BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MEETING MINUTES

08/19/2020

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 August 19, 2020.

1. Call To Order

President Guarneri called the meeting to order at 7:17 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, Mr. Guarneri, Mr. Kerwin, Mr. Reynoso and Mr. Tangora
Members Absent:	Ms. Carr and Ms. DeCeglie
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 that he will read all of the public questions per participant before a response is given.

Mr. Guarneri stated that we have a lot of questions and participants tonight. We want to be able to address everyone's concerns. Please be respectful of the three minute time limit for questions so that we can make sure everyone will be heard. Mr. Guarneri stated if you do not receive an answer tonight to please contact administration and they would be more than happy to answer your questions.

Ms. Capitelli stated that we are aware that many people had questions in July that were not answered. At that time the Reopening plan was not ready to be presented. The plan has ten critical areas in it and was put together during countless hours of meetings and surveys to parents, teachers, administration and union leaders. The plan is very fluid and has to be to handle this unprecedented time. All questions that are answered tonight will be as of this point in time.

Mr. Reddin stated that it is not the Board's role to develop the Reopening plan. The Board's role is make sure administration has the resources to put the plan together. Mr. Reddin stated we have a lot of questions tonight and it is very difficult to answer very technical questions in this venue. The answers are going to fall on Ms. Capitellii shoulders to answer these questions in this very limited window. Mr. Reddin suggestion is that the phone lines are always open. The administration is a lot more accessible and will be able to answer your questions in a lot more detail and without a time limit. The Board is going to do its best tonight to answer all questions as best we can in this forum.

Ms. Carla Grant, 88 Grant Ave asked and stated the following:

In the rooms that have air conditioners what will you be adding to ensure that recirculated air has a fresh air component? Will you be adding air purifiers to such rooms as the Pre-K room in Memorial School?

How will you be staggering the entrance and exit of the buildings by the students? What will be the entrances for grade 5 for example at Washington Park?

In the reopening plan you state that students will be visually screened upon entering the building. What does that entail? Will their temperatures be taken?

Will all grades be allowed a snack? How will that happen in the classroom? Please elaborate.

What social and emotional learning will you be implementing to assist the students through this difficult time? This is critical to ensure success of our students and should be for all students not just the students who are at risk. Many districts are implementing a set time for open discussion and reassuring children to make them feel safe as part of their daily routines, whether they are in-person or remote learning.

How will the student's reading levels be assessed for in school and virtual learners?

I was disappointed to see that the parents chosen to assist with the reopening plan were district employees. Again, the community has been left out of an opportunity to assist the schools. It is a conflict of interest to have employees as the representatives of the parents in the community. The parent on the committee for Memorial school does not have a child in that school so how could they possibly represent the interest of the parents and the students of that school. Many parents in the community would like to help the school in many ways but we are constantly being shut out. Why is that? Why are we not being valued in our own school community? We need to be building relationships between the schools and the parents.

Ms. Capitelli responded to each question as follows:

The school district's HVAC system in both schools contains univents in each classroom. The univents all have a fresh air component to the system.

At Washington Park School, grades 3 and 4 will be entering directly into their classrooms, while grades 5 and 6 will utilize the entrance by the post office. Grades 7 and 8 will also be utilizing the same post office entrance at a different time.

Students will be screened by teachers and staff as they enter the building as well as when they first enter their classrooms. Temperatures will not be taken upon entering the school. Staff will be asked to look for visible signs upon entering the building such as a cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, headaches, congestion, runny nose, nausea and diarrhea. Parents are going to be asked to make sure their children also do not have any of these symptoms before sending their children to school.

Grades Pre-K through 4th will have a designated snack time. Students will wash their hands before and after snack. Grades 5-8 will have snack in their class when the teacher sees that the students

need the break and their is an opportunity to stop class.

This year we will have two guidance counselors. There will be one at Memorial School as well as one at Washington Park School. They will be providing professional development for our teachers. The Supervisor of Instruction is also working on a curriculum.

Student's reading levels will be assessed as they were in the past. All necessary materials have been uploaded on the network and teachers will push the assessment to the student's computers.

Grismaldo Diaz of 24 Garfield Place asked:

When will the distant learning plan be available for parents to review? And by when will the parents have to notify the school of the choice made regarding in-person or virtual learning?

Ms. Capitelli stated that the a response from the parents is due Friday. As far as the virtual learning plan, it was addressed in some of the other questions. We did learn a lot from when we had to go remote in March and the virtual learning will be different this year.

Ms. Jessica Siecieska of 193 Dewey Ave asked:

In the rooms that do not have air conditioning, how will the room be ventilated? How many windows will be opened? Will fans be used?

Is there a cap of how many students will be allowed in a classroom at one time?

What is your protocol if the teacher gets sick and is quarantined for two weeks? Will the class automatically have to go virtual for two weeks?

Ms Capitelli responded:

The first questions was addressed earlier that all rooms have univents that circulate fresh air. Open windows will depend on the room to determine how many windows can be opened.

There is not a cap on how many students will be allowed in the classroom at one time. However, as of today there are less then 15 students in a class for the 1st marking period.

Each case of weather or not a teacher, class or grade level need to be quarantined for two weeks will be taken on a case by case basis and in conjunction with guidance from the local board of health.

Ms. Kristi Kearney of 39 Boyle Ave asked:

For the students who are in the leap program and receive pull out services, how will that work? According to your plan the students will not leave their classrooms if they have chosen in person. How will they receive their small group instruction? If the student's parent has chosen an all virtual plan, how will leap classes be addressed in that format? How will enrichment and resource room IEP goals be met if there is no pull out for in person instruction? How will you ensure they are getting the support they need while still in their general education class?

Ms. Capitelli responded that all class sizes are small for the first marking period which will help with differentiation. All student accommodations will be met and most services will be pushed into the classroom.

Ms. Lisa Moreno of 328 Winifred Drive asked:

Will special classes be recorded for students who may not be able to log onto a computer at 2:30?

Will due dates for assignments be nightly or weekly for virtual learning?

If a student is out sick or goes home sick, what's the protocol for returning? Will they be able to do the virtual work if home sick, and will that count as a sick day if they could make it up virtually while at home?

Will teachers be allowed to take their class outside for instruction and a mask break as long as they social distance? And, how will emergency procedures go? Do fire drills and lock downs trump the health and safety protocols?

Ms. Capitelli responded that special classes will not be recorded. If parents have a problem with logging in at a particular time they need to contact the building principals.

Assignments and due dates will be strictly up to the individual teachers.

If a student has a non-communicable disease and is out for three days, a doctor's note is required for readmittance. For a sickness less then three days students will be admitted 24 hours after a fever breaks. If a student has a communicable disease they need a written statement from a doctor stating they are free of disease.

Teachers will be allowed to bring the students outside for instruction and a mask break as long as social distancing can be maintained. The state has not lifted any fire or security drills. We are still waiting on guidance from the state. Fire drills are still mandatory. It is being recommended at this time to do security drills that can maintain social distancing earlier in the school year.

Mr. Michael Grant of 88 Grant Ave asked:

Will students who choose to be virtual have access to workbooks and textbooks?

The governor states classrooms must have adequate ventilation. Has he defined that and is that measurable? If not, how can a school district check the box for having "adequate ventilation"?

Has the district engineering firm certified that every damper in the HVAC system works? When were the dampers last calibrated? What kind of filters are being used? The NJEA says MERV 17 filters are required. What MERV level are the filters used in the HVAC system? Can you explain the maintenance schedules and protocols for the HVAC system? Will they be keeping logs to certify this schedules and protocols have been conducted periodically? Are they testing the HVAC system prior to school to ensure that it is functioning properly before school starts in a few weeks? Will the system be running 2 hours before and 2 hours after the school day?

Has the superintendent signed the attestation letter, attesting to the state that the district is safe to open?

Ms. Capitelli responded that families that choose to be virtual will have access to workbooks and textbooks.

The school district does have adequate ventilation. There is a fresh air component to all of the univents in each classroom as well as each classroom has the ability to open windows. Filters on all systems are maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations.

The roof units have MERV13 filters and will be changed monthly while the univents in each classroom will be changed once a marking period. All of the dampers were tested and the system is operational. The units will be on at least 2 hours before and 2 hours after the school day.

The superintendent has signed the attestation letter attesting to the state that the district is safe to open.

Ms. Lynn Lions of 193 Sandra Drive asked:

For the students who are doing in-person learning, will they be transporting their laptops home daily to complete their specials' online for all grade levels?

Ms. Capitelli stated that if the students need their laptops they will be available.

Ms. Krisin Karam of 88 Columbus Ave asked:

Can you provide the survey results of how many children are going back to in-person learning for each grade level and an estimate of how many children will be in each classroom at this time?

Can you provide a virtual tour of the classrooms for parents to see before going back?

Now that the governor has said it is up to each district to decide if they want to move ahead with all remote learning if they meet the criteria, is this something Totowa is considering at this time?

You said that Totowa will be "minimally social distancing in person." What exactly does that look like? How many times a day will my children get a movement break and what will that consist of while staying socially distant? How often will they get mask breaks? How will the teachers help my children if they are struggling or need assistance while socially distancing?

Will my third grader and kindergartner be expected to be online virtually with a teacher for 4 hours a day or will there be assignments and websites given like last time that we complete on our own? What will virtual learning look like for anyone who has chosen to stay home or in the case of the school or state closing?

Are the classrooms ready and prepared with all the plexiglass installed on the desks?

Have the teachers' voices been heard about their concerns for reopening safely and having sufficient teaching and cleaning supplies for their classrooms, so they can do their jobs to the best of their abilities?

Ms. Capitelli responded as follows:

The survey results as a whole have indicated a 60% in-person learning while 40% of the students have chosen remote learning. As of today there are less then 15 students per class. The school will not be doing a virtual tour of classes as the rooms are not yet ready for the start of the year.

The district is not going to change its decision on in-person vs remote learning at this time. There is no reason not to open. If the district states a reason it cannot open it puts itself on an action plan that needs to be completed before in-person instruction can be continued.

Movement breaks and mask breaks will be up to the teachers. They know their classes and will be able to tell when they need a break.

Students will not be expected to be online with a virtual teacher for 4 hours a day and will also not be given just assignments and websites to be completed on their own. There will be a combination of learning portion of the day as well as a portion where the student completes assignments on their own.

Plexiglass partitions are being installed on all desks. Teachers voices were heard as they were included in all reopening committees. The school district has also purchased a number of cleaning supplies and PPE for all faculty and staff.

Anna Mazza of 39 Duffus Ave asked:

If a child is sick with a cough or runny nose will they be sent home and required to get tested for covid? Will their siblings also be sent home? What is the protocol for returning to school after a sick day?

My son is entering kindergarten. Is an orientation with a parent planned like in the past? Or will he be entering a new environment blindly?

Ms. Capitelli responded that returning to school protocols have been addressed previously. In regards to the orientation for Kindergarten, yes there is an orientation planned and information will be sent out shortly.

Ms. Jeannie Tamariz of 476 Totowa Road asked:

Who is teaching virtual? Will it be teachers from the district?

I know that virtual learning is a per marking period commitment. What if during this time the family needs to switch from virtual learning to in- school. Will they be able to make this change?

What is the extent of the tracing and case reporting?

Is there a threshold for number of cases before school decides to close?

Ms. Capitelli responded that Totowa School District teachers will be assigned to virtual learning. Once a decision has been made for the marking period for in-person or remote learning it cannot be changed. Contact tracing and case reporting will be followed according to the reopening plan. The local board of health will be the ones to determine if the school needs to close based on cases reported.

Ms. Dina Heerema of 401 Riverview Drive asked:

If a child is sick and needs to be picked up, where would he/she wait while parents who are working get to him/her? Will that child be waiting in the nurse's office along with others? Will they be separated and placed somewhere else? The nurse's office is always a busy place and now it will even be busier. So how will children who are sick and at school waiting for their parents be handled?

Will KOPS be available for parents? Will we be getting information about it? Will the payments paid for the month of March be applied to the tuition? Will parents be reimbursed if their children do not return to KOPS? When will all the info and registration be available for parents?

How will the report cards, assessments, and grading this year be adjusted to ensure that the practices are equitable and reflective of the changing circumstances and expectations for both students and teachers? You CAN NOT grade the students who are in a distance learning model the same as the students who are in the in-person model, so how will that be addressed?

Ms. Capitelli responded as follows:

Both school buildings have an isolation area for students that need to be picked up. Each situation for a pick-up will be different and will depend on the circumstances.

The Board of Education does not handle Kops 4 Kids. The program is run by the Totowa Education Foundation and anyone that would like more information about the program can contact Mr. Varcadipane during the day at extension 6002.

Teachers will handle their classes as they always have whether it is for in-person instruction of remote learning. It is up to them to determine assessments, projects, homework and grades as they see fit.

Ms. Louise Lorusso of 283 Dewey Ave asked:

If a student/teacher tests positive, does the entire class then quarantine? Do siblings that also attend the district also have to quarantine?

If quarantining becomes necessary, are those days considered as an absence or can the student immediately transition to virtual for the quarantine period?

The Start and Recovery Plan states "in a classroom setting where social distancing can take place or physical barriers are in place, face coverings can be removed while students are at desks." Is this still the case?

Ms. Capitelli responded that any positive test cases will be brought to the local board of health's attention and they will be the ones to tell the school district how to proceed. In response to a quarantining situation, whether a student is marked absence or is transitions into remote learning will be evaluated on a case by case basis. All students must wear their face masks in the building even though there are physical barriers on the desks.

Ms. Sanielle McGlynn of 933 Riverview Drive asked:

The virtual learning plan demonstrated from March to June of last school year was concerning. My child received what amounted to only one live session a month with her teacher, with virtually no learning/teaching. For four months of the year, 'busy work' was assigned. Should the school switch from in-person to virtual, what is the district's plan for synchronous and asynchronous learning during remote teaching for each grade level? What type of social/emotional support will be in place during virtual learning?

Ms Capitelli stated that there were a lot of lessons learned from when the school shut down in March. Virtual learning will be taught by a teacher daily and remote learners are expected to log in receive instruction from a teacher. As far as the social/emotional support we do have two guidance counselors this year one in each building.

Ms. Jennifer Briting of 93 Sutton Ave asked:

These times have been extremely stressful on our children as well as teachers and staff. What is our school district doing to ensure the social-emotional well-being of our students and staff?

Jennifer Britting, 93 Sutton Ave: How could we work together to increase our sense of belonging and community in the given circumstances and for both the children who attend in person as well as remote?

Ms. Capitelli stated the district now has two guidance counselors for this year, one in each building. As far as the children and families sense of belonging in the community, the virtual specials periods will be a mix of both in-person and remote learners. Another way to help foster belonging in the community is to work with the PTO, PAL, Library and Recreational center and join the many events the these organizations hold for the town.

Ms. Theresa Borgese of 58 St. James Place asked:

Thank you for fielding all of our concerns. In the event an in-school student does need to quarantine, will he or she then be added to a virtual learning group? How might that be implemented? What is the maximum capacity for in-class and virtual per teacher?

Could you please spend a minute addressing the KOPS changes, availability, cost and the contact info for those in charge? Thanks!

Ms. Capitelli stated there is no max capacity in the guidance for virtual learning. Any Kops 4 Kids questions should be directed to Mr. Varcadipane at extension 6002.

Ms. Diana D'Amico of 87 Garfield Place asked:

- Since the latest statement from the governor, is the school district now pushing to do all virtual learning for the 1st marking period like other districts (because they are not fully ready) or is there still going to be an option for in person?
- What exactly does virtual entail; google classroom, think central, seasaw, zoom, prerecorded videos?
- How would questions from students be addressed?
- Will students be utilizing a physical text/workbook with their virtual learning?
- How many or what percentage of teachers are not returning? Will substitutes be utilized?
- Is the option to change between virtual or in person still the same after the conclusion of the 1st marking period?
- As per the last BOE meeting the attendance policy has been modified. What is the modification? Item #10 Policy and Regulation Revision - Attendance
- If a child, utilizing in person instruction, presents any symptoms related to a covid or even the common cold, will they automatically be treated / isolated as having covid? What is the protocol for returning to class once cleared? Will that child be able to utilize virtual instruction if they are not permitted back into school until cleared by a physician?

Ms. Capitelli responded the school district is not pushing for an all virtual learning experience for marking period 1. There is still an option for in-person learning. Virtual learning will entail different applications depending on the grade level, however, the district does use Microsoft Teams in every grade level. Questions for virtual learners can be asked through Microsoft teams when the class meets or by email. Consumables and textbooks will be picked up by remote learners prior to school starting.

At this time the school does not have any need for substitutes for teachers that are not returning. The option to change from in-person to remote or vice versa has also not changed. It is a marking period by marking period decision.

Policy and Regulation Guides 5200 have been revised to provide a more detailed explanation of the distinction between attendance recording in the school register and attendance. If a child presents symptoms they will be treated on a case by case basis and the protocol for returning to school was addressed earlier.

Ms. Shannon Taylor of 443 Riverview Drive asked:

Shannon Taylor, 443 Riverview Dr: For students who are remote learning and receive special services such as OT, PT or Speech Therapy, how will this work? Will the therapists be working with them virtually? Will the students have a scheduled time to meet with these therapists?

Shannon Taylor, 443 Riverview Dr: For students who are remote learning, if parents decide to send their child back for the 2nd marking period, how will this work? Will parents be sent some kind of notification at the end of the 1st marking period asking for a decision? Will parents be able to send their children to school on the bus if they decide to go back after the 1st marking period?

Shannon Taylor, 443 Riverview Dr: When can laptops be picked up for students who are remote learning? Will they also receive textbooks at that time?

Ms. Capitelli responded that all services will be given. If you have any individual questions to please reach out to your case manager or Ms. Terranova and they can better assist you.

Parents will be notified prior to the end of the first marking period to make another decision on whether or not they are switching from in-person learning to remote or vice versa. Laptops, textbooks and consumables will be picked up before school starts and more information regarding scheduling of these pickups will be out shortly.

Ms. Marija Golcev of 7 Roseland Ave asked:

Is it possible for the school to put a zoom meeting in the class for the online students to follow with the class at the same time? Also for in person how many days student can go in school?

Ms. Capitelli responded students that choose in-person learning will be in-person five days a week from 9:00 A.M. to 1:20 P.M. Zoom live streams would be took difficult for a teacher to coordinate with in-person instruction. Remote learners will receive instruction from a virtual teacher.

Ms. Capitelli wanted to reiterate what Mr. Reddin stated earlier. She wanted to thank everyone for all of their questions. The plan we discussed is very fluid and is changing daily. Most of the questions received tonight are more administrative related questions. The

Ms. Capitelli wanted to reiterate what Mr. Reddin stated earlier. She wanted to thank everyone for all of their questions. The plan we discussed is very fluid and is changing daily. Most of the questions received tonight are more administrative related questions. The administration including myself have an open door policy. Any phone calls or emails are answered and an extremely timely manner, usually that day if not the next. Individual concerns can better be addressed with a call to an administrator then at a board meeting.

Mr. Bierach stated reopening is a group effort for everyone of us to keep each other safe. This year will require cooperation and participation from all parents, teachers, administrators and the Board of Education. We all have to use good judgment and make sacrifices, not only in school but during off hours and on the weekends. Only you know where you go and with whom you come into contact with. If you have to double think something keep your child home. You are better to be safe than sorry. With that said, be smart and take all the necessary precautions to keep yourself, your child and our staff safe and healthy.

Mr. Guarneri wanted to thank everyone for taking the time and submitting their questions. We are currently in uncharted times. We ask for everyone to cooperate with us and we will be as transparent as possible. The situation is extremely fluid and changing daily. We are all working together here. Mr. Guarneri thanked Ms. Capitelli for taking the time to address each questions individually and says a lot as well.

5. Policy Adoption 1649 - Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the new mandated Policy 1649 -Federal Families First Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Act.

6. Policy Revision 2270 - Religion in the Schools

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised Policy 2270 - Religion in the Schools.

7. Policy Revision 2622 - Student Assessment

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised mandated Policy 2622 - Student Assessment.

8. Policy & Regulation Revision 5111 - Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised mandated Policy & Regulation 5111 - Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students.

9. Policy & Regulation Revision 5200 - Attendance

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised mandated Policy & Regulation 5200 - Attendance.

10. Policy & Regulation Revision 5320 - Immunization

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised Policy & Regulation 5320 - Immunization.

11. Policy & Regulation Revision 5330.04 - Administering An Opioid Antidote

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised mandated Policy & Regulation 5330.04 - Administering an Opioid Antidote.

12. Policy Revision 5610 - Suspension

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised mandated Regulation 5610 - Suspension Procedures.

13. Regulation Revision 5610 - Suspension Procedures

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised mandated Regulation 5610 - Suspension Procedures.

14. Policy Revision 5620 - Expulsion

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised mandated Regulation 5620 - Expulsion.

15. Regulation Revision 8320 - Personnel Records

The Superintendent presents to the Board the second read of the revised mandated Regulation 8320 - Personnel Records.

16. Reapproval - Policy & Regulation 5600 - Student Discipline/Code of Contact

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board reapprove Policy & Regulation 5600 - Student Discipline/Code of Conduct as per the attached.

17. Comprehensive Equity Plan

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the Comprehensive Equity Plan for 2020 - 2021 school year.

18. Professional Development District/School Plans

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the professional development plans for the Totowa School District, Washington Park School, and Memorial School for 2020 - 2021 school year as per the attached.

19. Student Safety Data System (SSDS)

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the submission of the 2019 - 2020 Student Safety Data System (SSDS) as per the attached.

Motion for approval of items 5-19

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

20. Informational

Facilities Update

Reopening Schools

Dates for Your Information

September 2 Board of Education Meeting - WPS 7:00 P.M.

Attachments:

News Article:

Scenes From a Drive-Through Graduation
Totowa 8th Graders Graduate in Unique Ceremony

21. Committee Reports

Mr. Guarneri said committee meetings were held, there was a discussion on personnel and buildings and grounds.

22. 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 8:15 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 22

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

The Board returned from executive session at 8:40 P.M.

23. Reassignment - Andrea Piccirillo

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the reassignment of Andrea Piccirillo from Resource Room kindergarten - grade 2 teacher to Resource Room kindergarten - grade 4 virtual teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.

24. Reassignment - Gina McQuin

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the reassignment of Gina McQuin from Resource Room grades 5-8 teacher to Learning Language Disabilities grades 3-5 teacher for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

25. Reassignment - Cheryl Migliaccio

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the reassignment of Cheryl Migliaccio from Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant to Resource Room grades 5-8 for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

26. Appointment - Elementary Education Teacher

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board appoint Ms. Brittany Ann Patten to the position of Resource Room grades kindergarten - 2 Teacher for the 2020 - 2021 school year beginning on Wednesday, September 2, 2020, pending successful criminal background check, positive references, and approval of her Disclosure and Review of Applicants Employment History. Ms. Patten will be placed on BA Step - 1 $52,860 of the contracted teacher salary guide.

27. Retirement - Cheryl Johnson

The Superintendent recommends the Board accept with regret the retirement of Cheryl Johnson, teacher for the Totowa School District effective September 1, 2020.

28. Appointment - Social Studies Teacher

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board appoint Ms. Lindsey Castaldo to the position of Social Studies grade 6 teacher for the 2020 - 2021 school year beginning on Wednesday, September 2, 2020, pending successful criminal background check, positive references, and approval of her Disclosure and Review of Applicants Employment History. Ms. Castaldo will be placed on MA Step - 1 $57,235 of the contracted teacher salary guide.

29. Reassignment - Cara Carnemolla

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the reassignment of Cara Canemolla from STEAM kindergarten - grade 2 teacher to grade 4 teacher for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

30. Reassignment - Alex Maccia

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the reassignment of Alex Maccia from Industrial Arts teacher to Guidance for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

31. Reassignment - Jennifer Tafuri

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Administrative Team, recommends the Board approve the reassignment of Jennifer Tafuri from Reading grade 6 teacher to Reading grade 8 teacher for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Motion for approval of items 23-31

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

32. Approval of Minutes- July 15, 2020 – Regular Meeting

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the minutes of the meeting of July 15, 2020 as presented.

Motion for approval of items 32

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

33. Approval of Minutes- July 15, 2020 – 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 July 15, 2020 as presented.

Motion for approval of items 33

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

34. Approval of Bills List – June Supplemental 2

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the June Supplemental 2 Bills List as presented.

35. Approval of Bills List – August

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

36. Acceptance of Financial Status Report – July

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary recommends the Board accept the Financial Status Report for the month of July 2020, as presented.

37. Acceptance of Bank Reconciliations – July

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Bank Reconciliations for the month of July 2020, as presented.

38. Acceptance of Board Secretary Report – July

The Superintendent in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Board Secretary Report for the month of July 2020, as presented.

39. Acceptance of Treasurer of School Monies Report – July

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Treasurer Report for the month of July 2020, as presented.

40. Approval of Line Item Budget Transfers – July

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 July 2020, as presented. (See Attachment #1 Monthly Transfer Report)

41. Acceptance of Revenue Report – July

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board accept the Revenue Report for the month of July 2020, as presented.

42. 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 912061220	Credit Used	$ 6,854.64
NRESC	IV0028	1395	$ 80.00
Metro Fire & Safety	SM 27889	1396	$ 195.00
Ms. Debbie Sanes	Lunch Balance Refund PO Adj from 20-018 to 20-019	1394	$ 4.25

43. Out-of-District Placement

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, recommends the Board retroactively approve placement of Student #O-19-20-01 at South Bergen Jointure Commission, beginning on Thursday, September 3, 2020, for the remainder of the 2020 - 2021 school year, at the rate of $58,950.

44. Approval of Reduction in State Aid

The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, recommends the Board approve the reduction in State Aid of $63,791.00. The State Aid reduction will come from appropriation line item 12-000-400-450-936-000, Projects, reducing the balance of this account to $756,612.25. A couple projects will not be able to be completed this year as originally intended. The reduction in State Aid will not impact the district's ability to provide a thorough and efficient education.

45. 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.	Staples Advantage	PO 21-0921	$3,656.88	Thermometers/Face Masks
2.	Amazon Capital	PO 21-0925	$2,065.00	Kids Face Masks
3.	School Specialty	PO 21-0926	$722.92	Disposable Aprons
4.	WB Mason	PO 21-0927	$3,899.22	Disinfectant Wipes

46. Approval of Transportation Contract for 2020-2021

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 2020-2021 school year. A CPI (Consumer Price Index) annual increase of 1.70% will be given. (See Attachment #2)

Route 1	Memorial – St. Francis – WPS	$25,233.66
Route 2	Memorial – St. Francis – WPS	$25,233.66
Route 3	Memorial – St. Francis – WPS	$25,233.66
Route 4	Memorial – St. Francis – WPS	$25,233.66
Route 5	Memorial – St. Francis – WPS	$25,233.66
Route 6	Memorial – St. Francis – WPS	$25,233.66
Route 7	Memorial – St. Francis – WPS	$25,233.66
Route 8	Memorial – St. Francis – WPS	$25,233.66

Motion for approval of items 34-46

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

47. Old Business

There was no old business.

48. New Business

There was no new business.

49. Hearing and Petition of Citizens

Ms. Amelisa Lamberty asked the following:

My question is, will there be shuttle busses to take my kid from Memorial to Washington Park school?

Ms. Capitelli replied that the shuttle has been suspended for the 2020-2021 school year.

Ms. Carla and Michael Grant of 88 Grant Ave commented the following:

This comment is regarding Mr. Reddin's advisement that questions be asked directly to administration over the phone rather than at a board meeting.
My husband and I have attended our fair share of board of education meetings especially during the pandemic. We don't ever recall a board attorney asking the public to call administration and not ask questions in a public board meeting. We think it is important for the public and board members to hear our concerns and questions and have the superintendent answer them. It is a waste of everyone's time (parents and administrators) to field questions individually when many people have the same questions. Questions and answers allows for transparency which the board and Ms. Capitelli stated they believed was important. We appreciate that all questions were addressed. Even tonight many questions were repeated. Ms. Capitelli was able to say, "I answered that before," instead of having to call and address each parent with the same questions.

Mr. Reddin replied that the public is more then welcome to ask any questions at the Board of Education meeting. His recommendation was that technical and personal questions would be better served asking an administrator over the phone. There is no time limit on the phone call. If anyone would prefer to ask the questions at a Board of Education meeting they have that ability also.

50. Other Matters of a Timely Nature

There were no other matters of a timely nature.

51. Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. Reynoso and seconded by Ms. Antonucci this meeting was adjourned at 8:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Varcadipane
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary