

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Office of the Board Secretary

13 Swift Drive

Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey 08234

MINUTES

February 21, 2017

WORK SESSION MEETING

President Della Barca called the work session meeting of the Egg Harbor Township Board of Education to order at 6:02 PM on February 21, 2017 at the Alder Avenue Middle School Board Room.

At the President's request, Mrs. Anaya, Business Administrator read the following statement: "On Wednesday, January 4, 2017 notice of this meeting was mailed to "The Press" and "The Current of Egg Harbor Township." Notice was also delivered that day to the Egg Harbor Township Clerk and posted on the bulletin board in Township Hall."

Roll Call: Mr. Pete Castellano, Mr. Ray Ellis, Mr. Jack Haines, Mr. Chris Moran, Mr. Justin Riggs, Mrs. Marita Sullivan, Mrs. Amber Umphlett, Mrs. Barbara Szilagyi, Mr. Lou Della Barca

Also Present: Mr. Fred Nickles/Interim Superintendent; Dr. Kim Gruccio/Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Donna Haye/Interim Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Chandra Anaya/Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Dr. Carolyn Gibson/Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Amy Houck-Elco/Board Attorney; Mrs. Jamie Shoemaker/Supervisor of Accounting

Mr. Castellano gave the Finance and Operations Committee report from the February 6th meeting. Items discussed:

- Long Range Facilities Plan
- Building projects
- ESIP – energy savings improvement plan
- Facility building replacement
- 2017/2018 budget capital projects (none)
- Small district repairs
- Miller School football field building
- ITS lease purchase
- Options related to health benefits
- Assistant to the Business Administrator vacancy

Mrs. Umphlett gave the Curriculum Committee report from the February 13th meeting. Items discussed:

- Black history month
- Fountas and Pinnel

Work Session/February 21, 2017

- Pilot program – teacher survey
- Full day kindergarten
- Benchmark data
- AP computer science
- Middle school science pilot
- 2017 Jersey Shore Mathletes (Miller School)
- Ice hockey team request denied

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13th.

Mrs. Szilagyi gave the Personnel Committee report from the February 16th meeting.
Items discussed:

- In-house posting for assistant to the business administrator position
- Security Director vacancy
- Director of Facilities vacancy
- Professional development/substitutes
- KidsKlub
- Superintendent Search

Mrs. Umphlett discussed not supporting assistant to the business administrator position and suggested it should be a part-time replacement. She does support half day professional development and suggested Insight should be re-evaluated and the superintendent search should be a full Board discussion.

Mr. Della Barca confirmed the assistant to the business administrator candidate will be on the next agenda.

Mrs. Szilagyi confirmed the superintendent search will be by the full Board.

Mr. Moran gave the Policy Committee report from the February 8th meeting. Items discussed:

- Transgender policy
- Administering opiate antidote policy
- Homeschooling policy
- Co-curricular policy
- Handicap/disability policy

The next meeting is scheduled for March 1st.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, BOARD, STAFF

Carl Mason, 3057 Fernwood Avenue – discussed full day kindergarten, student grades, and sabbatical leave costs. Mr. Nickles discussed full day kindergarten. Mrs. Anaya gave Mr. Mason the sabbatical leave costs.

Work Session/February 21, 2017

Brian Murphy, 109 New Street – questioned if there will be a new reading program in the 2017/2018 budget. Mr. Nickles replied no, the district is using Fountas and Pinnel. Mr. Murphy then discussed the tax levy and tax rate increases.

Debbie Rockelmen, 189 Alder Avenue – discussed American Reading Company and the replacement leveling agent with the new program and the assistant to the business administrator position.

Alyssa Tomlinson, 89 Somers Avenue – discussed the transgender policy.

Mico Lucide, 2009 Alumni, 24 Westover Circle – discussed the transgender policy.

Chrissy Martin, 1317 10th Avenue, Weymouth – discussed the transgender policy.

Mr. Della Barca asked Mr. Castellano to conduct the budget discussion.

Mr. Castellano discussed the budget cap, cap waiver for healthcare, state aid, budget cuts and reminded that they are there for the students and the Board has three choices, accept the budget as is, reject the budget completely or work together to come to a consensus as it has been done in past years. He then asked Mrs. Anaya to clarify questions from the February 14th meeting.

Mrs. Anaya discussed the questions from the February 14th meeting.

Mr. Nickles reported that the principals met and discussed budget cuts.

Mrs. Szilagyi discussed being uncomfortable with budget cuts that will impact classrooms and would like to hear from the principals.

Mrs. Umphlett discussed 41 open positions, previous year's budget savings, and reported she will not vote for the budget as it is. Mrs. Anaya clarified unspent budget funds are put into fund balance.

Mr. Castellano asked Board members for suggested cuts or alternatives for this budget.

Mr. Haines discussed extremely low fund balance.

Mrs. Anaya and Mr. Nickles discussed/clarified fund balance definition.

Mrs. Szilagyi left the dais at 6:53 and returned at 6:56.

Mrs. Houck-Elco left the dais at 6:56 and returned at 6:57.

Kathy Waszen, EHTEA Association President – discussed the budget and budget cuts.

Work Session/February 21, 2017

Mrs. Umphlett clarified her position statement regarding the assistant business administrator.

Mrs. Sullivan discussed the assistant business administrator and energy specialist positions.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1- On a **motion** by Mr. Moran and seconded by Mrs. Szilagyi, the Board voted to Approve ESEA Accountability Action Plan – 2016 Participation Rate

Discussion:

Mr. Riggs asked for highlights of the plan. Mrs. Haye provided more detail.

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Castellano, Mr. Haines, Mr. Moran, Mr. Riggs, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Umphlett, Mrs. Szilagyi, Mr. Della Barca

Abstain: Mr. Ellis

Mr. Della Barca reported the next budget meeting is March 7th.

The Board took a recess at 7:05.

The Board reconvened at 7:07.

Mrs. Houck-Elco introduced Carl Tanksley from New Jersey School Boards gave a Equal Employment and Affirmative Action presentation to the Board.

During the presentation:

Mr. Ellis returned at 7:12.

Mr. Castellano returned at 7:13.

Mr. Ellis left the dais at 7:51 and returned at 7:52.

Mrs. Umphlett left the dais at 7:54 and returned at 7:57.

- 2- On a **motion** by Mrs. Szilagyi seconded by Mr. Moran, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Work Session/February 21, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Chandra D. Anaya, CPA
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary