

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL
NEW JERSEY 08868
Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 25, 2011

I. Call to Order - 7:40 p.m.

Open Public Meeting Announcement

"In accordance with requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notices have been given of tonight's meeting in area newspapers, which include the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Express-Times and posted on the bulletin board by the main office of the Franklin Township School, sent to the Township Clerk, and to all Board of Education members on April 11, 2011.

II. Roll Call - Raelene Catterson, SBA/BS

K. Weiss, <i>V.Pres.</i>	X_____	P. DiGiambattista	X_____	C. Ewing	X_____
J. Foran	X_____	K. Lundgren	X_____	R. Masino	X_____
T. Schultz	Abs.____	L. Vail	X_____	C. Piparo, <i>Pres.</i>	X_____

III. Flag Salute

IV. Presentation - Insurance Risk Manager, Chris Terricone

Mr. Terricone asked for input as to what direction the Board wanted to go and whether to seek proposals. Based on the average 5 year loss ratio, seeking proposals may be risky at this time. The Board agreed to stay with our current provider since there is no increase.

V. Motion to approve the following minutes:

- April 4, 2011 - Regular Meeting
- April 4, 2011 - Executive Sessions I & 2

Moved Mr. Foran

Second Mrs. Ewing

Motion Carried 7-0
(1 abstention - Vail)

VI. Construction Update

Mr. Foran gave the update provided by DEI. June 12th is the new estimated completion date. Chris Piparo asked if the construction will effect graduation. Dr. Harttraft said no but the gym will not be available.

VII. Subcommittee Updates

- A. Building & Grounds
 - Landscape quotes are based on 22 weeks of cuts. We should prepare for 3 additional cuts if needed.
- B. Communications - no update, should be deleted from future agendas.
- C. Negotiations

VIII. Correspondence

- North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School

IX. Public Comments - Privilege of the Floor (3 minutes)

All comments should be directed to the board president. The Board will not respond to complaints from and to school personnel unless the chain of command has been followed, without satisfaction. Furthermore, the Board cannot respond to any complaints from the public directed at any district employee or student, as the Board must protect each employee and each student's right to privacy.

Those wishing to share comments during this portion of the meeting are asked to state their name and address. Each speaker will be given three minutes.

Robin Ehrmann stated that she is against School Choice. We should have a chance to enjoy our home school before non-residents come in.

Christine Thompson wanted to know the plan with Dr. Yates retiring.

Mr. Steele will teach Social Studies and Mrs. Suozzo will be the only Language arts teacher. Christine Thompson would hope middle school would not change and Language Arts program not be cut.

Laura Guerreri said we should not change our curriculum and that we should be creative and think outside the box.

Christine Creilly inquired about the New Bulling Law and what plan is in place.

Vivian Paulter wants some level of enrichment brought back to K-5.

Robin Erhmann wanted to know what classes will be in the new building.

Chrys Harttraft said that last year nothing happened in middle school. All changes [to class size] were in the elementary school. She apologized for not having a plan in place but there are too many variables at this time.

Laura Guerreri said Franklin did a great job with Language Arts. She feels we can think outside the box.

Michele Arbinary (name ?) questioned whether the school could have larger rooms for the combined classes.

X. Consent Agenda

The matters listed below have been referred to the Board for reading and studying and are to be considered routine. They will be enacted with one motion. If separate discussion is desired, an item may be removed by Board assent.

A. EDUCATION

1. **Approve** the following field trips:

- Grade 8, Raritan Valley Community College, Holocaust/Genocide Program, May 26, 2011
- Grade 8, Great Wolf Lodge, June 1, 2011 (cost covered by funds raised by Class of 2011)

B. PERSONNEL

1. **Approve** the following substitute teacher:

- Bridgette Godown

C. FACILITIES

1. **Approve** the following use of facility request:

- Shepherd of the Valley Softball League, softball field, Mondays and Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., April 26, 2011 - July 31, 2011.

D. BUSINESS

1. **Approve** the April 2011 bill list in the amount of \$916,795.28 which includes \$406,134.33 in the capital projects account. (check #1505 for \$800.00 deleted).

E. POLICY

No consent items

F. OTHER MATTERS

No consent items

G. Motion to approve the above stated consent agenda items.

Moved: Mr. Masino		Second: Ms. Vail	Motion carried 7-0		
K. Weiss, <i>V.Pres.</i>	<u>Yes</u>	P. DiGiambattista	<u>Yes</u>	C. Ewing	<u>Yes</u>
J. Foran	<u>Abstain</u>	K. Lundgren	<u>Yes</u>	R. Masino	<u>Yes</u>
T. Schultz	<u>Absent</u>	L. Vail	<u>Yes</u>	C. Piparo, <i>Pres.</i>	<u>Yes</u>

XI. Discussion & Action Agenda

A. EDUCATION: Superintendent's Report - Dr. Chrys Harttraft

1. **Informational Items:**

- Enrollment - 311
- Tree Planting for Arbor Day - Sugar Maple donated by county. Tree planting will be posted on the website
- Take Our Children to Work Day - April 28, 2011.
- Distinguished Student Award - will be announced Tuesday.
- Teacher of the Year - Janet Prassl, 2nd grade teacher
- School Choice Requests - 4 requests to leave - 10% allowed per grade.

- g. Bullying - New Law - Internal group has been selected. Every incident needs to be addressed. What can the board do? Policy updates, they can be part of the committee. Policy will be included in student and teacher handbook and on the website. Board members asked if a separate letter could be sent.
- h. K-5 Enrichment, Middle School - Mrs. Lundgren hopes same amount of time is spent on Language Arts as this year. Can we hire a part time teacher? Ms. Vail agrees with Mrs. Lundgren for another way to keep middle school intact. Dr. Harttraft stated that writing across the curriculum will increase LAL time. She asks for patience, confidence, and a need to trust while new configuration is determined. Mr. Weiss and Mrs. Lundgren are frustrated with not replacing Dr. Yates and also with lack of differentiation. The new model has not worked here. Dr. Harttraft said reform takes time. Mr. Piparo stated that we need to move on.

2. Action Item:

- a. **Motion** to approve the School Choice Application for the 2012-2013 school year.

Moved: Mr. Foran Second: Mrs. Ewing Motion Carried 7-1

K. Weiss, <i>V.Pres.</i>	<u>No</u>	P. DiGiambattista	<u>Yes</u>	C. Ewing	<u>Yes</u>
J. Foran	<u>Yes</u>	K. Lundgren	<u>Yes</u>	R. Masino	<u>Yes</u>
T. Schultz	<u>Absent</u>	L. Vail	<u>Yes</u>	C. Piparo, <i>Pres.</i>	<u>Yes</u>

- b. Motion to change the mileage on the School Choice Application at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Moved: Mrs. Lundgren Second: Mr. Masino Motion Carried 6-2

K. Weiss, <i>V.Pres.</i>	<u>No</u>	P. DiGiambattista	<u>Yes</u>	C. Ewing	<u>Yes</u>
J. Foran	<u>Yes</u>	K. Lundgren	<u>Yes</u>	R. Masino	<u>Yes</u>
T. Schultz	<u>Absent</u>	L. Vail	<u>No</u>	C. Piparo, <i>Pres.</i>	<u>Yes</u>

B. FACILITIES

No action items

C. BUSINESS

1. Action Item:

- a. **Motion** to approve amendments to the 2009/2010 IDEA grant authorizing the inclusion of carryover funds in the following amounts:

Grant	Amount	Budget Line
IDEA Basic	\$1,120	100-100
IDEA Preschool	650	100-600

Moved Mr. Foran Second Mrs. Ewing Motion Carried 8-0

b. **Motion** to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Franklin Township Board of Education has received the following quotes for Lawn Maintenance based on 22 cuts;

<u>Landscape Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Green Piece Landscaping	\$ 6,600.00
Weiss Landscaping, Inc.	\$ 5,940.00

WHEREAS, Weiss Landscaping, Inc. submitted the lower quote to provide Lawn Maintenance Services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a contract be awarded to Weiss Landscaping to provide lawn maintenance in the amount of \$5,940.00 for 22 cuts, upon proof of insurance as outlined in the RFP document along with a NJ Business Registration Certificate. (Number of cuts reduced from 30 to 22)

Moved: Mr. Foran Second: Mr. Masino Motion Carried 8-0

K. Weiss, <i>V.Pres.</i>	<u>Yes</u>	P. DiGiambattista	<u>Yes</u>	C. Ewing	<u>Yes</u>
J. Foran	<u>Yes</u>	K. Lundgren	<u>Yes</u>	R. Masino	<u>Yes</u>
T. Schultz	<u>Absent</u>	L. Vail	<u>Yes</u>	C. Piparo, <i>Pres.</i>	<u>Yes</u>

D. TRANSPORTATION
No action items

E. POLICY

1. **Motion** to approve, after a second reading, the revised Use of Facility Policy.

Moved: Mr. Weiss Second: Mr. Foran Motion Carried 8-0

F. OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Weiss asked about the Awards Assembly. Ms. Vail said that honor roll and high honor roll was not published in the paper.

G. NEW BUSINESS

XII. Board Matters

A. Information Items:

1. Subcommittee Meetings
2. Mr. Piparo wanted to know if the Board did anything for retiring teachers. Mr. Piparo publicly thanked Ms. Vail, Mr. Weiss, and Mr. DiGiambattista for their service on the Board. Dr. Harttraft thanked them as well.

XIII. Personnel

A. Action Item:

1. **Motion** to retroactively approve Meredith Schwartz to be a part time instructional aide at the hourly rate of \$19.36 for 2.5 hours per day, effective April 18, 2011.

Moved: Ms. Vail Second: Mrs. Ewing Motion Carried: 8-0

K. Weiss, <i>V.Pres.</i>	<u>Yes</u>	P. DiGiambattista	<u>Yes</u>	C. Ewing	<u>Yes</u>
J. Foran	<u>Yes</u>	K. Lundgren	<u>Yes</u>	R. Masino	<u>Yes</u>
T. Schultz	<u>absent</u>	L. Vail	<u>Yes</u>	C. Piparo, <i>Pres.</i>	<u>Yes</u>

XIV. Executive Session - 9:55

Adopt the Following Resolution

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED *by the Franklin Township Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4 -13 and 10:4 -12 that said public body hold a closed session on Monday, April 25, 2011 for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's evaluation and contract negotiations. It is expected that the results of the discussion undertaken in closed session will be made public at the time official action is taken.*

Moved Mr. DiGiambattista Second Mr. Weiss Motion Carried 8-0

XV. Motion to return to Open Public Session at 10:35 p.m.

Moved Mr. DiGiambattista Second Mr. Weiss Motion Carried 8-0

XVI. Motion to Adjourn from the Public Meeting at 10:36 p.m.

Moved Mr. DiGaimbattista Second Mr. Weiss Motion Carried 8-0

Certified by

Respectfully Submitted,

Board President

Raelene M. Catterson
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary