

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

February 12, 2015

**Executive Session – 6:30 p.m.**

**Public Meeting – 8:00 p.m.**

Branchburg Municipal Building

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Board President, David Rehe, who stated that the meeting was convened in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, the Sunshine Law; notices were sent to the *Courier News*, filed with the Township Clerk and posted in the Branchburg Township Schools.

The following members of the Board of Education were present: David Rehe, Patricia Santos, Theresa Joyce, Zoltan Ambrus, Cathy Palmieri, and Carmela Noto.

The following members were absent: Jack Dempsey, Olga Phelps, and Jose-Ramon Suarez.

Also present were: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol Kelley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary Theresa Linskey, and no members of the public.

**II.** The assembly saluted the flag.

**III.** Statement of Adequate Notice

**IV.** The secretary called the roll.

**V. CALL TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Mrs. Noto, seconded by Mr. Ambrus, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to convene at 6:50 p.m. to executive session to discuss personnel, and student issue.

The Board reconvened to public session at 8:00 p.m. with approximately 30 members of the public.

**VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Kelley introduced Karen Dudley, District Test Coordinator and Supervisor of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and the Arts, and Eric Schaefer, Senior Network Administrator, who prepared a presentation on the district's readiness for the state-wide assessment (PARCC). After the presentation, Ms. Dudley and Mr. Schaefer addressed questions presented to them by the Board.

Dr. Kelley thanked Ms. Dudley, Mr. Schaefer and their staff for the enormous task of leading the learning process with regard to PARCC.

Mr. Rehe read a statement to the public regarding the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Angela McVerry thanked the Board for clarifying the procedure for students who will not be taking the PARCC test and asked the Board to consider creating a written policy regarding this matter to be posted on the district website.

Mr. Paul Noone expressed his concerns regarding the PARCC testing, and also asked the Board if there was a backup plan in place should there be any computer issues.

Ms. Lauren Bozzuti expressed her concerns regarding the PARCC testing, and was concerned about the possibility of students not taking the test being a distraction to the testing students.

Ms. Judy Napoli read an email she wrote regarding the reasons why her child will not be taking the PARCC test.

Ms. Robin Reinhart thanked Dr. Kelley for taking her telephone call and for listening to her reasons as to why she will not have her children take the PARCC test.

Ms. Michele Philip asked the Board to consider creating a written policy regarding students not participating in the PARCC testing and to have it posted on the district website. She also asked the Board to represent the community in stating that the PARCC testing has no value at this time.

Ms. Christine Bliss was concerned that nothing has been communicated to her about what her options are if she chooses to have her children opt out of taking the PARCC test.

Ms. Heidi Davis explained to the Board why her child will not be taking the PARCC test.

Mr. Matthew Fleming asked the Board what the driving decision was as to why the school calendar was revised at this late stage. Mr. Fleming also expressed his concerns of the PARCC test.

Ms. Anna Nierenberg expressed her concerns of the PARCC testing and how the children will be coded.

Ms. Jessica Zaninelli asked the Board if they have taken the PARCC practice test, and if so, what was their opinion of the test.

## VIII. GOVERNANCE

Motion by Mr. Ambrus, seconded by Mrs. Joyce that Items VIII.A. through VIII.F., be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items VIII.A. through VIII.F. were unanimously approved by Roll Call, with Mrs. Noto abstaining from Item VIII.A.

Mr. Rehe said the February 26, 2015 Board of Education meeting has been cancelled. He stated there will be a Special Budget meeting on March 5, 2015 which will be held in the Media Center of Branchburg Central Middle School.

Mrs. Santos asked about the revision to The Jointure Memorandum of Understanding and if Whiton Elementary School will be having the Wrap-Around program next school year.

Dr. Kelley said the Wrap-Around program will be discontinued for the preschool students, however, the before and aftercare programs will still be provided at Whiton Elementary School and Stony Brook School.

Mrs. Joyce, Chair of the Community Relations Committee, read a statement regarding the strategic planning process and district goals.

**A. Approval of Minutes**

It is recommended that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of January 22, 2015.

**B. Approval of Revised 2014-2015 School District Calendar**

It is recommended that the Board approve the revised 2014-2015 School District Calendar, which is attached as Reference VIII.B.

**C. Approval of Revised Memorandum of Understanding with The Jointure**

It is recommended that the Board approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding with The Jointure attached as Board Reference VIII.C. to provide before and after care services at Whiton Elementary and Stony Brook Schools effective September 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

**D. Approval of Submission of Application for Special Education Medicaid Initiative Waiver**

It is recommended that the Board approve submission of an application for a waiver so as not to participate in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative to the County Executive Superintendent of Schools in accordance with Reference VIII.D.

**E. Amendment of Fiscal Year 2015 No Child Left Behind (N.C.L.B.) Grant Funds**

The Branchburg Township Board of Education hereby resolves to approve the amendment of the proposed program plan of the FY 2015 ESEA-No Child Left Behind Title I grant and to use the funds as planned when it has been reviewed and approved by the New Jersey Department of Education.

**F. Approval of Strategic Goals**

It is recommended that the Board approve the 2015-2020 Strategic Goals.  
(Reference VIII.F.)

**IX. EDUCATION**

Motion by Mr. Ambrus, seconded by Mrs. Santos that Items IX.A. through IX.B., be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items IX.A. through IX.B. were unanimously approved by Roll Call.

Mrs. Santos said the next Education Committee meeting will be held on February 18, 2015.

**A. Conferences/Travel**

**WHEREAS**, the employees listed below are requesting Board of Education authorization to attend the conferences/workshops listed below; and

**WHEREAS**, the attendance at stated function was previously approved by the chief school administrator as work related within the scope of the work responsibilities of the attendee and within the funds budgeted for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, the attendance at the function was approved as promoting delivery of instruction or furthering efficient operation of the school district; and fiscally prudent;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board authorizes attendance at the stated conferences/workshops and reimbursement for the related expenses in accordance with Board policy on conference and workshop attendance.

**NJAPHERD Annual Conference, Ocean Plaza Resort, Long Branch, New Jersey, February 23, 24, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$220.00 (Account# 11-000-223-580-05-144)**

Michael Clark

**Electrical License Renewal, Institute of Continuing Education, Fairfield, New Jersey, March 12 through March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Total Maximum Cost – \$390.00 (Account# 11-000-262-890-01-456)**

Alan Coburn

**Asbestos Safety Training for Custodial and Maintenance Personnel, Rutgers School of Public Health, Piscataway, NJ, May 7, 8, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$395.00 (Account# 11-000-261-580-10-428)**

Keith Dunford

**School Refusal Behavior, Edison Hotel, Edison, New Jersey, February 19, 2015  
Total Maximum Cost - \$211.00 (Account# 11-000-219-580-03-001)**

Katherine Gorski

**AASA National Conference on Education, San Diego, CA, February 26, 27, 28,  
2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$1,539.00 (Account# 11-000-230-580-01-303)**

Dr. Carol Kelley

**Intel – Collaboration in the Digital Classroom Online Course, Internet Course,  
February 18, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$99.00 (Account# 11-000-223-580-08-  
144)**

Erica Patente

**NJMEA State Conference, Hilton Hotel, East Brunswick, New Jersey, February  
19, 20, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$175.00 (Account# 11-000-223-580-05-144)**

Elizabeth Patten

**7th Annual Special Education and Mathematics – Preparing for Common Core  
State Standards & Assessments, Saint Peter's University, Jersey City, New  
Jersey, January 7, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$149.00 (Account# 11-000-223-  
580-04-144)**

Laura Petronio

**Controversial Issues in Pediatric Audiology, Weill Cornell Medical College, New  
York, New York, February 26, 27, 2015, Total Maximum Cost - \$346.34  
(Account# 11-000-219-580-03-001)**

Randi Venturini

**The Year in Review presented by Melinda Jacobs, Esq., Long Branch, New  
Jersey, March 13, 2015, Total Maximum Cost – \$179.00 (Account# 11-000-219-  
580-03-001)**

Carol Webb

**B. Approval of Fundraisers**

1. It is recommended that the Board approve a fundraiser by Mrs. Barron's class to raise money for the Red Cross by creating gifts to sell to the school community from December 8th through 19th, 2014.
2. It is recommended that the Board approve a fundraiser by the Branchburg Central Middle School Champion students to raise funds to purchase items to make packages for Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside.

3. It is recommended that the Board approve a fundraiser beginning February 17, 2015 by the Branchburg Central Middle School Drama Club to sell space in the Playbill and to sell flowers for the upcoming production on March 13th and 14th, 2015. The proceeds will help in the costs for upcoming productions.

## X. HUMAN RESOURCES

Motion by Mrs. Noto, seconded by Mrs. Santos that Items X.A. through X.I., be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items X.A. through X.I. were unanimously approved by Roll Call.

Mr. Ambrus clarified Item X.B, stating the part-time position was created in connection with the PARCC testing.

The Board thanked Mr. Alan Coburn for his years of service to the district and congratulated him on his retirement.

### A. Approval of 2014-2015 Extracurricular Stipend Positions

1. It is recommended that the Board approve Nicole Roth (replacing Steve Pellegrino) to a Nonathletic Extracurricular Stipend Position in accordance with provisions of the B.O.E./B.T.E.A. Agreement/Teachers (which is effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016) for the 2014-2015 school year as noted, and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

Requested By	Position	Stipend	Effective
Nicole Roth	Art Club Advisor	\$630.00/per session (maximum 3 sessions)	2/17/15-6/30/15

2. It is recommended that the Board approve Tara Forsyth (replacing Lisa Cashin) to a Nonathletic Extracurricular Stipend Position in accordance with provisions of the B.O.E./B.T.E.A. Agreement/Teachers (which is effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016) for the 2014-2015 school year as noted, and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

Requested By	Position	Stipend	Effective
Tara Forsyth	Grade 2 Team Leader	\$1,944.00 (prorated)	1/12/15-6/30/15

### B. Approval of Part Time Technology Position

It is recommended that the Board approve John Beisler (new position) to be paid via Payroll, and sufficient funds are in the 2014-2015 budget.

Name	Position	Rate	Effective
John Beisler	Part Time Technology Helper	\$12.00 a hour (not to exceed \$7,000.00)	2/17/15-6/30/15

**C. Approval of Level Changes and Issuance of Revised Contracts**

In accordance with the provisions of the B.O.E./B.T.E.A. Agreement/Teachers effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016, it is recommended that the Board approve the following Teacher level changes and issuance of revised contracts on the steps and levels as noted effective February 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 to be paid through Payroll, and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

Name	From (Step)/Level	To (Step)/Level	Contract	Effective
Sarah Landon	(3)/150	(3)182	\$58,525.00	2/1/2015

**D. Approval of Policies on First Reading**

It is recommended that the Board approve the following policies on First Reading.

Policy #	Title
3160	<i>Physical Examination - revised</i>
5300	<i>Automated External Defibrillators (AEDS)</i>
5310	<i>Health Services</i>

**E. Approval of Presenters Winter/Spring 2015**

It is recommended that the Board approve the following presenters for the Winter/Spring 2015 Teacher Academy. Presenters are paid \$41.00 per hour as per contract agreement. This is to be paid out of Account# 11-000-223-104-02-210 in accordance with provisions of the B.O.E./B.T.E.A. Agreement/Teachers (which is effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016) for the remainder 2014-2015 school year as noted, and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

Course Name(s)	Name	Maximum Hours
1) Creating Excel Documents 2) Math Games	Christina Pernini	6
1) Math Workshop 2) Odyssey: How to Create Assessments	Jocelyn Muzychko	7.5
Differentiation in Science	Matt Ross	3
Differentiation in Science	Lucy Plaza	3
Google Docs Uses in the Classroom	Erica Patente	3
1) Conferring in the Reading Workshop 101 2) Reading Partnerships	Kelly Boyle	9
Tips on Creating Content Area Word Walls	Anthony Aliperti	3
1) Reader's and Writer's Workshop Basics 2) 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading: Unpacking the Bends (6 sessions)	Lauren Knoke	22.5
Shared Reading: More than Just Choral Reading	Amanda Roper	3
Shared Reading: More than Just Choral Reading	Catie Ellis	3
Flubaroo: Using Google Forms for Data Collection and Analysis	Suzanne Updegrove	3
Instant Responses Through Technology	Michele Jordan	3
Smartboard XC	Maggi Emmons	3
Amazing Ways Twitter Can Give Wings to Your Professional Development	Carol Kelley	N/A
Simplify Data Collection and Documentation	Laura Porcaro	N/A
Finding Free Technology to Support Common Core Objectives	Laura Porcaro	N/A
Critical Friends Group	Alison Watkins	N/A
Math Assessment Work Session	Karen Dudley	N/A

**F. Approval of Transfer**

It is recommended that the Board approve the transfer of Robin DiBetta, Instructional Aide from Stony Brook School to Whiton Elementary School, effective February 2, 2015.

**G. Acceptance of Retirement Notice**

It is recommended that the Board accept the retirement notice of Alan Coburn, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, effective July 1, 2015, with many thanks for his 15 years of dedicated service to the students, parents and staff of the Branchburg Township School District.

**H. Approval of RTI Coordinator Position**

It is recommended that the Board approve the following teacher for the Whiton Elementary School RTI Coordinator for Title I, in accordance with provisions of the B.O.E./B.T.E.A Agreement/Teachers (which is effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016), to be paid through Payroll from *Account# 20-231-200-101-02-648* and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

<b>Requested By</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Kelly Boyle	RTI Coordinator	\$41.00 per hour (not to exceed \$975.00)

**I. Approval of Maternity Leave Replacement Teacher**

It is recommended that the Board approve Evan Norwood as Maternity Leave Replacement for the Physical Education Teacher at Whiton Elementary School (replacing Tara Kolbe) effective March 9, 2015 through June 30, 2015 on Step 1, Level BA of the Teacher Salary Guide (\$53,225.00, prorated), in accordance with provisions of the B.O.E./B.T.E.A. Agreement/Teachers (which is in effect from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016) to be paid through Payroll from the General Fund, and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 budget.

**XI. BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Ambrus, seconded by Mrs. Joyce that Items XI.A. through XI.D., be moved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

On call of the vote, Items XI.A. through XI.D. were unanimously approved by Roll Call.

Mr. Ambrus said the Business Committee met and discussed the non-public transportation analysis created by the Business Office. Mr. Ambrus went over the analysis with the Board.

Mr. Ambrus thanked Ms. Linskey and Mr. Cline for their work on the analysis.



Mr. Ambrus spoke about the possibility of two-tier bussing next school year.

Mr. Ambrus said discussions are being held about the possibility of starting a multiple disabled class at Whiton Elementary School.

Mr. Ambrus said the Business Committee also discussed the status of Old York School, the upcoming budget, and capital projects.

Mr. Ambrus said the Business Committee discussed the demographic study listed on the agenda for approval, as well as continuing discussions on the implementation of a wrestling program.

**A. Bill List**

It is recommended that the Board approve the List of Bills for the period January 23, 2015 through February 12, 2015, totaling \$836,868.67, and ratify the Payroll for the period January 23, 2015 through February 12, 2015, totaling \$1,787,384.12.

**B. Approval to Pay Bills**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-4.1, the Board of Education approves Theresa Linskey, School Business Administrator to issue payment of bills from February 13, 2015 through March 11, 2015 prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of March 12, 2015 and with the approval and consent of the Superintendent of Schools, and then present said bills to the Board at the March 12, 2015 meeting for ratification.

**C. Award of Demographic Study**

It is recommended that the Board award Whitehall Associates, Inc., a contract to conduct a Demographic Study for the Branchburg Board of Education in accordance with its proposal of January 17, 2015, for a fixed fee of \$2,000.00 to be paid by purchase order through the General Fund from Account #11-000-230-339-01-001, and sufficient funds are available in the 2014-2015 Budget.

**D. Approval of Contract for Internet Services**

It is recommended that the Board approve a contract with Comcast Business to provide Ethernet Dedicated Internet Service – 200 MBPS and Ethernet Virtual Private Line Network for a monthly charge of \$1,276.40 for the period beginning July 1, 2015 for a term of sixty (60) months, and to provide 3-Site Ethernet Virtual Private Line (HUB & SPOKE) Network between HUB Branchburg Central Middle School, SPOKE Whiton Elementary School and SPOKE Stony Brook School for a monthly charge of \$1,875.60 for the period beginning February 1, 2016 for a term of sixty (60) months. This contract is in accordance with Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission 470 # 399520001238888.

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Mike Wooby thanked the Board for continuing the discussions to implement a wrestling program.

Ms. Cherie Pieroni thanked the Board for continuing to the discuss the wrestling program.

Ms. Veronica Dugenio also thanked the Board for continuing the discussions of implementing a wrestling program.

**XIII. BOARD FORUM**

The Board discussed whether the statement read by Mr. Rehe during the Board meeting should be placed on the district website.

Motion by Mrs. Noto, seconded by Mrs. Santos that a Resolution be passed to have the statement read by Mr. Rehe regarding PARCC testing, be placed on the district website.

On call of the vote, the Resolution was unanimously approved by Roll Call.

**XIV. BOARD LIAISON REPORTS**

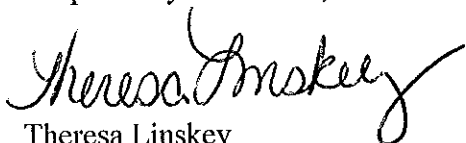
Mrs. Joyce said that at the last PTO meeting Dr. Kelley did a presentation on the Strategic Planning Process.

Mrs. Joyce mentioned the various PTO fundraisers that are still active.

**XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION****XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Ambrus, seconded by Mrs. Joyce, and carried unanimously, the Board agreed to adjourn at 11:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Theresa Linskey  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator