May 3, 2023 – 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 May 3, 2023, as presented.

Motion for approval of item 28

MOTION: Ms. Carr
SECONDED: Mr. Bierach
VOTE: Unanimous

29. Approval of Bills List – May 24, 2023

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the May 24, 2023 Bills List as presented.

30. Acceptance of Financial Status Report – April

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary recommends the Board accept the Financial Status Report for the month of April 2023, as presented.

31. Monthly Financial Certification of the Board Secretary and the Board of Education – April

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, recommends the Board certify that the major accounts and fund balances in the 2022-2023 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.

32. Acceptance of Bank Reconciliations – April

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Bank Reconciliations for the month of April 2023, as presented.

33. Acceptance of Board Secretary Report – April

The Superintendent in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Board Secretary Report for the month of April 2023, as presented.

34. Acceptance of Treasurer of School Monies Report – April

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Treasurer Report for the month of April 2023, as presented.

35. Acceptance of Financial Summary Report – April

The Superintendent in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Financial Summary Report for the month of April 2023, as presented.

36. Approval of Line-Item Budget Transfers – April

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 April 2023, as presented. (See Attachment #1 Monthly Transfer Report)

37. Acceptance of Revenue Report – April

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Revenue Report for the month of April 2023, as presented.

38. 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.

Vendor	Description	Check #	Amount
Totowa Board of Education	Custodial Reimb.	Transfer to Warrant	$ 15,147.49

39. Approval of the Safety Grant Application – New Jersey Schools Insurance Group ERIC West Sub Fund

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommended the Board approve the New Jersey School Insurance Group ERIC West Sub fund Safety Grant Application in the amount of $2,600.00 for the purchase of new window coverings for security purposes. (See attachment #2)

40. Approval of Contracts – Pursuant to PL 2015 Chapter 47

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends Pursuant to PL 2015, Chapter 47 the Totowa Board of Education intends to renew, award, or permit to expire the following contracts previously awarded by the board of education. These contracts are, have been, and will continue to be in full compliance with all state and federal statutes and regulations; in particular, New Jersey Title 18A: 18. Et.seq, NJAC Chapter 23, and Federal Procurement Regulations 2CFR, Part 200.317 et. Seq.

First Student	Warmaire Conditioning LLC
Lyons Environmental Services LLC	Pomptonian
Dr. Marzena Odorczuk	National Geographic Learning Exploring Science
Passaic Valley High School	New Jersey School Insurance Group ERIC West Sub Fund
Lawn Doctor	Sterba & Associates
PG Chambers	Lerch, Vinci, and Higgins
Premiere Energy	Millenium Strategies, LLC
Raymond B. Reddin	Innovation Designs For Education
Adam, Gutierrez & Lattiboudere LLC	Gaeta Recycling Co Inc
Rullo & Juillet Associates	Totowa Police Department
Washington South	Valic
Delta Dental Insurance	Equitable
Phoenix Advisors, LLC	Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt
DJ Egarian & Associates Inc.	Study Island and Edmentum
Advance Education Advisement	Industrial Appraisal
Corporation	Optimum
Hanson & Ryan Inc.	JAM Graphics
Metropolitan Life	Arrow Elevator Inc
Lincoln National	Viking Inc
Di Dio Electric Inc.	CJ Vanderbeck
United Fire Sprinkler	Verizon
Lightpath/Altice	E-Rate Consulting
Bayada Pediatrics	J&J Gym Floors
Northern Region Educational Services	ACES Cooperative Pricing System
Commission	Spinella Landscaping
Bergen County Special Services	Structural Workshop LLC
Staples	Fence America
School Specialty	Commission for the Blind and Visually Impiared
Stauss Esmay Associates	Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission
Realtime	LandTek Group, Inc
System 3000	Briggs Associates
CC Productions	Commercial Protective
Metro Fire and Safety Co.	Sourcewell CoOp
The Educational Services Commission	J.A. Frezza & Associates LLC
Of New Jersey	Keystone Sports Construction
Jan Fence	Alvino Asphalt, LLC
The Homestead Roofing Co Inc	The Shepard School
LinkIt!	Follet
Associated Technology, Inc. Mechanical	K&J Accessories, Inc.
& Electrical Consulting Engineers	Centralpack Engineering

41. Approval of Associated Technology, Inc Proposal

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve Associated Technology Inc, proposal for design and bid package preparation of an expanded potential Boiler project at Washington Park School to include HVAC units for the cafeteria and corridors. (See attachment #3)

42. Acceptance of Bid 23-20 Replace Rooftop Make-Up Air Heating Units

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept Centralpack Engineering Corp's bid for Bid No. 23-20 Replace Rooftop Make-Up Air Heating Units at Washington Park School in the amount of $159,900.00. Work is to be completed before September 30, 2023.

Motion for approval of item 29-42

MOTION: Mr. La Rose
SECONDED: Mr. Bierach
VOTE: Unanimous (Mr. Bierach abstained from PO 23-1540 on item #29 Bills List May 24, 2023, Dr. Vancheri abstained from Agenda items and PO's related to NRESC)

43. Old Business

There was no old business.

44. New Business

There was no new business.

45. Hearing and Petition of Citizens

No citizens wished to be heard.

46. Other Matters of a Timely Nature

There was no other matters of a timely nature.

47. Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. Bierach and seconded by Dr. Vancheri this meeting was adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Varcadipane
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary