

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

NEW JERSEY 08868

Board of Education

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

February 25, 2012 - 2:00 p.m.

The MEETING WAS Opened at 2:02 p.m.

Present: Mr. Burdick, Mrs. Lundgren (arrived at 2:08 p.m.), Mr. Masino, Mrs. Ewing, Mrs. Crielly and Mr. Piparo.

Absent: Mr. Foran, Mr. Weiss, Mr. Schultz

Also Present: Dr. Broadus Davis, Acting Superintendent; Mrs. Van Ess, Supervisor

Purpose: Alliance with Bethlehem Township

Mr. Piparo opened the meeting with remarks about the purpose of the meeting being an Alliance with Bethlehem Township School District in order to share some services and save some costs. Mr. Piparo commented that the meeting will take a different format than the normal BOE meetings and it would be more audience participation.

Mr. Piparo explained the Economic status of the District. This included the cost of medical benefits, rising costs of various services and what can be raised by a 2% raise in the tax levy. Mr. Piparo noted that the population of students at FTS has declined over the past 3 years.

Mr. Piparo indicated that what the BOE is looking for in an Alliance is as follows:

1. To retain local character
2. To allow both districts to retain independent budgets
3. To allow both districts to maintain an independent BOE to vote on different items.

Mr. Piparo indicated that Mr. Burdick, Ms. Crielly and he have been meeting with a committee of members from Bethlehem Township BOE since November 22nd. Both Boards have voted on a resolution to commit to the Alliance.

The discussions at the committee meetings have focused on Sharing of a Business Administrator, Superintendent, curriculum development, programs and other related services. It was stated that there is no interest by either BOE to have students moving to another building.

Mr. Burdick then did a presentation on the future of education and what needs to be done in order to prepare FTS students for College. Mr. Burdick also went over the financial state of the District and what

his opinion is in order to properly manage the budget and spending at FTS in order to give the students the best educational foundation to move forward to High School and College.

Ms. Crielly discussed the purpose of curriculum development and staff development that could be accomplished by sharing training, curriculum writing and articulation with another district.

Mrs. Lundgren re-iterated Ms. Crielly's comments and added that she would like to see various programs reinstated at FTS such as Gifted and Talented, clubs and Technology.

There were 12 members of the public present and 6 teachers.

The public asked questions about the BOE intention of going to a 2% tax increase, bus routes being reduced to save costs, did FTS BOE reach out to other districts besides BTS BOE to join in an Alliance, how would you share a BA and Superintendent and how quickly would that occur, why does FTS get so little in State Aid, what are the cost of Special Education in the District, will students have to go to class in other buildings, how would the BA and Superintendent be shared and paid for. Questions were answered by Mr. Piparo, Mr. Burdick, Mrs. Ewing and Dr. Davis.

Comments from Dr. Anita Peterson were that she thought from a teacher's perspective that articulation, curriculum development and shared professional development would be a great opportunity for both FTS and BTS teachers.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:01 by Mr. Burdick, second by Mr. Masino and by voice vote, all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Certified:

Dr. Carol A. Fredericks

Mr. Christopher Piparo

School Business Administrator/

Board President

Board Secretary