# BOARD OF EDUCATION
# BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

## MEETING MINUTES

05/26/2021

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 May 26, 2021.

### 1. Call To Order

President Antonucci 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. Carr, Ms. DeCeglie, Mr. La Rose, Mr. Reynoso and Mr. Tangora |
| Members Absent: | Mr. Kerwin |
| 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. Tangora |
| SECONDED: | Ms. DeCeglie |
| VOTE: | Unanimous |

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
**BOROUGH OF TOTOWA**

**MEETING MINUTES**

05/26/2021

**2020-2021 YOUTH WEEK BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Alayna Antonucci – President – Ms. Antonucci -President
Giuliana Antonucci – Vice President – Ms. Alesandrelli - Vice President
Noah Cuccinello – Mr. Bierach
Ava Drakakis – Mr. LaRose
Jordyn French – Mr. Reynoso
Gianna Gaboda – Mr. Tangora
Ariana Gandhi - Mr. Kerwin
Ethan Lamberty – Ms. Carr
Alexander Retamozo – Ms. DeCeglie

**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**
Natalia Furman - Superintendent
Hope Sullivan - School Business Administrator, Board Secretary
Derek Melissant – Principal WPS
Tristan Puerta - Vice-Principal WPS
Nashit Ifti – Principal MS
Hannah Alvarez – Supervisor/Special Education
Kyle Chou – Supervisor/Curriculum
Hope Sullivan – Board of Education Attorney
Sophia Volpe - Supervisor Building/Grounds

**5. Graduation**

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

**GABODA:** I make that motion.

**LAMBERTY:** I second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Discussion?

**FRENCH:** Is June 15TH the last day of school for students?

**FURMAN:** NO. The last day of school is June 17TH.

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

**PUERTA:** 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. Actually, that will be the case this year. Since we are graduating outside, we are leaving open the last two days of school as rain dates. 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.

**MELISSANT:** The earliest last day of school for graduation this school year was June 17TH, but I am recommending that the board approve, Tuesday, June 15TH, 2021, as the day of graduation.

**LAMBERTY:** I can understand that. Thank you.

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

**FURMAN:** Yes. They will receive their diplomas.

**SULLIVAN:** However, under the circumstances, the format of the graduation will be different this year. The mandates from the state of New Jersey will dictate the format of the commencement exercise.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** (WAIT A MOMENT FOR OTHER COMMENTS). Roll call please.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**6. Last Day of School**

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

**DRAKAKIS:** I make that motion Madame President.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Do I have a second?

**GABODA:** I second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Is there any discussion?

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

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

**LAMBERTY:** But what about one session days?

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

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

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

**SULLIVAN:** 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.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**7. 2021-2022 School Hours**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** May I have a motion for item #7, 2021-2022 school hours?

**CUCCINELLO:** I make a motion.

**GABODA:** I second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Discussion?

**GIULIANA ANTONUCCI:** It is recommended that the Board approve the same school hours for the 2021-2022 school year.

**RETAMOZO:** Concerning our problems with courtesy busing, do any of these hours cause a conflict? Would staggered times help our efficiency rating with the State of New Jersey?

**VOLPE:** 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.

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

**VOLPE:** 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.

**GIULIANA ANTONUCCI:** 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.

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

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

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | Yes | No | Abstain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**8. Borough of Totowa Public Library Summer Reading Program**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** May I have a motion for item #8 Borough of Totowa Public Library Summer Reading Program. May I have a motion and a second?

**LAMBERTY:** I'll make a motion.

**FRENCH:** I'll second it

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Discussion?

**FRENCH:** I seem to recall that in the past this program was offered primarily for kindergarten through fourth grade students.

**CHOU:** Yes. However, this year the program is offered to the students up to eighth grade.

**ALVAREZ:** The program continues to be very successful. The Borough of Totowa Public Library, under the direction of Ms. Krautheim, continues to partner with our district. The theme of this summer's reading program is, "Tails and Tales." It will kick off on June 21, 2021 with a "Drive-By Ice Cream Social" from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. The students who read the most books on each grade level will win breakfast/lunch with Ms. Capitelli at a date to be determined.

**IFTI:** As you know, we have made reading a priority at Memorial School. Reading is very important as it is the foundation of learning. We are happy to work in collaboration with our town library.

**CHOU:** I am glad we are using other resources to supplement our programs.

**SULLIVAN:** The program is very positive. I have heard only great things while down at the ball field (pause) and from my neighbors and friends.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**9. Totowa School District Home Instruction Plan**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** May I have a motion for item #9 on our agenda, Totowa School District Home Instruction Plan?

**FRENCH:** I'll make that motion.

**GABODA:** And I'll second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any discussion?

**ALVAREZ:** Again, I just wish to bring to the board's attention that this approval is retroactive. It has been submitted to the New Jersey State Department of Education.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**10. Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG)**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** May I have a motion for item #10 on our agenda, Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG)

**CUCCINELLO:** I make a motion.

**GABODA:** I second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Discussion?

**RETAMOZO:** Is this a state mandated program?

**CHOU:** 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.

**LAMBERTY:** What is the purpose of this group?

**FURMAN:** 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.

**ALVAREZ:** 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.

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

**ALVAREZ:** The recommendation is for the Board to approve the Special Education Parents Advisory Group (SEPAG) meetings for the 2021 - 2022 school year to be held at Washington Park School on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, and Monday, March 7, 2022, at 9:30 A.M.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any further discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**11. Special Education Extraordinary Aid**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** May I have a motion for item #11 on our agenda, Special Education Extraordinary Aid?

**GANDHI:** I'll make that motion.

**RETAMOZO:** And I'll second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Discussion?

**GABODA:** What exactly does this aid support?

**ALVAREZ:** The extraordinary aid program provides additional aid to districts with classified students who have certain expenses over a set threshold. The application for reimbursement is for costs incurred during the 2020-21 school year. Applications were accepted through May 11, 2021.

**GABODA:** Thank you.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any further discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**12. Awards Assembly**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** May I have a motion for item #12 on our agenda, Washington Park School Awards Assembly

**LAMBERTY:** I'll make that motion.

**GIULIANA ANTONUCCI:** And I'll second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any discussion?

**CUCCINELLO:** Will the awards be presented in person?

**MELISSANT:** No. Under the circumstances, the format will be a Virtual Awards Assembly to be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at 2:30 P.M.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any further discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**13. Kindergarten "Moving On' Ceremony**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** May I have a motion for item #13 on our agenda, Kindergarten "Moving On" Ceremony.

**RETAMOZO:** I'll make a motion.

**FRENCH:** I'll second it

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Discussion?

**FURMAN**: The recommendation is for the board to approve the drive-through Kindergarten "Moving On" Celebration to held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. with a rain date of Wednesday, June 2, 2021.

**RETAMOZO:** I seem to recall that the eighth grade graduates last year participated in a drive-through graduation.

**IFTI**: Yes, and the format for the kindergarten graduation will be the same format since it worked so well for all concerned last year.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**14. Community Based Instruction Field Trips**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** May I have a motion for item #14 on our agenda, Community Based Instruction Field Trips?

**GIULIANA ANTONUCCI:** I make a motion.

**GANDHI:** I second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Discussion?

**FRENCH:** What educational value does this support?

**SULLIVAN:** Students from the RISE 4 class, along with the teachers and staff, will be provided an opportunity to be exposed and introduced to various businesses in town.

**GIULIANA ANTONUCCI:** I think we, as a board, should approve of any program that encourages a joined educational union between local businesses in our community and our school system.

**DRAKAKIS:** I whole heartedly agree.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any other discussions?.....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLVIAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**15. Field Day/Student Appreciation Days**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** May I have a motion for item #15 on our agenda, Field Day/Student Appreciation Day?

**LAMBERTY:** I'll make that motion.

**DRAKAKIS:** And I'll second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Discussion?

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

**PUERTA:** Yes. Students will remain in their cohorts as they 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.

**GIULIANA ANTONUCCI:** I assume this is for the in-person students. Is there a plan for those who are remote?

**MELISSSANT:** There is a virtual Student Appreciation Day similar to what all students had last spring.

**LAMBERTY:** It will be interesting to see the participation from the students.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any further discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLVIAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | Yes | No | Abstain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**16 & 17 Bus Evacuation Drills**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** May I have a motion for items #16 and # 17 on our agenda, Bus Evacuations Drills?

**CUCCINELLO:** I'll make that motion.

**GIULIANA ANTONUCCI:** And I'll second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any discussion?

**GANDHI:** I see that this motion is for bus evacuation drills retroactive for the buses for both Memorial and Washington Park Schools.

**VOLPE:** At least twice during every school year, a school must conduct an evacuation drill of a school bus at the school that includes every passenger who rides a school bus and is in school on the day of the evacuation drill. During school bus evacuation drills, students learn what to do in the event of an emergency, and they must evacuate the school bus.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any further discussion? …..hearing none….roll call.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

**18. Bedside Instruction**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** May I have a motion for item #18 on our agenda, Bedside Instruction?

**FRENCH:** I'll make that motion.

**RETAMOZO:** And I'll second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any discussion?

**ALVAREZ:** Again, I just wish to bring to the board's attention that approval is retroactive. Instruction is provided by Learn Well, beginning on Thursday, April 29, 2021, for a period of time to be determined, at the rate of $49 per hour for five (5) hours per week plus planning time.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**19. 2020-2021 Lead Testing Statement of Assurance**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** May I have a motion for items #19, 2020 - 2021 Lead Testing Statement of Assurance

**CUCCINELLO:** I make a motion.

**GANDHI:** I second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Discussion?

**VOLPE:** The recommendation is for the board to retroactively approve submission of the Lead Testing Statement of Assurance to the New Jersey State Department of Education on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, for the 2020-2021 school year.

**CUCCINELLO:** Is this state mandated?

**VOLPE:** 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.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**20. Revision - Extended School Year Dates**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Item #20, Revision- Extended School Year Dates. Can I have a motion and a second?

**DRAKAKIS:** I'll make that motion.

**LAMBERTY:** I'll second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any discussion?

**GIULIANA ANTONUCCI:** Why do the special education students need to extend the school year?

**ALVAREZ:** The State of New Jersey dictates that if students would be harmed by not having instruction for a summer period, the school must provide a program so that the children will not digress over the summer break.

**RETAMOZO:** How long will the program run?

**ALVAREZ:** The program will begin on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, through Thursday, July 22, 2021, from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M on Mondays through Thursdays, with the exception of Friday, June 25, 2021. There will be no school on Monday, July 5, 2021.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any discussion? .....hearing none....roll call.

**SULLVIAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | Yes | No | Abstain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Ms. Superintendent, can we have your report?

**FURMAN:** 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.

**PUERTA:** The students at Washington Park School have been able to take advantage of the nice weather and have assigned recess outside. Again, students remained in designated areas with their cohorts.

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

**CHOU:** All state testing that usually takes place throughout April and May has been postponed. The state hinted that these tests may take place in the fall

**PUERTA:** Virtual learning looked different depending on the grade level, subject, and teacher. One of the most popular tools last year was Zoom, but this year staff has successfully used Teams, which is part of Microsoft 365.

**FURMAN:** Kahoot, Quizlet, and Khan Academy are also other programs that teachers and students are comfortable with.

**PUERTA:** I have to commend the students, staff, and parents for their commitment to virtual learning work. This has been an unprecedented time and experience, and everyone was dedicated to making it work.

**CHOU:** I would also like to mention that many of our school programs and activities have not been deleted, but rather just presented in a different format, such as Graduation, Awards Assembly, and Student Appreciation Day.

**FURMAN:** 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?

**RETAMOZO:** I'll make that motion.

**CUCCINELLO:** And I'll second it.

**ALAYNA ANTONUCCI:** Any other discussions…..hearing none….roll call.

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. May I have a roll call?

| | **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lamberty | Yes | | |
| Ms. French | Yes | | |
| Mr. Retamozo | Yes | | |
| Ms. Drakakis | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gaboda | Yes | | |
| Ms. Alayna Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Ms. Giuliana Antonucci | Yes | | |
| Mr. Cuccinello | Yes | | |
| Ms. Gandhi | Yes | | |

**SULLIVAN:** Thank you. (BANG THE GAVEL)

Ms. Capitelli congratulated the students on all of their hard work to accomplish this year's Youth Week virtually. Ms. Capitelli stated that the students great job especially having to do multiple roles tonight.

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

**21. Informational**

**Bus Evacuation Drills**

**Dates for Your Information**

| | |
|---|---|
| May 28 - 31 | Schools Closed - Memorial Day |
| June 1 | Student Appreciation Day Grades 5-6 - WPS |
| June 1 | Kindergarten "Moving On"- 6:00 P.M. |
| June 2 | Virtual Awards Assembly - WPS - 2:30 P.M. |
| June 7 | Student Appreciation Day Grades 7-8 - WPS |
| June 15 | 8th Grade Graduation - WPS - 6:00 P.M. |
| June 17 | Last Day of School for Students |
| June 21 | Last Day of School for Teachers |
| June 23 | Virtual Board of Education Meeting - WPS 7:00 P.M. |

**22. Committee Reports**

Ms. Antonucci said committee meetings were not held.

**23. Public to be Heard**

There was no public to be heard.

**24. 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 7:43 p.m.

Mr. Reddin said, in Executive Session the Board will be discussing personnel and legal matters. The discussion will last approximately thirty (30) minutes and no action will be taken.

Motion for approval of item 24

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

The Board returned from executive session at 8:15 P.M.

**25. 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 Monday, June 28, 2021, through Wednesday, July 28, 2021, from 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M., on Mondays through Thursdays the following staff members:

**Certified Staff - 2020/2021 Salary Prorated Hourly Based on 1/200th Per Diem.**

Heather Corrado Alycia Desmond Gina McQuin
Beverly Luciano (Nurse: June 22 - July 6) Lori Johnson (Nurse: July 7 - July 22)

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

LouAnn Martinez Nuria Cordoba

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

Joseph Segura Meredith Warburton

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

Antoinette Armagno Cathy Daniele Michelle Ferrara Jasmine Guerra
Jessica Guerra Toni Malatesta Norka Parrales Anjelica Poalillo
Paula Ralli Rita Sakhat Carly Schwartz Joanne Schwartz Iris Whitaker

**Bus Aide - Salary at the rate of $17.25 per hour.**

Joanne Schwartz Carly Schwartz

**Bus Driver & Substitute Bus Driver - Salary at the rate of $20.00 per hour.**

Michael Minieri - Bus Driver Christopher Jacob - Substitute Bus Driver

**Physical Therapist - 5 hours per week at the rate of $80.00 per hour.**

Nicole Fenell

**Occupational Therapist & Behaviorist - 10 hours per week at the rate of $80.00 per hour.**

Alisha Romano Erica Minde

**Speech Therapist - Not to exceed 15 hours per week at the rate of $95.00 per hour.**

Northern Region Educational Services Commission

**26. Leave of Absence - Stephanie A. Yennie**

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board retroactively approve an unpaid leave for Stephanie A. Yennie, from Tuesday, May 4, 2021, through Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

Motion for approval of items 25-26

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

**27. Approval of Minutes- April 28, 2021 – Regular Meeting**

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the minutes of the meeting of April 28, 2021 as presented.

Motion for approval of items 27

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

**28. Approval of Minutes- April 28, 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 April 28, 2021 as presented.

Motion for approval of items 28

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

**29. Approval of Bills List – May**

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the May 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 2021, 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 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.

**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 2021, 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 2021, 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 2021, 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 2021, 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 2021, 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 2021, 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pomptonian | Invoice 912042321 | 1434 | $ 3,134.39 |
| Pomptonian | Invoice 912043021 | 1435 | $ 10,729.48 |
| Pomptonian | Invoice 912050721 | 1436 | $ 9,035.15 |
| All Temperature Service LLC | Invoice 14259 | 1437 | $ 149.00 |

**39. Approval of Additional Appropriations (Covid-19)**

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the following additional appropriations do to the Covid-19 pandemic.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | WB Mason | PO 21-1499 | $4,927.50 | Disinfectant Wipes |
| 2. | Atra | PO 21-1538 | $1,077.90 | Cleaning Supplies |

**40. Approval of Out of District Contracts 2021-2022**

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the out of district contract for students OOD192002, to the Shepard School for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of $65,016.12.

**41. Approval of The Northern Region Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System**

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends that the Board approve The Northern Region Educational Services Commission (NRESC) for purchases through their cooperative pricing system for 2021-2022 school year, as needed.

**42. 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 $5,400.00 for the purchase of a new security card swipe and updates to the existing camera systems. (See attachment #2)

**43. 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
Lyons Environmental Services LLC
Dr. Marzena Odorczuk
Passaic Valley High School
Lawn Doctor
PG Chambers
Premiere Energy
Raymond B. Reddin
Adam, Gutierrez & Lattiboudere LLC
Rullo & Juillet Associates
Washington South
Delta Dental Insurance
Phoenix Advisors, LLC
Construction Co-Ordinators
Advance Education Advisement Corporation
Hanson & Ryan Inc.
Metropolitan Life
Lincoln National
Di Dio Electric Inc.
United Fire Sprinkler
Lightpath/Altice
Bayada Pediatrics
Northern Region Educational Services Commission
Bergen County Special Services
Staples
School Specialty
Stauss Esmay Associates
Realtime
System 3000
CC Productions
Metro Fire and Safety Co.
The Educational Services Commission Of New Jersey
Jan Fence
The Homestead Roofing Co Inc
Stacks Environmental LLC
Pomptonian
National Geographic Learning Exploring Science
New Jersey School Insurance Group ERIC West Sub Fund
Sterba & Associates
Lerch, Vinci, and Higgins
Millenium Strategies, LLC
Innovation Designs For Education
Gaeta Recycling Co Inc
Totowa Police Department
Valic
Equitable
Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt
Study Island and Edmentum
Industrial Appraisal
Optimum
Advanced Central Heating and Cooling
Arrow Elevator Inc
Viking Inc
CJ Vanderbeck
Verizon
E-Rate Consulting
J&J Gym Floors
ACES Cooperative Pricing System
Spinella Landscaping
Structural Workshop LLC
Fence America
Commission for the Blind and Visually Impiared
Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission
LandTek Group, Inc
Briggs Associates
Commercial Protective
Sourcewell CoOp
J.A. Frezza & Associates LLC
Keystone Sports Construction
Alvino Asphalt, LLC
The Shepard School

**44. Approval of Transportation Contract for 2021-2022**

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the renewal of the district's transportation contracts with First Student for the 2021-2022 school year. A CPI (Consumer Price Index) annual increase of 1.69% will be given. (See Attachment #3)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Route 1 | Memorial – St. Francis – WPS | $25,660.11 |
| Route 2 | Memorial – St. Francis – WPS | $25,660.11 |
| Route 3 | Memorial – St. Francis – WPS | $25,660.11 |
| Route 4 | Memorial – St. Francis – WPS | $25,660.11 |
| Route 5 | Memorial – St. Francis – WPS | $25,660.11 |
| Route 6 | Memorial – St. Francis – WPS | $25,660.11 |
| Route 7 | Memorial – St. Francis – WPS | $25,660.11 |
| Route 8 | Memorial – St. Francis – WPS | $25,660.11 |

Motion for approval of items 29-44

MOTION: Ms. Alesandrelli
SECONDED: Mr. Tangora
VOTE: Unanimous (Mr. Biearch abstained from PO 21-1515 on item #29 Bills List May)

**45. Old Business**

There was no old business.

**46. New Business**

There was no new business.

**47. Hearing and Petition of Citizens**

No citizens wished to be heard.

**48. Other Matters of a Timely Nature**

Ms. Capitelli read the following letter from the Totowa Municipal Alliance:

On behalf of the Totwoa Municipal Drug Alliance, we are excited to finally share with you these special books chosen by the Totowa School District as part of our common goal of educating students in important life skills.

As we know, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is an important process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. One of the most helpful strategies for integrating SEL with our youth can be through meaningful and diverse literature, which was one of our reasons for choosing literature as a way to reach out to our youth. In addition, we are happy to support the Totowa School District's goal to address the social, emotional, health and wellness of all students and staff.

Thank you for keeping our youth learning this year and helping them to be strong, brave, and drug free. These book swill enhance your libraries with diverse literature and will be a source of rich discussions at all grade levels. On behalf of the Totowa Municipal Drug Alliance, please accept this gift to support our youth's literacy skills and grow their Social Emotional Learning.

Sincerely,
The Totowa Municipal Drug Alliance

Ms. Capitelli thanked the Totowa Municipal Drug Alliance for their generosity.

**49. Adjournment**

Upon motion by Mr. Reynoso and seconded by Mr. Bierach this meeting was adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Varcadipane
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary